minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, several months ago now the President signed the Syria Accountability Act, which was passed overwhelmingly by this House and the other body. Since that time, however, the act has not been implemented; and I believe, as do the vast majority of Members in this House and the other body believe, that the time is now to slap sanctions on Syria.

Just the other day, the word came out from Iraq that Syria was allowing weaponry to come from Syrian territory into Iraq and guerrillas to come from Syrian territory into Iraq to do harm to American troops. Syria has not patrolled its border and has allowed these anti-U.S. guerrillas to come in and kill our troops.

Also, the other day in Jordan a plot was discovered where poison gas was to have been released and there was to be an attack on the U.S. Embassy in Amman, Jordan. It was documented that this gas and these attacks came from Syria across the border into Jordan.

Syria is a major sponsor of terrorism. Syria illegally continues to occupy Lebanon, has a weapons of mass destruction program, and, as I mentioned before, is allowing its border to be used by terrorists to come into Iraq to do harm to U.S. troops. Those are the four things that this bill, the Syria Accountability Act, called on Syria to end. Syria has not ended, and the President should implement the sanctions immediately.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

ARE WE SAFER NOW?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, we are here in this House; and it is our duty, it is our obligation to debate the important questions of the day, and that is one of the unfailing obligations of this House.

One of the questions I hear asked, particularly from the other side, but sometimes from my side of the aisle, are we safer now than we were a year ago? Are we safer now than at the time we went into the country of Iraq? I just think back to a year ago and what was going on in my congressional office here in Washington. And I look out over the floor of the House, and I see a gas mask under every seat. Truly in March 2003, we were concerned about the possibility of a poison gas attack within our country. And, of course, one of the reasons for that was because there was country that was very much opposed to us who had a history of using that type of weapon in an offensive pattern different from any other world leader. So as we debate these points now, are we safer now than a year ago, we would be wise to remember what was going on in this body a scant 12 or 13 months ago.

As preparations were made for what eventually became Operation Iraqi Freedom, I was not in this body when the vote was taken. I am a newcomer to Congress, but certainly I recall during the fall of 2002 and during the early months of my first term when we could not get the time of day out of Saddam Hussein unless there was a gun held to his head.

As a consequence, the President of our country, who is now being called to task by the 9/11 Commission for not being aggressive enough, not having enough of a criminal mind ahead of time to envision the type of attacks brought against this country on September 11, 2001, our President is being criticized for not having the ability to foretell that kind of unthinkable act against our country. But at the same time, as the run-up to Operation Iraqi Freedom was going on, Iraq was perceived as a gathering threat. We knew in the past they had held weapons of mass destruction. No one in this House or on the other side of the Capitol seriously questioned that. The previous administration did not seriously question that, nor did the United Nations seriously question that.

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But at the same time, in order to get just the ability to get the inspectors who had been kicked out in 1998, just the ability to get them back in the country, we had to put 150,000 troops on the border. When we do that, the clock starts ticking because in that part of the world, in order to have a military exercise, we are just not going to be as successful if we put off doing that until the summer months.

And I remember very well the talking heads and the pundits, before I came to Congress and after, talking about if Bush is going to do something, he needs to do it soon. We cannot let the clock fritter away while the weather gets warmer over there and it makes it even harder on our troops who may have to don protective gear to protect them from chemical attacks.

Again, the 9/11 Commission currently is criticizing the current administration and the previous administration, but the real loser in that criticism is the Bush administration because the Clinton administration is not running for reelection. But the 9/11 Commission is criticizing the President for not having a creative enough criminal mind to anticipate the types of attack that came to our country.

I have been to Iraq twice myself during this past year, and I know many other Members of this body have been there as well. I wanted to share with the House of Representatives this afternoon a picture from the air base just north of Kirkuk in Iraq. This is a picture that I did not take. It was taken by a man named Doug Cox, a man down in my district who is actually a member of the Corps of Engineers, and he was one of the first groups in there with Operation Restore Iraqi Oil, or Operation RIO, and he took this picture off the wall of the air base in Kirkuk, and this was a picture used presumably for training or for whatever purpose by the Republican Guard generals who were in charge of the air base there in Kirkuk before we took it over. And it shows an Iraqi gentleman standing, looking off across the countryside, and we see a depiction of the map of the United States of America. We see a man standing there with either a cowboy or a pilgrim hat on, and in his heart is the cross hairs of this man's intellect, and pointed against the United States of America we see an Iraqi tank, we see an Iraqi jet, and we see Iraqi missiles.

There was no question in their mind what their intent was when they made this picture, when they used this picture to educate or indoctrinate their troops of the Republican Guard that were stationed at the Kirkuk airfield, and I simply want to remind my colleagues in this body it is our responsibility to question. It is our responsibility to have oversight. But we do need to be careful when we cross that line and provide aid and comfort to the enemy and give them additional embellishments to take on the kind of terror that they have done in the country of Iraq this past month.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF MEMBER OF HON. HENRY WAXMAN, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURNS) laid before the House the following communication from Kimonia Alfred, staff member of the Honorable HENRY WAXMAN, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2004.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a subpoena, issued by the United States Tax Court, for testimony and documents.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

KIMONIA ALFRED.

OUR TRADE POLICY WITH CHINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today Chinese Vice Premier Wu is in town