So I think the only thing we can do is do what we are doing tonight. Ask the tough questions. With the extension of this Halliburton contract today, I do not think we can wait any longer to see how this company is spending the taxpayers' money.

I naively thought that the contract was going to end today and it would not be extended; and when I read that it was going to be extended, I just could not believe it. The process continues. And I think we just have to be here every night or as often as we can to point out how outrageous this is and what the administration is doing.

□ 2310

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, just really when we think about it, we are making millionaires basically. We are making millionaires out of Iraq, not only out of the supplemental but out of the Iraq appropriations as it relates to private contracting. That is what is happening.

So we hear speeches from the administration how we want to empower Iraqis and how we want them to take control of their own government and their own economy, and the reality is it is not happening. I do not care if an individual is an Independent, a Republican, a Democrat. I am talking about an American voter. That is very simple. Individuals who have set up shop, not only here in the Beltway with higher connections in the administration, to be able to say I will give you the edge, I do not think there is a lobbying firm set up to help Iraqis get the edge.

So I cannot help but question that, and I think that as we continue to talk about this and as the media continues to reveal what we are talking about here tonight, once again, I just want to clarify. These are not just proud, card-carrying Democrats who say, hey, let us take a shot at the Republicans. We are not talking about that. We are talking about facts, not fiction. We are talking about kids and our grandchildren having to pay for what we are doing here today.

This Congress did not even have the gumption to say, okay, if we believe that we have to send an additional $87 billion in a supplemental of borrowed money, that we will find a way to be able to pay for today, that it will not be on the backs of our grandchildren and our children. That did not happen, and right now, the House and the other body will come together in some sort of conference committee, and I am not a betting person, but I can pretty much guess that we are going to end up giving Iraq the money, and we are going to have shortfalls.

Every Member of this body will end up having fewer dollars to be able to take back to their Districts to be able to build our economy, to build an economy that will create jobs, not an economy that individuals will just say, okay, I need to tuck this away and put it away, but individuals will actually be hired, that jobs will be looking for people and people will not have to look for jobs.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just hope that somehow our bringing this to light will make a difference. I know it will not in that $87 billion supplemental because they are going to bring that back tomorrow or the next day, and all these no-bid contracts and the other things we are talking about are going to continue, but I think if we continue to bring it to light, ultimately there will be some changes.

So I want to thank the gentleman again and all my colleagues for being here tonight.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CASE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 5:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of official business in the Middle East with a congressional delegation.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 4:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. AKIN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 5:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of leading a congressional delegation to Iraq.

Mr. MCCOTTER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 5:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of traveling with an official delegation to inspect reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TERRY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, November 5.

Mr. TERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHUSTER, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 30, 2003, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4973. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Additional Registration and Other Regulatory Relief for Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors; Past Performance Issues (RIN: 3038–AB97) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4974. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Denomination of Customer Funds and Location of Depositories (RIN: 3038–AB31) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4975. A letter from the Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Stamp Program: Non-Discretionary Quality Control Provisions of Title IV of Public Law 107–171 (RIN: 0584–AD31) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4976. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas [Docket No. 02–037–2] received October 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4977. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegatable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV03–945–1 FR] received October 20, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4978. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel. Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Business Loans and Development Company Loans (RIN: 3245–AE68) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4979. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

4980. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,