

DAN RATHER REPORTS

Episode Number: 211

Episode Titles: Cooking with Clones, Pakistan

Description: It all began with Dolly the sheep, but coming soon to a supermarket near you: cloned beef. And if the Food and Drug Administration has its way, it won't be labeled. Also, Pakistan: what are Americans getting for the billions of taxpayer dollars sent to the military dictator Pervez Musharraf? With the resurgence of the Taliban in Pakistan, some in Congress are asking questions.

TEASE:

DAN RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TONIGHT, IS IT A COW OR A CLONE? THE GOVERNMENT IS ABOUT TO PUT ITS STAMP OF APPROVAL ON CLONED BEEF. IS THIS REPRODUCTIVE SCIENCE BEING RUSHED TO MARKET?

JERRY GREENFIELD, BEN AND JERRY'S ICE CREAM CO-FOUNDER

I have never run into anybody who starts jumping up and down saying, "Wow! What a great thing, we can start eating meat and dairy products from cloned animals!"

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ALSO TONIGHT, BILLIONS OF DOLLARS SENT TO PAKISTAN. SOME IN CONGRESS ARE ASKING: WHERE IS THE MONEY GOING? BIN LADEN IS ON THE LOOSE, AL QAEDA RECRUITING, AND THE TALIBAN IS REGROUPING.

SENATOR EVAN BAYH (IN HEARING)

And it's difficult to explain to the American people how a group that slaughtered 3000 Americans is attempting to attack us again, is attacking our troops in Afghanistan is allowed a sanctuary.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND THE LAST FLIGHT HOME. THE REMARKABLE JOURNEY FOR THE PASSENGERS OF DELTA FLIGHT 1220.

JOHN MCSHEFFREY, PASSENGER OF DELTA FLIGHT 220

Honestly there was not a dry eye on the plane.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TONIGHT ON DAN RATHER REPORTS.

CLONING COWS:

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

FARMING HAS BEEN ABOUT COMPETITIVE BREEDING FOR YEARS. GROWING THE MOST DISEASE RESISTANT, HIGHEST YIELDING CROP, OR THE BIGGEST PIG; THE MOST PRODUCTIVE MILKING COW, OR A PRIME MEAT HEIFER. BUT IN THE PAST COUPLE OF DECADES SCIENCE HAS PLAYED AN INCREASING ROLE ON THE FARM AND IN THE PRODUCTION OF THE FOOD WE EAT. NOW TECHNOLOGY HAS INTRODUCED A NEW AND SOMETIMES UNCOMFORTABLE WORD INTO OUR FARM VOCABULARY: CLONING. CLONED ANIMALS AND THEIR OFFSPRING ARE MAKING THEIR WAY FROM THE LAB TO FARMS AND RANCHES ACROSS THE COUNTRY. THE NEXT STOP, YOUR DINNER TABLE. THE FDA HAS ASKED FARMERS WHO HAVE CLONES TO VOLUNTARILY WITHHOLD THEIR MEAT AND MILK FROM THE MARKET. BUT THAT MORATORIUM IS JUST THAT: VOLUNTARY. IT IS QUITE POSSIBLE YOU MAY ALREADY HAVE Poured A GLASS OF MILK FROM A CLONED ANIMAL OR COOKED A SUNDAY ROAST OF CLONED MEAT WITHOUT EVEN KNOWING IT. AND IF THE LATEST ASSESSMENT FROM THE FDA STANDS, CLONED FOOD AT THE SUPERMARKET MAY SOON BECOME AN EVERYDAY EVENT.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IT IS A 21ST CENTURY PHENOMENON. FOOD IS LABELED EXTENSIVELY. YET AN ORDINARY TRIP TO THE MARKET DOES LITTLE TO CONNECT THE CONSUMER TO THE FARM.

DR. RUTH KAVA, DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION AT THE AMERICAN COUNCIL
ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH

Most of us are now living in an urban environment and we don't really have a clue as to where our food comes from or how it's managed.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AS THE DIRECTOR OF NUTRITION FOR THE AMERICAN COUNCIL ON SCIENCE AND HEALTH, DR. RUTH KAVA STUDIES FOOD AND THE SCIENCE BEHIND IT.

KAVA

There are many food technologies like in vitro fertilization, artificial insemination. They've been used for years in food production but most people aren't aware of that.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

NOR ARE MOST AWARE THAT CLONING IS NEXT. BUT WHAT EXACTLY IS A CLONED ANIMAL? SIMPLY PUT, IT'S REMOVING THE DNA FROM AN EGG, EFFECTIVELY EMPTYING IT OUT. INSERTING LIVING CELLS, OR DNA, FROM THE ANIMAL TO BE CLONED INTO THE EMPTY EGG; STIMULATING IT;

PUTTING IT IN AN INCUBATOR TO GROW; THEN IMPLANTING THE EMBRYO INTO A SURROGATE MOTHER. WHEN THE BABY IS BORN IT WILL HAVE THE SAME GENETIC MAKE-UP, THE SAME DNA, AS THE ORIGINAL DONOR. WHILE MANY CONSUMERS REMAIN BASICALLY IGNORANT OF BREEDING TECHNIQUES, THERE IS HEIGHTENED AWARENESS ABOUT FOOD SAFETY. CONSIDER, ORGANIC FOOD SALES, UP 285 PERCENT WITHIN THE LAST 10 YEARS. NOW IN A MOVE THAT IS SOLIDIFYING CONSUMER OUTCRY, THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION IS ABOUT TO BLESS CLONING, THE LATEST ADDITION TO ANIMAL HUSBANDRY. THE FDA DECLINED REPEATED REQUESTS FOR AN INTERVIEW WITH US, BUT ACCORDING TO THE FDA'S REPORT, MILK AND MEAT FROM CLONED COWS, PIGS, GOATS, AND THEIR OFFSPRING ARE QUOTE, "AS SAFE AS FOOD WE EAT EVERY DAY." AND "CLONING POSES NO UNIQUE RISKS TO ANIMAL HEALTH WHEN COMPARED TO OTHER ASSISTED REPRODUCTIVE TECHNOLOGIES CURRENTLY IN USE IN U.S. AGRICULTURE."

SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI (IN SPEECH)

Well we say hello Dolly, you've been approved for our food supply. Hello olly welcome to the world of the Dolly burger.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

NO ONE INVOLVED IN CLONING IS SUGGESTING THE "DOLLY BURGER" WILL SOON BE AVAILABLE. IN FACT, SHEEP WEREN'T CONCLUSIVELY ADDRESSED IN THE FDA'S REPORT. BUT IF THE FDA'S REPORT STANDS, AND IT WELL MAY, MEAT AND MILK FROM CLONED ANIMALS OR THEIR OFFSPRING, MAY BE OFFERED IN THE LOCAL MARKET IN A FEW WEEKS AND ACCORDING TO THE FDA, YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TELL THE DIFFERENCE. FOR THAT, SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI WOULD LIKE SHOPPERS TO BE PREPARED.

MIKULSKI

I have legislation pending in the United States Senate that says you have to label cloned food as it enters into the American food supply. Food that's either the cloned animal or its progeny. You have to tell about it at the wholesale level, at the retail level, or at the restaurant level.

RATHER

As you know, farmers have promised voluntarily they will not put cloned food into the food system. Do you think that works?

MIKULSKI

Well I think not, not ultimately because I think if there's any money in it, where there is greed, there's scam and scandal.

JERRY GREENFIELD, BEN AND JERRY'S ICE CREAM CO-FOUNDER
You think, you think people are being honorable about this or do you think anybody's sticking some-- they're sliding in a little meat or dairy products into the food supply?

RATHER (VOICE OVER)
BEN AND JERRY'S ICE CREAM CO-FOUNDER JERRY GREENFIELD.

GREENFIELD
You know, I guess I'm surprised to hear that it's a voluntary ban. I-- I just assumed that it was something that-- that didn't happen yet and that we were safe. But a voluntary ban, it's the honor system. So food producers are just expected to follow their hearts about what's right and what they've agreed to do.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)
GREENFIELD HAS BEEN IN FOR THE FOREFRONT OF COMPASSIONATE ANIMAL PRACTICES AND FARM STEWARDSHIP.

GREENFIELD
Whenever you mention this idea of meat or dairy products from cloned animals to, to anybody, anybody, walking down the street - their first reaction is, "Oh, what a weird idea is that." I mean, it-- it ranges from people being mildly disturbed to just being repulsed. But I have never run into anybody who starts jumping up and down and saying, "Wow, what a great thing. We can start eating meat and dairy products from cloned animals."

RATHER (VOICE OVER)
HIS HEART RECENTLY LEAD HIM TO WASHINGTON, WHERE HIS CO-WORKERS DONNED COW SUITS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT CLONING, HOPING TO FORESTALL ITS OFFICIAL ENTRY INTO THE MARKET AT LEAST UNTIL FURTHER STUDY IS COMPLETE.

GREENFIELD
I think people in general are all for technological breakthroughs and scientific breakthroughs. It's obviously the way a lot of progress is made. But simply because we're able to do something like cloning animals doesn't mean we should be doing it. It doesn't mean that it's safe. It doesn't mean that it's healthy. It doesn't mean that it's beneficial. It doesn't even mean that it's desirable.

JOE MENDELSON, CO-FOUNDER AND LEGAL DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY CO-FOUNDER
Meat and milk both need to be studied much more closely because these products from cloned animals just aren't proven to be safe yet and shouldn't be on the market.

ANNOUNCER
JOE MENDELSON IS THE CO-FOUNDER AND LEGAL DIRECTOR OF THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY. HOPING TO FORESTALL AN FDA DECISION,

THE CENTER RECENTLY RELEASED THIS VIDEO ON YOU-TUBE IN PROTEST OF CLONED FOOD ENTERING OUR FOOD SUPPLY.

RATHER

The FDA has studied this for six years. The FDA has concluded, not just a guess, not just a maybe, the FDA's concluded it's safe. And as you know they're about to come out and make that official. And to that you say what?

MENDELSON

We think the FDA study is actually very incomplete. The FDA itself admits that over 90 percent of the attempts to create cloned animals lead to problems. So it is only looking at the ten percent of the animals it says could ever end up in the food supply. It doesn't look at long-term studies. We know that the effects on what appear to be healthy clones can come up many years later. And we don't know what that really means for an animal. The National Academy of Sciences itself has said there really is not a methodology to prove whether these animals are safe or not to produce milk and meat. And we think the FDA's jumping the gun and we think it's an incomplete assessment.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE MAJORITY OF CONSUMER SENTIMENT SEEMS TO MIRROR THE CENTER FOR FOOD SAFETY'S OPINION. A PEW FOUNDATION INITIATIVE ON FOOD & BIOTECHNOLOGY IN 2006 FOUND THAT 64 PERCENT OF CONSUMERS ARE UNCOMFORTABLE WITH ANIMAL CLONING.

DR. BARBARA GLENN, BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION

I think consumers are concerned about any new technology. Number one. Number two, their awareness of cloning is very, very low. So if you're asked about a new technology and you know nothing about it, you probably would have a yuck reaction to that technology. I think I would too.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ACCORDING TO DR. BARB GLENN AT THE MARYLAND-BASED BIOTECHNOLOGY INDUSTRY ORGANIZATION, THE APPREHENSION IS MISPLACED.

GLENN

Livestock cloning is one of the best tools we have, new tools in the tool box to improve the quality and the reliability and the consistency of meat and milk.

RATHER

Now how has the process changed since the first days of Dolly, now world famous sheep that was cloned?

GLENN

Dolly was the very first mammal that was produced through this technology called somatic cell nuclear transfer. So very importantly we were able to take an adult cell and

offer it forward to become a new baby calf or a new baby pig. What we've done with this technology in the last few years is dramatically improve our ability to increase the success rates.

RATHER

What's the down side, or is there a downside to cloning?

GLENN

Well there isn't a downside to this new technology this is cloning. It's an assisted reproductive technology that gives farmers and ranchers the choice to produce healthier better animals and what farmer doesn't want to do that?

GREG WILES, MARYLAND DAIRY FARMER

This is Genesis-z she's a clone.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHEN WE COME BACK.

RUDOLF JAENISCH, FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE
When you look carefully at these animals, often they are not normal. They have defects.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHAT IS THE SCIENCE BEHIND CLONING AND ARE CLONED MEAT AND MILK SAFE TO EAT?

CYAGRA EMPLOYEE

We've been eating them the least year and a half.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

ARTIFICIAL INSEMINATION, IN VITRO FERTILIZATION. AND NOW CLONING. AMONG SOME CATTLE RANCHERS AND DAIRY HERD OPERATORS, THE BUYING AND SELLING OF EMBRYOS OF A PRIZE COW AND BULL IS BIG BUSINESS.

STEVE MOWER, MARKETING DIRECTOR AT CYGRA

She was born on March 1st. She's a Jersey heifer.

ANNOUNCER

THIS CALF IS JUST ONE DAY OLD. SHE IS THE RESULT OF CLONING TECHNOLOGY COURTESY OF PENNSYLVANIA BASED CYAGRA. AS MARKETING DIRECTOR STEVE MOWER EXPLAINS, HER OWNERS WANTED AN EXACT COPY OF HER MOTHER.

MOWER

She was reproduced basically because her mother was a tremendous show cow, she was also a really good brood cow and was getting a lot of popularity within the Jersey breed at the time that they lost her. So therefore they wanted to have a genetic copy, to continue on the genetic line, and put more genetics back in their herd from this particular bloodline.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THIS CLONED CALF'S ROLE IN LIFE IS NO DIFFERENT THAN ANY OTHER BREEDING COW.

MOWER

She'll be used for breeding, for showing, probably mostly her main goal in life is gonna be to make babies.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SINCE 2001 CYAGRA HAS SUCCESSFULLY PRODUCED OVER 250 CLONED ANIMALS AS ONE OF THE FEW COMPANIES WORKING WITH THIS TECHNOLOGY IN THE U.S.

CYAGRA EMPLOYEE

Lots of people say they've got a really good flavor.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

CYAGRA CONTRIBUTED 11 CLONED COWS TO THE FDA STUDY. SINCE CLONED MEAT IS NOT YET APPROVED FOR PUBLIC CONSUMPTION, THERE WAS AN 8000 POUND SURPLUS OF MEAT LEFT OVER AFTER THE STUDY ENDED. EMPLOYEES HERE ARE SO CONFIDENT THE MEAT IS SAFE, THEY'VE BEEN GRILLING IT REGULARLY.

CYAGRA EMPLOYEE

I am cooking today Cyagra cloned hamburgers. We eat these almost once a week either hamburgers or steaks, prepared on the grill. We've been eating them the least year and a half.

WILES

This is Genesis-z she's 6 years old and she's a cloned animal.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

NOT LONG BEFORE THE FDA STUDY BEGAN, MARYLAND DAIRY FARMER GREG WILES STARTED WORKING WITH CYAGRA IN A CLINICAL TRIAL INVOLVING HIS PRIZE COW, ZITA.

WILES

We were informed by the U.S.D.A. and the Holstein association that she was one of the top producing cows in the country.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IF THERE WAS EVER A COW TO BE CLONED, IT WAS WILES'S PRIZE COW, ZITA. WINNING SEVERAL TROPHY'S FOR HER MILK PRODUCTION AND BECOMING THE #1 COW IN THE COUNTRY. ZITA WAS AN INTERNATIONAL STAR AND HIGHLY IN DEMAND.

WILES

Basically, it opened up doors to all the, all over the country and all over the world.

RATHER(ON CAMERA)

WILES HAD HIT THE BOVINE JACKPOT. BUT AS ZITA GREW OLDER, AND WAS UNABLE TO PRODUCE MORE CALVES, WILES BEGAN TO EXPLORE CLONING TO CREATE AN EXACT COPY OF HIS GOLDEN COW.

WILES

We felt that the money we were making off the original cow that we had here on the farm we could by cloning her and making an exact carbon copy of her, that'd we'd be able to pick up right where she left off in her life. We'd be able to continue to sell offspring from that animal all over the world.

MOWER

Greg Wiles's clones were produced on a trial field study that we did, back in 2000. It was prior to the FDA issue. It was prior to us even commercializing cloning.

ANNOUNCER

IN 2000 CYAGRA DEVELOPED THE CLONED EMBRYOS AND IN 2001 THE CLONED ANIMALS WERE BORN.

WILES

We named the one after the animal division Cyagra and the other one Genesis, which is based on the Bible off creation.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

Genesis-z was healthy but Cyagra-z never seemed quite right.

WILES

Well, roughly around three years of age, Cyagra-z had her second offspring. And she developed chronic diarrhea lost like 500 pounds of body weight within a two week period. I had a local veterinarian come in and check her out. We couldn't find anything physically wrong with her. But at that point, she was half the size of the original Zita cow. It just seemed to us that she had stopped growing at a year of age.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WILES SAID HE SUCCESSFULLY BRED GENESIS-Z SEVERAL TIMES. FACT IS, SHE RECENTLY GAVE BIRTH TO HER SIXTH CALF. BUT WILES SAYS

CYAGRA-Z EXPERIENCED HEALTH PROBLEMS THROUGHOUT HER SHORT LIFE. SHE DIED PREMATURELY WITHOUT EVER HAVING A HEALTHY CALF.

JAENISCH

Most clones die early in development, very early. And those clones which survive to birth often die perinatally just around birth. And then of course there are some animals which live longer, like Dolly. But when you look carefully at these animals, often they are not normal. They have defects.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

DR. RUDOLF JAENISH IS A PIONEER IN TRANSGENIC SCIENCE, AND A LEADER IN THE FIELD OF CLONING. HE IS ALSO A FOUNDING MEMBER OF THE WHITEHEAD INSTITUTE AT MIT IN BOSTON.

JAENISCH

One has to realize, of course, that clones are often not normal and they suffer what we call of some epigenetic, it's called epigenetic abnormalities, which often make these clones to live much shorter than other animals. And they have some ailments which really interferes with long life. Dolly is a good example. Dolly was very sick at six years of age, and that's much earlier than a normal sheep would. She had to be killed at six years of age.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

MUCH YOUNGER THAN HER MORE CONVENTIONALLY BRED CONTEMPORARIES WHO LIVE AN AVERAGE 10 TO 12 YEARS. THE SAFETY OF CLONED SHEEP WAS NOT ADDRESSED BY THE FDA, NOR WAS THE HIGH FAILURE RATE OF CLONES. OFFICIALS CONSIDERED ONLY ANIMALS THAT SURVIVED. CYAGRA'S STEVE MOWER SAYS THE SUCCESS RATE OF PRODUCING A HEALTHY CLONED CALF WITH HIS COMPANY IS ONLY ABOUT 15 %.

MOWER

We base our statistics looking at the number of embryos that we transfer that result into a live, healthy calf. And that roughly is around 14 to 15 percent.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

OPPONENTS CALL THE FAILURE RATE A RED FLAG. BUT THE BIO TRADE GROUP'S DR. GLENN BELIEVES TO FOCUS ONLY ON SURVIVING CLONED ANIMALS IS COMPLETELY APPROPRIATE.

GLENN

The epigenetic reprogramming is actually considered to be the point that where if there is a change or an abnormality, that that would be where it happens, right at the very beginning cell stage. And the U.S. FDA concluded that looking at the cellular level really isn't the appropriate phase for understanding how this technology bares out in the animal as it reaches maturity or reaches commerce—meat and milk.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

THIS IS WHERE A FARMER MIGHT TAKE A PRIZE BULL OR COW TO BE CLONED. WE'RE HERE AT VIAGEN, A COMPANY IN THE FOREFRONT OF ANIMAL GENETICS. VIAGEN HAS BEEN CLONING ANIMALS FOR SEVERAL YEARS AND JUST LAST SEPTEMBER THE COMPANY CREATED AN EXACT GENETIC COPY OF A CHAMPION BARREL RACING HORSE. HERE SCIENTISTS CAN IDENTIFY DNA, CREATE CLONES, AND EVEN STORE ANIMAL'S GENES IN CRYOGENICS FOR LATER CLONING. THIS IS ALSO ONE OF TWO LABORATORIES THAT PROVIDED ESSENTIAL DATA TO FOR THE FDA'S RISK ASSESSMENT TO HELP DETERMINE WHETHER CLONED FOOD SHOULD OR SHOULD NOT ENTER OUR FOOD SUPPLY.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AT VIAGEN THE COST FOR A CLONE IS SIXTEEN THOUSAND DOLLARS. THE PROCESS BEGINS IN A LAB WITH CRYOGENICALLY STORED GENETIC MATERIAL UNDER THE CARE OF DR. IRINA POLEJAEVA, VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER FOR VIAGEN.

DR. IRINA POLEJAEVA, VICE PRESIDENT AND CHIEF SCIENCE OFFICER AT VIAGEN

What we have here is our gene bank storage. We keep frozen samples, skin samples in liquid nitrogen we can keep these cells stored indefinitely.

RATHER

So what's the temperature in there?

POLEJAEVA

It's minus a hundred and ninety six degrees Celsius.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

DR. POLEJAEVA'S GROUP PROVIDED INFORMATION INCLUDED IN THE FDA'S DRAFT RISK ASSESSMENT ABOUT THE ANIMALS WHICH WERE CLONED BY VIAGEN.

POLEJAEVA

First, we remove genetic material from an egg and it's what exactly you can see on the screen at the moment

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IN VIAGEN'S LABORATORY DR. POLEJAEVA HAD HER TECHNICIANS PERFORM A SOMATIC CELL NUCLEAR TRANSFER OR S.C.N.T. CLONING FOR US.

POLEJAEVA

We can visualize DNA, which is bright blue stain in there. For that purpose, we use DNA specific dye. And in a second you will see the process of enucleation. So DNA material

now is removed. And then the next step of the process will be replacing DNA from an egg with DNA from skin cell. After that we activate these embryos and the activation process is simply a process which mimics fertilization process.

RATHER

Are you prepared to say that the science as it deals with cloning is perfect at the moment?

GLENN

Science is not an absolute. You never say never in science. Mostly because we're continuing to improve our understanding of it as we move along. Cloning is no different.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IT'S BOTH THE IMPERFECT SCIENCE AND THE ETHICAL QUESTIONS THAT SENT BEN & JERRY'S CO-FOUNDER JERRY GREENFIELD TO WASHINGTON.

GREENFIELD

Who really gets to create life? Who gets to fool around and change life? And is it something that is part of the sacred world that should be beyond the handy work of man? And I think that's something that people need to decide, as opposed to just saying, "Well, scientifically we're capable of doing it. So let's go ahead and do it."

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHICH BRINGS US TO MARKET, WHERE CATTLE MOVES QUICKLY, AND RANCHERS ARE ON THE HONOR SYSTEM HOW THEIR COWS ARE BRED AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY'RE CLONED.

RATHER

How would you say most of these cattle are bred? Are they bred artificial insemination? In vitro fertilization?

WAYNE GIBSON, BUYER AT MILANO LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

No, I'd say 95% to 98% of the cattle you see in this sale will be uh, naturally bred.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE MILANO LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE IS LOCATED ABOUT 70 MILES OUTSIDE OF AUSTIN, TEXAS AND IS A FAMILY RUN BUSINESS. IT'S A TYPICAL DAY FOR LOCAL CATTLE RANCHERS BUYING AND SELLING ANIMALS.

RATHER

This moves along pretty quickly.

RONNIE LASTOVICA, CO-OWNER OF MILANO LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE

It does yeah.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THERE ARE DOZENS JUST LIKE IT THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, BRINGING THE BEEF YOU EAT TO MARKET. CO-OWNER STEVEN LASTOVICA IS THE MAN WITH THE BLACK COWBOY HAT IN THE MIDDLE OF THE ACTION. HE SETS THE PRICE FOR THE CATTLE COMING INTO THE RING AND THE BIDDING BEGINS.

RATHER

How has the cattle business been? Has it been pretty good, about average, not so good?

LASTOVICA

It's been very good. It's been very above average

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

RONNIE LASTOVICA RUNS THE BUSINESS OFFICE.

RATHER

Bring me up to date on the cattle business. Are most of them bred by artificial insemination, in vitro fertilization?

RONNIE LASTOVICA

Most of the animals that you'll see today are probably naturally bred.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

ON THE DAY WE WERE THERE OVER 700 BULLS, COWS, AND CALVES PASSED THROUGH THEIR DOORS. JUST LAST YEAR THE MILANO LIVESTOCK EXCHANGE MOVED OVER 52,000 HEAD.

RATHER

Now these cattle come as they are, they don't come with any bill of health or family history so to speak.

LASTOVICA

We have a little family history on them. We know how they're bred they're bred with Angus bulls. That's probably as deep information that we've got.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THOUGH THE LASTOVICA'S KNOW THE PARENTAGE AND THE PROCESS OF THESE CATTLE, THE CURRENT STANDARD FOR SELLING THEM AT AUCTION DEALS ONLY WITH HEALTH ON ARRIVAL. UNLESS A RANCHER OFFERS THE INFORMATION, THERE IS CURRENTLY NO TESTING THAT DETERMINES HOW AN ANIMAL IS CONCEIVED. CLONED OR OTHERWISE. THESE CATTLE ARE SOLD TO RANCHERS FOR BREEDING, OR TO BUYERS SUCH AS WAYNE GIBSON.

RATHER

How long you been dealing with cattle?

GIBSON, CATTLE BUYER

Oh my goodness—all my life.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AFTER GIBSON BUYS THE CATTLE HERE, THEY'RE PUT ON A TRUCK AND DRIVEN TO A PLANT WHERE THEY'LL BE SLAUGHTERED.

RATHER

Well do you ever buy any cloned cattle that you know of?

GIBSON

Cloned cattle? No.

RATHER

What are you looking for today?

GIBSON

These cattle I sell to a packer that bones everything, and makes boneless meat out of everything. L&H packing company is who I'm working for. They have a company called Shirley that cooks that boneless meat. And then trades it to, oh people like Taco Bell and Baby Taco.

RATHER

So if I eat at Taco Bell down the line I might be eating one of these.

GIBSON

Good chance you'd be eating one of these cows or bulls yeah.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AS FAR AS ANYONE KNOWS EVEN STRUGGLING FARMERS SUCH AS GREG WILES SEEM TO BE HONORING THE VOLUNTARY REQUEST BY THE FDA TO WITHHOLD CLONED ANIMALS FROM THE MARKET. IN THE MEANTIME, DESPITE THE COMPETITIVE NATURE OF THE INDUSTRY, NOT EVERY RANCHER WE MET IS QUICK TO ADOPT THIS NEW BREEDING METHOD.

EUGENE BAUMANN, SMALL RANCH OWNER

The best way I can improve the quality of my-- the calves that I'm gonna sell is to buy quality genetic bulls that will improve the genetics of the calves.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

A FEW MILES FROM THE LIVE STOCK EXCHANGE, EUGENE AND ELAINE BAUMANN OWN A SMALL RANCH. ALTHOUGH THEY ARE FAMILIAR WITH

MODERN BREEDING TECHNIQUES DESIGNED TO HELP CREATE AN A-1" PRIME BEEF" STEER, THEY STILL THINK IT'S TOO EXPENSIVE.

EUGENE BAUMANN, RANCH OWNER

We have a ranch next door to us-- that has registered Angus cattle. And very good genetics and they use the embryo transplant on theirs and so forth. There's a possibility I would have some embryo transplanted bulls. Or something like this.

RATHER

In addition, to being a rancher yourself, you run a household, as a personal opinion, would you buy cloned meat? Would you have any reluctance to buy it?

ELAINE BAUMANN, RANCH OWNER

No, I don't think so.

DAN RATHER

Well would you have any hesitancy giving cloned meat or the milk from cloned cows to your children or your grandchildren?

ELAINE BAUMANN

I may have to think twice about that.

RATHER

That's an honest answer.

ELAINE BAUMANN

I-- I would check into it probably more thoroughly before

RATHER

And what would be your concern?

ELAINE BAUMANN

That it may harm them in some way.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

OF COURSE THERE NO WAY TO CHECK INTO IT MORE THOROUGHLY. BUT WHEN WE COME BACK WE'LL DISCUSS THE CLOSEST A CONSUMER CAN COME TO TRACKING THE PATH FROM FARM TO MARKET.

RATHER (ON CAMEAR)

CLONING FARM ANIMALS FOR FOOD IS AT A CROSSROAD, HALTED ONLY BY THE INDUSTRY'S DESIRE TO GET A BLESSING FROM THE GOVERNMENT. BUT THE FDA IS ABOUT TO GREEN LIGHT THE INTRODUCTION OF CLONED MEAT AND MILK TO THE MARKET, SAYING THERE IS NO DETECTABLE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE CLONED AND CONVENTIONALLY BRED PRODUCTS. AND IT'S TRUE, CONSUMERS AND SCIENTISTS WOULD BE

HARD PRESSED TO DISTINGUISH WHICH HAMBURGER CAME FROM A CLONED COW ONCE IT HITS THE GRILL. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN A CONSUMER IS POWERLESS TO AVOID THESE PRODUCTS.

GEORGE SIEMON, ORGANIC VALEY AND ORGANIC PRAIRIE FOUNDER/ CEO
Cloning is clearly an excluded method and not allowed in organics.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

GEORGE SIEMON IS THE FOUNDER AND CEO OF ORGANIC VALLEY AND ORGANIC PRAIRIE. IT'S ONE ON THE LARGEST ORGANIC COOPS IN THE COUNTRY SOON CELEBRATING ITS 20TH ANNIVERSARY.

SIEMON

Organic is an old word. But, the way we see it today it's about food and that's a USDA accredited system of how food is produced, the materials that are used, and production systems that are used. And, it is a verification of how it's produced.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SIEMON SAYS BUSINESS BEGAN TO REALLY TAKE OFF JUST ABOUT 5 YEARS AGO WHEN THE "ORGANIC FOODS PRODUCTION ACT OF 1990" WENT INTO EFFECT AND INTRODUCED A TRANSPARENT PROCESS FOR LABELING.

SIEMON

Well, the USDA passed the federal law in 1990. And then, finally got implemented in 2002 where the set of strict rules about organic production can be done. But, it also has the set of rules about how it's accredited with a verified by a third party certifier with annual inspection. And so, it's a pretty tight system that ensures integrity to the consumer because integrity is such a crucial part of what organics is.

REGINA BIEDLER, ORGANIC VALLEY FARMER

This is Randy Randolph, she's named after our town.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

WHEN ORGANIC VALLEY FARMERS BRENT AND REGINA BEIDLER ARE ASKED ABOUT THE FDA'S ASSESSMENT OF CLONING, BRENT BEIDLER POINTS TO A PAST FEDERAL DECISION THAT WAS LATER PROVEN UNWISE.

BRENT BEIDLER, ORGANIC VALLEY FARMER

One of those was in the case of the mad cow. The organic community didn't think that it was a good idea to feed animal products to animals, to ruminants. The FDA had in fact said that that was safe and there was no problem with that. But when we did find that later when the mad cow situation arose, that the only place which consumers could go to be assured that their meat wasn't from animals which were fed animal products was the organic market.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

CLEARLY CLONING IS COUNTER TO THE BELIEFS OF ORGANIC FARMERS. BUT EVEN THOSE ON THE CONVENTIONAL, TRADITIONAL SIDE OF THE BUSINESS, SUCH AS BUYER WAYNE GIBSON AND AUCTIONEER RONNIE LASTOVICA ARE CAUTIOUS.

RATHER

When you go to the meat market. Do you feel strongly or not that it should say that it comes from clones?

GIBSON

Yeah I think it should, I think it should, if for no other reason than to get the information out. Whether it's better or not as good, or the same, it's important. I want to know. I want to know everything that happens to a piece of meat that I'm going to cook and eat cook for my family I want to know where it came from and I want to know what its been eating. So the fact that it might be cloned or not cloned is important to me.

RATHER

How do you come out on that do you care if whether the meat is labeled it comes from cloned?

RONNIE LASTOVICA

I do. Again, I think again I echo what Wayne said, I think just as a consumer I want to be able to know what I'm putting in my body. I want to know what history to we have about the product, so I don't know if it's the known as much as the unknown that concerns me.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SENATOR MIKULSKI AGREES CONSUMERS SHOULD HAVE A CHOICE.

MIKULSKI

I'm for consumer choice. Setting up an environment where we can have sound science to evaluate it over a period of time, and really hold the FDA accountable for keeping an eye on this stuff.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND ADDRESSING THE UNKNOWN IS EXACTLY WHAT SOME FOOD PRODUCERS AND MARKETS PLAN TO DO IF THE FDA OPENS THE DOOR FOR CLONED FOODS. WHOLE FOODS/WILD OATS HAS SAID IN A STATEMENT: "WHOLE FOODS MARKET DOES NOT INTEND TO SELL MEAT OR MILK FROM CLONED ANIMALS." DEAN FOODS, ONE OF THE LARGEST DAIRY PROVIDERS, GOES A STEP FURTHER AND HAS SAID: "WE WILL WORK WITH OUR DAIRY FARMERS TO IMPLEMENT PROTOCOLS TO ENSURE THAT THE MILK THEY SUPPLY TO DEAN FOODS DOES NOT COME FROM CLONED COWS." FOR THOSE THAT WANT TO OFFER CLONED FOOD - BEN & JERRY'S JERRY GREENFIELD SAYS LABEL IT.

GREENFIELD

I think that is the key, labeling things accordingly-- then people can make informed choices. Just don't, don't sneak it in there. Don't, don't take the public as fools.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND DON'T LEAVE THE LONG TERM IMPACT OF CLONED FOOD TO CHANCE, SAYS SENATOR BARBARA MIKULSKI.

MIKULSKI

I believe in science, I believe in research. I'm a strong advocate of stem cell research. But I believe that we have to follow a scientific program that is based on sound science, a transparent process. And the first thing is be aware and do no harm. And I think cloning and the cloning of animal products, and also the selling of the cloned progeny without consumers knowing it is a very dangerous way to go.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

SENATOR MIKULSKI'S IS CONTINUING TO TRY AND GAIN SUPPORT FOR HER BILL TO LABEL CLONED FOOD. IN THE MEANTIME THE FDA WILL CONTINUE TO ACCEPT PUBLIC COMMENT ABOUT CLONED FOOD ENTERING OUR ENTIRE FOOD SUPPLY UNTIL APRIL 2ND.

COMING UP NEXT, BILLIONS TO A DICTATOR, CONGRESS WANTS TO KNOW, WHERE DOES THE MONEY GO?

PAKISTAN:

AND NOW, THE FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM. LAST WEEK WE TOLD YOU ABOUT MASSIVE DRUG PRODUCTION IN AFGHANISTAN AND HOW IT THREATENS THE STABILITY OF THE KARZAI GOVERNMENT. ACROSS THE BORDER IN NEIGHBORING PAKISTAN, A MILITARY DICTATOR WHOM THE UNITED STATES DESPERATELY NEEDS TO STAY IN POWER IS ALSO THREATENED NOT BY DRUGS, BUT BY A GROWING CONTINGENT OF TALIBAN AND AL QAEDA FIGHTERS, AND BY A NEW MOVEMENT BY HIS OWN PEOPLE. THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION IS BACKING PRESIDENT PERVEZ MUSHARRAF WITH BILLIONS OF DOLLARS IN MILITARY SUPPORT; MONEY THAT'S BEEN FLOWING INTO THE COUNTRY FOR SIX YEARS, BASICALLY WITH NO QUESTIONS ASKED. WELL NOW DEMOCRATS IN CONGRESS ARE BEGINNING TO WONDER HOW MORE THAN \$10 BILLION AMERICAN TAXPAYER DOLLARS HAS BEEN SPENT. THE ANSWERS, IT SEEMS, ARE NOT EASY TO COME BY. THE PAKISTANI MILITARY WAS NOT VERY FORTHCOMING.

MAJOR GENERAL SHAUKAT SULTAN, PAKISTANI MILITARY

It is certainly transparent. But we don't have to give accounts to anyone. We are a sovereign country, and we don't have to show our accounts to anyone.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

MAJOR GENERAL SHAUKAT SULTAN WAS ASSIGNED TO SPEAK TO US ON BEHALF OF THE PAKISTANI MILITARY. HE DOES NOT WANT TO MAKE PUBLIC EXACTLY HOW THE MONEY HAS BEEN USED. HE SAYS THAT THE AGREEMENT IS BETWEEN THE AMERICAN AND PAKISTANI MILITARY. AND SO FAR, THE PENTAGON HAS NOT MADE ANY COMPLAINTS.

SULTAN

There is no such problem with us, we have no such issue. Nor has any such concern been conveyed to us. As far as we are concerned, there is no problem in its accounting and there is no problem in its utilization.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BUT PATIENCE IS WEARING THIN ON CAPITOL HILL, WHERE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS ARE STARTING TO QUESTION IF THE UNITED STATES IS GETTING ITS MONEY'S WORTH IN THE PARTNERSHIP WITH PAKISTAN. THE WAR IN AFGHANISTAN WAS THE TOPIC OF A RECENT HEARING IN THE SENATE. THE U.S. DEAL WITH MUSHARRAF DOES NOT SEEM TO BE WORKING, ARGUED SENATOR EVAN BAYH OF INDIANA.

BAYH (IN HEARING)

What did we learn from 9/11? Whatever Musharraf faces, the difficult choices, this and that, it is what it is. We have a lawless area where Al Qaeda is reconstituting itself their destabilizing a neighbor. You mention that they are a sovereign state, well sovereignty denotes some level of control and if they simply cannot control that area, what do we do? When do we allow a lawless area where Al Qaeda is reconstituting itself to exist?

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THIS IS WHAT HE'S TALKING ABOUT. THE NORTHWESTERN BORDER OF PAKISTAN IS A REMOTE AREA, JUST BARELY WHEN AT ALL CONTROLLED BY THE ISLAMABAD GOVERNMENT. IT'S WHERE TRIBAL LEADERS RULE AND NEARLY THREE MILLION AFGHAN REFUGEES MIX WITH TALIBAN SYMPATHIZERS. IT'S BECOME A HOTBED OF RECRUITMENT AND SHELTER FOR TERRORISTS. THE UNITED STATES MILITARY HAS ASKED TO CONDUCT ITS OWN OPERATIONS HERE, BUT PAKISTAN WILL NOT ALLOW IT. EVEN SO, THE REGION HAS PROVEN TO BE TOO MUCH FOR GENERAL MUSHARRAF TO HANDLE. LAST YEAR, WHEN MUSHARRAF'S ARMY SUFFERED HEAVY LOSSES IN SOME TRIBAL-CONTROLLED REGIONS, THE ARMY RETREATED, LEAVING THE AREA TO LOCAL LEADERS. THE RESULT OF THAT PEACE DEAL HAS BEEN DISASTROUS, SAY U.S. MILITARY OFFICIALS. CROSS-BORDER ATTACKS FROM PAKISTAN INTO AFGHANISTAN HAVE TRIPLED, AND AL-QAEDA HAS GAINED NEW GROUND. MILITARY INTELLIGENCE OFFICIALS NOW SAY THAT ANY ATTACK AGAINST THE UNITED STATES IS NOW MORE LIKELY TO BE PLANNED AND EXECUTED, NOT FROM AFGHANISTAN OR IRAQ, BUT INSIDE PAKISTAN.

BAYH (IN HEARING)

It's difficult to explain to the American people how a group that slaughtered 3,000 Americans, is attempting to attack us again, is attacking our troops in Afghanistan is allowed a sanctuary, and our reason for not acting more aggressively in dealing with that is because we're concerned about the political consequences in Pakistan.

U.S. MILITARY GENERAL DOUGLASS LUTE (IN HEARING)

The problem is that while the Pakistani military abided by their part of the agreement, the tribal leaders, which were to have quelled the violence and stopped the cross-border attacks and so forth, have not.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

TRYING TO SHOW THAT THEY'RE SERIOUS, THE PAKISTANI MILITARY RECENTLY INVITED THE MEDIA TO SOME OF THE MOST INACCESSIBLE PARTS OF THE AFGHANISTAN BORDER. WITH THE CAMERAS ROLLING, THE MILITARY PUT ON A DISPLAY -- PARADING TROOPS AROUND, AS A SHOW OF FORCE. BUT THE MAJORITY OF U.S. DOLLARS, ACCORDING TO PUBLIC RECORDS, GOES DIRECTLY TO DEFEND THE AREA PAKISTAN IS HAVING SO MUCH TROUBLE TRYING TO CONTROL. WHILE MORE THAN THREE AND A HALF BILLION DOLLARS WORTH OF MILITARY AND ECONOMIC AID HAS GONE TO PAKISTAN IN FIVE YEARS, ON AVERAGE ANOTHER 80 MILLION DOLLARS A MONTH ALSO GOES DIRECTLY TO REIMBURSE THEIR MILITARY FOR FIGHTING TERRORISM INSIDE PAKISTAN. IN ALL, THE UNITED STATES WILL HAVE SENT MORE THAN TEN BILLION DOLLARS TO PAKISTAN BETWEEN 2002 AND 2007. SULTAN INSISTS THAT THE MONEY IS BEING PUT TO GOOD USE.

SULTAN

This military aid package is in the form of training. It is also in the form of sale of equipment to Pakistan, out of this aid package. Like the refurbished cobras that we got recently. We also got refurbished C-130's from the United States.

ANNOUNCER

AND THAT'S AS FAR AS HE WOULD GO. SENATOR ENWER BAIG IS ON THE FOREIGN LIAISON COMMITTEE OF THE PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY. HE IS A MEMBER OF THE PARLIAMENT -- A PARLIAMENT THAT HAS NO POWER SINCE GENERAL MUSHARRAF TOOK OVER IN A MILITARY COUP. THE PARLIAMENT HAS NO IDEA WHERE THE AMERICAN MONEY GOES. IT IS SENT DIRECTLY TO THE PRESIDENT AND HIS MILITARY.

SENATOR ENWAR BAIG, FOREIGN LIAISON COMMITTEE MEMBER OF
PAKISTAN PEOPLE'S PARTY

I think all the decisions he has taken, he's taken on his own. People of Pakistan are absolutely unaware what kind of cooperation the Pakistani defense forces are giving to the United States in this war on terror.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

SEVERAL BILLION DOLLARS HAS ALSO BEEN DESIGNATED FOR HUMANITARIAN AID IN PAKISTAN. BUT SENATOR BAIG SAYS THAT MONEY HAS BEEN INVISIBLE TO PAKISTANIS.

BAIG

I have not seen that money going into the rural areas. I have not seen any new hospitals, or clinics or small schools being operated or built under this us aid program. I have not seen it.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THE UNITED STATES CONGRESS WRITES THE CHECKS TO THE DEFENSE DEPARTMENT SO THEY CAN PAY, OR, AS THEY CALL IT "REIMBURSE," PAKISTAN FOR MILITARY OPERATIONS. SO CONGRESS SHOULD AT LEAST HAVE A GOOD IDEA OF HOW THE MILITARY MONEY HAS BEEN USED, WE THOUGHT. THESE DOCUMENTS WERE OBTAINED THROUGH A FREEDOM OF INFORMATION REQUEST BY THE CENTER FOR PUBLIC INTEGRITY, A GOVERNMENT WATCHDOG GROUP IN WASHINGTON D.C. THEY SHOW THAT DEFENSE DEPARTMENT REPORTS TO CONGRESS ARE HIGH IN NUMBERS BUT LOW ON DETAILS. USING BROAD TERMS LIKE "CRITICAL MILITARY SUPPORT," CONGRESS GETS ONLY A FEW LINES OF EXPLANATION, AND AN AMOUNT. ANOTHER REPORT FOLLOWS THE FLOW BY MONTH, AND THAT SIMPLY STATES "MILITARY OPERATIONS ALONG THE AFGHANISTAN BORDER" ON THE PAYOUTS TO PAKISTAN. WE NOTICED THAT DESPITE THE PAKISTANI TROOP WITHDRAWAL LAST SUMMER FROM SOME TRIBAL BORDER AREAS, THE AMOUNTS PAID OUT TO PAKISTAN NEVER WENT DOWN. AND EVEN THOUGH VICE PRESIDENT CHENEY, IN A RECENT TRIP TO ISLAMABAD, ISSUED A STERN WARNING THAT THE NEW DEMOCRATIC CONGRESS MAY CUT FUNDING TO PAKISTAN UNLESS THEY SEE A HARDER CRACKDOWN ON TERRORISM, PRESIDENT BUSH DOES NOT APPEAR TO BE STRAYING FROM HIS FRIENDSHIP WITH MUSHARRAF. OVER THE YEARS, HIS MESSAGE HAS BEEN THE SAME.

PRESIDENT BUSH (IN SPEECH)

President Musharraf is a leader with great courage and vision and his nation is a key partner in the global coalition against terror. Pakistan's continuing support of operation "Enduring Freedom" has been critical to our success in toppling the Taliban and routing out the Al-Qaeda network.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND THERE MAY NOT BE A GOOD ALTERNATIVE TO KEEPING THE MONEY ROLLING IN PAKISTAN'S DIRECTION. WITHOUT MUSHARRAF, THE UNITED STATES COULD LOSE PAKISTAN AS AN ALLY, AS WELL AS LOSE THE PERSON WHO CONTROLS THE COUNTRY'S NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

BOB GALLUCCI, DEAN OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF
FOREIGN SERVICE

The most dangerous country in the world, for the United States of America, for our security, is Pakistan.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

BOB GALLUCCI IS THE DEAN OF GEORGETOWN UNIVERSITY'S SCHOOL OF FOREIGN SERVICE AND A NUCLEAR POLICY EXPERT.

GALLUCCI

I don't think anybody doubts Musharraf's sincerity about wanting to control this material. The question is, whether those there are those in Pakistan who would act independent of Musharraf or if Musharraf should pass from the scene for some reason. Then, I think, we have in either case, we have a lot to worry about. There's enough material there to make a lot of nuclear weapons. And that material in the hands of terrorists poses an extraordinary threat. A threat against which we have no real defense, and no deterrent.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND PAKISTAN HAS NOT ONLY DELIVERED POORLY ON THE TERRORISM FRONT. GALLUCCI SAYS THAT MUSHARRAF SHOULD BE PRESSURED MUCH HARDER TO ACCOUNT FOR HIS NUCLEAR WEAPONS.

GALLUCCI

I think that, at the very highest level we need to get, from Musharraf, more information than we have now about how nuclear material and weapons are stored. How they're secured. How, in various contingencies, they'd be dealt with. And we need to assure ourselves that that material is gonna be kept.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THAT MATERIAL HAS BEEN FOR SALE BEFORE. PAKISTANI NUCLEAR SCIENTIST A.Q. KHAN HELPED BOTH NORTH KOREA AND IRAN DEVELOP THEIR NUCLEAR WEAPONS PROGRAMS BEFORE HE WAS STOPPED. AFTER THE INVASION OF AFGHANISTAN, DRAWINGS FOR NUCLEAR DEVICES WERE FOUND IN ABANDONED CAVES.

GALLUCCI

What we're concerned about here, obviously, is that those within the nuclear establishment, within the military, who might have these sympathies, would assist in the transfer of this material to Al-Qaeda.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

IF PAKISTAN WAS TO BECOME A DEMOCRACY, A MORE RADICAL ISLAMIST GOVERNMENT BE VOTED IN; MEANING, GALLUCCI SAYS, LITTLE CHANCE OF A PARTNERSHIP WITH THE U.S. THE BOTTOM LINE, SAY SEVERAL AMERICAN SCHOLARS ON PAKISTAN, IS THAT THE U.S. SIMPLY MAY HAVE TO TRUST MUSHARRAF FOR NOW.

AHSAN IQBAL, MEMBER OF PAKISTAN'S MUSLIM LEAGUE PARTY
If the United States wants to promote democracy in Afghanistan and Iraq and for its convenience shut eyes to democracy, the cause of democracy in Pakistan because General Musharraf suits or meets the interests of the administration, for the time being, it will not send the right signal as far as Pakistan is concerned.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AHSAN IQBAL IS WITH PAKISTAN'S MUSLIM LEAGUE PARTY. HE DOESN'T THINK ANYBODY BELIEVES THAT THE U.S. REALLY WANTS TO SUPPORT PAKISTAN IN THE LONG RUN.

IQBAL

The common man feels that the United States has no concern for democracy in Pakistan. They have some short term vested interests for which they will support any military dictator.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

AND IN THE END, SAYS IQBAL, SUPPORTING A MILITARY DICTATOR MAY BACKFIRE, BOTH WHEN IT COMES TO THE WAR ON TERROR AND THE SPREAD OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS. PAKISTANIS ARE ALREADY PROTESTING THE MILITARY CRACKDOWN IN SOME PARTS OF THE COUNTRY. MANY ARE CONVINCED THAT MUSHARRAF IS TAKING ORDERS DIRECTLY FROM THE UNITED STATES.

IQBAL

I think when the United States administration declares that he is their valuable asset, not only his authority is re-enforced but also United States send very negative message to the people of Pakistan that they have complete disregard for democratic process in this country and for people's will and that they stand with one military dictator and not with the 150 million people of Pakistan.

RATHER (VOICE OVER)

THOSE SAME PEOPLE WILL VOTE IN THE ELECTIONS THIS FALL, BUT FEW INTERNATIONAL OBSERVERS BELIEVE THAT THESE WILL BE FREE AND FAIR WITHOUT MORE PRESSURE FROM THE UNITED STATES. A TALIBAN OFFENSIVE FROM PAKISTAN, AND INSIDE AFGHANISTAN, IS EXPECTED THIS SPRING, WHICH WILL PUT MORE AMERICAN TROOPS AT RISK, AND ALL U.S. TARGETS AROUND THE WORLD MAY BE AT RISK IN AL-QAEDA'S PLANS. RIGHT NOW, CONGRESS IS CONSIDERING THE PENTAGON'S REQUEST FOR ANOTHER \$1.5 BILLION FOR REIMBURSEMENT FOR PAKISTANI MILITARY OPERATIONS THROUGH 2008, IN ADDITION TO ALMOST \$800 MILLION MORE IN AID.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

NOW FOR A LITTLE CONTEXT AND PERSPECTIVE FROM SOMEONE IN THE KNOW. MARY ANNE WEAVER IS AN AUTHOR WHO HAS COVERED

PAKISTAN FOR MORE THAN 20 YEARS. LISTEN TO HER PERSPECTIVE ON WHAT'S GOING ON WITH PRESIDENT MUSHARRAF.

MARY ANNE WEAVER, AUTHOR AND PAKISTAN EXPERT

But I think from the very beginning there should have been very clear conditions. I think we should have told Musharraf this is what we want you to do. If you do not do it then we're pulling back. Osama Bin Laden, for example, will never be captured without the cooperation of Musharraf and the Pakistani military. He has not been captured. He is living in Pakistan along with his entire leadership circle.

RATHER

True or untrue, that the Taliban is basically headquartered somewhere in Pakistan?

WEAVER

True.

RATHER

What about Quetta, which is down a little bit lower on the border, true or untrue many of the vestiges of the Taliban are there?

WEAVER

Well, when I was doing my book on Pakistan in 2003, I was told by a number of intelligence officials—both ours and theirs—that Mullah Omar was residing comfortably in Quetta, Baluchistan. The Taliban was coming and going freely across the border. In fact, a friend of mine who just came back maybe two months ago, said the Taliban is actually organizing bus tours from Quetta. You cross the Pakistani border at Chaman, you go into a place called Spin Boldak, the Taliban fires off a couple of rockets against U.S. forces, you get back on the bus, you return to Quetta in time for afternoon tea.

RATHER

Among the headlines over the last week or 10 days have been the Chief Justice in Pakistan was fired, 7 of the judges at least, left under protest to conspiring. What is going on here?

WEAVER

This was a very, very miscalculated move on Musharraf's part and essentially he is facing the greatest challenge to his presidency than he has at any other time since he seized power eight years ago, because it's no longer just the lawyers and the justices. The political parties have joined in, the Islamists have joined in. There is a good deal of concern on the part of the military about what they see as a very significant breakdown of law and order in the streets.

RATHER

If this is the most critical crisis that President Musharraf has faced. What does that pretend for U.S. policy and U.S. interest in the region?

WEAVER

Well, I think it would depend entirely on what the Pakistani military does. Musharraf serves at the behest of the military. If the military sees the situation beginning to unravel, if it sees the disruption of law and order affecting its long term relationship with the United States, then it will move in.

RATHER

If Musharraf should say to any ranking U.S. official, “You want free elections? Okay, I can give you free elections, but let me tell you, that in free elections, I might not win free elections and you aren't going to like what comes behind it.” Why gamble? Why not stick with Musharraf? He is, for lack of a better phrase, the devil we know, and he has delivered in some ways for us. Or at least he has reportedly delivered in some ways for us.

WEAVER

Well he is the devil we know, yes. But is he governing Pakistan? Is he providing services to Pakistan? Is he doing anything to clamp down on his own indigenous militant and/or terrorist movement? No. I mean, Pakistan is disintegrating under Musharraf. Pakistan has one of the lowest literacy rates on earth. One of the lowest female life expectancy rates. Nothing is really evolving in Pakistan. If things are not improved and corrected and reversed, I think Pakistan is in danger of becoming a failed state like Afghanistan was under the Taliban.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

NEW YORKER MAGAZINE WRITER, BOOK AUTHOR, AND PAKISTANI EXPERT MARY ANN WEAVER. JUST AHEAD—A FLIGHT TO REMEMBER.

FLIGHT 1220:

IN THE 4 YEARS SINCE THE IRAQ WAR BEGAN, WE HAVE SEEN MANY THINGS: BOMBS EXPLODING OVER BAGHDAD, FIERCE FIRE FIGHTS, EVEN THE TRIAL AND EXECUTION OF SADAAM. BUT ONE THINGS WE HAVE NOT OFTEN SEEN IS THE MOST DIRECT EVIDENCE OF WARS TOLD—THE FLAG DRAPED COFFINS THAT ARE AT ONCE THE ULTIMATE SYMBOL OF SERVICE TO COUNTRY AND THE VERY REAL REMAINS OF A MEMBER OF OUR ARMED FORCES WHO SACRIFICIED HIS OR HER LIFE IN THE LINE OF DUTY. WELL OVER 3,000 OF THESE DECORATED CASKETS HAVE MADE THE TRIP FROM IRAQ TO THE UNITED STATES SINCE MARCH OF 2003. ALMOST ALL OF THEM PRACTICALLY INVISIBLE TO EVERYONE BUT THE FAMILY'S OF THE FALLEN, BECAUSE OF A DEFENSE DEPARTMENT BAN ON PHOTOGRAPHS. BUT TONIGHT, WE BRING YOU THE STORY, TOLD IN HIS OWN WORDS OF JOHN MCSHEFFREY, A MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS MAN, ON WHAT HE THOUGHT WOULD BE A ROUTINE FLIGHT TO BOSTON, HAD, ALONG WITH HIS FELLOW PASSENGERS, A CHANCE ENCOUNTER WITH

ONE OF THOSE VESSELS THAT HOLD OUR HONORED, BUT LARGELY UNSEEN, DEAD.

JOHN MCSHEFFREY, MASSACHUSETTS BUSINESS MAN

Like most flights, you sit on an airplane, you throw your headset on, you try not to listen to the stewardess announcements or the pilot's announcements. And the pilot came on over the speakers and you could tell what he was talking about was different than last, different than most. So I took the headset off, and what he was talking about was the fact that our flight was escorting home a body of a young man who had been killed in Iraq. The atmosphere on the flight was solemn, at best. You know, it was very hard to do your normal routine. You had a pit in your stomach. Everyone felt heavy. You know, normal chatter that you hear on a plane was somewhat missing from the flight. Once we landed in Boston, the Captain came on the loud speaker and announced that we had landed, but also announced that there would be a, not to be alarmed that next to the plane when we pulled into the terminal that there was a Color Guard waiting for the arrival of the soldier. It just snowed in Boston the day before. It was cold, it was a raw night. And at Logan airport, it's a raw place to be. And those soldiers, I'm sorry, those fireman, were out in the cold, and those personnel were out there in full gear, honoring that soldier. And that's, you looked out there and you saw the sirens, you saw what those guys were doing and you could hear the sounds of the peoples underneath you in the cargo bin preparing to get the young soldier off the plane. And that's when it really hit you, that this war is right in our plane. Right in our daily lives, not just on the TV sets. It's hitting home. I just said, "This is unbelievable." This is an event that we don't see anymore. This is an event that we are not allowed to see. So I pulled out my cell phone and snapped a series of photographs—some of them came out very clear and some of them didn't. But some of them really told the story of that soldier coming off the plane. But also really told the story, which I didn't realize when I was taking pictures of him, of the personnel of Logan airport honoring the man. And so we got off the plane, and there wasn't a dry eye on the plane, honest to goodness, there wasn't a dry eye on the plane. I had just witnessed, and the folks that I was with, we witness something that we're not allowed to see. And it didn't matter on that plane if that person was a liberal or a conservative or a red state or a blue state, a Republican or a Democrat, it didn't matter. It wasn't a political issue, it was a human issue. And every single person on that plane sat there quietly in honor of that soldier, because we cared about that soldier. And it dawned on me how frustrating it was, how almost angry I got that what we saw, we weren't allowed to see. How angry I got and how frustrated I got that what we saw, the families couldn't see. I just happened to be able to put a few words together and send it to my friends and it ended up being an editorial. But the response that I've gotten from my words has been equally as strong. You know, the emails, the personal hand written letters that I've received from people feeling the same pain that I felt. And by the way, I didn't know I felt that pain. You know, I did not know I felt that pain until February 27th. Until I saw it and I realized there's that void. There's that pain that we felt for the last 4 years and that these parents are feeling on a day to day basis. You know, we as a country should be asked to sacrifice. When our heroes and our most honorable are overseas and we're not being asked to sacrifice. It's not like World War II where we're being asked to sacrifice on food and plastic drives and tire drives and so fourth, but we're not being asked to

sacrifice our emotions either. And our emotions are being separated as well. We're just kind of pretending business as usual over here. And you know what, looking out that window, business is not as usual. It's cold, hard reality and it hit me right between the eyes. It didn't before.

RATHER (ON CAMERA)

JOHN MCSHEFFREY DOES NOT KNOW THE NAME OF THE FALLEN SERVICE MEMBER WITH WHOM HE SHARED THAT FLIGHT TO BOSTON. LIKE SO MANY OTHERS IN THIS WAR, HE OR SHE REMAINS ANONYMOUS TO MOST OF US. BUT WHAT THE PEOPLE ON THAT PLANE SAW MOVED THEM DEEPLY IN A WAY THE REST OF US, WHO DO NOT HAVE FAMILY AND FRIENDS IN THE FIGHT, HAVE NOT BEEN PERMITTED. IT WAS NOT ALWAYS LIKE THIS, IN WARS PASSED AMERICANS COULD SEE THOSE WHO RETURNED HOME AFTER ENDURING THE ULTIMATE SACRIFICE TO OUR COUNTRY. THOSE FLAG COVERED COFFINS WERE SEEN BY FELLOW CITIZENS AS CONTAINING HEROES TO BE HONORED AND MOURN. AND SEEN AS HOLDING SILENT WITNESS TO WAR'S GRIM COST. AS WE HOLD IN OUR MINDS THOSE BLURRED, BUT INDELIBLE IMAGES OF WHAT TOOK PLACE ON A FRIGID TARMACK IN BOSTON, WE MIGHT ASK OURSELVES: WHY ARE OUR HONORED DEAD KEPT HIDDEN? AND WHAT PURPOSE IT SERVES IN A WAR THAT IS, FOR MOST OF US, SO FAR AWAY. THE WAR THAT, FOR THE PASSENGERS ABOARD DELTA FLIGHT 1220, HIT FOR A SHORT TIME MUCH CLOSER TO HOME.

FOR HDNET, DAN RATHER REPORTING. GOOD NIGHT.