

understanding whether that is a positive or a negative? Frankly, that is a good question, because in fact it has been clearly shown that sampling is an accepted method of creating the census. Politics again, allegations that sampling benefits one group over the other, Democrats versus Republicans, and yet the real question is providing the dollars for those who are in need in the Dakotas and Minnesota, California, and 29 other States.

What else is in here? Questions under the Department of Justice, issues dealing with the environment. One would wonder why that was in there, and other matters that are extraneous to the actual needs of these citizens.

I would simply say that time is now overdue for clearly responding to the President's veto. He is serious. But more important, he cares about those, and we care about those who are in need of money to pursue the cleanup, the rebuilding, the rebuilding of lives and families. All we have to do is simply respond to the President's request, simple request coming 3 months ago: Pass a clean emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Stop taking away the ounce of prevention program, a program that helps communities work together to eliminate crime. Stop taking away money from the peacekeepers, the men and women in Bosnia who have given their lives for this country. Stop interfering with the environment by trying to undercut an environmental process with the Department of the Interior. Stop interfering with the Department of Defense with the dual-use technologies. All of these issues are in an emergency supplemental bill when all we want is the money for these people to rebuild their communities.

I would simply say it is time now to stop the politics and act quickly, swiftly, certainly more so than we have done over these last 3 months. Bring back a clean emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Let us deal with the people forthrightly in those areas that are in need, and then, if we must, have legislative discussions and hearings relevant to these other aspects of this bill, but let us stop the battle of the bulge, cut the fat and get down to the bottom line, serve the people who are in need and pass the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

DISASTERS ARE NOT PARTISAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. SNYDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank you and the staff who are putting in long hours here once again. We appreciate you very much.

Mr. Speaker, on March 1, we had a 260-mile squawk of tornadoes come through Arkansas. By the weatherman's count, there were approximately 24 different tornadoes that came out of the same storm front and caused tre-

mendous damage through that 260 miles. There were over 20 deaths; the majority of them were in my district. For those that did not die and did not lose family members, their life too was severely affected by the storm, and as many of us do who are elected officials in those type of events, we go out there and try and learn and walk with our constituents through their tragedies.

I do not need to go into great detail about those stories. I have talked with policemen who found bodies, I have talked with family members who found family members. I cannot describe house after house after house of damage.

Any of us who have seen those kinds of storms, we know that those storms are not partisan issues. We know that those victims were not only Democrats or only Republicans or only Independents or only black or only white; we know that they were Americans undergoing great tragedy.

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I do not see this issue of the supplemental appropriations being a partisan one. I know that Republicans and Democrats together care about the tornado victims in Arkansas, they care about the flood victims in the northern United States.

The issue is not about who cares the most. We all care about what happens to our fellow Americans. The issue is really to me a more mundane one: How do we do the people's business; how do we do this Chamber, how do we freshmen, just completing our first term, just a few months into our first term, how do we do the people's business?

Frankly, my constituents back home are confused by how we are doing the people's business when it comes to this storm. They see in the paper the words "supplemental appropriations"; and I am a freshman, I hear that phrase, and it sounds like some new type of nutritional drink for athletes: supplemental appropriations.

Then I explain to them that is emergency, emergency money for troops overseas, emergency money for storm victims. Then they want to know, why is there such controversy over emergency dollars that we all agree on? And I do not have a good answer. As a new Member, I am still learning.

Let me tell the Members one of my observations here in the last few months. To me it seems there is a difference between compromise and common ground. We elected officials, we always talk about politics being the art of compromise. Let me suggest, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps in emergencies we ought not to be looking for the compromise. Compromises can take weeks and months to achieve. Perhaps we should be looking for the common ground: Find those things that we all agree on, whether we are Democrat or Republican, whether we are in Congress or in the executive branch and are the President. Find those things we all agree on and let us pass those cleanly without this extraneous material.

Mr. Speaker, I ask support tonight that we pass a clean appropriations bill, take out things on which we are having fights, take out those things that have nothing to do with emergencies, such as how to conduct the census. It does not make sense to the people of Arkansas that we are dealing with a very controversial issue, how do we do the census, when we are trying to provide emergency dollars for our troops in Bosnia, when we are trying to provide emergency dollars for storm victims throughout this country.

Tomorrow I hope we will vote on a clean supplemental appropriations bill. I hope we will vote for one without extraneous material. I hope we will conduct the people's business and find the common ground that the people of Arkansas and the people of this country want.

PASS A CLEAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOB SCHAFFER of Colorado). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California [Ms. WOOLSEY] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year our country faced the disaster of floods and tornadoes that ravaged homes and businesses all across our Nation. In my district in California, the Russian River flooded our communities not once but twice this year. The damage was devastating. It devastated homes, businesses, agricultural lands, and the environment. It played havoc on the tourism industry at the Russian River.

However, Mr. Speaker, in the Congress today we have a disaster of our own. This time the disaster has been caused by the flood of partisan game-playing and a tornado of political maneuvering by the majority party.

It has been over 2 months since the President requested emergency aid for flood victims. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to hold disaster relief funds hostage. They have loaded down this supplemental appropriations bill with pet political projects and extraneous provisions and stopped this bill dead in the water.

Mr. Speaker, the consequences of this delay are enormous. Disaster victims across America cannot reconstruct their businesses, their homes, their lives. They cannot clear their fields for new crops. They cannot get on with the job of rebuilding their lives and their environments.

Speaking of victims and their lives, and about what this game is doing to them, the mothers and babies who rely on WIC, the women, infants, and children program, cannot wait any longer. They have to know whether they are going to be thrown off of that program. Without the \$76 million in supplemental funds in this bill, more moms and children will be denied critical nutritional assistance, and fewer infants and children will get the nutritional