And that's just the way it is.

ALL NIGHT SENATE SESSION

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

Mr. HODES. Mr. Speaker, the Senate was in session all night long because Senate Republicans refuse to allow a fair up or down vote on an amendment that would redeploy our troops by April of next year.

Today, Senate Democrats want a vote on an amendment offered by Senators LEVIN and REED, but Republicans are using the filibuster to prevent a fair majority vote. Do Senate Republicans really want to obstruct the process on the most critical issue of our time?

The American people are demanding change in Iraq, and while a majority of Senate Republicans refuse to listen, nearly a dozen Republicans have said the administration must change its strategy in Iraq. These Republicans need to realize that their words are important, but they will only have meaning if they choose to act and support the Levin-Reed amendment.

We all know that President Bush has no intention of making any changes in his war policy, and so it is up to Congress to force that change, which is why last night's all-night debate in the Senate was so important. Let's hope wayward Senate Republicans are finally listening.

□ 1015

THE DEMOCRATIC MAJORITY AND THE LARGEST TAX INCREASE IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

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

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, some years ago the story was told about the mean-spirited old Grinch who tried to steal the joy of Christmas. Well, it is not Christmas, but you might as well almost think it was a Christmas present when you take a look at the American economy that has been strengthened by the tax cuts of a number of years ago.

This boom that the Republicans set in place has added 46 months of straight growth in job creation. The unemployment rate is at a very low 4.5 percent. The Dow has just made all kinds of records at crossing the 14,000 mark, and the deficit has been cut in half.

In the face of this good news, the Democrats have passed a $392 billion tax increase, the biggest tax increase in the history of our country. And just like the Grinch, the Democrats seem to be wanting to steal our economic joy.

We must not allow the Democrats to steal the joy of the American families.

EGYPT

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

Mr. CHANDLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about problems that have arisen on the border between Egypt and Gaza.

Since the Hamas military took over all power in Gaza there has been massive smuggling of arms into Gaza along the border with Egypt, often by the use of tunnels that are proliferating along the border.

The Egyptian government has made efforts to curb the smuggling by closing the border between their country and Gaza and by assigning more security personnel to patrol the border. However, the border remains porous in many areas and weapons continue to find their way across the border and into the hands of Hamas fighters.

With fears of refugees pouring into Egypt from Gaza and fears that Hamas will escalate its attack on Israel, this situation has become both a security and a humanitarian concern. Egypt has vowed to partner with Israel, the United States, and the European Union to work toward a solution.

While part of the solution will be immediate increases in security forces at the border, a long-term solution is also needed. Egypt must take responsibility for the actions of its own people, and Israel must support Egypt's good-faith efforts.

I hope we can come to some resolution of this problem.

NATIONAL RIDE YOUR MOTORCYCLE TO WORK DAY

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

Mr. WALBERG. Mr. Speaker, today is National Ride Your Motorcycle to Work Day, and just a few minutes ago, I proudly rode a Harley Davidson Roadking to the steps of the Capitol building.

Motorcycle riding has been a passion of mine for many years, since my 20th birthday, and a proud member of the American Motorcyclist Association I am, as well as the Harley Owners Group. I can attest that responsible riding has many unique recreational benefits for millions of Americans.

During this session of Congress, we are looking for ways to break our dependence on foreign oil, develop alternative fuels, and increase domestic conservation. Motorcycles are excellent alternatives to current forms of transportation because they offer both fuel efficiency and greater enjoyment for the commuter.

I encourage all Americans to learn more about the recreational and environmental benefits of responsible motorcycle riding by visiting American Motorcyclist Association's Web site and availing themselves of the motorcycle rider safety training program.

KEEP GROWING THE ECONOMY, NOT THE BUREAUCRACY

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Dow Jones Industrial Average rose above 14,000 for the first time ever. What a proud moment for all of us.

For many of us it is not a surprise. This strong economy is a direct result of the pro-growth Republican policies that we are fighting for every day on this floor. It is a sign of continued and growing investor confidence, and it shows that when taxes are low and Americans choose how and where to spend more of their money they will choose to invest in America and make us stronger.

This isn't a victory for Wall Street or for big business; it is a victory for Americans. Over half of all Americans are invested in the stock market. More and more Americans want to participate in this strong and growing economy. So they need a Federal Government that respects those wishes, not one that will raise their taxes to pay for out-of-control spending.

Let's keep this economy on the right track. Let's rein in spending. Let's focus on growing our economy rather than Washington's bureaucracy. That is what Americans want.

A HISTORY LESSON ON THE AUTO INDUSTRY

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

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the Democratic leadership in both this House and the United States Senate have made a conscious decision to bankrupt the domestic United States auto industry by forcing an antiquated CAFE standard on them.

And I just want to remind my colleagues what this industry has meant to America.

Over 100 years ago, Henry Ford built the Model T, which brought automobiles to the masses, created opportunities that built America's middle class, and fundamentally changed our Nation.

During World War II, Michigan was known as the Arsenal of Democracy because we had the manufacturing capability to build the armaments that literally led the world to peace. For 2 years we didn't even build automobiles because we were building tanks and jeeps and B–24 bombers. And as we surrender our manufacturing capabilities to Japan and China, we had better hope that we never need the ability again to build armaments because we will be at the mercy of these foreign countries.

After 9/11, when everyone was concerned that our economy would go into a tailspin, the American automobile industry, the domestic auto industry,