

### CREDIT CARD ABUSE AT HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. STEARNS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, the GAO recently reported that 9,000 credit card holders at the Department of Homeland Security used their official cards for more than \$420 million worth of goods and services last year, making it the top purchasing agency in the Federal Government.

The purchases were made using government credit cards with a congressionally approved spending limit of \$250,000 that the GAO said resulted in numerous cases of fraud and abuse of taxpayers' dollars.

Nearly half the purchases were made without prior written authorization, and 63 percent did not have evidence that the goods or services were actually received, the report said. How terrible and outrageous this abuse is. Surely the spending limit is too high.

It is very important that this agency enforce adequate internal controls to ensure that card holders are responsibly using their cards. I call upon the homeland security officials to stop this abuse.

### REPUBLICANS CHANGE TUNE ON IRAQ

(Mr. EMANUEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, just 6 weeks ago, Zarqawi was killed in Iraq. Five weeks ago, the House held a debate on Iraq in which Republicans belittled Democrats for questioning the President's strategy.

Said my colleague from North Carolina: "There are those who want to deny that we are making progress in Iraq."

But no matter how hard my Republican colleagues try, they cannot escape the facts on the ground. After the most violent month in Iraq and a U.N. report estimating that more than 100 Iraqis are being killed per day, the Republicans are singing a different tune.

This morning's Washington Post reads: "GOP Lawmakers Edge Away from Optimism on Iraq." And that same North Carolina lawmaker is quoted as saying: "We can't look like we won't face reality."

Well, here's reality: when the President went to war with too few troops, not enough body armor, and not enough armed Humvees, and without a plan for occupation, the Republican Congress failed their oversight responsibilities.

Lieutenant General Greg Newbold said, "To be sure, the Bush administration and senior military officials are not alone in their culpability." Members of Congress defaulted in fulfilling their constitutional responsibility of oversight.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for a change. It is time for a new direction.

### NATIONAL SECURITY

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, you know, we are seeing it on the front page of Roll Call today, talking about the security message, where the leadership in this House has been focused for a long time now.

We know that national security is securing this country, making an aggressive move in the war on terror, being sure that we support our troops, making sure that we have a Nation that is safe, where we can live, where we can work, go to school, go to our businesses, have secure communities and be secure in our American hopes and dreams.

We also know that a key component of this national security agenda is border security, and I commend the House leadership for staying focused on securing the border first.

It is an imperative for us, Mr. Speaker. We have to stop illegal entry into this country. Illegal entry has turned every State into a border State, every town into a border town, and the people of this Nation know that it will not change until we secure our border.

### RAMAPO AMONG BEST PLACES TO LIVE

(Mr. ENGEL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that Money Magazine has just named the town of Ramapo, in Rockland County in my district, as one of the 100 best places to live in the United States, ranking Ramapo as 49.

I congratulate Ramapo and its town supervisor, Christopher St. Lawrence, who has done a wonderful job in leading that town. Ramapo, with a population of 110,000 residents, is the largest town in Rockland County, with a third of Rockland's inhabitants. It combines such densely populated places as Spring Valley, Muncie, New Square with the country settings of Chestnut Ridge, Suffern, and Wesley Hills.

Half of Ramapo is designated park land. Businesses have invested more than \$1 billion in the past 4 years. The town has the highest bond rating in the country. A new state-of-the-art cardiac care unit has opened at Good Samaritan Hospital in Suffern. They have great schools, and \$125 million has been invested in a water treatment plant.

Three years ago, Money Magazine named Ramapo as the second best place to live in the Northeast. This year the ranking was done on a nationwide basis.

I am proud to represent Rockland and Ramapo in the U.S. Congress, and

I congratulate the people of Ramapo on achieving this great honor.

### THE WAYWARD REID-KENNEDY SENATE IMMIGRATION BILL

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, some have asked why the House will be holding hearings around our country about illegal immigration. Well, the concise reason is the out-of-touch Reid-Kennedy Senate bill.

The Senate passed legislation that clearly flies in the face of common sense. The American people don't want amnesty. The Reid-Kennedy Bill includes it. The American people don't want to provide Social Security benefits to illegal aliens. The Reid-Kennedy bill includes it.

The Senate voted to give illegals things that American citizens, legal American citizens, don't get, like in-state college tuition for all.

This makes no sense. It is unacceptable and it is unbelievable and it is just plain wrong.

The American people are fed up with this reckless attitude and poor policy. Acceptance of the Senate plan is something for which the House will not stand; and once the American people know about it, through our hearings, they won't stand for it either. Then the American people will speak with such passion and vehemence and clarity that the House and Senate may act together and do the right thing first, control our borders and enforce current law.

### HOUSE REPUBLICANS DISTRACT AND DIVIDE

(Mr. CARNAHAN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, it is bad enough that out of the 201 days this year this House has only been in session for 63. We are on track for this House to meet even less than the notorious "Do Nothing Congress" that Missouri's Harry Truman ran against in 1948.

But now the House Republican leadership has dedicated themselves to a distract and divide agenda, even while we face growing challenges at home and crisis abroad.

This week their agenda called for supporting President Bush's veto of the landmark stem cell bill that would move us closer to lifesaving cures for diseases like Parkinson's, Alzheimer's, and cancer. Majority Republicans are cutting off hope for millions of Americans, all so they can satisfy their base on the far right. Do they really want to keep research from finding cures for these diseases so we can save millions of lives? Their agenda is not our agenda.

With only one week left before the August recess, House Republicans