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# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 106<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, MAY 2, 2000

No. 52

## House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
May 2, 2000.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JUDY BIGGERT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed with amendments in which the concurrence of the House is requested, bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 150. An act to authorize the Secretary of Agriculture to convey National Forest System lands for use for educational purposes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 834. An act to extend the authorization for the National Historic Preservation Fund, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1444. An act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to plan, design, and construct fish screens, fish passage devices, and related features to mitigate adverse impacts associated with irrigation system water diversions by local governmental entities in the States of Oregon, Washington, Montana, Idaho, and California.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 397. An act to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a multiagency program to alleviate the problems caused by rapid economic development along the United States-Mexico border, particularly those associated with public health and environmental security, to support the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative, and to pro-

mote energy efficient, environmentally sound economic development along that border through the development and use of new technology, particularly hazardous waste and materials technology.

S. 408. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the city of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center.

S. 503. An act designating certain land in the San Isabel National Forest in the State of Colorado as the "Spanish Peaks Wilderness".

S. 1167. An act to amend the Pacific Northwest Electric Power Planning and Conservation Act to provide for expanding the scope of the Independent Scientific Review Panel.

S. 1218. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots, and for other purposes.

S. 1627. An act to extend the authority of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to collect fees through 2005, and for other purposes.

S. 1629. An act to provide for the exchange of certain land in the State of Oregon.

S. 1694. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the reclamation and reuse of water and wastewater in the State of Hawaii.

S. 1705. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into land exchanges to acquire from the private owner and to convey to the State of Idaho approximately 1,240 acres of land near the City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho, and for other purposes.

S. 1727. An act to authorize funding for the expansion annex of the historic Palace of the Governors, a public history museum located, and relating to the history of Hispanic and Native American culture, in the Southwest and for other purposes.

S. 1778. An act to provide for equal exchanges of land around the Cascade Reservoir.

S. 1797. An act to provide for a land conveyance to the city of Craig, Alaska, and for other purposes.

S. 1836. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alabama.

S. 1849. An act to designate segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System.

S. 1892. An act to authorize the acquisition of the Valles Caldera, to provide for an effective land and wildlife management program for this resource within the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

S. 1910. An act to amend the Act establishing Women's Rights National Historical Park to permit the Secretary of the Interior to acquire title in fee simple to the Hunt House located in Waterloo, New York.

S. 1946. An act to amend the National Environmental Education Act to redesignate that Act as the "John H. Chafee Environmental Education Act", to establish the John H. Chafee Memorial Fellowship Program, to extend the programs under that Act, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-170, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, after consultation with the Ranking Member of the Senate Committee on Finance, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel—

Dr. Richard V. Burkhauser, of New York, for a term of two years; and

Ms. Christine M. Griffin, of Massachusetts, for a term of four years.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 106-170, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Chairman of the Senate Committee on Finance, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel—

Larry D. Henderson, of Delaware, for a term of two years; and

Stephanie Smith Lee, of Virginia, for a term of four years.

### MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 19, 1999, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BLUMENAUER) for 5 minutes.

#### LIVABLE COMMUNITIES

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, my goal in Congress has been the promotion of livable communities, the Federal Government being a better partner with State and local governments than the private sector. In order to make our families safe, healthy, and economically secure transportation is clearly a central element of those deliberations and the bicycle is getting increasing attention as an indicator of livable communities.

At the turn of the century, bicycling was a critical mode of transportation. It was cheaper than a horse. It was faster than walking, and it was more convenient for most than street cars. The demand for new and safe bicycle routes led to a national "good roads" movement; a successful cyclist who led lobbying of Congress won a \$10,000 grant to study the possibility of a paved highway system.

It is with some irony that this quest for quality biking led us down the path that ultimately led to the interstate freeway system; and now 100 years, we have come full circle, because the quest for relief from traffic congestion of automobiles is now having people look more attentively at the possibilities of cycling.

Americans still view biking as a very favorable mode of transportation. A study by the New York Department of Transportation showed that in communities with bike lanes and bike parking over 50 percent of the people living within 5 to 10 miles from work would, in fact, commute by bicycle.

Yet Americans are driving nearly 2½ trillion miles a year; they are spending the equivalent of over 50 workdays per year trapped behind the wheel of their car just going to and from work. Every day the average American adult drives close to 40 miles and spends over an hour in their car.

When considering traffic and parking, 40 percent of our trips would be faster on a bike. I certainly found that to be the case, since in the 4 years that I have been on Capitol Hill being able to routinely beat my colleagues in trips to the White House and back on a bike rather than a car.

Increasingly, communities are working to reintegrate cycling back into their transportation systems. Chicago; Philadelphia; Eugene, Oregon; Davis, California; Rockville, Maryland; Washington, D.C. are all actively promoting a more bicycle-friendly transportation system. My own hometown of Portland, Oregon, has been declared twice

in the last 5 years as America's most bike-friendly community.

These pro-bike efforts in cities around the country, this progress is due, in no small part, to the national leadership provided by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).

He was the champion of funding for bike paths in the 1991 ISTEA legislation and the T21 legislation last year for the surface transportation reauthorization. He continues to promote bike-friendly legislation as a ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, I am especially proud of his membership in our bipartisan Bike Caucus, perhaps the most avid cyclist in American public office. These pro-bike efforts across the country are not asking everyone to trade in their car for a bicycle, but instead to encourage small but meaningful changes in our everyday transportation decisions and to expand the choices available to Americans.

Biking, walking, or taking transit just a few short trips a week to school, to work, to the grocery store, other nearby errands can have a profound effect on the quality of life.

It is estimated that a 4-mile round trip that we do not take by car prevents nearly 15 pounds of air pollutant from contaminating the air; and in a time of skyrocketing gasoline prices and questions about availability of oil, it is important to note that biking to work just 2 days a week or telecommuting or transit by American workers just 2 days a week would completely eliminate our dependence on oil imports.

May is National Bike Safety Month, and in honor of this occasion and National Bike to Work Day, the Congressional Bicycle Caucus will be riding from Capitol Hill to Freedom Plaza this Friday, May 5. We are urging Members and staff to join us at 7:45 on the west side of Capitol Hill for this ride.

Madam Speaker, in addition, we urge people now to earn their pin and join the Bicycle Caucus.

#### CELEBRATING OUR ENVIRONMENTAL SUCCESSES

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, it is estimated that 500 million people around the world participated in Earth Day on April 22 this year. We should consider how the environment has changed since the first Earth Day was celebrated in 1970.

Although a celebration, Earth Day 1970 generated a large amount of dire predictions for the future. I think we should take a moment to look back at those. One Harvard biologist declared "we are in an environmental crisis which threatens the survival of this Nation and of the world as a suitable place for human habitation."

Another common premonition of devastation centered on population growth. Environmental doomsayers in 1970 estimated that the world population would exceed 7 billion people by the year 2000, prompting one Stanford biologist to state, "At least 100 to 200 million people per year will be starving to death during the next 10 years."

This picture of widespread starvation has not materialized, nor has the population projections. Instead of more than 7 billion people on the earth today, we have roughly just 6 billion.

Just as in 2000, environmentalists in 1970 saw a growing environmental catastrophe in the form of climate change. Unlike today, 30 years ago the alarm was sounded over global cooling. They talked about another ice age was in the works.

One ecologist, Kenneth Watt, proclaimed that, "The world will be about 4 degrees colder . . . in 1990, but 11 degrees colder in the year 2000. This is about twice what it would take to put us into an ice age."

Now, frankly, there are no ice sheets spreading across this continent; the threat of global cooling dissolved into the sea of misinformation. However, how can we rage against climatic change if the world is not getting colder? It, therefore, must be becoming warmer.

Evidence indicates that the world's average temperature has increased by 1 degree over the past 100 years. However, data from global satellites indicate that the earth actually has cooled by less than one-tenth of one degree Celsius over the past 18 years. The warnings of serious global warming today have as little basis in fact as those for global cooling 30 years ago.

Now, doomsayers in 1970 also warned of poisonous air ravaging the populations in our major cities. In that year, Life Magazine said, "In a decade, urban dwellers will have to wear gas masks to survive air pollution." The same scientist that predicted that starvation would kill "at least 100 to 200 million people per year" also opined 3 decades ago that air pollution would take "hundreds of thousands of lives in the next few years."

How is our air quality now? The Environmental Protection Agency reports that between 1970 and 1997, emission of every major pollutant except nitrogen dioxide has decreased. From 1988 to 1997, the number of unhealthy air quality days decreased by an average of two-thirds for every major city in the United States of America.

The first Earth Day in 1970 was observed against a backdrop of dire environmental predictions. Unfortunately, Earth Day 2000 was accompanied with similar predictions of environmental calamities. Instead of providing a platform for the harbingers of ecological destruction, we should use Earth Day, I think, to acknowledge the progress we have made.

The environment is better today than it was 10 years ago and better

than it was 30 years ago. If we continue our present course, it will be even better 10 years from today. Thanks to the Heritage Foundation, I can share my reasons for this optimism.

Even though 16 billion cubic feet of timber are harvested each year in the United States, net tree growth exceeds tree cuttings by 37 percent. Today we have more forest area in America than we did in the 1920's and it is growing.

The loss of wetlands has been slowing over the past 45 years. From 1992 through 1996, 160,000 acres of wetlands were restored privately through voluntary arrangements each year. The United States is within 47,000 acres of achieving a "no net loss" of wetlands acreage.

Since 1945, the amount of land committed for parks wilderness and wildlife has expanded twice as fast as the growth in urban areas.

Unfortunately, our major media prefer to focus on the negative; they still rely on dire predictions based upon questionable scientific data and misinformation. The American people of today and of future generations deserve their rich natural heritage of clean air, pure water, and unspoiled land. Across the board over the last 3 decades, our water, land and air have gotten cleaner. They will be cleaner in years to come. That is a message we should be sharing on Earth Day 2001.

#### PERMANENT MOST FAVORED NATION STATUS FOR CHINA IS BAD IDEA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, 3 weeks from this week, the Republican leadership will ask this House to pass legislation granting Permanent Most Favored Nation status trading privileges to China. This is a very bad idea. Let me count the ways.

First of all, China is a nation that practices slave labor and practices child labor. Why should we give trade advantages to a nation that engages in that kind of behavior with no oversight from us, with no check on Chinese behavior?

China is a nation that allows forced abortions, a government that sometimes encourages forced abortions, again, a violation of any kind of behavior that we and most of the nations around the world find unacceptable.

The Chinese government, the Chinese Communist Party, is also a nation and a government that persecutes Christians and Muslims and Buddhists and also local religious sects such as the Falun Gong in a China that, again, has no respect for human rights.

The government of China also has repeatedly sold nuclear technology to countries that have no business having that kind of nuclear technology that can very easily turn into weapons of mass destruction.

At the same time, in the last few weeks, we have seen the People's Republic of China threaten the Republic of Taiwan. Three or 4 years ago, during the last Taiwanese elections, the Chinese government, the People's Republic of China, the Communist Chinese Government sent missiles shooting into the Straits of Taiwan to threaten that Nation that was holding the first free elections ever in Chinese history.

Giving China Most Favored Nation status, giving China permanent trading privileges with the West simply makes no sense. China is a market that has been closed to us. We, 10 years ago, 11 years ago, when President Reagan and President Bush, now President Clinton, began this policy of engagement with China where we would trade freely back and forth with China, in those days, 11 years ago, we had \$100 million, with an "M," \$100 million trade deficit with the People's Republic of China.

Today, after 11 years of this policy, we have a \$70 billion, with a "B," \$70 billion trade deficit with the People's Republic of China. Why? Because of slave labor, because of child labor, because they have simply closed their markets to us.

Last year, we bought \$85 billion worth of goods from the People's Republic of China. They only let us sell \$15 billion of goods into their market. We sell more to Belgium than we do to China. We sell more to Singapore than we do to China. We sell more to Taiwan than we do to China, countries that have, at most, 1-50th the population of the People's Republic of China.

No issue in my 8 years in Congress has been debated as heavily or lobbied most importantly, lobbied as heavily by as many wealthy special interest groups as the annual MFN review for China and now permanent trade relations with China.

There are more corporate jets at National Airport when the China vote comes up. There are more CEOs individually, the CEOs of the largest corporations in America, walking the halls of Congress, stopping in every Member's office, lobbying them about supporting permanent trade privileges for the People's Republic of China.

Wei Jing-Sheng, a Chinese dissident who spent time in Chinese prison camps, said that the vanguard of the Chinese communist party in the United States is American CEOs. Think about that. CEOs of the largest companies in this country are doing the dirty work, doing the heavy lifting, doing the lobbying for, doing the support of the Communist leaders in the People's Republic of China.

This body would never even consider, would not even come close to supporting permanent trade relations with China, would not even come close to supporting any kind of tariff reductions, Most Favored Nation status, trading privileges for China, if these CEOs of America's largest corporations were not walking the halls and lob-

bying for the Communist leaders in the People's Republic of China.

These same CEOs say, well, the reason we need to knock down all barriers to China and ignore human rights violations, ignore the forced abortions, ignore the persecution of Christians and Muslims, the reason that we in the United States should ignore the nuclear sales to rogue nations, the reason we in the United States should ignore slave labor and child labor in China is because it will help the United States of America, and they say it will mean 1.2 billion consumers for American products. The fact is their excitement is not over 1.2 million consumers, it is over 1.2 million workers. We should defeat China MFN.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, this chart is on Social Security. I have been very interested and concerned about Social Security for the last 5 years. I have introduced three Social Security bills that have been scored by the actuaries of the Social Security Administration that would keep Social Security solvent, would keep it going to the next 75 years. So three bills over the last 5 years.

I also chaired the bipartisan task force on Social Security where we were very successful. We have bipartisan agreement on 18 findings that moves us ahead.

Last night, I was listening to television, and I heard AL GORE talk about his proposal to fix Social Security and criticize Governor George W. Bush's suggestion that we allow some of that money to be kept and invested by individuals. I was so concerned that I took an earlier flight so I could speak this noon on Social Security.

I criticize Mr. GORE for suggesting that we do not have to do anything to fix Social Security. Chris Lehane, Mr. GORE's spokesman, says that one of the reasons Social Security has been so successful is that it depends on one generation to take care of another generation. When in fact there is no need to do anything right now, Mr. GORE suggests that we use the extra money coming in from Social Security. Look at this chart a minute. We have got a short-term, where there is more money coming in from Social Security taxes than is needed to pay out benefits. Mr. GORE suggests that we take some of this money, we borrow from this fund, and we use that money to pay down the debt, the so-called Wall Street debt.

It is also so disconcerting that ABC, NBC, CBS pick up those press releases out of the White House that says we are going to pay down \$180 billion of debt this year, and that is good, we are

moving in the right direction, but what is happening is we are borrowing the money from Social Security to pay down the Wall Street debt so the \$5.7 trillion that we now have as a national debt continues to go up.

Maybe an analogy is saying that Mr. GORE suggests that we take out one credit card and we use that credit card to pay off another credit card when there is no real money out there.

I think this is the time in this presidential election year to discuss and debate how we are going to fix Social Security, how we are going to keep it there, not only for the existing retirees and the near retirees, but for future generations. It is the most important program that probably we have in government. It is the largest program in this country. It is the largest program in the world.

What is happening is some people suggest, look, the United States is as good as its word. If it borrows the money, it is going to pay it back. Even if it paid it all back, it is only going to keep Social Security solvent until 2034. But will the Federal Government pay that money back? Where is it going to come from? We are going to have to increase borrowing, cut other government programs, or increase taxes. That is where it is going to come from.

As a demonstration of Federal Government's commitment, this Congress and the President, in 1977, when there was a problem of fewer dollars coming in than was needed to pay out benefits, what did they do? In 1977, they increased taxes and reduced benefits. In 1983, again, we ran out of enough money to pay benefits, so, again, they reduced benefits and increased taxes.

If we do nothing, I say to Mr. GORE, then taxes are going to increase up to 55 percent, increase in Social Security taxes for our kids. That is what the trustees of the Social Security Administration said. If we do not want to increase taxes, then we cut benefits by 33 percent.

This is an appropriate time to discuss where we are going to go on Social Security to keep it solvent. If my colleagues look at the red area, how much we are going into the red over the years, the Social Security actuaries project that we are short \$120 trillion. Remember, our annual budget here is \$1.7 trillion. Over the next 75 years, we are short \$120 trillion of there being less money coming in from the Social Security tax than we need to pay out the benefits that are promised.

If we look at the possibility of getting real investment, then all we have got to do is beat a zero percent return. Some of the think tanks around town have projected that one is not even going to get back the money that one paid in. Some of the projections go as high as a 1.7 percent return on the Social Security money that one pays into Social Security.

Can the stock market do any better than that? The average for any 12-year period since 1926 has been 3.7. The aver-

age for a retiree's lifetime has been up to a 7.88 percent return. We can do better than Social Security. Let us move ahead. Let us debate it. Let us discuss it. Let us not hide the problem under the rug.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PEASE) at 2 p.m.

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Eternal God, in past days, we have celebrated with our brothers and sisters of faith the Passover of the Lord and the Paschal Mystery of Jesus Christ. With family customs and solemn traditions, we have participated in the annual rights of spring.

Shower on us Your waters of renewed life and penetrating freedom so that we may truly live as children born of Your Spirit.

May the profound suffering of others and the death of anyone, embraced with the utter abandonment of faith, create in us compassionate hearts ready to respond to those in most need of Your justice.

May the awakening of the heart or the birth of any of Your creatures produce in us a vibrant respect for all life. In this season of hope, we search for continuing signs of Your presence in our midst. For You live now and forever. Amen.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. TRAFICANT led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following commu-

nication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 14, 2000.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted to Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on April 14, 2000 at 10:20 a.m.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments, S. 1567.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments, S. 1769.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 1231.

That the Senate agreed to House amendments to Senate amendments, H.R. 1753.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 2368.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 2862.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 2863.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 3063.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H.R. 3090.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H. J. Res. 86.

That the Senate passed without amendment, H. Con. Res. 269.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHLL,  
Clerk of the House.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to announce that pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore WOLF signed the following enrolled bills and joint resolution on Wednesday, April 19, 2000:

H.R. 1231, to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain national forest lands to Elko County, Nevada, for continued use as a cemetery;

H.R. 1615, to amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the designation of a portion of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as a recreational river to include an additional river segment;

H.R. 1753, to promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of gas hydrate resources, and for other purposes;

H.R. 2368, to assist in the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll by amending the terms of the trust fund established during the United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands;

H.R. 2862, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to release reversionary interests held by the United States in certain parcels of land in Washington County, Utah, to facilitate an anticipated land exchange;

H.R. 2863, to clarify the legal effect on the United States of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in the State of Utah;

H.R. 3063, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State, and for other purposes;

H.R. 3090, to amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to restore certain

lands to the Elim Native Corporation, and for other purposes;

J. Res. 86, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war, and for other purposes;

S. 1567, to designate the United States Courthouse located at 223 Broad Avenue in Albany, Georgia, as the "C.B. King United States Courthouse;"

S. 1769, to exempt certain reports from automatic elimination and sunset pursuant to the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995, and for other purposes.

**PRIVATE CALENDAR**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is Private Calendar day. The Clerk will call the first individual bill on the Private Calendar.

**BELINDA MCGREGOR**

The Clerk called the Senate bill (S. 452) for the relief of Belinda McGregor.

There being no objection, the Clerk read the bill as follows:

S. 452

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. PERMANENT RESIDENCE.**

(a) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), Belinda McGregor shall be held and considered to have been selected for a diversity immigrant visa for fiscal year 2000 as of the date of the enactment of this Act upon payment of the required visa fee.

(b) ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS.—If Belinda McGregor, or any child (as defined in section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act) of Belinda McGregor, enters the United States before the date of the enactment of this Act, he or she shall be considered to have entered and remained lawfully and shall, if otherwise eligible, be eligible for adjustment of status under section 245 of the Immigration and Nationality Act as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 2. REDUCTION OF NUMBER OF AVAILABLE VISAS.**

Upon the granting of permanent residence to Belinda McGregor as provided in this Act, the Secretary of State shall instruct the proper officer to reduce by one number during the current fiscal year the total number of immigrant visas available to natives of the country of the alien's birth under section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)).

The bill was ordered and read a third time, was read the third time, and passed, and a motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**DISPENSING WITH FURTHER CALL OF PRIVATE CALENDAR**

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that further call of the Private Calendar be dispensed with.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

**COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, April 12, 2000.*

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on April 11, 2000, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. § 606.

With warm regards, I remain  
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,  
*Chairman.*

There was no objection.

**COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The Speaker pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,

*Washington, DC, April 13, 2000.*

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House, Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on April 11, 2000 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

With kind regards, I am  
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,  
*Chairman.*

There was no objection.

**FUNDING FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT**

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, 25 years ago, Congress passed the Individuals With Disabilities Education Act. Twenty-five years ago, Congress made a commitment to disabled students all over America, promising them we would do our part to make sure they got as good an education as other kids.

Twenty-five years ago, Congress made a promise to contribute 40 percent of the cost of educating disabled children, but it was an empty promise.

For 19 years, the Democrats controlled the House and never once did they even come close to keeping that funding promise. Twenty years of consecutive Democratic Congresses never even funded 5 percent.

Special education has for years been yet another unfunded mandate created only to make those who wrote the law look good and placing an enormous financial burden on local schools.

Since coming into the majority, the Republican House has more than doubled Congress' commitment to disabled kids.

Today, we will be voting on the IDEA Full Funding Act of 2000. I urge my Democratic colleagues to join the Republicans in making good on our commitment to disabled children.

**THE FBI IN YOUNGSTOWN, OHIO, OWNED BY THE MOB**

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

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I have evidence that certain FBI agents in Youngstown, Ohio, have violated the RICO statute, and I shall prove it. For years they were owned by the Mob; but now they have made a big mistake, Mr. Speaker. Youngstown FBI agents stole large sums of cash that were vouchered to be paid to their street informants. In addition, they failed to report that cash on their tax returns. Bingo. But what is even worse, they quote/unquote suggested to one of their field operative informants that he should commit murder. Mr. Speaker, murder. Not only in Boston, now in Youngstown, Ohio.

It is out of control. The Congress of the United States should pass H.R. 4105. There are buddies investigating buddies in the Justice Department, and they are getting away with murder. Enough is enough.

I yield back the FBI fox in the hen house.

**THE SIGNAL WE SEND WITH PNTR**

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

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom, which was established just 2 years ago by Congress, stated yesterday that there are systematic, egregious, and ongoing manifestations of religious persecution in China. It is obvious to me and many of my fellow Nevadans that this is yet another reason why we should not, I repeat should not, extend the privilege of permanent normal trade relations with China.

Mr. Speaker, granting PNTR to China sends a signal that the United States condones the inexcusable religious persecutions and human rights abuses that occur currently today.

We would also be sending the signal that the United States is willing to endanger its own national security. After all, we would be trading with a country that holds Americans hostage every day by maintaining nuclear weapons targeted at the United States mainland.

Mr. Speaker, there are too many reasons why we should not grant PNTR to China. I encourage my colleagues to stand up for democracy and freedom and against PNTR to China.

I yield back this ill-conceived and dangerous trade policy that calls for the American people to trust its enemy.

#### WELCOMING THE INLAND EMPIRE MARIACHI YOUTH GROUP TO WASHINGTON

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

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, this week we celebrate Cinco de Mayo. It is a time to celebrate the tremendous courage and the bravery of Mexican Americans throughout our history.

I wish to take this opportunity to invite many of the individuals today as we begin to celebrate Cinco de Mayo to a festivity that will be going on in this area. I currently have invited 28 students from the Inland Empire Mariachi Youth Education Foundation to perform Wednesday at the upper Senate park here in the Capitol. This is an opportunity to learn about cultural traditions and music and heritage. It is an opportunity for many of the individuals to see kids between the ages of 6 to 17 that will be performing here in Washington. For these kids, this is the first time that they have come to Washington, D.C., the first time that they have flown. It is an opportunity to share in part of that heritage, part of the culture, part of the tradition, part of the enrichment, part of that motivation.

I encourage my colleagues that are out there, Members who have an opportunity to attend, please come and watch these kids perform as we begin to celebrate Cinco de Mayo.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the provisions of clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair announces that he will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after debate has concluded on all motions to suspend the rules but not before 6:00 p.m. today.

#### RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING FEDERAL WORKFORCE FOR SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESSING YEAR 2000 COMPUTER CHALLENGE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 300) recognizing and commending our Na-

tion's Federal workforce for successfully preparing our Nation to withstand any catastrophic year 2000 computer problem disruptions.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 300

Whereas the Year 2000 computer problem (Y2K) created the potential of a catastrophic international problem, causing some computer systems and other electronic devices to erroneously misinterpret the "00" in the year as 1900, rather than 2000;

Whereas the American people expected and deserved reliable service from their Federal Government to ensure that critical Federal functions dependent on electronic systems would be performed accurately and in a timely manner;

Whereas, after the initial series of congressional Y2K hearings in the spring of 1996, it became clear that unless appropriate action was taken, the Y2K problem could cause severe consequences on the successful operation of Federal systems;

Whereas Federal agencies and their employees subsequently made significant progress in meeting the challenges posed by the Y2K computer problem;

Whereas minimizing the Y2K problem required a major technological and managerial effort and it was critical that the Federal workforce rise to address this challenge;

Whereas the continued uninterrupted operation of our Nation's Federal systems was due to the comprehensive efforts made by those dedicated, talented, and committed Federal workers who served ably in the front lines of this epic battle in vanquishing the millennium bug;

Whereas the Federal workforce identified and worked to resolve the Y2K problem, giving countless hours and their holidays to assure the American people that major Y2K breakdowns in key infrastructures were unlikely;

Whereas the level of Y2K effort was justified and the threat was very real, and the risks and consequences of inaction were too dire to justify a lesser Federal effort;

Whereas preparation for Y2K led to an unprecedented level of effort that not only improved system inventories and network reliability, but has also accelerated electronic business and international cooperation;

Whereas the efforts of the Federal workforce to solve the Y2K problem provided an important example of the Government's ability to respond to future difficult technological and management challenges; and

Whereas the level of Y2K success in the United States, which has over one-fourth of the world's computer assets and is the most technologically dependent nation in the world, was quite remarkable, and was led by our Federal efforts: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress recognizes and commends the meritorious service of our Nation's Federal workforce, and all those who assisted in the efforts to successfully address the Year 2000 computer challenge.*

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 300, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H. Con. Res. 300 recognizes and commends the meritorious service of our Nation's Federal workforce and all those who assisted in the effort to successfully address the Year 2000 computer challenge. Often called Y2K or the Millennium Bug, this was the greatest technological and management challenge confronting this Nation since the Second World War period.

The problem, which involved a programming decision made decades ago, was obviously predictable. Yet management at only one of the 24 largest Federal agencies had the foresight to begin an agency-wide program to prepare its computers to handle the date change in the late 1980s.

That agency, the Social Security Administration, was also the first to complete the work.

As is now well known, when designing computer programs in the 1960s and 1970s, the programmers began using two digits rather than four to indicate the year. In other words, instead of 1967, it was 67. This shortcut enabled programmers to conserve the valuable computer memory of those huge mainframe operations. With the approaching millennium, however, the concern was that these computer systems would misread the year 2000 as simply zero/zero and the computer would think 1900.

This confusion did, in fact, surface in anecdotal examples. In one State, new car buyers found themselves the proud owners of horseless carriages when State computers registered their vehicles as vintage 1900 rather than 2000. In another case, a 104-year-old woman was requested to register for kindergarten when a school district computer miscalculated the date of her birth by 100 years.

None of the problems were irreparable, thanks to an unprecedented nationwide effort to meet the challenge.

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However, getting that effort started to take a great deal of work.

Four years ago, the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, which I chair, surveyed the Cabinet Secretaries in a questionnaire by the ranking Democratic Member, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), and myself, and the heads of the 24 largest Federal departments and agencies. Some of these leaders had not even heard of the problem.

The subcommittee began a concerted effort to urge government agencies to begin fixing their computer systems through its ongoing hearings, 44 in all, and 10 report cards, which graded each department on its Year 2000 progress.

Recognizing the potentially devastating effect of this computer problem, Congress accelerated its oversight

responsibilities in a bipartisan and bicameral effort. Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich created the House Year 2000 Task Force, which the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and I co-chaired. Its purpose was to provide Congressional oversight of the Year 2000 compliance efforts of the departments and agencies in the executive branch of the government. Speaker Hastert supported this continuation when he assumed office. Equal attention was provided in the Senate. In fact, since 1996, more than 30 Congressional committees and subcommittees have held Y2K-related hearings.

After several years, letters cosigned by the gentlewoman from Maryland (Chairman MORELLA) of the Subcommittee on Technology of the Committee on Science and myself, the President issued an executive order in February 1998 requiring all Federal departments and agencies in the executive branch of the government to update their computer systems. The order also established the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion, which, under the leadership of John Koskinen, became a vital instrument in the Government's effort to meet the year 2000 challenge.

Later, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) and I wrote a letter to the United Nations Secretary General, Kofi Annan, urging the United Nations to address this problem. They held one conference. It was very successful. They held a second that was even more successful.

Here at home, however, change did not come quickly in some areas of Federal Government, and this was caused by a systematic management problem in the government, which is why I am a proponent of establishing the separate Office of Management in the Executive Office of the President. Nevertheless, Federal workers were focused on the problem, devoting countless hours and holidays to ensure that government services for millions of America's would not be jeopardized by computer failure.

The unquestionable success of this effort clearly and definitively demonstrated that teamwork, dedication, and strong leadership can stave off the most monumental challenge, including Y2K.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I thank him for all the work he has done to allow us to eliminate the possible Y2K computer glitch.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is the culmination, as you have heard, of 4 years of intensive oversight by the House Y2K Task Force that was originally created by Speaker Gingrich. My fellow Task Force cochair, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) has very nicely recounted the history of our efforts, so I want to talk about the resolution itself.

H. Con. Res. 300 recognizes our hard-working Federal workers for their successful efforts in preparing our Nation from any catastrophic Year 2000 disruptions.

The fact that our Nation's Federal systems were able to operate unimpeded by Y2K was a direct result of the comprehensive efforts made by those dedicated, talented and committed Federal workers who served ably in the front lines of this epic battle to vanquish the millennium bug. The Federal workforce identified and worked to resolve the Y2K problem, giving countless hours, including their holidays, to assure the American people that major Y2K breakdowns in key infrastructures were unlikely. The risks and consequences of inaction were simply too dire to justify a lesser Federal effort.

So, it is more than appropriate for Congress to commend the distinguished and meritorious service of our Nation's Federal workforce and all those that assisted in the efforts to successfully address the year 2000 computer challenge.

Yes, the Y2K computer problem was one of the greatest information technology challenges facing our Federal Government, and indeed the world. We had the potential of ushering in the 21st Century with the mother of all computer glitches, one with devastating effects on government computers, rendering useless much of the Nation's date sensitive computer data.

All kinds of systems would have been affected, air traffic control, veterans' benefits, Social Security, our nation's electric power grid, postal delivery, Medicaid, national defense, student loans, just to name a few. Yet in the spring of 1996, when we first began our Y2K hearings, the Federal Government was clearly unprepared for the millennium bug, and we in Congress stepped up to the plate and raised awareness about the problem by pushing Federal agencies, private industry, toward immediate corrective measures.

There were many Congressional hearings that were held, and we did indeed vigilantly exercise our oversight authority, and even enacted legislation requiring the creation of a national Federal strategy, prohibiting the Federal purchase of information technology that was not Y2K compliant, providing legal protection for good faith Y2K information sharing and disclosure, and curbing the possibility of flooding our judicial system with frivolous Y2K lawsuits.

But we did have some great concern about Federal agencies, and the initial reports that we received were very disturbing. I commented on the need for having the executive step in in a radio address back in January of 1998, and, following, the President did begin to use the bully pulpit to raise the profile and take decisive action. He created the Y2K Conversion Council and appointed John Koskinen as its chairman, and suddenly Y2K was catapulted

to become a top administration management priority, and that helped make a major difference.

We in the House Y2K Task Force worked very closely with the council to determine the scope and the impact of the problem. For example, we focused with particular concern on the Federal Aviation Administration. In just the past year and a half, we have held five specific hearings on just the FAA alone and the potential for Y2K aviation disruption.

I just want to point out that in discussing it many, many times with administrator Jane Garvey, who was appointed after our first set of FAA Y2K hearings, she assured us that she would pilot FAA through the Y2K turbulence and everyone at FAA would fasten their seat belts to get the job done, and, quite frankly, they did. They did. They worked overtime, they worked sometimes the entire 24 hours in every day, and they did accomplish tremendous success with the Federal Aviation Administration.

Finally, in its aftermath, people have asked, was it real or was it overhyped, this problem? Whether the \$100 billion spent in the United States was overkill? Were our Y2K efforts truly necessary to stave off an impending disaster, or was it a non-event waiting to happen?

Well, quite frankly, there is no doubt the problem was genuine, the money was well spent. It was not an exaggerated problem. From our first hearing right up to the final one in December of 1999, we witnessed systems that completely failed Y2K tests and crashed completely; and I must say that Y2K was the single most thoroughly investigated issue ever in the history of Congressional oversight. Ultimately, I think two factors tip the balance from the grave uncertainty many of us harbored in the beginning. The first is that we all knew that the Y2K problem would strike on a date certain, January 1, 2000, therefore, allowing us to collectively plan and coordinate efforts toward that deadline.

The other factor was that we were able to forge effective and unprecedented partnerships with the public sector and the private sector, as well as international, many collaborations that allowed us to share information and monitor the world's progress. So the result was a testament to the fact that we prepared well and invested properly.

I believe the investments were not just about Y2K, but also about improving and gaining knowledge about the information technology systems. From our last hearing we learned a number of these lessons.

First, the international Y2K cooperation between organizations on all levels opened up channels for future partnerships. We saw this certainly with FAA, just as an example of the number of new collaborative partnerships that were developed.

Also, the Y2K experience made us rethink the importance of information

technology to businesses. It has helped us to develop a better appreciation on the reliance on information technology. Top management now needs to be more dedicated to information technology on a regular ongoing basis.

Well, now that we have survived the January 1 date rollover, as well as the recently passed February 29th leap year, we can look back and take pride in our role in vanquishing that pesky millennium bug that was supposed to cause such a catastrophe.

To all Federal employees, I salute you for your Y2K efforts. It is an accomplishment about which you should all be very proud. I am proud to be there with our members of the Task Force, indeed my cochair the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), to be there with you every step of the way. It was an unforgiving deadline. It was clear that we could not have met it without the Federal workforce and the private sector working together, and the President working with Congress. We know the American people were counting on us, and I am proud to say we did not let them down.

I want to finally reiterate my thanks to the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), who held so many hearings throughout the country, as well as the hearings that we had here on Capitol Hill; the Task Force cochair, the ranking member of my Subcommittee on Technology, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA); as well as the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Government Management, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for their leadership. Indeed, for other Members, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), who is here, and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), it was good teamwork. Well done. Thank you Federal employees and all of us who were involved.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 300. Most experts are in agreement that the Y2K problem presented the Federal Government with its greatest management challenge of the last 50 years. Our Nation has over one-fourth of the computer assets and is technologically dependent, as we all understand, and millions of Americans rely every day on uninterrupted computer service for essential services. Certainly the repercussions of failing to conquer the Y2K problem would have had devastating effects on our economy and our national welfare.

Yet, despite the severity of the Y2K challenge, most observers believe we got off to a slow start in focusing on the problem. As we all know, unfortunately, it usually takes a crisis for the government to concentrate its considerable resources and to solve a problem.

For more than 3½ years the Committee on Government Reform Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology, along with the Committee on Science

Subcommittee on Technology, held hearings to focus exclusively upon every facet of the Y2K computer problem. Our subcommittee had over 24 hearings on the topic in the last year alone; and I want to commend our subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN); the gentlewoman from Maryland (Chairwoman MORELLA); and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BARCIA) for the outstanding work they have done in leading our Nation through this time of computer crisis.

I also want to thank the General Accounting Office that did outstanding work, particularly Mr. Joel Williamson, who worked very diligently to bring to our attention the progress being made, or not being made, by the various Federal agencies. I also think we owe special thanks to Mr. John Koskinen, who, as chairman of the President's Council on the Y2K Conversion, did yeoman's work to be sure that our Federal agencies, as well as the Nation as a whole, was ready for the clock to strike midnight on December 31, 1999.

Our Federal workers, however, are the ones that are really due the real credit for the ability of our Federal Government to meet the Y2K crisis. The brunt of the work fell on their shoulders, and it is the Federal workers who deserve the real credit. They were the troops in the trenches, they were the ones who were on the front line, they were the ones who gave up their holidays and worked overtime to be sure that the Federal Government computers were working at midnight.

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As we approached January 1, 2000, we began to have a higher degree of confidence that we were going to be able to be Y2K compliant and have no significant disruptions. But the truth was, none of us really knew for sure what would happen. Fortunately, we made it through with virtually no problems. The Federal Government's computer systems were ready to successfully operate in the new millennium due to the efforts of these hundreds and even thousands of Federal workers who worked diligently to cure the problems that they found.

We had a smooth transition; the Federal workers did their jobs, and if it is true that the Y2K challenge represented one of the greatest management tasks to face the Federal Government in the last 50 years and that we were slow to focus our attention upon it, then we can take even greater comfort in knowing that it was our Federal workers who handled such a mammoth undertaking with such professionalism and skill.

Mr. Speaker, many of the success stories will never be told to the public and many of our Federal workers will have to take comfort in the fact that it was their efforts in those long weekends and on those holidays that prevented us from having disruptions in

computer services. I am glad that this resolution recognizes our Federal workers in one of their finest hours. As a result of their skill, January 1 of 2000 proceeded like any normal day. Once again, we have shown that when faced with a challenge, whether in time of war or peace, the American people are up to the challenge and our Federal workers certainly proved their abilities and their dedication during this time. We owe them a great debt of gratitude.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) who is the ranking minority member; he has been an outstanding member of the committee.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS). No one has worked harder on this issue than the gentleman from what is known as Silicon Valley East, or Fairfax County.

(Mr. DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I commend the authors of the resolution on both sides, as well as our Federal workforce and, of course, the contractors who worked together on this thing.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 300. I would like to thank my colleagues, Representatives MORELLA and HORN for introducing this resolution, and commend them for their outstanding leadership on the Y2K issue. Their vigilant oversight made the Administration and agencies recognize the potential disasters associated with the Y2K rollover. As a member of the Government Management Information Technology Subcommittee, I was proud to work with my colleagues on this oversight. This commitment from Congress helped to ensure that our nation did not see an interruption in the delivery of critical goods and services on January 1, 2000.

In 1996, Representatives HORN and MORELLA began the initial hearings on Y2K and discovered that many of our federal operations were significantly behind in addressing the Y2K bug. It was readily apparent that there could be severe consequences if federal agencies and their employees were not able to address the pending Y2K crisis. There were many outside of government that believed the federal workforce would fail. Our federal workforce once again proved those naysayers wrong. Our federal employees rose to meet this challenge and devoted countless hours to tackling the technological complexities of the Y2K problem.

American taxpayers saw their return on investment on January 1, 2000. There were no delayed Social Security checks and no federal services were interrupted. This is due in large part to the federal employees who worked weekends and holidays to ensure that the millennium bug came without so much as a whimper.

As H. Con. Res. 300 states, the United States has over one-quarter of the world's computer assets and is the most technologically dependent nation in the world. The leadership of our federal workforce continues

to ensure that this dependence does not provide a threat to our nation's well-being.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 300 and its swift passage today.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN).

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, and I certainly want to be associated with his fine remarks in congratulating Mr. John Koskinen for leading the executive branch in the Y2K effort, and particularly the Federal workforce. But I also wanted to be associated with the remarks of the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the remarks of the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and all of those folks on both sides of the aisle who made this such a successful bipartisan effort.

Mr. Speaker, this is one of the real success stories in terms of legislation, because we had nothing to read about on January 1. The old axiom with the media is if it bleeds, it leads, and there was no bleeding on January 1, because the Congress, the House and Senate leadership, and the executive branch recognized the importance, devoted their attention to it, came up with the legislation that was necessary, and certainly the executive branch came up with the resources and the leadership that was absolutely essential to make it a nonevent.

I do want to recognize the efforts of the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) as well in a related matter. In the private sector it was the gentleman from Virginia who introduced the Y2K liability legislation which ensured that the prediction that the American Bar Association made, which was that there could be as much as \$1 trillion of liability suits brought by trial lawyers on January 1, never came to pass because the Congress again enacted preventive legislation to see to it that that did not happen; that lawyers were required to warn companies 30 days in advance; that information was required to be shared; that, in fact, there was a cap on punitive damages; and that grants and loans were made available for small businesses.

So both in the private sector and in the public sector, the Congress did its job. That is the point I want to make. It was a nonevent, but both the legislative and the executive branch deserve a great deal of credit for the fact that it was a nonevent both here in the United States and worldwide. It would not have happened had it not been for the leadership on both sides of the aisle, and they deserve congratulations, as does the Federal workforce and Mr. Koskinen.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, today I support H. Con. Res. 300, a resolution recognizing and commending our Nation's workforce for successfully preparing for the Year 2000 date change.

Contrary to what some felt might happen when the clock struck midnight on January 1,

2000, planes didn't fall from the sky. Telephones retained their dial tone; water still ran from the faucets; and America's New Year celebrations were not left in the dark.

The smooth turnover from 1999 into 2000 is directly related to the hundreds, even thousands, of man-hours directed by our federal agencies toward preventing and correcting potential Y2K problems. Given the disruptions that did not occur, I would say these efforts paid off handsomely.

Y2K preparations paid off in other ways as well. As a result of Y2K concerns, there are now thousands more American families that own equipment needed to be adequately prepared for other types of emergencies, namely snow storms, floods and hurricanes.

Government leaders on every level now have a better understanding of technology management issues, and are more aware of the importance of cooperation between local, state and federal officials. What's more, the millennium bug provided a reason to upgrade government technology systems and to inventory resources.

Just being able to say some five months after Year 2000 rollover that it turned out to be a positive experience is a testament to the hard work of the federal workforce.

It is also a reflection of the extensive efforts of the House Y2K Task Force and to the leadership of the sponsors of this legislation, Representatives MORELLA and HORN. It is a tribute to the efforts of the President's Council on the Year 2000 Conversion, and to U.S. General Accounting Office (GAO) as well.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this resolution recognizing the good work of our Nation's Federal Workforce and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 300, Recognizing and Commending our Nation's Federal Workforce for Successfully Preparing our Nation to Withstand any Catastrophic Year 2000 Computer Disruptions.

I want to congratulate Federal Government employees for their efforts in successfully addressing the Y2K problem. I want stress that this Resolution recognizes the hard work of all Federal employees and Federal contractors in evaluating and testing government computer systems.

As was frequently stressed during the past three years, fixing the Y2K computer glitch was not a technical issue; it was a management issue. Therefore, I want to take this opportunity to commend the President and the Vice President for the management structure they developed to attack the Y2K problem. I specifically mention the Vice President because some of my colleagues were ready to blame Vice President GORE if there were any Y2K related problems. As we now know, computer systems were ready for January 1, 2000, and just as some were ready to lay blame so should we be ready to compliment for a job well done. One of their outstanding management decisions was selecting Mr. John Koskinen to be the Chair of the President's Council on Year 2000 Conversion. Mr. Koskinen galvanized and coordinated Federal activities. It is a tribute to Mr. Koskinen's management and diplomatic skills that the American public experienced no disruption of Federal services at the Y2K rollover.

So, to the President, the Vice President, Mr. Koskinen and to all Federal employees, all I

have to say is congratulations on a job well done.

In closing, I want to say that it has been a pleasure working with Chairman HORN and Ranking Member TURNER on the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology on this issue during the past three years. And as always, it has been a pleasure working with Chairwoman MORELLA.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, having no further requests for time, I urge the adoption of this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 300.

The question was taken.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### FEDERAL CONTRACTOR FLEXIBILITY ACT OF 2000

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3582) to restrict the use of mandatory minimum personnel experience and educational requirements in the procurement of information technology goods or services unless sufficiently justified.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3582

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Federal Contractor Flexibility Act of 2000".

#### SEC. 2. APPROPRIATE USE OF PERSONNEL EXPERIENCE AND EDUCATIONAL REQUIREMENTS IN THE PROCUREMENT OF INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY GOODS AND SERVICES.

(a) AMENDMENT OF THE FEDERAL ACQUISITION REGULATION.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Acquisition Regulation issued in accordance with sections 6 and 25 of the Office of Federal Procurement Policy Act (41 U.S.C. 405 and 421) shall be amended to address the use of personnel experience and educational requirements in the procurement of information technology goods and services.

(b) CONTENT OF AMENDMENT.—The amendment issued pursuant to subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, provide that solicitations for the procurement of information technology goods or services shall not set forth any minimum experience or educational requirement for proposed contractor personnel in order for a bidder to be eligible for award of a contract unless the contracting officer first—

(1) determines that the needs of the agency cannot be met without any such requirement; and

(2) explains in writing the basis for that determination.

(c) GAO REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the regulations required by subsection (a) are published in the Federal Register, the Comptroller General shall submit to Congress an evaluation of—

(1) executive agency compliance with the regulations; and

(2) conformance of the regulations with existing law, together with any recommendations that the Comptroller General considers appropriate.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—As used in this Act:

(1) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “executive agency” has the meaning given that term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY.—The term “information technology” has the meaning given that term in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN).

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) to explain the legislation before us.

Mr. DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) yielding me this time.

I rise today in support of a piece of legislation I think is very important, H.R. 3582, the Federal Flexibility Act of 2000, legislation which will address an ongoing problem in Federal information technology contracts.

I would like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Government Management, Information and Technology for his assistance in moving this important legislation forward.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3582 is necessary because Federal contracting officers frequently write into IT contracts minimum personnel requirements that hamper the ability of contractors to find qualified personnel to perform the contract. Oftentimes, this means government contractors cannot hire personnel who they believe can successfully perform the work, but instead they search for just simply qualified resumes. This is a burden on the information and technology industry, it is a burden on the American taxpayer, and it contributes to the chronic worker shortage faced by the technology industry because the Federal Government is the largest purchaser of IT products in the world, spending about \$28 billion on goods and services each year.

The Fed-Flex Act would require Federal agencies to justify the minimum personnel requirements frequently written into government contracts. Federal agencies have been experiencing something called “credential creep” in the way they write contracts. The problem has become so significant that the Virginia Secretary of Tech-

nology, Don Upson, found in a report issued by his office this past September, that minimum personnel requirements are the second largest contributor to the IT workforce shortage in my home State of Virginia. This report was titled “A Study of Virginia’s Information Technology Workforce.” It strongly recommended that both the government and private sector companies objectively evaluate alternative forms of training and focus on investments in training rather than on degrees or resumes. The nationwide shortage of IT workers is estimated at 364,000, and it is estimated at over 24,000 in the Northern Virginia region alone for the information technology worker shortage.

Now, what these minimum personnel requirements mean for the government is that a Bill Gates or a Michael Dell cannot perform work with the government on most contracts. Since neither one of them holds a college degree, many Federal agencies would not allow them to perform IT work for the government. When Federal agencies write credential creep into contracts, they hinder the ability of Federal contractors to hire qualified personnel to get the job done, and they increase the total cost of the contract to the government and, therefore, the American taxpayer.

In this era of serious labor shortages in nearly every sector of our economy, this practice drives up prices and it limits the flexibility of offers. The government will get better results if it issues performance-based statements of work and leaves it up to the offeror to propose how they will satisfy that requirement. The government should hold the winning offeror accountable for the quality of the cake, not dictate the ingredients that go into the recipe.

Another recent workforce study released by the Information Technology Association of America found that U.S. companies anticipate a demand for 1.6 million IT workers in the next year. According to that study, about 50 percent of the applicants for these jobs would not have the skills required to perform the jobs, meaning that up to 850,000 of these slots go unfilled. The private sector knows it has to adapt to address this shortage and invest in the training that will allow them to get the job done. Let us make sure the Federal Government is not the stumbling block to reaching that goal. The Fed-Flex Act requires agencies to realize that key skills are what matters the most to mission accomplishment within the agencies, not how those skills are acquired.

Recently, there has been ongoing debate about solving the labor shortage in the United States by lifting the cap on H1-B visas. I am a strong supporter of lifting this visa cap, and I am an original cosponsor of my colleague’s, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), H.R. 3982, the HI-TECH Act, which raises the cap to 200,000 for H1-Bs. But we all know this is a short-

term solution. We need to recognize the new types of training employees receive and encourage American businesses to hire employees who have received less traditional methods of training. We also need to encourage our Federal Government to be a leader in solving the workplace shortage and not remain behind the curve as is so often the case.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3582 recognizes the investment that firms make in their employees every day. Many IT firms spend a significant amount of time and dollars training their employees to be up to speed on the latest products and services. The Fed-Flex Act would require agencies to justify the use of such minimum mandatory personnel requirements before imposing such requirements on a particular solicitation for IT services. The Fed-Flex Act would require agencies to justify the use of such minimum mandatory personnel requirements before imposing such requirements in a particular solicitation for IT services. Where the contracting officer determines that the agency’s need cannot be met without such requirement, the legislation would not preclude such requirements. Moreover, the legislation would not preclude the agencies from evaluating the advantages that may be associated with a particular employee’s experience or education, including participation in an in-house training and certification program. This bill continues the many successes of recent procurement reforms and redirects government to focus on products, not process.

Recently, a study released by the American Association of Community Colleges indicated that 20 percent of community college attendees are pursuing degrees to work on technology issues. With the worker shortage we face in the Nation, it is of great concern to me that the Federal Government could prevent these highly motivated young people from pursuing a technology career. Credential creep is a Federal Government-wide problem. We have fallen behind in recruiting IT workers for the Federal workforce and training Federal workers to take part in the information technology revolution. Yet, the government demands a college degree for entry level positions that might be filled by individuals who have received another form of job training that may be superior. I believe that Federal flexibility is important to address the immediate need within the government, but I am also committed to working closely with my friends in the workforce community to look at credential creep problems as well.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point to the many organizations that support H.R. 3582. Fed-Flex is supported by ITAA, American Electronics Association, Contract Services Association, Professional Services Council, and CapNet. I would like to quote from a letter sent over by Harris Miller, the President of ITAA. “The Federal Contractor Flexibility Act is a home run

for practical, efficient, and effective government contracting.” I would also like to submit a copy of the ITAA letter for the RECORD.

MAY 2, 2000.

Rep. TOM DAVIS.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN DAVIS: On behalf of the 26,000 direct and affiliate members of the Information Technology Association of America (ITAA), I write to urge quick passage of the Federal Contractor Flexibility Act of 2000. We applaud you for sponsoring this common sense bill. This is legislation that recognizes a critical demand for appropriately skilled high tech workers is one of the most vexing problems facing employers today—both in and outside of government. At the same time, it realizes that key skills—and not how they are acquired—are what matters most to mission accomplishment within agencies.

A few weeks ago, ITAA released Bridging the Gap: IT Job Skills for a New Millennium, a major national study on the workforce issue. We found that U.S. companies anticipate a demand for 1.6 million IT workers in the next 12 months. Because roughly fifty percent of applicants will not have the skills required to perform these jobs, over 850,000 IT positions will go begging. Our study suggests that in the private sector, this demand pressure has caused hiring managers to revisit the issue of “what it takes” to get the job done.

At one time, the federal government’s preference for contractor staff with certain years of experience and a college degree was understandable. Unfortunately, what made sense five to ten years ago does not make sense in today’s environment. Indeed, so much has changed in information technology that today’s college graduates or those from community colleges are very prepared to take on immediate responsibilities at federal agencies. Talented people with skills in database design, programming, web development and other technical areas have invaluable skills that the federal agencies need today, not three or more years from now.

The agencies that do have specific needs should by all means be able to request certain skills sets and experience, but your legislation will eliminate the situation we find today where old boilerplate language with outmoded requirements is commonly used and reused in thousands of contracts. As you have mentioned your comments, it is more than ironic that some of the foremost leaders of the IT industry, Bill Gates, Michael Dell, and Larry Ellison, would be precluded from most Federal contracts since they did not complete their four year degree!

The Federal Contractor Flexibility Act is a homerun for practical, efficient and effective government contracting. We ask that all Members of Congress support its speedy passage into law.

Very truly yours,

HARRIS N. MILLER,  
*President.*

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3582 will help ensure that contracts are performance based rather than process driven. I am dismayed to hear that the administration is not ready to support the legislation at this time, and while I applaud OMB and my friend Dee Lee’s commitment to performance-based contracting, I believe that the law does not need a clarification on these minimum personnel requirements. Additionally, the letter from OMB concerns me because it recognizes the problem but it does not support the legislative fix that gives it the authority it needs to ensure the problem is corrected.

In my conversations with local Chambers of Commerce in Northern Virginia, and national procurement organizations, I have heard many instances where these personnel requirements have hampered companies’ ability to work with government. I have also been presented with evidence that these minimum personnel requirements have been used at various government agencies to favor incumbent contractors rather than promoting open competition. I have even heard of an instance where the contract employees who unpack computers at some agencies are required to hold college degrees.

Mr. Speaker, I will insert the rest of my comments in the RECORD at this time. I just want to urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I want to thank my colleague next door, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) for his leadership on this issue in cosponsoring this, and my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for helping to bring this to the floor so expeditiously.

Mr. Speaker, in the new economy, we are all learning new management techniques and the government can not be last to the table in this effort. Earlier this year, the Department of Labor issued two advisory opinions that threatened to harm the operation of the engine driving our economy, the technology sector. Many of you may be familiar with both the telecommuting and stock options decisions. While we should have those problems solved in the short-term through clarifying Congressional legislation that even the Labor Department has now recognized as necessary, we need to ensure that the government does not continue to impede the development of IT products and services through its own contracting and management processes.

Mr. Speaker, I have also received contract examples from the Departments of Defense and Treasury, and the General Services Administration that include minimum personnel requirements. The Defense Department includes these cumbersome requirements for entry-level IT positions that include such basic tasks as data-entry, and they do not give contractors any opportunity to apply for a waiver. The Treasury contract includes these requirements but then says a company may apply for a waiver after contract award although the waiver requires a significant amount of paperwork to get approved. The GSA requirement is on an IDIQ contract that would affect several companies at the same time and drive-up costs of all of the competing bids.

Mr. Speaker, again I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation. I know it will provide important relief to Virginia and government contractors across the nation. It will also provide a tremendous cost-savings to the government.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of the Federal Contractor Flexibility Act of 2000 which was introduced by our friend, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), and I want to commend the gentleman for his hard work on this bill. It is a very important piece of legislation, and he did a great job with it.

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I also want to thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), his neighbor, who also was the primary Democratic sponsor of this legislation.

As has been pointed out, this bill would restrict Federal departments and agencies from using mandatory minimum personnel and experience requirements for contractor personnel in the procurement of information technology goods and services, unless there is some justification for such a restriction.

Currently, Federal information technology procurement officers can require contractors to use employees who, at a minimum, have a college degree. As the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) pointed out, Bill Gates and Michael Dell would not qualify under the current restrictions.

It is obvious I think to all of us that the Federal agencies oftentimes dictate more stringent educational requirements than are necessary to do the job. H.R. 3582 would require Federal agencies to justify those minimum requirements, but it would not preclude them from including such requirements if the contracting officer determined that the agency’s needs could not be met without the requirements.

The legislation also would not preclude agencies from evaluating an employee’s experience or education, including their participation in in-house training or other certification programs. But most importantly, this legislation will increase the number of information technology workers eligible to assume government contractor information technology jobs, and it would alleviate the current shortage of labor in this field.

Today, we take the first step by eliminating these arbitrary experience and educational requirements for the private IT sector contractors. But I look forward to working with my colleagues so that we can eliminate these same requirements for our Federal employees.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to be a cosponsor of this bipartisan measure. Again, I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS); the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN); the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), our subcommittee chairman; as well as the gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON); and the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), our ranking member, for their work on this bill.

I urge swift passage of H.R. 3582.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA).

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) for yielding me the time, and I rise in strong support of H.R. 3582, the Federal Contractor Flexibility Act of 2000.

Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the lead sponsor, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), for introducing this

bill. I am proud to be a cosponsor of the legislation.

It would require Federal agencies to justify the use of minimum education and experience requirements in their solicitations for information technology services, which have virtually no relation to whether the individual can perform the required work.

Mr. Speaker, under current regulations, Bill Gates, as has been mentioned, would not be allowed to perform IT work for the Federal Government. That is right. The richest, and many would say one of the smartest, men in the world is not allowed to contract with the Federal Government under current law. Why? Because many Federal agencies currently put in place minimum education requirements in solicitations for IT services, and Mr. Gates does not hold a college degree.

This can be blamed on the fact that many agencies are now writing "credential creep" into contracts, hindering the ability of Federal contractors to hire qualified personnel who can get the job done. Frequently, these same agencies will require contractors to use employees who have a minimum of a college degree or even more stringent education requirements.

Additionally, Federal agencies dictate to companies the amount of experience employees must have working on certain IT systems. In this era of serious labor shortages in the information technology marketplace, this practice drives up prices and limits the flexibility of offers.

As a representative from Montgomery County, Maryland, which has many high-technology industries and research institutions, I understand the importance of skilled workers to our growing economy. However, I also understand that there currently exists a serious shortage of technology workers in not only the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area but throughout the Nation as well.

Mr. Speaker, passage of H.R. 3582 will enable the Government to get better results by issuing performance-based statements of work and leave it up to the job seeker to propose how he or she will get the job done. The Government's requirement should be on the merit and success of the job, not on dictating how the job is accomplished.

Finally, H.R. 3582 recognizes the investment that firms make in their employees today by not precluding agencies from evaluating the advantages that may be associated with a particular employee's experience or education, including participation in in-house training and certification programs.

Mr. Speaker, this is a common sense piece of legislation. I urge support of its passage.

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the primary Democratic cosponsor of the resolution.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I certainly want to thank and ac-

knowledge the leadership of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for his Federal management reform efforts. He is doing a very fine job on the Committee on Government Reform, and I congratulate him. And also, certainly, the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN), the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for their efforts. In many areas, this is a committee that can work together and this is certainly an example of good, bipartisan constructive legislation.

I especially want to recognize the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) and his fine staff for their terrific work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, this ought to be a no-brainer. But it is designed to address something that for years has gone on. It is a classic example of the right hand not only not letting the left hand know what they were doing, but they were working at cross purposes. If we ask people working in the Federal Government, particularly in Labor or Commerce or HHS, they will say that one of the most serious problems today is the fallout from the new economy of people working in the old economy having their jobs replaced by automation or by competition from overseas.

Mr. Speaker, while 80 percent of them get jobs, and better paying jobs, there are 20 percent of them who do not, who are left by the wayside of the new economy highway. And these people want to work hard, they have got the will and the ability, but they do not have the opportunity.

In many cases, it is because they do not have a 4-year college degree. They do not have the preparation, the skills with computers. We are not providing sufficient opportunity for them. And then there are other people who cannot afford a 4-year college degree. They do not need a 4-year college degree.

On the other hand, we have the Federal Government here saying that if one wants to bid for Federal contracts, they have to have a 4-year college degree on many of these information technology contracts.

They do not have to. They do not need it. In fact, all this bill does is to say that if a contracting officer can justify these higher standards, then fine, go ahead with it. But if they cannot justify requiring these college degrees and these higher certifications, then do not require it. Allow companies to hire people that can perform the work. Put the emphasis on the quality product, not the process.

In Virginia, we are recognizing that this is one of the prime causes of the technology shortage. We have a shortage of almost 30,000 vacancies. We cannot fill them. Many of them are in Federal contract work. This is silly. We have the people, the warm bodies; but we do not have the preparation, and it does not make sense to require a 4-year degree.

Mr. Speaker, in this period of unprecipitated labor shortage, certainly we ought to take the initiative. I wish the

executive branch had taken the initiative itself, but this bill is necessary. I am sure that they are going to enact it because the current practice drives up prices and limits the competition for Federal contracts. We do not want that. That does not serve anybody's purposes.

It has already been said, and I do not want to beat up on Bill Gates, of all people. We keep talking about the fact that he does not have a college degree. Well, he does not; but he did not need it to be successful. He is a classic example. And there are any number of others as well. I think we made our case on that.

The Department of Commerce recently reported that there are more than 600,000 positions in the information technology field that have yet to be filled. And, in fact, they estimate that over the next 10 years we are going to need more than 100,000 a year. I saw a figure today of 130,000 a year. We do not have those people. We do not need to be sending those people through college. We need to be getting them into community colleges, junior colleges, computer training courses, whatever gives them the skills that are necessary.

Now, we are going to get a whole lot of flack when we bring up the H(1)(b) bill. People are going to say we are bringing in laborers from overseas and taking our jobs and so on. My response is going to be, look, raising the cap on H(1)(b) visas is a short-term solution. We have vacancies and we need to fill them and fill them with qualified people, and bringing these people in that can go to work immediately with skills just pumps iron into our economic bloodstream. We need to do this. It makes a lot of sense. But that is not the long-term solution.

Mr. Speaker, the long-term solution is to train people. And not with 4 years; give them the specific training they need. Give them the opportunities; give them the access to these information technology jobs.

If we do, we are going to enable our American workforce to realize its full potential. If we put these kinds of obstacles in the way, all we are doing is limiting our potential economically and socially.

So I think I have made my point. This bill needs to be supported strongly and unanimously, and I trust it will be.

Mr. HORN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to first commend Melissa Wojciak for her excellent staff work on H.R. 3582, the Federal Contractor Flexibility Act of 2000. Melissa is a true professional and put a lot of her heart into this legislation. That is the kind of people we want on Capitol Hill.

Let me just note a few things. I completely agree with the two gentlemen from Virginia, and if that ever makes this bipartisan, I do not know what does. The gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS) certainly reflected the

floor management's views of what is the essence of this particular legislation.

The fact is, performance-based contracting is a method of acquiring services that focus on successful results or outcomes rather than dictating how the work is to be performed.

Now, I also agree with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN) about the need for education. I have been preaching that for the last 2 years. The community colleges of this Nation, public institutions, and the State universities of this Nation should be working with Silicon Valley east, west, south, north, wherever it is, to get the latest generation of equipment on which they can train people. State budgets never have enough, and as a former university president in charge of a State university for 18 years, I can assure my colleagues that is a true statement across the Nation, that very little money is invested in the technology that these students need to be exposed to.

They also need to be exposed to logic, to math, to science starting in the kindergarten. There ought to be concepts of science that a good public school system has, and that is exactly what is needed.

These are \$60,000-a-year jobs, and if that should not wake somebody up, I do not know what it does wake up. We need more of our own citizens, and those who have newly arrived here, from Cambodia, the Vietnamese, the Latin American; and what we need are opportunities for the children of immigrants as well as opportunities for our own citizens.

So I completely agree with the gentleman from Virginia on this issue, and much more needs to be done on that. We cannot just have some fly-by-night operation that does this for individuals; we need a long-term investment by the Silicon Valleys, the computer industry, and they need to quit depending on people from abroad. They need to educate our own people.

Mr. Speaker, with those remarks, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER), who is the ranking member on the subcommittee, for all of his constructive comments during the hearings, during the markup, and now on the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3582.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## GOLDEN SPIKE/CROSSROADS OF THE WEST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2932) to authorize the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2932

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

### SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) GOLDEN SPIKE RAIL STUDY.—The term "Golden Spike Rail Study" means the Golden Spike Rail Feasibility Study, Reconnaissance Survey, Ogden, Utah to Golden Spike National Historic Site", National Park Service, 1993.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) STUDY AREA.—The term "Study Area" means the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area Study Area, the boundaries of which are described in subsection (d).

(b) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall conduct a study of the Study Area which includes analysis and documentation necessary to determine whether the Study Area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that together represent distinctive aspects of American heritage worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use, and are best managed through partnerships among public and private entities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folk-life that are a valuable part of the national story;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features;

(4) provides outstanding recreational and educational opportunities;

(5) contains resources important to the identified theme or themes of the Study Area that retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(6) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments who have demonstrated support for the concept of a National Heritage Area; and

(7) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and local and State governments to develop a National Heritage Area consistent with continued local and State economic activity.

(c) CONSULTATION.—In conducting the study, the Secretary shall—

(1) consult with the State Historic Preservation Officer, State Historical Society, and other appropriate organizations; and

(2) use previously completed materials, including the Golden Spike Rail Study.

(d) BOUNDARIES OF STUDY AREA.—The Study Area shall be comprised of sites relating to completion of the first transcontinental railroad in the State of Utah, concentrating on those areas identified on the map included in the Golden Spike Rail Study.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 3 fiscal years after funds are first made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report on the findings and conclusions of the study and recommendations based upon those findings and conclusions.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this section.

## SEC. 2. CROSSROADS OF THE WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT.

(a) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this section are—

(1) to preserve and interpret, for the educational and inspirational benefit of the public, the contribution to our national heritage of certain historic and cultural lands and edifices of the Crossroads of the West Historic District; and

(2) to enhance cultural and compatible economic redevelopment within the District.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) DISTRICT.—The term "District" means the Crossroads of the West Historic District established by subsection (c).

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) HISTORIC INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term "historic infrastructure" means the District's historic buildings and any other structure that the Secretary determines to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

(c) CROSSROADS OF THE WEST HISTORIC DISTRICT.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established the Crossroads of the West Historic District in the city of Ogden, Utah.

(2) BOUNDARIES.—The boundaries of the District shall be the boundaries depicted on the map entitled "Crossroads of the West Historic District", numbered OGGO-20,000, and dated March 22, 2000. The map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the Department of the Interior.

(d) DEVELOPMENT PLAN.—The Secretary may make grants and enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Utah, local governments, and nonprofit entities under which the Secretary agrees to pay not more than 50 percent of the costs of—

(1) preparation of a plan for the development of historic, architectural, natural, cultural, and interpretive resources within the District;

(2) implementation of projects approved by the Secretary under the development plan described in paragraph (1); and

(3) an analysis assessing measures that could be taken to encourage economic development and revitalization within the District in a manner consistent with the District's historic character.

(e) RESTORATION, PRESERVATION, AND INTERPRETATION OF PROPERTIES.—

(1) COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the State of Utah, local governments, and nonprofit entities owning property within the District under which the Secretary may—

(A) pay not more than 50 percent of the cost of restoring, repairing, rehabilitating, and improving historic infrastructure within the District;

(B) provide technical assistance with respect to the preservation and interpretation of properties within the District; and

(C) mark and provide interpretation of properties within the District.

(2) NON-FEDERAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—When determining the cost of restoring, repairing, rehabilitating, and improving historic infrastructure within the District for the purposes of paragraph (1)(A), the Secretary may consider any donation of property, services, or goods from a non-Federal source as a contribution of funds from a non-Federal source.

(3) PROVISIONS.—A cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall provide that—

(A) the Secretary shall have the right of access at reasonable times to public portions of the property for interpretive and other purposes;

(B) no change or alteration may be made in the property except with the agreement of the property owner, the Secretary, and any Federal agency that may have regulatory jurisdiction over the property; and

(C) any construction grant made under this section shall be subject to an agreement that provides—

(I) that conversion, use, or disposal of the project so assisted for purposes contrary to the purposes of this section shall result in a right of the United States to compensation from the beneficiary of the grant; and

(II) for a schedule for such compensation based on the level of Federal investment and the anticipated useful life of the project.

(4) APPLICATIONS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A property owner that desires to enter into a cooperative agreement under paragraph (1) shall submit to the Secretary an application describing how the project proposed to be funded will further the purposes of the management plan developed for the District.

(B) CONSIDERATION.—In making such funds available under this subsection, the Secretary shall give consideration to projects that provide a greater leverage of Federal funds.

(f) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this section not more than \$1,000,000 for any fiscal year and not more than \$5,000,000 total.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2932 is a bill I introduced, authorizes a study assessing the feasibility of establishing the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area. H.R. 2932 also establishes a Historic District in Ogden, Utah to preserve and interpret historic features relating to the convergence of the intercontinental railway.

The development of our Nation's railway was an important step in our country's development as an economic and industrial super power. The completion of the intercontinental railway was a crowning achievement in our country's history. H.R. 2932 would help to promote a greater public interest and appreciation for this significant event.

The study conducted under this bill charges the Secretary of the Interior to assess the worthiness of the region's historic, recreational, and economic resources for recognition as a National Heritage Area. This study is to be completed with input from the State Historic Agencies and submitted within 3 years.

H.R. 2932 also establishes the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West Historic District. This Historic District would be an asset of great worth to all the residents and visitors of northern Utah. It would promote the conservation and development of historical and recreational resources associated with the intercontinental railway.

The historic district would be managed by the Secretary of Interior. The Secretary will have the responsibility of making a development plan and inventory of the resources existing in the historical district. The development plan is to be made with public participation and will emphasize economic revitalization that preserves the district's historic character.

It is very important to note that the designation of this historic district will

have no effect on existing land-use laws and regulations. Furthermore, the bill will not confer any additional powers of zoning or land use to the Secretary of the Interior or affect private property rights in any way.

Preserving the heritage of our Nation's railroads and their influential role in our history is something I feel is very important. I believe this bill is good for Utah and good for the American people. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2932.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2932. The gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) has quite accurately explained the legislation to the Members of the House.

Originally, we in the minority had some concerns with this legislation, although we clearly were not questioning the historic value of the area covered by the legislation. Working with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), the subcommittee chairman, and with others, we think that the final version of this legislation addresses everyone's concern. We ask that the House support the legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I have no other requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2932, as amended.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### ENDANGERED SPECIES ACT REPORT RESTORATION ACT

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1744) to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to provide that certain species conservation reports shall continue to be required to be submitted.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1744

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. CONTINUATION OF SUBMISSION OF CERTAIN SPECIES CONSERVATION REPORTS.

(a) ANNUAL COST ANALYSIS.—Section 18 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C.

1544) is amended by striking "On" and inserting "Notwithstanding section 3003 of Public Law 104-66 (31 U.S.C. 1113 note; 109 Stat. 734), on".

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section takes effect on the earlier of—

(1) the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) December 19, 1999.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Senate bill was introduced by the late Senator from Rhode Island, Senator John Chafee. It restores the report under the Endangered Species Act.

The Endangered Species Act requires all Federal agencies to use their authorities for the protection and conservation of those species listed as threatened or endangered under the Federal Endangered Species Act. In 1988, section 18 of the ESA was added to require the Secretary of the Interior to send to Congress a report on the amount of taxpayer funds spent by each Federal agency in carrying out the mandates of the ESA.

Since 1990, the Committee on Resources has been receiving these reports which detail Federal spending on endangered and threatened species. The last report indicates that over \$300 million has been directly spent by over 20 Federal agencies to protect endangered and threatened species. The reports tell us the amount spent on each listed species so we know where those Federal resources are going and can determine whether this spending is achieving the desired results of recovery of listed species.

Section 3003 of the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1997 terminated a long list of reports to Congress contained in the report of the Clerk of the House. The Clerk's report lists statutorily required reports to Congress from various Executive Branch agencies. Unfortunately, in the zeal to eliminate unnecessary reporting by Federal agencies, this very important and useful report was inadvertently eliminated as well.

S. 1744 simply retains the existing requirement of the Secretary of the Interior to provide Congress with this important information currently required by the Endangered Species Act. It does not affect any other provision of the ESA and does not address any substantive concerns regarding the ESA. I urge Members to support S. 1744 and send this important legislation to the President for his signature.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may use.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation. As explained by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN), this was an inadvertent mistake when this report was terminated by the Federal Reports Elimination Sunset Act of 1995, and it is right for us to reinstate it.

It is obvious to all Members of Congress that the Endangered Species Act has been one of our Nation's keystone environmental laws to protect biodiversity and recover threatened and endangered species from the brink of extinction. This better helps us target our efforts to restoring endangered species.

Section 18 of the Endangered Species Act requires the Secretary of the Interior to report annually to the Congress on "reasonably identified" expenditures for the conservation and recovery of threatened and endangered species under the ESA. This report includes an accounting of expenditures from all Federal agencies and from all States that receive section 6 grant funding for conservation activities. Over the years this report has been a valuable tool to discern priorities and trends in how and where ESA funds are spent.

Unfortunately, the section 18 report was included in the list of unnecessary report requirements when Congress passed the Federal Reports Elimination and Sunset Act of 1995. Consequently, this report requirement was scheduled to sunset on December 21, 1999, provided that Congress does not act to reauthorize it.

This bill would correct the initial oversight and simply reauthorize this valuable report requirement. It is my understanding that the Administration did not include this report in the initial list that was forwarded to the Clerk of the House in 1994, and it is my further understanding that the Administration does not oppose its reinstatement at this time.

The Endangered Species Act has been our Nation's keystone environmental law to protect biodiversity and to recover threatened and endangered species from the brink of extinction. This bill would restore a helpful report and do no harm to the Act itself. I support S. 1744 and urge all members to do likewise.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1744.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within

which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2932 and S. 1744.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

#### HMONG VETERANS' NATURALIZATION ACT OF 2000

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 371) to expedite the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerilla units in Laos, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 371

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000".

##### SEC. 2. EXEMPTION FROM ENGLISH LANGUAGE REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ALIENS WHO SERVED WITH SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS OR IRREGULAR FORCES IN LAOS.

The requirement of paragraph (1) of section 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)(1)) shall not apply to the naturalization of any person—

(1) who—

(A) was admitted into the United States as a refugee from Laos pursuant to section 207 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157); and

(B) served with a special guerrilla unit, or irregular forces, operating from a base in Laos in support of the United States military at any time during the period beginning February 28, 1961, and ending September 18, 1978; or

(2) who—

(A) satisfies the requirement of paragraph (1)(A); and

(B) was the spouse of a person described in paragraph (1) on the day on which such described person applied for admission into the United States as a refugee.

##### SEC. 3. SPECIAL CONSIDERATION CONCERNING CIVICS REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ALIENS WHO SERVED WITH SPECIAL GUERRILLA UNITS OR IRREGULAR FORCES IN LAOS.

The Attorney General shall provide for special consideration, as determined by the Attorney General, concerning the requirement of paragraph (2) of section 312(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1423(a)(2)) with respect to the naturalization of any person described in paragraph (1) or (2) of section 2 of this Act.

##### SEC. 4. DOCUMENTATION OF QUALIFYING SERVICE.

A person seeking an exemption under section 2 or special consideration under section 3 shall submit to the Attorney General documentation of their, or their spouse's, service with a special guerrilla unit, or irregular forces, described in section 2(1)(B), in the form of—

(1) original documents;

(2) an affidavit of the serving person's superior officer;

(3) two affidavits from other individuals who also were serving with such a special guerrilla unit, or irregular forces, and who personally knew of the person's service; or

(4) other appropriate proof.

##### SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF ELIGIBILITY FOR EXEMPTION AND SPECIAL CONSIDERATION.

In determining a person's eligibility for an exemption under section 2 or special consid-

eration under section 3, the Attorney General—

(1) shall review the refugee processing documentation for the person, or, in an appropriate case, for the person and the person's spouse, to verify that the requirements of section 2 relating to refugee applications and admissions have been satisfied;

(2) shall consider the documentation submitted by the person under section 4;

(3) shall request an advisory opinion from the Secretary of Defense regarding the person's, or their spouse's, service in a special guerrilla unit, or irregular forces, described in section 2(1)(B) and shall take into account that opinion; and

(4) may consider any certification prepared by the organization known as "Lao Veterans of America, Inc.", or any similar organization maintaining records with respect to Hmong veterans or their families.

##### SEC. 6. DEADLINE FOR APPLICATION AND PAYMENT OF FEES.

This Act shall apply to a person only if the person's application for naturalization is filed, as provided in section 334 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1445), with appropriate fees not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

##### SEC. 7. LIMITATION ON NUMBER OF BENEFICIARIES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, the total number of aliens who may be granted an exemption under section 2 or special consideration under section 3, or both, may not exceed 45,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 371, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Today, Mr. Speaker, this body considers legislation to facilitate citizenship opportunities for Hmong refugees who were recruited by the United States to assist our combat effort in Indochina. Twenty-five years after the end of the Vietnam War, we honor the heroism and sacrifices of the Hmong.

At great personal peril and loss of life, they fought with us and performed critical roles in dangerous missions on our behalf.

As a former CIA officer pointed out in a statement submitted to the Committee on the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims in the last Congress, and I quote, "Throughout the war, CIA's paramilitary forces collected intelligence, used it in combat operations to tie down some 50,000 North Vietnamese forces in Laos, rescued downed American pilots and protected sensitive American installations at remote mountain tops."

Those Hmong veterans who survive the war face severe persecution for their association with us.

H.R. 371 acknowledges that many Hmong veterans face unique language problems that present insurmountable obstacles to U.S. citizenship. The Hmong we recruited during the Vietnam War, including some at a very early age, lived at a predominantly preliterate society.

Lieutenant Colonel Wangyee Vang, National President, Lao Veterans of America, explained in his statement for the 1997 hearing of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, "Cultural barriers and the fact that a written Hmong language was not used in much of Laos until late in its history have compounded the problems of literacy for the Hmong."

In recognition of their compelling and extraordinary sacrifices, H.R. 371 provides for an exemption from the English language requirement and authorizes special consideration related to the civics requirement.

The gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO), our esteemed colleague, is the author of this legislation, and he may have put it best when he testified as follows before the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims in the last Congress: "They probably have passed the most important test, Mr. Chairman, and that is risking their lives for the values and beliefs that we revere as Americans and saving American lives."

The step we hopefully will take today is overdue. In the 104th Congress, this body passed an omnibus immigration reform bill in a form that included provisions designed to expedite naturalization for those who served with special guerilla units in Laos, but these provisions were not incorporated in the final version of the legislation.

In the 105th Congress, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO) introduced as H.R. 371 language virtually identical to the original House-passed provisions from the previous Congress.

In June 1997, the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims held a hearing on H.R. 371. The following year, the subcommittee favorably reported an amended version of the bill to the full Committee on the Judiciary. As amended, H.R. 371 addressed concerns about the potential for fraud by delineating steps to be taken in determining eligibility and limiting to 45,000 the number of potential beneficiaries.

Although the full Committee on the Judiciary in June 1998 ordered the bill as amended in subcommittee favorably reported, no further action was taken in the 105th Congress. In the 106th Congress, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO) reintroduced his bill under the same number, incorporating changes the Committee on the Judiciary supported in 1998. In March of this year, the full Committee on the Judiciary acted again favorably, this time ordering H.R. 371 reported by voice vote.

As this history documents, the details of this legislation have been con-

sidered thoroughly by the Committee on the Judiciary, and we bring it up on the floor today with improvements my committee approved in both the last Congress and the current Congress. In our most recent markup, I displayed a Pandau "story cloth" depicting the escape of Hmong refugees across the Mekong River to a camp in Thailand after their villages were strafed by Communist forces in Laos. Such story cloths were a way of communicating Hmong history by people who knew no written language.

This bill will permit a limited number of lawful permanent residents of the United States who served with special guerilla units or irregular forces in support of the U.S. military during the Vietnam war to become citizens. They must have been legally admitted to this country as refugees from Laos, and provision is also made for certain spouses who came as refugees.

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It is particularly significant that the bill before us focuses on people who are already here in the United States legally and permanently. In view of their commitment to our democracy and the great hardships they endured when they made common cause with us, we act appropriately by extending a hand to them now and helping them become citizens of their adopted land. This is just and humane legislation Members can endorse regardless of political affiliation.

Governor Ventura of Minnesota appealed to me on behalf of these freedom fighters in February, and I welcomed the opportunity to assure him and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. VENTO) that I would do whatever I could to help get H.R. 371 enacted into law. Supporters of this important bill include the American Legion and the Special Forces Association. I urge my colleagues to support enactment of H.R. 371.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and I, of course, rise in strong support of this measure, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act.

First and foremost I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the distinguished chairman, for his leadership and continuing support throughout the committee process. I would also like to, of course, acknowledge the strong support I have had from my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH), who for some time has encouraged and helped me refine this legislation; and of course the ranking member on the committee, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

I would especially like to thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) for his work in the past years, as well as the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), the current ranking member on the subcommittee with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH).

Furthermore, of course, the Department of Justice and the Immigration and Naturalization Service have extended themselves and provided assistance and counsel in working out the final language in the bill. As we know in this body, good intentions are not enough. We need to have precise language with regards to Immigration and Naturalization Service issues because misunderstandings do arise.

Today is a historic day and, of course, this past month we have been talking about the 25-year anniversary of the fall of Saigon and the last of the American troops leaving Vietnam. Events have been relived these past weeks, harsh memories of Vietnam that are unpleasant to all Americans. While the Vietnam War is over for all America, the plight of our friends within this region and Laos must be remembered.

The Lao-Hmong soldiers, as young as 10 years old, were recruited and fought and died alongside 58,000 U.S. soldiers, sailors, and airmen in Vietnam. As a result of their contributions, bravery and loyalty to the United States, the Lao-Hmong were tragically overrun by the Communist forces and lost their homeland and status in Laos after the Vietnam War. Between 10,000 and 20,000 Lao-Hmong were killed in combat-related incidents, and over 100,000 had to flee to refugee camps and other nations to survive.

Mr. Speaker, this is a point where we can be very proud that the United States did not abandon these camps and these people, but we responded and opened our doors for refugee assistance and permitted them to come into the United States. Today, in Minnesota, because of the growing population in the Midwest, we have nearly 60,000 Lao-Hmong that now know Minnesota as their new home.

Many of the older Lao-Hmong patriots who made it to the U.S. are separated from their family members and have had great difficulty in adjusting to many aspects of life and culture in the United States, including passing aspects of our required citizenship tests. Learning to read in English has been the greatest obstacle for the Lao-Hmong because written characters in the Hmong language have only been introduced in recent years.

As the chairman of the committee pointed out, the Pandau did the illustrations because they did not have a written language. Very often the only way they could record their history was through their wonderful artwork. If my colleagues would like to see some more of this, Mr. Speaker, they can come to St. Paul, and even in my office. I have a large hanging about the size of a bedspread of this type of depicted character which reflects this wonderful needle work and craft work and history really of the Lao-Hmong and their Chinese origin.

This act, of course, has been explained by the chairman. It facilitates the assistance with regards to citizenship. It extends this benefit. There are

tight limits on the bill. I would note that the chairman of the committee has gone beyond and above the call of duty. He had to arm wrestle Governor Jesse Ventura; and fortunately, they declared a draw and he decided to move ahead with the legislation.

This legislation is supported by a whole host of veterans organizations. It is good legislation. It is targeted legislation. It is limited. And it does respond, I think, to the Lao-Hmong problem.

I would say to my colleagues that while the English language and citizenship tests are important, that the Lao-Hmong have indeed passed a more important test. They put their lives on the line to save American sailors and soldiers. They put their lives on the line for the values that are reflected in the promise of America and in this Nation. And so I am proud to stand here today to represent them and to ask my colleagues for their support in supporting this bill.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. VENTO. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to thank this gentleman for this legislation and for sticking with it all this time on behalf of the Lao-Hmong.

As the gentleman knows, California has many Lao-Hmong residents in our State and also in my district, and they have been fantastic constituents and residents of our State and of our country. I want to thank the gentleman so very much for finally getting this bill to the floor again so that we can deal with this problem that he has so adequately addressed.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman; and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations.

(Mr. GILMAN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I am pleased to rise in strong support of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act of 2000.

It is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, that we gave special recognition to the Hmong, who courageously fought with our personnel in Vietnam. They were working in the underground activities in Laos. I had the opportunity of visiting General Vang Pao headquarters back in 1973, and he showed me all the bullet holes around his headquarters where they had been attacked time and time again. They served valiantly and courageously. Then, after the war was over, we left them out to dry, to hang; and we have not done anything to assist them over these years.

I want to commend our distinguished chairman of the Committee on the Ju-

diciary, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for expediting the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units in Laos, guerrilla units that did an outstanding job on behalf of our Nation. We can do no less for so many who did so much for all of us.

Mr. VENTO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to mention that there are 108 sponsors of this, including colleagues like the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), who has a significant population. The entire Minnesota delegation is in support of this, as are numerous Members from this area.

The gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) wanted to speak on this, and I know they are going to put their statements in the record.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to say that, in addition to being very honored to help pass this excellent bill and the regret it took so many years to get to this point, one of the ancillary benefits of the campaign for this bill was a visit by the governor of Minnesota, Mr. Ventura. He and I did engage in some arm wrestling. And I want to say that the fact that he let me win has nothing to do with my support for this excellent bill.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act.

H.R. 371, is a necessary step in assisting the Hmong, a special group of legal immigrants who served with the U.S. Armed Forces and now require help in obtaining U.S. citizenship. It waives the residency requirement for those Hmong and their spouses. Additionally, it waives the English language test and residency requirement for attainment of U.S. citizenship. It would only affect individuals who reside legally in this country and would not grant veteran's status or make the Hmong people who served in the Special Guerrilla Forces eligible for veterans' benefits.

This important legislation would impact thousands of people in the United States, including the large Lao-Hmong community in my home district of western Wisconsin. The history of Hmong demonstrates the need for this legislation. The Hmong are not considered veterans by our government even though they participated in covert operations directed by the U.S. Central Intelligence Agency. Many served in non-uniformed units, therefore making it uncertain if "veteran" status can be proved. The Hmong aided our efforts during the Southeastern Asian conflict at a high personal cost. Between 10,000 and 20,000 Hmong lost their lives. The Hmong population lost their homeland to Communist forces. After the war, more than 100,000 Hmong were forced to either flee or live in refugee camps. Many Hmong were separated from their families.

The process of assimilation to the United States has been especially challenging for the Hmong. A major problem for many Hmong is an insufficient command of the English language which prevents them from completing

the naturalization process. This is partly due to the fact that the Hmong did not have a written language until the 1950s. Therefore, learning to speak, read, and write the English language has been extremely difficult. The English-learning process has also been stymied by the high rate of illiteracy among the Hmong in this recently acquired written language. The majority of the Hmong who were brought to the United States as political refugees had very little opportunity for education during their war-ravaged years in Laos.

Mr. Speaker, the Hmong people need our help. It is wrong to abandon these men and women who served as valuable allies to us during the Southeastern Asian conflict and that is why I support H.R. 371.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 2000. I commend my colleague, Mr. BRUCE VENTO, for his leadership and sponsorship with this important measure.

The Hmong veterans have more than proven themselves worthy of American citizenship. It is the obligation of the United States government to pass this bill, which will create an exemption of the English language requirement for naturalization purposes.

As many of us are aware, from 1961-73 during the Vietnam War, the Central Intelligence Agency recruited tens of thousands of Hmong and Laotians to serve in special guerrilla forces fighting the North Vietnamese and the Communist government in Laos. These soldiers fought valiantly alongside American troops. Through their efforts, they were able to defend intelligence sites, prevent thousands of U.S. troops from an ambush by North Vietnamese troops, and rescue hundreds of downed American pilots. Between 10,000-20,000 Hmong and Laotian soldiers lost their lives in service to the U.S. government.

Unfortunately, when the war ended, Hmong and Laotians were forced to flee their country in an effort to avoid persecution by their governments. The sacrifices they had to make were immense—they gave up their homes, their livelihood and their country. Over 150,000 of them have resettled in the U.S. as political refugees.

Since then, many Hmong and Laotian veterans have faced great difficulty in attaining naturalization status. In fact, today, approximately 60.4 percent of the Hmong and 66.1 percent of the Laotians are still legal permanent residents.

The barriers Hmong and Laotian veterans face involve the significant level of illiteracy and predominant lack of formal education in their community. It was only forty short years ago that Hmong became a written language; thus, many in their community have never learned to read, or to write. This fact leads to the incredible difficulty, and sometimes, impossibility, for the Hmong veterans to learn the English language enough to pass the citizenship test.

Mr. Speaker, during the Vietnam war, the U.S. government promised the Hmong and Laotian soldiers that they would find a refuge in the United States if we lost the war. In fact, the CIA promised to evacuate the Hmong, only to leave them behind in 1974.

It is important for us now to fulfill that promise, and to recognize and honor the contributions the Hmong and Laotian veterans have made, as well as the lives that were lost, to

the United States war efforts. The best way for us to do those things is to grant an exemption for these individuals from the English language requirement for naturalization. This exemption, like our fulfillment of the promise, is long overdue.

Mr. DOOLEY of California. Mr. Speaker I stand with my colleagues in support of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans Naturalization Act.

By approving this bill, we will make an important contribution to the efforts of the thousands of Hmong veterans and their families to become United States citizens. For over two decades, Hmong veterans have encountered serious obstacles that have impeded their ability to become U.S. citizens. This bill addresses this by exempting Hmong veterans from English language proficiency and residency requirements.

Many Americans are only beginning to appreciate and recognize the invaluable service and bravery of Hmong veterans. Today, we have an opportunity to assure that their service to freedom and to the United States will not be forgotten.

Hmong veterans fought in the Vietnam War alongside American forces at great personal peril and loss of life. They performed critical roles in dangerous missions, collected vital intelligence, rescued downed American pilots and defended sensitive American installations at remote locations.

Tragically, at the end of the war and as a result of their service and bravery, tens of thousands of Hmong freedom fighters and their families constantly faced the horrible reality of life in prison camps and the threat of genocide.

Many Hmong veterans and their families sought refuge in the United States. California's Central Valley, which I represent, has been a primary relocation site for them. I am proud that the Central Valley is one of the most ethnically diverse parts of the country and that the Hmong community has contributed greatly to that diversity and enriched us with their traditions.

In light of their service, heroism and dedication to freedom, it is only fitting that America embrace those Hmong veterans that fought with distinction and honor. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this bill.

Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I rise as a cosponsor of H.R. 371, the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act of 1999, to honor the Hmong people, many of whom risked their lives or died in service to the United States during the Vietnam War.

There are over 16,000 Hmong in my home-state of Wisconsin, and the legislation before the House of Representatives today will help many Hmong patriots who made it to the U.S. and are currently separated from their families.

This bill will allow more Hmong people to become United States Citizens by providing interpreter-assistance during the citizenship test. Unlike other languages, written characters were only introduced in the Hmong language in recent years, so learning to read in a foreign language presents an extremely difficult challenge. By providing interpreters, the family reunification process in the Hmong community can begin sooner.

Providing this service is a very small token of our appreciation for a people that so loyally fought on behalf of the United States, some of whom started fighting at the age of 10. The Hmong "mountain men" not only rescued

downed American pilots, but fought heroically alongside U.S. soldiers in the Vietnam War.

It is my hope that by passing this bill today, the United States Congress will show its gratitude to the Hmong people, in appreciation of the many sacrifices they have made for this country.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this is an important bill because the Hmong have stood by the U.S. at a crucial time in our history and now is the time to repay and honor the loyalty of Hmong veterans. The Hmong were a pre-literate society. I would like to congratulate Congressman BRUCE VENTO for his leadership on this issue.

The Hmong had no written language in use when the United States recruited them during the Vietnam War. The best symbol of why H.R. 371 is necessary is the Hmong "story cloth," the Pandau cloth, that is their embroidered cloth record of important historical events and oral traditions.

The Hmong were recruited, largely, as boy soldiers. Many of the veterans of the U.S. secret Army were recruited at age 12, 13 and 14 years of age. The CIA in coordination with "Air America" built hundreds of airstrips and bases for the Hmong and their American advisors to conduct military operations.

The Hmong were critical to the American war strategy in S.E. Asia—especially the U.S. air strategy. Mr. Speaker, this legislation provides for the expedited naturalization of Hmong veterans of the U.S. Secret Army currently residing in the United States (as legal aliens) who served with U.S. clandestine and special forces during the Vietnam War by allowing them to take the citizenship test with a translator since the Hmong are a tribal people with no written language, thus relying solely on the "story cloths".

The bill is capped at 45,000, in terms of the total number of Hmong veterans, their widows and orphans who currently reside in the United States who would fall under the legislation. This cap is supported by the Hmong veterans in the United States and is considered to be a generous cap. I support this legislation to provide relief to the Hmong heroes.

Mr. BALLENGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hmong Veterans' Naturalization Act because I feel that we should reward these brave individuals who assisted American efforts in the war against communism in Southeast Asia. The Hmong which we seek to honor today were a Laotian-based guerrilla group who fought valiantly alongside American and South Vietnamese troops in Vietnam. Many Hmong risked and lost their lives in defense of democracy at a crucial time in the history of that region. With Communism spreading across the Asian continent during the 60's, it was crucial for American troops to receive indigenous help in defense of South Vietnam. They were brave soldiers of freedom at time of great uncertainty, and their efforts have gone largely ignored for far too long.

Today, the Hmong are valuable citizens and employees in many communities across the United States, including the 10th district of North Carolina which I have the privilege to serve. In fact, I employ several Hmong in my company in Hickory, NC. They are truly great citizens who offer a strong work ethic and another facet of cultural diversity to my community, and to communities across this nation.

The Laotian Hmong have been the victims of persecution and genocide at the hands of

the Communist government in Laos, largely due to the help they provided America during the Vietnam War. Now it is time for us to reward them for their sacrifice and service. Please vote yes today on H.R. 371; let us reward these brave people by expediting the naturalization of Hmong aliens who served with these special guerrilla units in Laos during the Vietnam War.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 371, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to facilitate the naturalization of aliens who served with special guerrilla units or irregular forces in Laos."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### MEMORIAL TO HONOR DISABLED VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1509) to authorize the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1509

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. MEMORIAL TO HONOR DISABLED VETERANS OF THE UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

(a) MEMORIAL AUTHORIZED.—The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation is authorized to establish a memorial on Federal land in the District of Columbia or its environs to honor veterans who became disabled while serving in the Armed Forces of the United States.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the memorial shall be in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(c) PAYMENT OF EXPENSES.—The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the memorial. No Federal funds may be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the memorial.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—If, upon payment of all expenses of the establishment of the memorial (including the maintenance and preservation amount required under section 8(b) of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 1008(b))), or upon expiration of the authority for the memorial under section 10(b) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 1010(b)), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the memorial, the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Treasury for deposit in the

account provided for in section 8(b)(1) of such Act (40 U.S.C. 1008(b)(1)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would first like to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), for his efforts in introducing this bill. He has worked diligently in preparing this legislation. I urge Members' consideration and support of H.R. 1509.

A significant portion of veterans who served in defense of our Nation are disabled. In fact, there are nearly 2.3 million disabled veterans in America today who have fought in foreign conflicts ranging from the Gulf War to World War I. There are even 13 disabled veterans from the Mexican border war against Pancho Villa. Although we honor these men and women on Memorial Day, there is no memorial to commemorate those veterans who were disabled during our Nation's conflicts. H.R. 1509 serves to recognize our disabled veterans by authorizing the Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation to construct a memorial honoring their sacrifice on behalf of our country.

The Disabled Veterans' LIFE Memorial Foundation will be responsible for all expenses associated with the establishment of this memorial. This bill ensures that its establishment will be in compliance with the Commemorative Works Act and that Federal funds will not be used to pay for the memorial.

Mr. Speaker, I again commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for his tireless work on behalf of America's veterans, and H.R. 1509 reflects his years of service. The gentleman from Texas is a true war hero, and I urge Members to support this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may use.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this legislation as described by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN).

The minority side of the committee is in strong support of this legislation and in support of taking this important first step in the process. We look forward to a time hopefully when visitors to the Washington area can see a tangible reminder of the courage and the dedication displayed by many of our disabled veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), the author of this legislation.

(Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I appreciate the gentleman's help in getting this through the committee. I appreciate the help from the Democrat side as well.

I want to ask my colleagues to support this legislation which I introduced. It is to establish a memorial honoring our Nation's disabled veterans. The memorial expresses our thanks and, at the same time, honors the nearly 2.3 million disabled American veterans in our country today.

This memorial would pay tribute to the men and women who have fought in every major conflict this Nation has entered since the great Civil War, including 471,000 wounded in the Civil War; 234,000 wounded in World War I; 670,000 wounded in World War II; 100,000 wounded in Korea; 300,000 wounded in Vietnam; and nearly 500 wounded in the Persian Gulf War.

Despite those staggering numbers, they do not even begin to represent those who returned with no visible physical wounds but who suffered more through emotional agonies wrought by war.

There are monuments, memorials dedicated to the wars our Nation has fought and to those who lost their lives in the effort to preserve the freedom that we all enjoy. But we have not properly acknowledged the sacrifices of those who went and fought those same battles to preserve the same freedoms and who paid a severe price.

1530

We have yet to honor those who returned from battle with the scars and wounds which serve as daily reminders of how just costly a war can be and how precious the privileges that we enjoy in this Nation are.

This memorial would be the only one dedicated to disabled American veterans, many of whom are still living, thereby giving the American people an opportunity to honor and express their gratitude to those who have sacrificed so much for each of us.

It has been 25 years since the conclusion of the Vietnam War, which we have seen on TV in the past week, and 50 years since the Korean War. Those are two wars in which I fought. And I fear the passage of time is going to allow our wounded veterans to fade from the Nation's memory and conscience.

This memorial will ensure that our Nation will not forget the dedication and devotion to duty, honor, and country demonstrated by all disabled American veterans. It is time to honor their commitment to this Nation and to our freedom which we so richly enjoy.

God bless everyone. I hope my colleagues can see clear to passing this bill.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for his excellent remarks, and I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1509, which authorizes a memorial to honor disabled American veterans.

This legislation, sponsored by my friend and distinguished veteran, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), honors those veterans who not only risked their lives but gave part of themselves for our freedom. The courage and the conviction that are demonstrated by these heroes is inspiring and uniquely American.

Mr. Speaker, the soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines who defend our country are national treasures. Disabled veterans are brave men and women who deserve to be honored and remembered for their sacrifices. Their sacrifices teach us one lesson above all, freedom is not free. Our national security is preserved because we have men and women who are willing to pay the price, bear the burden, and meet the demand of keeping our country safe and secure.

All of us owe a great debt to those who wear the uniform in defense of America. As I like to say every day when I get up, I thank God for my life. And I thank our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and Marines for our way of life.

While we can never adequately thank the millions of American disabled veterans, this memorial will stand as an eternal reminder of their honor, service, and sacrifice. These are the heroes who protected freedom in America and ensured democracy for the world.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN).

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1509, a bill to establish a memorial honoring veterans who sustained disabling injuries in the service of their nation. I commend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) for bringing this measure to the floor at this time, and I urge all of our colleagues to join in supporting this worthy endeavor.

H.R. 1509 grants authorization to the Disabled Veterans Life Memorial Foundation to establish a memorial in our District of Columbia to honor all those veterans who became disabled while serving in our Armed Forces. The establishment of the disabled veterans memorial will be in accordance with the Commemorative Works Act, and this Foundation will be responsible for both managing contributions for and paying the expenses of establishing this memorial.

While all of our veterans deserve our support and appreciation, those who became disabled during their period of service deserve our special recognition. The Federal Government has recognized their extraordinary sacrifices

through the provision of free medical care from service-connected disabilities and the issuance of monthly disability pensions.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, remarkably, there is no separate monument to our disabled veterans in our Nation's capital. This legislation will correct that oversight.

For that reason, I urge my colleagues to give this measure their unwavering support.

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1509.

The question was taken.

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HANSEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 1509.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Utah?

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR APPOINTMENT OF ALAN G. SPOON AS CITIZEN REGENT OF BOARD OF REGENTS OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 40) providing for the appointment of Alan G. Spoon as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 40

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of resignation of Louis Gerstner of New York, is filled by the appointment of Alan G. Spoon of Maryland. The appointment is for a term of 6 years and shall take effect on the date of enactment of this joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, S.J. Res. 40 provides for the appointment of Alan Gary Spoon to serve on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

This 17-member board, which governs the Smithsonian Institution, is comprised of the Chief Justice and Vice President of the United States, three Members each from the House and Senate, and nine citizens who are nominated by the Board and approved jointly in a resolution of Congress.

Alan Spoon has served as chief operating officer and director of The Washington Post Company since May of 1991 and was elected president of that organization in September of 1993.

Prior to that experience, Mr. Spoon also served as president of Newsweek Magazine.

The Washington Post Company's involvement in areas of education and electronic information services, as well as producing technology publications, can prove to be a useful background in his service to the Smithsonian.

Before joining The Washington Post, he was a partner with an international consulting firm specializing in corporate strategy.

Mr. Spoon also brings previous experience with the Smithsonian as a member of the National Museum of Natural History's board of directors.

I believe the Smithsonian can benefit from Alan Spoon's financial, marketing, and management background. I urge my colleagues to support S.J. Res. 40.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened intently to the words of the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) on behalf of Mr. Spoon's nomination to the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

Mr. Spoon is indeed, as has been represented by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON), an outstanding American, an outstanding member of this community, a distinguished business executive; and he will bring a wealth of knowledge, experience, and wisdom to serve on the Smithsonian Board of Regents.

I share the view of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that he will be a very, very worthy addition to this Board and will serve the Smithsonian and the Nation well. I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 40.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 40.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### PROVIDING FOR REAPPOINTMENT OF MANUEL L. IBANEZ AS CITIZEN REGENT OF BOARD OF REGENTS OF SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution (S.J. Res. 42) providing for the reappointment of Manuel L. Ibanez as a citizen regent of the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution.

The Clerk read as follows:

S.J. RES. 42

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That, in accordance with section 5581 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (20 U.S.C. 43), the vacancy on the Board of Regents of the Smithsonian Institution, in the class other than Members of Congress, occurring by reason of the expiration of the term of Manuel L. Ibanez of Texas on May 4, 2000, is filled by the reappointment of the incumbent for a term of 6 years. The reappointment shall take effect on May 5, 2000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON).

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Manuel Luis Ibanez has been on the Board of Regents. I can vouch for his ability. He is being asked for reappointment to an additional 6-year term with the Smithsonian Institution. He served as president of Texas A&M University in Kingsville and is presently Professor of Microbiology.

As a current citizen regent of the Smithsonian, he brings a unique knowledge of science because of his specialization in bacterial physiology. He possesses a broad background in academic and public service and combines that with his institutional experience in the areas of grants, awards, and funding.

Dr. Ibanez has been a successful fundraiser while serving as president of Texas A&M University and lends that experience to an institution that relies on constantly increasing its private fund-raising base.

He has also expressed support for expanding the Smithsonian's traveling exhibitions to reach parts of our country that do not normally have access to such exhibits.

Dr. Ibanez has served successfully on the Smithsonian's Board of Regents for the past 6 years.

I urge my colleagues to support S.J. Res. 42, which reappoints Dr. Ibanez for another 6-year term.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, again I rise in support of this resolution.

I have listened to the words of the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) with reference to Dr. Ibanez, and I concur in those remarks.

Mr. Speaker, the Smithsonian Institution is, as my colleagues know, both a museum of extraordinary note but also a very distinguished academic institution. It not only displays knowledge, but it diffuses knowledge, as well.

Dr. Ibanez has served with distinction on the Smithsonian Board. So we have had Mr. Spoon, who is going to bring a new perspective, and Dr. Ibanez, who will continue to have an institutional memory of what has come before and what should go in the future.

So I am very pleased to rise in support of this resolution and to, frankly, thank Dr. Ibanez for agreeing to continue to expend his very valuable time in this volunteer way on behalf of a great American institution, in fact a great world institution, the Smithsonian Institution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) for his comments and I tell him that I appreciate those comments. Because Dr. Ibanez, of course, does live down near the valley in Texas and it is hard to get here, and sometimes those regents come from far away and we are proud to have representation from all over this Nation. It is a great institution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SAM JOHNSON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate joint resolution, S.J. Res. 42.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S.J. Res. 42.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### AMERICAN INDIAN TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES IMPROVEMENT ACT

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3629) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to improve the program for American Indian Tribal Colleges and Universities under part A of title III, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3629

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. APPLICATIONS FOR AND AWARD OF GRANTS.

(a) SIMPLIFICATION OF APPLICATIONS.—Sections 316(d)(2) and 317(d)(2) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1059c(d)(2), 1059d(d)(2)) are each amended by inserting after the first sentence the following: "The Secretary shall, to the extent possible, prescribe a simplified and streamlined format for such applications that takes into account the limited number of institutions that are eligible for assistance under this section."

(b) SPECIAL RULES FOR AWARDS.—

(1) TRIBAL COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—Section 316(d) of such Act is further amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

"(3) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY.—No Tribal College or University that receives funds under this section shall concurrently receive funds under other provisions of this part or part B.

"(B) EXEMPTION.—Section 313(d) shall not apply to institutions that are eligible to receive funds under this section.

"(C) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent possible and consistent with the competitive process under which such grants are awarded, ensure maximum and equitable distribution among all eligible institutions."

(2) ALASKAN NATIVE AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN INSTITUTIONS.—Section 317 of such Act is further amended by striking subsection (e) and by inserting at the end of subsection (d) the following new paragraph:

"(3) SPECIAL RULES.—

"(A) ELIGIBILITY.—No Alaskan Native-serving institution or Native Hawaiian-serving institution that receives funds under this section shall concurrently receive funds under other provisions of this part or part B.

"(B) EXEMPTION.—Section 313(d) shall not apply to institutions that are eligible to receive funds under this section.

"(C) DISTRIBUTION.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall, to the extent possible and consistent with the competitive process under which such grants are awarded, ensure maximum and equitable distribution among all eligible institutions."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall be effective on the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON).

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3629, as amended, which makes

technical improvements to sections 316 and 317 of title III of the Higher Education Act.

I want to thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) for introducing H.R. 3629 and bringing this matter to our attention.

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The bill we are considering today takes two technical improvements to title III that relate to tribal colleges and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. These institutions are located primarily in remote areas not served by other postsecondary education institutions.

They offer a broad range of degree and vocational certificate programs to students for whom these educational opportunities would otherwise be geographically and culturally inaccessible.

Under title III, grant funds are provided to postsecondary institutions for improving academic programs, for improving their management and fiscal operations, and to help institutions make effective use of technology. Funding is targeted to institutions that enroll large proportions of financially disadvantaged students and have low per-student expenditures.

Mr. Speaker, last year, 17 institutions received grant awards under this program. One used its funds to add computer hardware and software to improve the college's physical management, academic programming, and student services.

These improvements will include Internet access for instructors. Another institution is using its grant award to acquire new technology and provide staff development related to distance education programs.

Another institution is using its grant to acquire computers and Internet access for its students in order to improve academic achievement and increase student retention. Others are using their grant funds for many similar purposes.

The first technical improvement that we are making in this bill directs the Secretary of Education to simplify the application process for the limited number of institutions eligible for funds under this section 316 and 317.

Currently, institutions spend a great deal of time and money preparing applications for funds under the highly competitive title III grant program. For poorer institutions, these costs are often prohibitive. However, if the process is simplified, it is possible that more of the poorer institutions will apply for assistance.

The second improvement will allow these institutions to apply for a new grant without waiting until 2 years lapse after the expiration of a prior grant. Under current law, an institution receives a grant for a 5-year period and then must wait 2 years after the expiration of the grant before applying for another grant.

This 2-year wait-out rule was part of the original title III legislation, and its

purpose was to ensure that title III funding reached the maximum number of institutions. However, in the case of section 316 and 317 institutions, the 2-year wait-out rule is unnecessary.

Based on the current funding available and the limited number of institutions eligible for this program, there is no need for a wait-out period. By removing this restriction, funds for institutional development can go to the maximum number of institutions that submit a qualified application during next year's competition.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Education has included the elimination of the wait-out period in its lists of technical amendments to the higher educational amendments of 1998 and agrees that the wait-out is unnecessary.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support these technical amendments to title III of the Higher Education Act. I want to express my thanks again to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) for introducing this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3629. As our Nation becomes increasingly diverse, it is imperative that all of our segments of the population are afforded the opportunity to receive a quality postsecondary education if this Nation is to remain a world power.

Currently, 30 tribal colleges and universities and 13 Alaska-native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions are doing an excellent job of reaching out and providing services to some of the hardest to reach and most disadvantaged minority students in the country.

During the 1998 reauthorization of the Higher Education Act, Congress created two grant programs, based on the existing Federal aid program for historical black colleges and universities to assist these 43 institutions whose mission it is to serve Native Americans and Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiian students.

Eligible institutions can use program funds for a number of activities including faculty and academic program development and instructional faculty construction and maintenance.

Mr. Speaker, in many cases, these grants make the difference in an institution's viability. However, the Congress inadvertently placed hurdles between these vital institutions and this essential funding by requiring an unnecessary 2-year waiting period and an overly burdensome application process.

H.R. 3629 removes these hurdles by eliminating the waiting period and streamlining the application process. H.R. 3629, which provides some of the poorest schools educating some of the neediest students with easier access to funding that Congress made available to them in 1998, was reported favorably by the Committee on Education and the Workforce and has the support of the administration.

Mr. Speaker, as such, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 3629.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN), the sponsor of the bill, the original author of H.R. 3629.

Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin by thanking my friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON), for his support and work on this legislation, as well as my colleague across the aisle, the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ). I do appreciate their help on this.

Mr. Speaker, today we have a chance to reach out to educational institutions all across America. These institutions may be small in number, but they serve a very great need. Most importantly, the need they serve is experience by a dramatically underserved portion of the population. And for this portion of the population, these Americans, it offers, I believe, some great hope.

Today, we reach out to tribal colleges, not by spending more money, but making sure that for the dollars we do spend that those dollars are more accessible, distributed more equitably and easier to access by all involved. There are 32 tribal colleges in America right now and 12 States serving 25,000 Americans. My own home State of Wisconsin has two, the Lac Courte D'Oreilles Community College and the Menomonee Indian Tribal College.

For the Native Americans served at these institutions, these colleges are closing the gap between the America that is and the America that can be.

In 1998, Congress created the American Indian Tribally Controlled College and University Institutional Development Act. In fiscal year 2000, \$6 million has been awarded in a competitive grant program for these institutions in this program.

Last year, 16 tribal colleges applied for grants and eight received grants. We can do more, I believe; and we can reach more tribal colleges, and we can reach more Americans, the Americans that they serve; and that is what this bill attempts to do. Through technical changes that have been supported on both sides of the aisle, voice voted through the subcommittee and supported by the American Indian Higher Education Consortium, this bill will, by removing barriers, get more dollars to more tribal colleges.

As was mentioned previously, it makes some very simple changes. Number one, it directs the Secretary Of Education to simplify and streamline the application process. The current application process requires applicants to address no less than 16 different subject areas, well intended. Unfortunately, I am afraid it may be overkill. It has the unfortunate effect of discouraging fledgling tribal colleges from taking on the grant application process.

We worked closely with the Department of Education in developing these minor changes.

Secondly, this bill would direct the Secretary of Education to ensure a more equitable distribution of these limited dollars to the maximum number of institutions. We are not talking about a lot of dollars here, but it is obviously crucially important that those dollars go as far as they can.

Finally, as has been mentioned, this bill would exempt tribal colleges from the 2-year wait-out period required under title III part A. Again, we have a small number of institutions; but we want to make sure that this money is available to the institutions that most need it, a small number of institutions and perhaps a small number of Americans. But I believe the ripple effect in the area surrounding these institutions will be enormous and help them realize the potential of the American dream.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, the 1998 amendments to the Higher Education Act require all institutions receiving funding under part A of title III to wait 2 years after their 5-year grant expires to apply for an additional grant. We created this wait-out period to maximize fundings to institutions receiving funds under title III. This wait-out period applies only to tribal colleges, universities and Alaska-native and native Hawaiian-serving institutions. Without eliminating this wait-out requirement, there will be a situation in which Federal grant dollars are available but no tribal colleges, universities and Alaska-native and Hawaiian-serving institutions would be eligible to apply because of the small number of these institutions that exist.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bill so that these institutions can continue to provide the very high quality education to their students.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this member is pleased to be a cosponsor of H.R. 3629, the American Indian Tribal Colleges Universities Improvement Act. I commend the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) for introducing this legislation and the committee for bringing it to the floor.

This is almost orphan legislation. There are too few members unfortunately that pay attention to Native American issues and certainly to tribal college issues. So I am particularly pleased that the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) has taken this initiative. The committee has brought it to the floor. People like the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), always active on Native American issues, are supporting it, as I would always expect him to be supporting it.

Tribal colleges and universities do play a critical and important role in

providing postsecondary education opportunities for American Indians. These colleges are among the youngest, poorest, and smallest group of institutions of higher education in the United States.

As mentioned by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN), these 32 tribal colleges in the United States serve over 25,000 students. They are severely underfunded. There are two tribal colleges located in the first congressional district in Nebraska, the Nebraska Indian Community College and the Little Priest Tribal College. These two young colleges work with very limited resources to provide educational opportunities where none existed before.

Native Americans in Nebraska already have benefited from the services provided and the education offered by these institutions. This legislation, as we have heard, makes important technical corrections to the Higher Education Act title III strengthening institutions provisions.

This Member would focus on three that seem particularly important to my Native American constituents. First, the bill simplifies the application process. As we heard, it puts all colleges on equal footing regardless of age, size, or level of development.

Second, it directs the Secretary of Education to ensure equitable distribution of funding to the maximum number of tribal colleges possible.

Third, this measure exempts tribal colleges from the 2-year wait-out period now required under title III as mentioned by both the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE).

These three changes simply give tribal colleges the same application procedures now allowed for historically black colleges and universities in this country. Therefore, it is equitable. It is needed.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, this Member strongly urges his colleagues to support H.R. 3629.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor, I rise in support of H.R. 3629, Representative MARK GREEN's bill to make technical corrections to Sections 316 and 317 of Title III of the Higher Education Act with respect to Tribal Colleges and Alaska Native and Native Hawaiian-serving institutions. Title III provides grant funds to post-secondary institutions for improving academic programs, management and fiscal operations, and the use of technology, which was something I strongly supported during reauthorization of the Higher Education Act. Funding is targeted to institutions that enroll large proportions of financially disadvantaged students and have low per-student expenditures.

In Nebraska, our two fully accredited tribal colleges—Little Priest Tribal College in Winnebago, Nebraska, and Nebraska Indian Community College in Niobrara and Macy, Nebraska, will benefit from this bill. Major challenges face tribal colleges and their communities, and these schools could use all the support they can get for their important work.

H.R. 3629 helps by authorizing several technical changes that have no cost implications.

The first technical change requires the Secretary of Education to simplify the grant application process for a limited number of institutions eligible for funds under Section 316 and Section 317. If the process is simplified, and institutions don't need to hire expensive grant writers, it will be possible for more of the poorer institutions to apply for assistance.

The second, and perhaps more important change, will allow institutions to apply immediately for a new grant after the expiration of the prior grant. Under current law, an institution receives a grant for a five-year period and then must wait two years after the expiration of the grant before applying for another grant.

Based on the funding available and the limited number of institutions eligible for the program, there is no need for a wait-out period. By removing this restriction, funds for institutional development can go to the maximum number of institutions that submit a qualified application.

H.R. 3629 makes small but significant changes in the Higher Education Act. The bill should have the unanimous support of the House.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. MCKEON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3629, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCKEON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 3629, the bill just passed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Wanda Evan, one of his secretaries.

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#### SUPPORTING A NATIONAL CHARTER SCHOOLS WEEK

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 310) supporting a National Charter Schools Week.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 310

Whereas charter schools are public schools authorized by a designated public body and

operating on the principles of accountability, parent flexibility, choice, and autonomy;

Whereas in exchange for the flexibility and autonomy given to charter schools, they are held accountable by their sponsors for improving student achievement and for their financial and other operations;

Whereas 36 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico have passed laws authorizing charter schools;

Whereas 35 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico will have received more than \$350 million in grants from the Federal Government by the end of the current fiscal year for planning, startup, and implementation of charter schools since their authorization in 1994 under title X, part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8061 et seq.);

Whereas 32 States, the District of Columbia, and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico are serving approximately 350,000 students in more than 1,700 charter schools during the 1999 to 2000 school year;

Whereas charter schools can be vehicles both for improving student achievement for students who attend them and for stimulating change and improvement in all public schools and benefitting all public school students;

Whereas charter schools in many States serve significant numbers of students with lower income, students of color, and students with disabilities;

Whereas the Charter Schools Expansion Act of 1998 (Public Law 105-278) amended the Federal grant program for charter schools authorized by title X, part C of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 8061 et seq.) to strengthen accountability provisions at the Federal, State, and local levels to ensure that charter public schools are of high quality and are truly accountable to the public;

Whereas 7 of 10 charter schools report having a waiting list;

Whereas students in charter schools nationwide have similar demographic characteristics as students in all public schools;

Whereas charter schools have enjoyed broad bipartisan support from the Administration, the Congress, State governors and legislatures, educators, and parents across the Nation; and

Whereas charter schools are laboratories of reform and serve as models of how to educate children as effectively as possible: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That—*

(1) the Congress acknowledges and commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public school system; and

(2) it is the sense of the Congress that—

(A) a National Charter Schools Week should be established; and

(B) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to conduct appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities to demonstrate support for charter schools in communities throughout the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I reserve my time.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. ROEMER asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) for giving me the courtesy of going first.

Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman and my friend from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) noted, I introduced H. Con. Res. 310, which is a resolution supporting a National Charter Schools Week. It is also a bipartisan resolution introduced by myself, but with the support of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. UPTON), the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN), the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), and others. So we are acting in the best spirit of this House in trying to go forward with a bipartisan resolution on charter schools.

Mr. Speaker, Mark Twain once said that there is a big difference between using the right word and the almost right word, like the difference between "lightning" and a "lightning bug." There is a big difference there, just as there is a requirement as we approach public education today in America that we have the right ideas; the right reforms; the right bold, creative initiatives to help move this country in public education forward in this brand new century. Charter schools are part of that right reform and right-now idea.

This National Charter Schools Week seeks to recognize the many accomplishments of charter schools around the country. Seven out of ten charter schools currently have waiting lists.

I also joined in 1998 with the gentleman from California (Mr. RIGGS), to draft a bill that was signed into law to strengthen the accountability provisions, to provide even new support for charter schools around the country.

Mr. Speaker, I would be remiss if I did not recognize the role that President Clinton and Secretary Riley have played in supporting this innovative new idea of charter schools. In 1994 there were less than a dozen charter schools through the whole Nation. In 1999, there are over 1,700 charter schools, and we will probably have over 3,000 charter schools by the year 2002.

Charter schools in many States serve significant numbers of students with lower incomes, students of color, students with disabilities. They are not schools that attempt to cream the best students or cherry pick the best students; they are public schools that attempt to educate in innovative new ways all of the available students.

Mr. Speaker, I think one of the big areas we have seen progress in for charter schools, and I will give an example, to dismiss one of the myths about charter schools, is that we recently had

a hearing on the growth of charter schools in our Subcommittee on Education last month. We had Irene Sumida, the Director of Instruction at the Fenton Avenue Charter School in California, testify before the committee. Her school has a population in which about 84 percent of the students are identified as Title I students, meaning many of the poorest students. Sixty-four percent of the students at Fenton are limited English proficient. Ninety percent of the students qualify for free and reduced meals. Eighty-one percent are Hispanic, 14 percent African American. That is the demographics and the composition of the Fenton school.

Since they have been chartered, since they have public school choice, since they have more parental flexibility, here are some of the astounding results that we have seen in that charter school.

Fenton had the highest rate of gain in student attendance of all the schools in the Los Angeles Unified School District, the highest rate of gain in student attendance of all schools in the L.A. Unified School District. A great accomplishment.

Parental participation has increased from a handful of parents attending school meetings to over 400 parents a week, 400 parents a week utilizing Fenton's Family Center to participate in that inner-city school.

Then, you might say, what about the academics? On the California Test of Basic Skills, the number of students scoring at or above the 50th percentile has increased by 383 percent in reading, 253 percent in mathematics, and 280 percent in language.

When we talk about, Mr. Speaker, new ideas, and my constituents at home in Indiana want us to come up with new ideas for public education, it is probably the most important issue to my constituents today, they also want, secondly, better accountability of our schools, better quality in our schools, better achievement from the students. When you get those first two components, thirdly, they are willing to put more resources in to our public schools.

So when you see the results of the Fenton Avenue Charter School in California, which is one example of many of the 1,700 charter schools across the country, you can see why charter schools are part of the reform effort of public school choice in America, of new ideas, of helping all students achieve, regardless of where they live, regardless of income, regardless of color, regardless of religion, charter schools can be part of that effort. So that is one of the reasons that we have targeted and I have introduced this National Charter Schools Week, to provide more information and more knowledge about what charter schools can do.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let me conclude and simply say this: In America today, and I spent the last 2 weeks

going door-to-door, farm-to-farm, factory-to-factory, back home in Indiana, in the north central part of the State, education is the most important issue to our parents. We do not have a more important issue in America today than investing in our children, making sure they have a good public education system.

At the same time, we are going through a technological revolution in America, maybe more significant than the agricultural revolution or the industrial revolution. We must make sure that our public schools are ready and equipped with the technology and the computers, and that we do not have a huge digital divide between rich and poor in access to this technology.

Thirdly, our businesses everywhere are saying we need more workers. We have a 2.5 percent unemployment rate in northern Indiana and our businesses are saying, across the board, public education reform is part of the effort to get us more workers.

So, for these three reasons, parental involvement, the most important issue in America today; secondly, the technological revolution; thirdly, the businesses need more workers, we bring this charter school resolution before the floor today, in a bipartisan way, with bipartisan support, and we hope that we continue to see a lot of support from Congress, from the Republican and Democratic side, for more resources for start-up costs of more charter schools across the country, and we hope to work with the Committee on Appropriations to achieve that objective.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. TERRY), and, pending that, I ask unanimous consent that the time I control be controlled by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Wisconsin?

There was no objection.

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, I stand before you in support of the National Charter Schools Week. Thirty-six states and the District of Columbia currently allow charter schools to operate. Nearly 1,700 charter schools around the country are open, serving some 433,000 children. They have become an increasingly popular alternative among educators and local communities concerned about the effectiveness of traditional standards of public education. It provides alternatives for parents.

We are here to celebrate those States that have adopted that, those 37, but my hope is that it also sheds light on the 13 States, such as mine, Nebraska, that have yet to pass effective charter school legislation. So my State is not able to stand with President Clinton and celebrate charter schools. This is truly a bipartisan issue.

I got a letter just a few weeks ago from some parents in my district whose child was having difficulty learning in his home school, especially reading, under the traditional methods, and they had to send their child to a private school that would have met all the criteria of a traditional public charter school. Now, this is why for those 13 States we need to really heighten the discussion about why we need charter schools. Yet for all these parents in my district, with the needs for their children, the Nebraska legislature has refused to provide charter schools as an option for our students.

Political leaders from both sides of the aisle here today, from top to bottom, from President Clinton to local districts, openly embrace this new concept. I am hopeful that in the next legislative session legislators in Nebraska will make it a priority, bringing our school children in our State the type of educational reform supported by parents, educators, and politically elected officials alike.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI).

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to speak in support of this bill which commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public schools. I have been a supporter of the charter school movement since 1992, when former Representatives McCurdy and Penny and I introduced the Public Schools Redefinition Act of 1992. This bill was based on legislation introduced the previous year by Senators Durenberger of Minnesota and LIEBERMAN of Connecticut. That was the very beginning of Congressional efforts to encourage charter schools.

I am delighted to say that the bipartisan efforts of a handful of dedicated individuals resulted in the subsequent creation by Congress of a Federal public charter schools program in 1994. Later, the Charter School Expansion Act of 1998 revised the public charter school statute by, among other things, increasing its authorization and giving priority for grants to states, providing charter schools with financial autonomy.

We should remember that the charter school movement is a true grassroots movement. It is a movement that was started in the early 1990's by worried parents and frustrated teachers who were sick and tired of the status quo, sick and tired of battling the bureaucracy that strangles educational innovation, and sick and tired of seeing their children wallow in mediocrity and, in some cases, in failure.

It is, therefore, important to keep in mind that Congress should shy away from federally prescribing requirements such as teacher certification. According to the Charter Friends National Network, "More than two-thirds of the states—with more than 80 percent of the charters—currently have

some degree of flexibility in allowing use of teacher qualifications other than traditional certification."

Any attempt to apply a teacher certification mandate to charter schools would jeopardize their very nature, which is based on autonomy in exchange for academic excellence.

In my State of Wisconsin, I am proud to say we have a strong charter school and school choice program, particularly in the City of Milwaukee, where we have the prominent support of our Governor and other education reform-minded individuals, such as former School Superintendent Howard Fuller and Milwaukee Mayor John Norquist.

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Mr. Speaker, the bottom line is that charter schools work. They work because they are free from burdensome regulations; and in return, they are held accountable for academic results. I want to commend the gentleman from Indiana for introducing this resolution; I thank him for the opportunity to speak in support of this measure. I urge all of my colleagues to sport and promote this week as the national charter school week.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. DEMINT).

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, imagine an educated America where all children get a world-class education and the opportunity to achieve their dreams. Can we imagine a great school in every community for every child, or the best and brightest teaching our children? How about graduating 95 percent of high school seniors and enabling every willing child to receive a higher education. That is our dream for education, and that is why we believe so strongly in charter schools.

Charter schools are springing up throughout the Nation as innovative minds create new ways to offer students a quality education that meets their individual needs. Why do charter schools work? Because they are public schools which receive public support, but they are free from the red tape and the bureaucracy which hinders the success of so many of our schools in the public education system.

Charter schools allow folks who care about their community to bring their ideas together and to create new ways of educating our children. At present, there are over 1,700 charter schools around the Nation, and 10 of these are in my home State of South Carolina. It is my dream and goal to help charter schools flourish in South Carolina, to revitalize our education system.

Today, I rise to praise an excellent charter school in my district which opened its doors last fall, the Greenville Technical Charter High School. This charter high school does an outstanding job of integrating solid academics with a project-based learning curriculum which allows students to experience hands-on learning. Greenville Tech Charter School has over 50

percent of parents participating in various committees and support groups. Schools that are accountable to parents produce a better education product for their students.

The business community has rallied around this new school; and the students from this school have, in turn, returned tremendous contributions to the Greenville community by logging over 1,500 hours of community service. The Greenville Tech Charter High School addresses the needs of a diverse student body. There are currently 100 9th and 100 10th graders enrolled in this school. Twenty-five percent are classified as special education students and 32 percent qualify for free or reduced lunch.

I am proud to say that Greenville Tech Charter High School is creatively tackling the challenges of providing students of many backgrounds the opportunity to receive a superior academically challenging education. This strong education will launch these students into higher education or to success in the working world. Is that not what we all want, educated children who excel in an ever-changing world?

We may have different ideas how to get there, but let us not dispute the fact that charter schools are helping lead the way in making America an educated and prosperous Nation.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding me this time.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) for their hard work on this issue. The fact is that education should be bipartisan. Every minute that we talk about education, we should spend looking for those new ideas that the gentleman from Indiana talked about, those ideas that affect our children, the children in this country.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand before my colleagues today as a sponsor of this legislation, this small token, a resolution to create recognition for the success of charter schools. As a matter of fact, Mr. Speaker, North Carolina is a participant in the charter school program. This year we ranked 11th out of the 37 States, so we have a great deal of success in this. North Carolina permits 100 charter schools to be created. Currently we have 75 schools chartered and up and running; and I believe this year, 20 additional schools will be added. One that has been tremendously successful is the kindergartners at Healthy Start Academy in Durham, North Carolina. They achieved an average test score in the 99th percentile for reading and the 97th percentile for math. What an amazing statistic, given that just about all of the children at that school are eligible for the Federal free lunch program and come from low-income families.

What does this resolution do? Quite simply, it recognizes the success of new ideas, the success of people willing to put politics away and to let policy take over. In North Carolina alone, let me share with my colleagues some brief successes, some things that will happen this week. The America Renaissance Charter School in Statesville, North Carolina, is celebrating this week with a proclamation from the mayor, positive news articles, and National Charter School Week logo shirts. In Raleigh, North Carolina, at SARC Academy, the teachers there plan to go and meet with the general assembly members as our short session of the general assembly starts. In Chapel Hill where Village Charter School is, those students have been invited to a special performance of the University of North Carolina's Opera Work Shop just for the charter school kids.

Mr. Speaker, this is a week that we ought to be proud of, a week that complements the work of this body, and really the creativity and the passion of the American people. I hope every State has the opportunity in the future to introduce charter schools to their communities; and I hope that this Congress stays focused on the bipartisanship that we approached this issue with. I thank the chairman and the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER) for their great success.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to wrap up on my side by thanking the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), a friend of mine, for his kind comments. He is absolutely right, that what we need to do in this Congress and for this country is to try to work in bipartisan ways, with new ideas, with accountability, with increased quality, with better resources and improved public education in America today. Today, with this resolution that I have introduced, I give a lot of credit to the bipartisan nature today that we have achieved. I hope it continues into the future, and I too want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the chairman of our committee; and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI), the second ranking member on the Republican side, for their help and sponsorship. I want to thank on my side the gentleman from California (Mr. MILLER) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. MARTINEZ) and others for their help. I want to particularly thank the new Democrats, the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLEY) and the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SANCHEZ) and a host of other new Democrats that have been very supportive of the whole initiative to start charter schools across the country and support them from a policy perspective.

Mr. Speaker, I would conclude and say again, thanks to my colleagues for

the spirit that we see today, the spirit of bipartisanship. I hope it can continue into the Elementary Secondary Education Reauthorization Act. We will be bringing that vote to the floor soon. It was not particularly bipartisan in committee, and I hope we can rekindle the bipartisanship that we saw in the first part of the bill on title I, where an amendment that I offered on increasing the resources and the quality for title I kids, the poorest kids in America; and we were able to get a number of Republicans on to support that amendment and increase title I resources by \$1.5 billion, \$1.5 billion. When we can increase the quality of a program, we also might look at increasing the resources and quality of that program.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. HOEKSTRA).

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Colorado for yielding me this time. I also would like to applaud the work of our colleague on the other side of the aisle, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. ROEMER), on his strong support for the charter school movement.

I think what we are talking about today is we are talking about an aspect of the total package of public education; not pointing this out and saying this is the best version of public education, but recognizing that this is a reform in public education that ought to be highlighted, as well as reinforcing the solid public education that has gone on in this country day after day, year after year, for so many years. I want to make sure that our constituents recognize that this is an aspect of the total package of public education that is offered to our children around the country.

This resolution commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public education system. Charter schools have made tremendous progress in improving and reforming public education. Reports show that parental satisfaction is high, students are eager to learn, teachers and administrators are free from bureaucratic red tape, and more dollars are getting to the classroom. As these innovations and these improvements are highlighted through the charter school movement, we also see that a number of our other public schools are asking for the same kind of freedom and the same kind of relief from bureaucratic red tape, so that as we learn through the charter school movement about reforms and changes that can help public education, I am hopeful that the people who are administering the rest of public education or the legislators take a look at it and say, these things are helping our kids, let us take some of these reforms and let us move them into all of public education.

That is why charter schools in many cases are being seen as the force that is

driving change in schools around the country. Parents are given new choice for their children, and other schools have responded by increasing emphasis on parental involvement and high academic standards. That has been going on. But I think also what has been happening is that the charter school movement has been accelerating this pace in certain of our schools. Charter schools have an unprecedented amount of accountability to parents, school board members, and State governments. A school can be closed if it does not do its job and if it does not improve student performance. This method of accountability is spreading to traditional public schools and to the Federal education program.

In the State of Michigan we have 173 charter schools, educating more than 50,000 students. More than 70 percent of these schools have waiting lists. This clearly indicates the success of charter schools in these communities and the desire on the part of parents to have more options in public education. Charter schools represent reform; they represent innovation in public education. I hope all of my colleagues will join me in honoring them and also recognizing the work of all public schools for their important contributions to educating our kids and that they will do that by supporting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to the important comments that my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO), will now make.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I too wish to commend the gentleman from Indiana for his work on this resolution. It is an incredibly important advance that this Nation is observing in the entire area of educational improvement. I certainly am in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 310, which acknowledges and commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public school system and calls for National Charter Schools Week to be established.

As a former public school teacher at Drake Middle School in Colorado and as the Secretary of Education's regional representative in both the Reagan and Bush administration, I have firsthand experience in the trials and tribulations of teaching in the public school system in general. I also had the opportunity just recently, just over the break, to visit two charter schools in Colorado in my district; and it was a pleasure to be there and see how these schools are operating. One has been around since charter schools started in Colorado and Colorado was one of the first States in the Nation to have a charter school law on the books, and they are doing very well.

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They are doing very well.

I have also seen the results on the other side of inflicting the many unfunded mandates on our Nation's public schools and believe the charter

school movement is a direct result of the desire for parents to increase their involvement and control over their children's education.

New charter schools have swept the country to the point of including 35 States, the District of Columbia, and Puerto Rico, and represent a clear change in how education is disseminated across this great Nation. There are nearly 1,700 charter schools across the country serving almost 400,000 children.

Laboratories of learning are being established from coast to coast and the common denominator between them all is the staunch desire for local hands-on control by parents and teachers. From "back to basic" schools in Arizona to "magnet programs" in Colorado and even "outcome-based education" programs, they are all proving that there is not just one way to teach.

This resolution supporting National Charter Schools Week must be used as a means of celebrating true diversity. Diversity in education, diversity in learning, diversity in thought.

I would like to point out some of the results of Colorado's Charter School Program. In reading proficiency, the charter schools are at least 10 percentage points above the State average. In writing proficiency, they are significantly above the State average in both the fourth grade and seventh grade levels.

While performance is not yet what it should be in the charter schools, they have proven to produce a significant increase in proficiency, resulting in a minimum 10 percent advantage over the average of the entire State. These same results can be found all across the country when charter schools and schools of choice are made available as an option.

We will recall that 10 percent is the difference between two full letter grades in most schools. It takes students from average to above average and there is no better way to enhance self-esteem than to earn better grades.

Mr. Speaker, I have here an article on Colorado's charter schools which appeared in the April 4 edition of the Colorado Springs Gazette; an article on charter schools which appeared in the April 12 edition of The Hill; and a briefing paper entitled, "How Washington Can Really Help Charter Schools," prepared by the Lexington Institute. I would like to submit all three of these into the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, I also have a list of States with laws supporting the implementation of charter schools and the strengths and weaknesses of each charter school program, and I will submit those for the RECORD as well.

Supporting National Charter Schools Week lends credence to the proclamation that not everyone thinks alike and not everyone learns alike. Combined with the Charter Schools Expansion Act from the 105th Congress, it acknowledges the success of thinking out of the box by supporting and com-

mending those communities who have chosen to take control of their own destiny.

Mr. Speaker, I should also say there are attempts whenever we have something good happening in education, there is somebody out there that is going to try and stop it. And we have to make sure that the U.S. Department of Education and State departments of education throughout the Nation do not take advantage of the options they have in regulating State bureaucracies and State charter schools to try and stop it.

[From the Colorado Springs Gazette, Apr. 4, 2000]

COLORADO CHARTER SCHOOLS AREN'T PERFECT, BUT THEY GET THE JOB DONE

(By Robert Holland)

A recent report from the U.S. Department of Education documented the phenomenal growth of charter schools. But it took a state-level evaluation in Colorado to show how these largely autonomous public schools can work at their best.

The federal Department of Education reported that 421 charter schools opened in the 12 months before September 1999—a 40 percent jump, the sharpest increase yet. In all, more than 1,700 charter schools have come into existence since 1991, and they serve a quarter of a million students. Organizers receive exemption from many bureaucratic rules in exchange for a written pledge that they will deliver academic results.

In Colorado, charter schools clearly are living up to that promise. On average, charter students were scoring 10 to 16 percentage points above statewide averages, and three-fourths of charter schools also were outperforming their home districts and schools with comparable demographic profiles.

Colorado is a hotbed of activism for school choice. Were it not for the vigorous ongoing advocacy of private-school vouchers by business leaders like Steve Schuck and political leaders like Rep. Tom Tancredo, R-Colo., it is doubtful that the public school establishment would be embracing charters nearly as ardently. Charters don't provide a full range of educational choice, but they are a start.

The Colorado Education Department evaluated 51 charter schools that had been in operation at least two years. These schools constituted 3.3 percent of Colorado's public schools and served 13,000 students (1.9 percent of total enrollment).

The Core Knowledge curriculum developed by University of Virginia English professor E.D. Hirsch Jr., a prominent critic of the school-of-education mentality, was by far the most popular model among Colorado charter organizers. Twenty-two of the 51 schools used Core Knowledge. And the study shows that their confidence was not misplaced: According to the study, 14 of them "exceeded the expectations set for their performance," and the other eight "generally met" the expectations.

On the whole the evaluators found the charter schools "enjoy striking (some times extraordinary) levels of parent involvement," a factor universally valued as an ingredient in school success. As for reasons, the evaluators said that being able to seek out the school best for their child gave parents "a greater sense of commitment" to the school. In addition, parents appreciated that their schools welcomed their involvement and created opportunities for their participation.

Here are comparisons of the proportions of students who scored "proficient" or higher on the Colorado Student Assessment Program:

Third-grade reading: 77 percent of charter students; state average, 67 percent.

Fourth-grade reading: 73 percent of charter students, state average, 59 percent.

Fourth-grade writing: 49 percent of charter students, state average, 34 percent.

Seventh-grade reading: 66 percent of charter students, state average, 56 percent.

Seventh-grade writing: 57 percent of charter students; state average, 41 percent.

The charters exhibited a kind of diversity that is sometimes overlooked: They "were diverse in size, educational programs, educational philosophies, approach to governance, and assessment strategies. The diversity met the intent of the Colorado Charter Schools Act to offer new educational options to students and their parents."

In the wake of distressing outbreaks of violence at large schools, many educators are calling for a return to small schools. Colorado's charter schools fill the bill: Only 6 percent of the charters had more than 500 students, while 51 percent enrolled fewer than 200 pupils.

How much of a hand do parents have? Consider: Parents were represented on the governing boards of 90 percent of charter schools, and in 34 of the 47 charters reporting the composition of their boards, parents held a majority of seats.

[From The Hill, Apr. 12, 2000]

CHARTER SCHOOLS, SCHOOL CHOICE GAIN BIPARTISAN STEAM

(By Robert Holland and Don Soifer)

Creating charter schools as a way to foster family choice and competition within public education is an idea gaining a bipartisan head of steam on Capitol Hill.

But taking the next big step—tax credits or vouchers that could extend parental choice to private schools, as the G.I. Bill and Pell Grants do for college students—remains largely a Republican cause, with defections by "moderate" GOP lawmakers and threatened vetoes by President Clinton posing formidable obstacles.

Charter schools are a not-to-be-sneezed-at response, though, to education consumers' desire for more choices than a government monopoly typically will allow.

Their phenomenal growth from one school in Minnesota in 1991 to more than 1,700 nationwide today has been the hottest education story of the past decade. Entrepreneurs who organize charter schools get exemptions from stifling bureaucratic rules in exchange for a promise they will deliver academic results.

The biggest obstacle facing charter-school organizers is securing necessary financing for safe and functional facilities. With that concern eased, charters likely would pose even more of a competitive challenge to orthodox public schools. To address the facilities crunch, Rep. Heather Wilson (R-N.M.) in March introduced the Charter School Financing Act of 2000.

Through the Small Business Administration, the bill would distribute \$600 million for FY2001 in federal loan guarantees to eligible charter schools. Congress likely will have no more important piece of charter-school legislation before it this year. (The charter section of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act [ESEA] was reauthorized in 1998.)

The concept of providing tax advantages to parents who put money in Education Savings Accounts (ESA) to facilitate their totally free choice of schools has not yet gained nearly as much traction as charter schools.

On March 2, the Senate passed, 61-37, an ESA bill sponsored by Paul Coverdell (R-Ga.) and Robert Torricelli (D-N.J.). However, on the House side, a revolt in late March by 15

"moderate" Republicans may have killed ESAs for this session.

Still alive, though facing an almost-certain Clinton veto, is the idea of letting federal aid follow needy children to a school of the family's choosing. "Portability" received a significant boost when the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions passed it as an amendment to the ESEA offered by Sen. Judd Gregg (R-N.H.).

His measure would permit up to 10 states and 20 school districts to disburse their Title I aid in the name of individual needy children, and the money would go with the child to whatever public school the parents or guardians chose. Eventually, the choice could be extended to private schools also.

Despite expenditures of more than \$130 billion since Title I was passed 35 years ago in the heyday of President Johnson's War on Poverty, numerous federal evaluations have shown the massive has had little or no impact on closing the achievement gap for underprivileged children. Gregg voiced the hope that portability will create a competition to serve these children that will boost results.

Even in bilingual education, long a captive of special interests, elements of parental choice are catching on.

The Senate is about to take up House-passed reforms, proposed by House Education Committee Chairman Bill Goodling (R-Pa.) and Arizona Rep. Matt Salmon (R), that would require school districts to obtain informed parental consent before placing children in bilingual programs.

They also would eliminate the current rule mandating that at least 75 percent of federal bilingual dollars be spent to support instruction in students' non-English native languages, with the remainder reserved for ironically termed "alternative" programs—that is, classes teaching English, in English.

Republican Sens. Coverdell and Jon Kyl of Arizona are among those championing parental consent and notification provisions like those passed in the House.

Connecticut Democrat Joseph Lieberman also has a plan that would include sweeping bilingual education reforms, such as mandating that teachers of English learners be fluent in English and placing a three-year limit on federally funded bilingual programs.

Many parents new to this country have found that public schools have consigned their children to a kind of linguistic ghetto rather than teaching them promptly the language of jobs and citizenship. Bilingual reform can give the most humble parents the clout to change that.

[From the Lexington Institute, Issue Brief, Apr. 14, 2000]

HOW WASHINGTON CAN REALLY HELP CHARTER SCHOOLS

(By Don Soifer, Executive Vice President)

Charter schools' extraordinary growth—from one school in Minnesota in 1991 to over 1,700 nationwide today—may well be America's biggest education success story of the past decade. In Arizona one in six public schools is a charter school. In North Carolina, Michigan and elsewhere urban charter schools are bringing choice and accountability to families unaccustomed with either. "When we look back on the 1990s," First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton proclaimed to the National Education Association's 1999 national convention, "the charter school movement may well be one of the ways we have turned around the entire public education system."

With the President's most recent call for a further dramatic increase in the number of charter schools, and with charters at or near the top of many education reform agendas, it seems that Washington expects to play an

increasing role in this unfolding story. The critical task will be to foster the development of charter schools without interfering in their effectiveness.

These proposed federal remedies address many, though certainly not all, of the most formidable challenges facing the nation's charter school entrepreneurs. But they are just that, federal remedies, to advance a movement that is intrinsically local. Many charter school leaders argue that the best thing the federal government can do to cultivate their movement is to stay away while local education providers and state policymakers lay the essential groundwork. The threat of federal over-regulation looms large for charter schools, as revealed by recent intrusions by the Department of Justice's Civil Rights Division.

So how can Washington really help charter schools? The following policy recommendations were written with the guidance of charter school experts and leaders from around the country.

Require states to provide charter schools with their per-pupil share of Title I and other federal funding streams within months of the school's startup. The current process often takes a full year to get these funds to charter schools and can require state officials to engage in shaky guesswork—all at the expense of our most at-risk children.

Increase availability of financing for facilities, frequently the greatest obstacle facing charter school entrepreneurs. Safe and functional housing for charter schools can be hardest to find in urban areas where their mission is most vital. Financing opportunities, low-cost or otherwise, are often just as scarce. Second-hand facilities, perhaps those which previously housed public schools, post offices, or downsized military bases, could provide excellent homes for charter schools if available. Representative Heather Wilson's proposed Charter School Financing Act addresses this crunch by distributing \$600 million in federal loan guarantees to charter schools for facilities through the Small Business Administration.

Reallocate to the states the 5 percent of federal charter school funding currently set aside for the U.S. Department of Education to pursue "national activities" such as research and dissemination of information. Putting the money in states' hands would enable them to directly address financing or other practical issues.

Protect charter schools' flexibility from rigid teacher-certification requirements. The Clinton Administration boasts of its pro-charter agenda, claiming credit for the remarkable growth of charter schools during its tenure. But the rigid teacher-certification requirements in its current Elementary and Secondary Education Act reauthorization proposal threaten one of charter schools' most vital characteristics—the ability to hire effective teachers with real-world experience outside of traditional teacher-preparation schools and union-embraced professional development. Such a mandate could render futile the autonomy crucial to charter schools' success.

Offer grants beyond the first 3 years of a charter school's existence. This is enough time for some charters to gain necessary traction, but not others. Grants of 5-6 years would also provide successful charter schools with the boost to expand to meet an even greater need.

Ensure that only states with charter school laws on the books receive federal charter school funding. States that produce more charter schools deserve more federal charter school dollars. It is essential that charter school policy decisions should be made at the state level. Sending federal funds to non-charter school states does more than

just lessen their impact—it provides Washington bureaucrats with a vehicle to circumvent state laws.

Encourage startup grants which foster for-profit organization partnering with local groups. Arizona, which hosts the nation's most mature charter school movement, has a wide range of innovative private-sector funding sources and approaches. Officials there are quick to acknowledge that many of the state's best charter schools are run by, or through partnerships with, for-profit entities. In much the same spirit as enterprise zones that helped reinvigorate inner cities during the 1980s and 90s, private-sector leadership for the charter school movement can bring critical education growth to the urban settings where the need is most urgent.

With so much momentum on the side of America's charter schools, many in Washington, D.C. understandably want to get involved. Some, like Massachusetts Senator John Kerry, have called for making every public school in America a charter school. But as the charter school movement grows rapidly beyond its infancy, Washington must maintain the right middle ground between neglect and smothering. It will be a difficult balancing act.

[From the Center for Education Reform, Apr. 28, 2000]

MAKING SCHOOLS WORK BETTER FOR ALL CHILDREN

CHARTER SCHOOL HIGHLIGHTS AND STATISTICS

There are 37 charter school laws in the United States. Nearly 1,700 charter schools opened this fall in 31 states and the District of Columbia, serving over 400,000 students.

New Charter School States (Currently Unranked): Oklahoma (1999), Oregon (1999)

Charter School States That Have Strong to Medium Strength Laws (23): Arizona (1994), California (1992), Colorado (1993), Connecticut (1996), Delaware (1995), District of Columbia (1996), Florida (1996), Illinois (1996), Louisiana (1995), Massachusetts (1993), Michigan (1993), Minnesota (1991), Missouri (1998), New Hampshire (1995), New Jersey (1996), New York (1998), North Carolina (1996), Ohio (1997), Pennsylvania (1997), South Carolina (1996), Texas (1995), Utah (1998), Wisconsin (1993).

Charter School States That Have Weak Laws (12): Alaska (1995), Arkansas (1995), Georgia (1993), Hawaii (1994), Idaho (1998), Kansas (1994), Mississippi (1997), Nevada (1997), New Mexico (1993), Rhode Island (1995), Virginia (1998), Wyoming (1995).

CHARTER SCHOOLS IN OPERATION, 1999-2000 SCHOOL YEAR

State (year law passed)	Total opened
Alaska ('95)	17
Arizona ('94)	352
Arkansas ('95)	0
California ('92)	239
Colorado ('93)	65
Connecticut ('96)	16
Delaware ('95)	5
District of Columbia ('96)	31
Florida ('96)	111
Georgia ('93)	32
Hawaii ('94)	2
Idaho ('98)	8
Illinois ('94)	19
Kansas ('95)	15
Louisiana ('95)	17
Massachusetts ('93)	39
Michigan ('93)	173
Minnesota ('91)	59
Mississippi ('97)	1
Missouri ('98)	18
Nevada ('97)	5
New Hampshire ('95)	0
New Jersey ('96)	46

	<i>Total opened</i>
New Mexico ('93) .....	3
New York ('98) .....	7
North Carolina ('96) .....	75
Ohio ('97) .....	49
Oklahoma ('99) .....	0
Oregon ('99) .....	4
Pennsylvania ('97) .....	47
Rhode Island ('95) .....	2
South Carolina ('96) .....	8
Texas ('95) .....	167
Utah ('98) .....	3
Virginia ('98) .....	0
Wisconsin ('93) .....	55
Wyoming ('95) .....	0

Nationwide total ..... 1689

This information has been compiled through state departments of education and charter school resource centers. In some instances, however, there may be slight discrepancies.

For more information, see CER's overview of current *charter school laws*, including state-by-state *rankings of charter school laws* and 32-point *legislative profiles* of each state's charter provisions.

Mr. Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PEASE). The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), the honorable chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker I ask unanimous consent to reclaim 2 minutes of the time that I yielded back in order that I may also yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING), so that the chairman of the committee would have more than 2 minutes to speak.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Indiana?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GOODLING) is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. GOODLING. Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate all of the brave parents and pioneering educators who have taken part in the charter school movement over the last 9 years, and I certainly want to congratulate those who are here today promoting this legislation. There is no question that their commitment to educating our Nation's youth has made all the difference in the world to thousands of children.

About 7 month ago, I had the privilege of seeing a successful charter school in action when I visited Edison Friendship Public Charter School here in D.C. I will tell my colleagues, it was a privilege. It was a privilege because, number one, the school had just celebrated its first anniversary and during that year, student test scores had doubled. And number two, the parents of the students were actively engaged.

Mr. Speaker, these students have to get to that school on their own. There is no transportation provided. The parents must, of course, sign in relationship to discipline, and must sign in relationship to checking homework to

make sure that as a matter of fact the homework is being done. The parents of the students were very actively engaged.

In fact, children are learning in charter schools in some 32 States all across the country. They are learning because, by their very nature, charter schools are free from burdensome rules and regulations and because charter schools increase parental involvement by promoting choice in public education. In exchange for this freedom, charter schools are held accountable. If they do not do the job, they cease to exist.

I firmly believe that it is this do-or-die mentality that empowers students, parents, and teachers alike to perform at a high level. It is this do-or-die mentality this has made the charter school movement so successful, and it is this do-or-die mentality in the name of education that I applaud here today.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my fellow colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 310, "Supporting a National Charter Schools Week," which commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public school system. And improve it we must, because at the present time, we are losing probably 50 percent of our students each year who will never have an opportunity to get a piece of the American dream because they will not be prepared to do it.

We will be voting in the near future again to increase the number who come in from other countries to do our high-tech work. We need to prepare our own to do that.

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, in recognition of "National Charter Schools Week," May 1-5, and in support of H. Con. Res. 310, I rise to acknowledge and congratulate the phenomenal growth and success of charter schools in the United States and the remarkable success they have achieved. Colorado charter schools, I am particularly pleased to report, are among the nation's leaders when it comes to academic performance, parental satisfaction and accountability.

According to a recent study by the Colorado Department of Education (CDE), charter school students significantly outperformed state and local district averages in reading and writing. Other indicators, including parent satisfaction and participation, were also very positive. As the proud parent of three children attending Liberty Common School, a charter school in Fort Collins, Colorado in the Poudre School District, and one of the 51 Colorado charter schools participating in the CDE study, I can attest to the fact that charter schools work, are a catalyst for improvement in our nation's schools, and are in great demand across the country.

On this celebration of charter schools, I hereby submit a letter by Dr. Kathryn Knox, headmaster of Liberty Common School, on her experience testifying before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation of the Committee on Education on the success and challenges facing charter schools. Mr. Speaker, it clearly and persuasively addressed the opportunities and challenges facing charter schools today.

NOTES FROM DR. KNOX: WASHINGTON, D.C.

TESTIMONY

The question was asked, "Where were you the two days prior to Spring Break?" Though it would have been fun to say, "I was in Hawaii," actually, something else more important happened. I had the wonderful opportunity to be part of a bipartisan hearing on charter schools in Washington, D.C. for the Congressional subcommittee on Education and the Workforce. Four of us from different parts of the nation were invited. My colleagues on the panel were Ms. Sumida from Fenton Charter School in California (a district school that had become a charter school by choice, and one in which all continuing teachers resigned from the union in order to form a charter); Ms. Salcido from the Cesar Chavez Charter High School in Washington, D.C. (high population of at-risk students), and Mr. Schroeder from the Charter Friends Network in Minnesota. The chair of the committee was Representative Peter Hoekstra, and the bipartisan representatives were Congressman Bob Schaffer and Congressman Tim Roemer. I was honored to be able to present, with this panel, information about charter successes and challenges and respond to what the federal government was doing to help or hinder charter schools. In addition to the presentation at the Rayburn House, our testimony was taped by CSPAN and broadcast to about 9 million people, so we had the benefit of high visibility for Liberty across the nation. I thought Liberty parents would like to hear a bit about this experience. There were several questions from the members for which I will summarize a response.

Ms. Salcido noted some characteristics of charter schools which we all agreed on including freedom of choice, accountability for results, high standards for all involved in the school, doing away with bureaucracy, supporting innovation and a team-building spirit. Our common goal is to retain our autonomy and clear responsibility to the students, while obtaining fair funding and support of equal capital financing opportunities for the children's sake. Equal capital funding continues to be a challenge for most charter schools. At Liberty, for example, though we officially have 95% of per pupil operating revenue, if the building costs, maintenance, grounds, custodial costs, etc., are subtracted, and into the equation are added the lack of access to other revenue sources including capital reserve funds, mill levy funds, public bond monies, and even vehicle licensing fees, Liberty is operating on about 73% of each dollar given to other public schools.

The Department of Education will have a budget exceeding \$120 BILLION, and though we all want equality in funding, and want accountability for results, we don't want strings attached that allow subtle and increasing federal direction and control of local schools. The momentum for charter schools comes locally, and culture is positively different in a good charter school because of the local control. For one example of this: In our case, we received a substantial grant last year from the federal government. Later, we were told that because we had received and accepted federal monies, we had to eliminate our first-come/first-served waiting list and replace it with a lottery. Our charter states that we would hold slots for at-risk students to increase our socioeconomic diversity, but a lottery precludes this desire to reach a more diverse population.

The question about whether teachers feel professional or not in charter schools is responded to by considering the current reality of government-monopoly schooling. Under union contracts, all teachers are treated the

same and paid the same, and after a few years, are allowed to remain whether they are doing an excellent job or not. Prior to the three-year tenure period, teachers are often fired or simply laid off after a year in a school, depending on factors including current financing or the number of tenured teachers at a certain level of salary. In good charter schools, some teachers rise to the top as in any enterprise and should be paid more for their extra work, training, and professional responsibility. Teamwork, trustworthiness and collegiality are required for the development of a good school culture in which all teachers are involved in promoting the entire vision and mission of the school. The current paradigm of separation and isolation must be changed, and negative influences must be able to be removed from the enterprise so that student achievement and collegial teamwork is not hindered. Charter schools allow excellent teachers to develop skills and talents for the good of the students and the school. The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well for the good of students at Liberty and the whole school. Parent concerns and ideas are also valued here, and parents should always feel welcome to participate actively in the school.

The question about accountability and whether the state should have the ability to shut down a charter school if the school were not performing well, was expanded by Congressman Schaffer, who noted that the few charter schools that have closed may not have responded well to their client's needs and charter expectations, and that is a good thing, but that interestingly, other public schools that are not performing well are not similarly challenged to keep their doors open, but rather often receive MORE financing and help.

Overall, the hearing was fruitful and an opportunity included sharing information about Liberty's successes and challenges, in written form with 125 people, while responding to questions publicly. I am very grateful for this greater visibility for our wonderful school, and very grateful for each of your ideas, time, commitment and care.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Con. Res. 310, the resolution that honors National Charter Schools Week and commends the charter school movement for its contribution to improving our Nation's public school system.

Charter schools have been instrumental in demonstrating that accountability and innovation work together to improve our Nation's schools. This is because of the special agreement that these schools make with their state agency or local school board. The agreement is simple: the school is allowed to determine the best way to provide a quality education and, in exchange, it must produce results.

Charter schools have demonstrated that achievements can be made when local school districts are given the flexibility to shape their education programs in ways that work best for their teachers and students. Of course, in allowing flexibility, charter schools must produce real, accountable results.

And that is the bottom line—results.

In fact, an overwhelming majority of the initial reports on charter schools have demonstrated that charter schools are achieving their academic goals. But not only are academic results promising. Reports show that parental satisfaction is high, students are eager to learn, teachers are enjoying teaching again, administrators are set-free from administrative red-tape, and more dollars are getting to the classroom.

I am not here today to only tout the successes of individual charter schools. The Pub-

lic Charter Schools Program has a purpose greater than just creating new schools. The larger purpose of this program is to create a dynamic for change and improvement in our public school system. In the eight years since the first charter school opened its doors, we have seen the benefit that charter schools have had for the education system as a whole. Reports have found that wherever large numbers of charter schools are clustered, system-wide academic improvement has been accelerated.

Let us take a lesson from the charter schools experience that local flexibility and accountability are essential elements in the formula of successful schools.

The federal government has invested over \$120 billion in the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965. We have spent all of that money and can't say definitively that it has led to an increase in academic achievement. We must do something to ensure that the hard-earned money of the American people is spent wisely. Charter schools provide evidence that we should emphasize local flexibility and accountability in our federal education reforms.

The bottom line is that charter schools work because they are freed from burdensome regulations and held accountable for academic results. I commend these schools for their innovation in achieving academic results and for the contribution they have made to our nation's public school system. As we move forward in reforming our federal education programs, let us not forget the lessons learned from the charter schools experience.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 310.

The question was taken.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 310.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

PERIODIC REPORT ON NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO SIGNIFICANT NARCOTICS TRAFFICKERS CENTERED IN COLOMBIA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 106-232)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message

from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

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 (IEEPA), 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), I transmit herewith a 6-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order 12978 of October 21, 1995.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, May 2, 2000.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHIEF OF STAFF OF HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR., MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Paul P. Marcone, Chief of Staff for the Honorable James A. Traficant, Jr., Member of Congress.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, April 13, 2000.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House that I have received a subpoena for testimony before the grand jury issued by the United States District Court for the Northern District of Ohio.

Sincerely,

PAUL P. MARCONE.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 38 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6 p.m.

1803

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS) at 6 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on each of the first two motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 300, by the yeas and nays;

H.R. 2932, by the yeas and nays.

Proceedings on S. 1744, H.R. 1509, and H. Con. Res. 310 will resume on Wednesday, May 3.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

**RECOGNIZING AND COMMENDING FEDERAL WORKFORCE FOR SUCCESSFULLY ADDRESSING YEAR 2000 COMPUTER CHALLENGE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 300.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HORN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 300, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 0, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 131]  
YEAS—409

Abercrombie	Capps	Evans
Ackerman	Capuano	Everett
Aderholt	Cardin	Ewing
Allen	Castle	Farr
Andrews	Chabot	Fattah
Archer	Chambliss	Filner
Armey	Chenoweth-Hage	Fletcher
Baca	Clay	Foley
Bachus	Clayton	Forbes
Baird	Clement	Fossella
Baker	Clyburn	Fowler
Baldacci	Coble	Frank (MA)
Baldwin	Collins	Franks (NJ)
Ballenger	Combest	Frelinghuysen
Barcia	Condit	Frost
Barr	Conyers	Gallegly
Barrett (NE)	Cooksey	Ganske
Barrett (WI)	Costello	Gejdenson
Bartlett	Cox	Gekas
Barton	Coyne	Gephardt
Bass	Cramer	Gibbons
Bateman	Crane	Gilchrest
Becerra	Crowley	Gillmor
Bentsen	Cubin	Gilman
Bereuter	Cummings	Gonzalez
Berkley	Cunningham	Goode
Berman	Danner	Goodlatte
Berry	Davis (FL)	Goodling
Biggert	Davis (IL)	Gordon
Bilbray	Davis (VA)	Goss
Bilirakis	Deal	Graham
Bishop	DeFazio	Granger
Blagojevich	DeGette	Green (TX)
Bliley	Delahunt	Green (WI)
Blumenauer	DeLauro	Greenwood
Blunt	DeLay	Gutknecht
Boehlert	DeMint	Hall (OH)
Boehner	Deutsch	Hall (TX)
Bonilla	Diaz-Balart	Hansen
Bonior	Dickey	Hastings (FL)
Bono	Dicks	Hastings (WA)
Borski	Dingell	Hayes
Boswell	Dixon	Hayworth
Boucher	Doggett	Hefley
Boyd	Dooley	Herger
Brady (PA)	Doolittle	Hill (IN)
Brown (FL)	Doyle	Hill (MT)
Brown (OH)	Dreier	Hilleary
Bryant	Duncan	Hilliard
Burr	Dunn	Hinchee
Burton	Edwards	Hinojosa
Buyer	Ehlers	Hobson
Callahan	Ehrlich	Hoefel
Calvert	Emerson	Hoekstra
Camp	Engel	Holden
Campbell	English	Holt
Canady	Eshoo	Hooley
Cannon	Etheridge	Horn

Hostettler	Mica	Scarborough
Houghton	Millender-	Schaffer
Hoyer	McDonald	Schakowsky
Hulshof	Miller (FL)	Scott
Hunter	Miller, Gary	Sensenbrenner
Hutchinson	Miller, George	Serrano
Hyde	Minge	Shadegg
Inslee	Mink	Shaw
Isakson	Moakley	Shays
Jackson (IL)	Mollohan	Sherman
Jackson-Lee	Moore	Sherwood
(TX)	Moran (KS)	Shimkus
Jefferson	Moran (VA)	Shows
Jenkins	Morella	Shuster
John	Murtha	Simpson
Johnson (CT)	Nadler	Sisisky
Johnson, E. B.	Napolitano	Skeen
Johnson, Sam	Neal	Skelton
Jones (NC)	Nethercutt	Slaughter
Jones (OH)	Ney	Smith (MI)
Kanjorski	Northup	Smith (NJ)
Kaptur	Norwood	Smith (TX)
Kasich	Nussle	Smith (WA)
Kelly	Oberstar	Snyder
Kennedy	Obey	Spence
Kildee	Olver	Spratt
Kilpatrick	Ose	Stabenow
Kind (WI)	Owens	Stark
King (NY)	Packard	Stearns
Kingston	Pallone	Stenholm
Kleczka	Pascrell	Strickland
Klink	Pastor	Stump
Knollenberg	Paul	Stupak
Kolbe	Payne	Sununu
Kucinich	Pease	Talent
Kuykendall	Pelosi	Tancredo
LaFalce	Peterson (MN)	Tanner
LaHood	Peterson (PA)	Tauscher
Lampson	Petri	Taylor (MS)
Lantos	Phelps	Taylor (NC)
Largent	Pickering	Terry
Larson	Pickett	Thomas
Latham	Pitts	Thompson (CA)
LaTourette	Pombo	Thompson (MS)
Lazio	Pomeroy	Thornberry
Leach	Porter	Thune
Lee	Portman	Thurman
Levin	Price (NC)	Tiahrt
Lewis (CA)	Pryce (OH)	Tierney
Lewis (GA)	Quinn	Toomey
Lewis (KY)	Radanovich	Towns
Linder	Rahall	Trafficant
Lipinski	Ramstad	Turner
LoBiondo	Rangel	Udall (CO)
Lofgren	Regula	Udall (NM)
Lowe	Reyes	Upton
Lucas (KY)	Reynolds	Vento
Luther	Riley	Vitter
Maloney (CT)	Rivers	Walden
Maloney (NY)	Rodriguez	Walsh
Markey	Roemer	Wamp
Martinez	Rogan	Waters
Mascara	Rogers	Watkins
Matsui	Rohrabacher	Watt (NC)
McCarthy (MO)	Ros-Lehtinen	Watts (OK)
McCarthy (NY)	Rothman	Waxman
McCrery	Roukema	Weiner
McDermott	Roybal-Allard	Weldon (PA)
McGovern	Royce	Weller
McHugh	Rush	Wexler
McInnis	Ryan (WI)	Weygand
McKeon	Ryun (KS)	Whitfield
McKinney	Sabo	Wicker
McNulty	Salmon	Wilson
Meehan	Sanchez	Wolf
Meek (FL)	Sanders	Woolsey
Meeks (NY)	Sandlin	Wu
Menendez	Sanford	Wynn
Metcalfe	Sawyer	Young (FL)

**NOT VOTING—25**

Brady (TX)	McCollum	Sweeney
Carson	McIntosh	Tauzin
Coburn	McIntyre	Velazquez
Cook	Myrick	Visclosky
Cook	Ortiz	Weldon (FL)
Ford	Oxley	Wise
Gutierrez	Saxton	Young (AK)
Istook	Sessions	
Lucas (OK)	Souder	
Manzullo		

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Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE, Ms. WOOLSEY and Mr. JONES of North Carolina changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and

the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM**

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to advise the Members on both sides of the aisle that due to the fact that all the work that we have planned for this week is progressing so nicely, I can now tell Members that we should complete our work by midafternoon on Thursday; and, therefore, we will not be here Friday for votes.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time for the electronic vote on the additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

**GOLDEN SPIKE/CROSSROADS OF THE WEST NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill H.R. 2932, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Utah (Mr. HANSEN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2932, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 9, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 132]  
YEAS—400

Abercrombie	Berry	Calvert
Ackerman	Biggert	Camp
Aderholt	Bilbray	Canady
Allen	Bilirakis	Cannon
Andrews	Bishop	Capps
Archer	Blagojevich	Capuano
Armey	Bliley	Cardin
Baca	Blumenauer	Castle
Bachus	Blunt	Chabot
Baird	Boehlert	Chambliss
Baker	Boehner	Clay
Baldacci	Bonilla	Clayton
Baldwin	Bonior	Clement
Ballenger	Bono	Clyburn
Barcia	Borski	Collins
Barr	Boswell	Combest
Barrett (NE)	Boucher	Condit
Barrett (WI)	Boyd	Conyers
Bartlett	Brady (PA)	Cooksey
Barton	Brady (TX)	Costello
Bass	Brown (FL)	Cox
Bateman	Brown (OH)	Coyne
Becerra	Bryant	Cramer
Bentsen	Burr	Crane
Bereuter	Burton	Crowley
Berkley	Buyer	Cubin
Berman	Callahan	Cummings

Cunningham  
Danner  
Davis (FL)  
Davis (IL)  
Davis (VA)  
Deal  
DeFazio  
DeGette  
Delahunt  
DeLauro  
DeLay  
DeMint  
Deutsch  
Diaz-Balart  
Dickey  
Dicks  
Dingell  
Dixon  
Doggett  
Dooley  
Doolittle  
Doyle  
Dreier  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Edwards  
Ehlers  
Ehrlich  
Emerson  
Engel  
English  
Eshoo  
Etheridge  
Evans  
Everett  
Ewing  
Farr  
Fattah  
Filner  
Fletcher  
Foley  
Forbes  
Fossella  
Fowler  
Frank (MA)  
Franks (NJ)  
Frelinghuysen  
Frost  
Galleghy  
Ganske  
Gejdenson  
Gekas  
Gephardt  
Gibbons  
Gilchrest  
Gillmor  
Gilman  
Gonzalez  
Goode  
Goodlatte  
Goodling  
Gordon  
Goss  
Graham  
Granger  
Green (TX)  
Green (WI)  
Greenwood  
Gutknecht  
Hall (OH)  
Hall (TX)  
Hansen  
Hastings (FL)  
Hastings (WA)  
Hayes  
Hayworth  
Hefley  
Herger  
Hill (IN)  
Hill (MT)  
Hilleary  
Hilliard  
Hinchey  
Hinojosa  
Hobson  
Hoeffel  
Hoekstra  
Holden  
Holt  
Hooley  
Horn  
Hostettler  
Houghton  
Hoyer  
Hulshof  
Hunter  
Hutchinson  
Hyde  
Inslie

Isakson  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson-Lee  
(TX)  
Jefferson  
Jenkins  
John  
Johnson (CT)  
Johnson, E. B.  
Johnson, Sam  
Jones (NC)  
Jones (OH)  
Kanjorski  
Kaptur  
Kasich  
Kelly  
Kennedy  
Kildee  
Kind (WI)  
King (NY)  
Kingston  
Kleczka  
Klink  
Knollenberg  
Kolbe  
Kucinich  
Kuykendall  
LaFalce  
LaHood  
Lampson  
Lantos  
Larson  
Latham  
LaTourette  
Lazio  
Leach  
Lee  
Levin  
Lewis (CA)  
Lewis (GA)  
Lewis (KY)  
Linder  
Lipinski  
LoBiondo  
Lofgren  
Lowey  
Lucas (KY)  
Luther  
Maloney (CT)  
Maloney (NY)  
Markey  
Martinez  
Mascara  
Matsui  
McCarthy (MO)  
McCarthy (NY)  
McCrery  
McDermott  
McGovern  
McHugh  
McInnis  
McKeon  
McKinney  
McNulty  
Meehan  
Meek (FL)  
Meeks (NY)  
Menendez  
Metcalf  
Mica  
Millender-  
McDonald  
Miller (FL)  
Miller, George  
Minge  
Mink  
Moakley  
Mollohan  
Moore  
Moran (KS)  
Moran (VA)  
Morella  
Murtha  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Nethercutt  
Ney  
Northup  
Norwood  
Nussle  
Oberstar  
Obey  
Olver  
Ose  
Owens  
Packard  
Pallone  
Pascrell

Pastor  
Payne  
Pease  
Pelosi  
Peterson (MN)  
Peterson (PA)  
Petri  
Phelps  
Pickering  
Pickett  
Pitts  
Pombo  
Pomeroy  
Porter  
Portman  
Price (NC)  
Pryce (OH)  
Quinn  
Radanovich  
Rahall  
Ramstad  
Regula  
Reyes  
Reynolds  
Riley  
Rivers  
Rodriguez  
Roemer  
Rogan  
Rogers  
Rohrabacher  
Ros-Lehtinen  
Rothman  
Roukema  
Roybal-Allard  
Rush  
Ryan (WI)  
Ryun (KS)  
Sabo  
Salmon  
Sanchez  
Sanders  
Sandlin  
Sawyer  
Saxton  
Scarborough  
Schakowsky  
Scott  
Sensenbrenner  
Serrano  
Shadegg  
Shaw  
Shays  
Sherman  
Sherwood  
Shimkus  
Shows  
Shuster  
Simpson  
Sisisky  
Skeen  
Skelton  
Slaughter  
Smith (MI)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (TX)  
Smith (WA)  
Snyder  
Spence  
Spratt  
Stabenow  
Stark  
Stearns  
Stenholm  
Strickland  
Stump  
Stupak  
Sununu  
Talent  
Tancredo  
Tanner  
Tauscher  
Taylor (MS)  
Taylor (NC)  
Terry  
Thomas  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thornberry  
Thune  
Thurman  
Tiahrt  
Tierney  
Toomey  
Towns  
Traficant  
Turner  
Udall (CO)  
Udall (NM)

Upton  
Vento  
Vitter  
Walden  
Walsh  
Wamp  
Waters  
Watkins  
Watt (NC)  
Watts (OK)  
Waxman  
Weiner  
Weldon (PA)  
Weller  
Wexler  
Weygand

Whitfield  
Wicker  
Wilson  
Wolf  
Woolsey  
Wu  
Wynn  
Young (FL)

NAYS—9

Campbell  
Chenoweth-Hage  
Coble

Largent  
Miller, Gary  
Paul

Royce  
Sanford  
Schaffer

NOT VOTING—25

Carson  
Coburn  
Cook  
Ford  
Gutierrez  
Istook  
Kilpatrick  
Lucas (OK)  
Manzullo

McCollum  
McIntosh  
McIntyre  
Myrick  
Ortiz  
Oxley  
Rangel  
Sessions  
Souder

Sweeney  
Tauzin  
Velazquez  
Visclosky  
Weldon (FL)  
Wise  
Young (AK)

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So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title was amended so as to read: "A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Golden Spike/Crossroads of the West National Heritage Area Study Area and to establish the Crossroads of the West Historic District in the State of Utah."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. VELAZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained today, May 2, 2000. If I had been present for rollcall No. 131, I would have voted "yea." If I had been present for rollcall No. 132, I would have voted "yea."

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-600) on the resolution (H. Res. 482) providing for the consideration of motions to suspend the rules, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 673, FLORIDA KEYS WATER QUALITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT OF 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-601) on the resolution (H. Res. 483) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 673) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2957, LAKE PONTCHARTRAIN BASIN RESTORATION ACT

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-602) on the resolution (H. Res. 484) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2957) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality restoration projects for Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1106, ALTERNATIVE WATER SOURCES ACT OF 1999

Mr. DIAZ-BALART, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 106-603) on the resolution (H. Res. 485) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1106) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to State agencies with responsibility for water source development for the purpose of maximizing available water supply and protecting the environment through the development of alternative water sources, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### AMERICAN AND MEXICAN TRUCK DRIVERS ARE CASUALTIES OF NAFTA

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to recognize two often-overlooked groups of people who have been innocent casualties of NAFTA, American and Mexican truck drivers. While I have repeated time and time again that American truckers will be forced to compete with their unregulated and underpaid counterparts south of the border, Mexican truck drivers are often overlooked casualties. But the truth is that NAFTA and its evil minions have forced Mexican truck drivers to work 1, 2 and even 3 days straight to get their goods to the U.S.-Mexican border.

The Mexican Government is one of the accomplices. Even though Canacar, the Mexican trucking association, has asked for 5 more years before the border is opened to unlimited truck hauling, the Mexican Government continually demands that the border be open

immediately. Canacar admits that the Mexican truck fleet is old and in general disrepair, and neither the fleet nor its crews are safely ready to compete with newer American trucks and its rested drivers.

So why does the Mexican Government continue to push for the cross-border opening? Because the Mexican Government does not seem to care much about its own citizens. Right now, the Mexican economic system forces truck operators to drive days on end, and, as reported in a story by the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, most of these drivers are often fueled by narcotics. Mexican truck drivers freely admit that they would prepare for long hauls with beer, marijuana, pills, and cocaine.

According to one driver, "You must not eat too much meat on a long run, because it will make you sleepy and then you need more cocaine." Clearly, these drivers are sleep deprived.

As another driver, Juan Alvarez, put it, "The biggest problem is lack of sleep. I just drove 36 hours straight. Sometimes I get 6 to 12 hours off between loads." Juan does this for \$500 for every 15 days that he drives.

The Mexican Government and its company-sponsored union have forced these drivers into this predicament. Unlike American drivers, Mexican drivers have no right to speak freely or bargain collectively. They know little about the specifics of the NAFTA treaty, and their government likes it that way.

So this brings us back to the American truck drivers, who would be unfairly forced to compete against Mexican truck drivers that are treated with indifference by their own government. But American truckers realize that the Mexican truck drivers are not treated as people by their government; and that, simply put, is not the fault of Mexican truck drivers. It is the Mexican system that is at fault. It is our fault for entering into a treaty with a country that has a completely different socio-economic and labor-management structure than ours.

Thankfully, President Clinton did not open up the borders, as NAFTA called for, on January 1, 2000. Because if he did, we would have thousands of these sleep-deprived Mexican truckers driving all over our highways and byways throughout this Nation endangering other truckers and motorists on the road.

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In fact, many Mexican trucks and their drivers have already been found illegally in States throughout the United States of America. Most likely because their government tells them little about our current law.

Clearly, President Clinton made the right decision by keeping the border closed. For the sake of all American truckers' jobs and the safety of the American public, let us hope it stays that way for a long, long time.

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

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. PALLONE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. METCALF addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### IN MEMORY OF EVANDER S. SIMPSON

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

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to pay homage to Evander S. Simpson of Smithfield, North Carolina, who died on April 27 after a long and fruitful life. His passing has removed from North Carolina's Second Congressional District a giant of community service, a leader of humanity, and a man who has left the world immeasurably better than he found it.

The death of Evander Simpson leaves a void that will not soon be filled. Mr. Simpson was a member of what Tom Brokaw called "The Greatest Generation." Those were the men and women who went off collectively to save the world when World War II was thrust upon them. And it was they who, when the war was over, joined in joyous and short-lived celebrations, then immediately began the task of rebuilding their lives and the world that they wanted.

Brokaw's description certainly fits the life of Evander Simpson. Born in 1914 in Sampson County to a father who served for 35 years as a teacher and principal, his future and career direction was foreordained. Mr. Simpson attended the University of North Carolina, eventually receiving a bachelor's degree, a master's degree, and an advanced certificate for school administration from that institution. By the age of 24, Evander had become principal of Newton Grove High School.

World War II intervened; and Mr. Simpson, then serving as Secretary to the Committee on Education in the U.S. House of Representatives, volunteered for the Navy, answering the call, as Tom Brokaw said, "to help save the world from the two most powerful ruthless and military machines ever

assembled, instruments of conquest in the hands of fascist maniacs." Mr. Simpson served as a gunnery officer in action in the Arctic and in both the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans.

With the end of the war, Mr. Simpson came home to North Carolina, and for the next 3 years worked at North Carolina State University counseling the thousands of Tar Heel veterans who were flooding into our colleges and universities determined to make up for the time that they had lost while they were off fighting the war. A position as a high school principal followed, but in 1951 Mr. Simpson was appointed superintendent of Johnston County schools, a position which he would hold for 29 years and that would define the rest of his life and leave an indelible impression on the people of Johnston County and North Carolina.

Evander Simpson and Johnston County's schools were at the heart of the county's progress over those 29 years. Eighteen schools were consolidated into five. Accreditation for all schools in the country from the State Department of Public Instruction and the Southern Association of Schools was obtained. Teacher pay supplements were established, kindergarten programs were established county wide, and Mr. Simpson was deeply involved in the establishment of the Johnston County Community College. Mr. Simpson earned a reputation of being one of the top school superintendents in the nation during those years.

An indefatigable man whose devotion to his county was legendary, Evander found time to serve 14 years on the Board of Trustees of the University of North Carolina, to serve as president of the North Carolina Education Association, to serve for 30 years on the Johnston County Board of Health, and to serve for six years on the board of the University of North Carolina at Wilmington.

Mr. Simpson was a Paul Harris Fellow in Rotary International, a member of the American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, and the Chamber of Commerce. That organization awarded him its Distinguished Citizen Award in 1969. He was a deacon, Sunday school superintendent, and Brooks Bible Class teacher for more than 35 years at Smithfield First Baptist Church.

No man has ever loved his country and its history more than Evander Simpson. Johnston County residents know that his every speech would include references to the great documents of this Nation. A speech to veterans might include George Washington's prayer on his inauguration as President. A speech to a civic club would include a reference to the Declaration of Independence or Lincoln's Gettysburg address, both of which he could recite to memory. The great speeches of history were fodder for his mill, including the great inaugural speech by President Kennedy, "Ask not what your country can do for you, ask what you can do for your country."

Generations of Johnston County individuals were influenced by the great good of Evander Simpson. He believed in the innate goodness of men and women, that people of good will could

find acceptable answers to any problem, that the spiritual needs of humanity must be served, that planning for the future was preferable to lamenting of the failures of the past.

The great sportswriter Grantland Rice could have had Evander Simpson in mind when he wrote the following: "For when the great scorer comes to mark against your name, he writes not that you won or lost but how you played the game."

Evander Simpson played the game with dedication to God and his community. We who are left can only thank a kind providence that placed him along beside us on this highway of life.

I am also pleased this evening to say to this body that I am also placing with this speech a tribute to Evander Simpson read by Miss Carolyn G. Ennis at Mr. Simpson's funeral on April 30, 2000, and that tribute follows my remarks herewith, Mr. Speaker:

A MAN NAMED SIMPSON

(By Carolyn G. Ennis)

And God stepped out on space  
And he looked around and said,  
I'm lonely, I'll make me an educator.  
So God made many teachers and principals.  
And the young children were taught.  
And the young children learned. And God said, "That's good."  
And God said, I'm lonely still. I need a dynamic leader  
A man who knows how to look like a banker,  
How to act like a gentleman,  
How to think like a politician,  
And how to work from sunrise to midnight like a homegrown country farmer.  
So God made many, many more educators,  
But he was lonely still. And God said, "I'll make me an  
Excellent educator:  
A man with vision, values, agility and versatility;  
A professional man and Crusader with a pioneering spirit.  
One whom the power of office will not spoil nor kill,  
One who has a conscience and a will,  
To do the right thing at the right time, the right way.  
So God sat down by the side of the river  
In a place called Sampson County.  
With his head in his hand he thought and thought.  
Then God said, "I'll make me an extra-special educator  
—A superintendent for schools.  
A man for consolidation, accreditation, and integration,  
A man for providing sources and resources to develop  
The best educational opportunities for all children and  
For all teachers in Johnston County;  
A man who will know how to "command" from his experience  
In the military so others will learn how to march in unity  
To the same drumbeat for excellence in education.  
So God made this "Educator of Excellence".  
And Johnston County, North Carolina, the United States of  
America and the entire educational arena of the world  
Have never been quite the same, since God created  
Mr. Evander S. Simpson, who was and still is an extra-special, excellent educator. And God said, "That's Good,"

And today, we echo again in fond memory of Mr. E. S. Simpson  
Relections of your life to repeat. That's good

#### ON SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I first want to yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST).

#### TRIBUTE TO CORPORAL JOHN T. WEED

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. What I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, is to honor a young man who, 33 years ago on May 14, 1967, was a corpsman in the Navy, fought with the Marines in Vietnam, served his country extremely well, and on that particular date put his own life in danger to save my life while in an operation called "Union" in the northern part of South Vietnam.

That young man, who went to Vietnam in 1966, in November, stayed more than a year and not only served his country well, not only served the Marines very well, but he acted responsibly as an American and was a fine example of this country to that war-torn region and to the people.

That young man is with us today, Mr. Speaker. His name is John T. Weed from Texas. And I wanted to make this statement to salute his effort, his commitment, his courage, his grace, and his skill.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me and for his patience.

I just talked to former Corporal John T. Weed, who is with us today, and the gentleman who took care of our good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), when he was badly wounded in Vietnam as a Marine Corpsman.

But what he said, which the gentleman from Maryland did not say, was that, in fact, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) saved his life twice. The gentleman from Maryland always manages to pass over that when he is talking about John Weed.

I have just had an opportunity to talk to him, and I have to agree with my colleague he is a great American, truly. And he mentioned another thing, and that is that the platoon sergeant, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST), was the most stabilizing influence on his life as an 18-year-old trooper in the Marines.

So I wanted to add my two cents worth and add the rest of the story to the story told by the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate those announcements by my colleagues.

I have been working on Social Security for the last 5 years. I am very concerned that we are putting off tough decisions that are going to mean that we either, in the future, substantially raise social security taxes on workers or we cut benefits.

And we have done that before. In 1977, when we were short of Social Security funds to pay benefits, we both cut benefits and increased taxes. We did that again in 1983, when money was short in the Social Security Trust Fund. We again in that year cut benefits and raised taxes. So some people are suggesting that we add giant IOUs to the Social Security Trust Fund and assume that the Government is going to pay that money back at a later date.

Let me briefly review a pie chart that shows the budget of the United States for this year. As we can see, the bottom green pie is Social Security. It represents 20 percent of the total budget. Defense only represents 18 percent of the total budget. The 12 appropriation bills that we spend most of the year arguing about is even smaller than the Social Security budget, with 19 percent.

If we take all of the entitlement programs, it represents a little over half of the Federal budget. And here is what is projected by the Social Security Administration actuaries. They are suggesting that if we do nothing, social security taxes, taxes to cover our senior programs, will have to increase from the current 15-odd percent up to 40 percent within the next 38 years. That is if we do nothing. Two choices: either taxes are going to substantially be increased or benefits are going to have to be cut by over one-third.

That is why I think it is so appropriate in this presidential election year that we have an articulate discussion on how to save Social Security. I was disturbed last night when AL GORE started criticizing Governor Bush's proposal that he has not even made yet. So demagoguing this issue is not going to help come to a final solution. It is going to jeopardize being able to work together. Look, we are not going to do this unless Republicans and Democrats work together.

Here is a quick snapshot of the bleak future of Social Security. We have a short-term surplus coming in for the next 11 or 12 years on Social Security. After that we reach into somebody else's pocket to come up with the funds. The estimate from the actuaries is \$120 trillion that we are going to be short in terms of our commitment to Social Security over and above what is coming in in taxes.

#### SHOOTING AT ZOO AND GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I want to welcome Members back and inform

Members, in case someone was off the planet last week, that Columbine came to the Nation's capital last week here where the Congress sits.

At a traditional kids' fun day at the National Zoo, created by the Congress for kids, seven children were shot. One, an 11-year-old boy, lies at Children's Hospital with a bullet in his head. He was the quintessential innocent victim. Harris "Pappy" Bates is a big baby of a boy, the kind one would expect to find at the zoo on Easter Monday. Very much still a child, a rotund kid who was named Pappy because he looked like a papoose when he was born.

His family had their first access to the press on Sunday. They thanked people for their prayers and they thanked the President for calling. They said they were praying for the 16-year-old suspect who was being held for the shooting. This family, I must say, gives real meaning to Christianity at a time when so many profess Christianity and speak only of vengeance. Pappy's mother said to me that she had always intended to be at the Million Moms March coming up on Mother's Day. She also said she supported gun safety legislation and always has.

Pappy Bates is one of 700 children killed by gunfire in the Nation's capital, children under 19, during the 1990s. But there have been 80,000 children killed by gunfire since 1978. The gun safety bill pending before us is only part of a very complex puzzle. The networks are in the puzzle, cable is in the puzzle, sports is in the puzzle, violent computer games is in the puzzle, and above all parents, who have the primary responsibility for children, are in the puzzle. We have to work to get all pieces on the table, and I want to work with Members on all pieces of the puzzle. But would we leave guns out of this puzzle?

We are so very close, my colleagues.

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Who would, after seeing what happened right here under the nose of the Capitol on Easter Monday, even think of leaving a loophole in the gun bill now stalled before us?

For all Americans, the average Americans, indeed 90 percent of Americans, the instant check will work. But according to the data, the 10 percent that we need 24 hours to look at are 20 times more likely to be criminals or people with a mental defect or people who otherwise should not have a gun.

It has been more than a year since the Columbine youth massacre. Not one more week, Mr. Speaker, not one more week after this week should pass, and certainly not after an 11-year-old lies with a bullet in his brain at Children's Hospital right here in the Nation's capital. Not after Columbine, which itself should have been all we needed, if we needed even that. Not after what had happened at the zoo.

I ask Members to come back with a new resolve to do what we almost have done. We are almost there. It has been

difficult. Let us go the rest of the way. Do it for Pappy. But, above all, do it for the children in our districts.

#### U.S. NEEDS ADMINISTRATION THAT WILL DEAL WITH RUSSIA IN FAIR AND CONSISTENT MANNER ON ARMS CONTROL PROCESS

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

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, over the recess period, I had the occasion of interacting with over 50 senior Russian leaders from the equivalent of our Congress, the State Duma and the Federation Council.

I had the pleasure of meeting them at Columbia University at a conference. I spoke to 25 new Duma deputies at Harvard University and the John F. Kennedy School of Government. And just today, on the other side, we met for an ongoing conference between Senators and House Members and members of the Russian leadership.

The underlying concern expressed by the Russians with America is a lack of confidence in what our real intentions are. They say that oftentimes we will lead them down a path and then undermine what they thought were our ultimate intentions.

That is happening again, Mr. Speaker. We are all happy that the Russian Duma just recently ratified START II, in fact over the break. But, unfortunately, again this administration has led the Russians down a negative road.

Three years ago the administration negotiated substantive changes to the ABM Treaty involving multilateralizing the Treaty and demarcation between theater national missile defense systems.

As required by our Constitution, the administration should have been brought those changes to the Senate for their advice and consent. Repeatedly members of the Senate said, bring them forward, let us look at them and debate them; and repeatedly the administration failed to do that because they knew they did not have the votes to get them passed. So then they convinced the Russians to put those two items on the back of START II so the Senate would have to consider them as a part of the START II protocol issues.

Now we are going to again disappoint the Russians because the administration chose not to have a legitimate debate on those two protocols but rather have the Russians attach them to the START II treaty that they passed in Moscow just several weeks ago.

Mr. Speaker, when are we going to learn? To deal with the Russians, we have to be up front, candid, and consistent. The more games that we play, the more underhanded tactics when we cannot get issues resolved according to our Constitution, the more consternation and frustration it causes in our relationship with Russia.

Unfortunately, once again, the Russians will feel that we have let them down and that our word is not good. How tragic it is and how sad it is. We need an administration, Mr. Speaker, who will deal with Russia in a consistent, fair, and uphanded manner, not one that plays games on the arms control process.

#### TRIBUTE TO JENARD AND GAIL GROSS AND JEWISH WOMEN INTERNATIONAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Jenard and Gail Gross and the Jewish Women International. This is an important evening and an important week as I honor the Jewish Women International organization and my good friends, great Houstonians, great Texans and great Americans, Jenard and Gail Gross.

The Jewish Women International strengthens the lives of women, children, and families through education, advocacy, and action. Jewish Women International focuses on family violence and the emotional health of children on the local, national, and global level.

Jewish Women International spearheads activities to educate the Jewish community about domestic violence. Currently, more than 3,000 rabbis from all branches of Judaism have been alerted to the growing tide of family abuse and have learned how to recognize the signs of abuse in their congregation by reading the Resource Guide for Rabbis on Domestic Violence.

In particular, I would like to honor Gail and Jenard Gross for their unwavering support for Jewish Women International and their efforts involving the Prejudice Awareness Summit.

As we move into the 21st century, clearly the challenge for Americans, with all of our diversity, is to learn to live together in peace, to accept our diversity, to appreciate it, to applaud it. And if there ever are two individuals who applaud and appreciate diversity and live it every day, it is Gail and Jenard Gross.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit is an unprecedented opportunity for teams of students to have a positive interactive learning experience with peers from a variety of ethnic, cultural, racial, and economic backgrounds through one-day workshops on prejudice.

The Prejudice Awareness Summit educates our youth about prejudice by providing a comfortable forum to discuss issues of prejudice. With a thorough knowledge of stereotypes, exposure to powerful speakers, and interactive learning exercises, these students can become leaders in the battle against prejudice.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity today to participate in the President

and Mrs. Clinton's teenage summit. One of the points that was made is that we always encourage young people that they are the leaders of tomorrow. And one very eloquent speaker said, our young people are the leaders of today because. Because they are the leaders of today, we need to teach them and educate them to the value of diversity in living the opposition of prejudice.

America's cultural diversity enables our country to achieve great accomplishments. However, our diversity also causes much friction borne of ignorance. The Prejudice Awareness Summit will prepare our Nation's youth to become leaders in a country where diversity can be considered a blessing and not a source of division. The work of Gail and Jenard Gross on behalf of the Prejudice Awareness Summit does not go unnoticed.

On May 4, Jewish Women International will bestow the Good Heart Humanitarian Award on Gail and Jenard Gross. The Good Heart Humanitarian Award honors a member or members of the Houston community contributing to the goals of this organization. This award is presented annually to annually to recognize and pay tribute to outstanding members of the Houston community who have contributed to the humanitarian needs of Houston.

Previously, honorees have included outstanding contributors in the fields of education, health care, politics, the legal profession, the media, and exemplary members of Jewish Women International.

Gail Gross is a very spiritual person, a very humble person. She attributes much of her success to her commitment to meditation, spirituality and her wonderful marriage to her husband Jenard Gross. She is a local, national, an international humanitarian, a savvy businesswoman, and a scholar in numerous areas. She also has just received her doctorate in education. She is now Dr. Gail Gross.

Gail once stated that to her life has three parts: the first part devoted to education, which she has evidenced in her own career and profession; the second part dedicated to raising her children; and the third part, the time she currently devotes to service.

As vice president of Gross Investment/Builders, a real estate company started by her husband, she satisfies her yearning for professional excellence. However, her joy is to serve the Houston community. She does it now every week with her own radio program encouraging, listening, and teaching the community about the value of education of our young people. Whether serving on 24 boards, fundraising, or advocating on behalf of the voiceless, Gail is a shining example of genuine concern and generosity.

Jenard Gross has been in the building and real estate investment field since 1954. During this period he has built and owned more than 14,000 apartment units throughout Texas. He has built several small strip centers, developed a residential subdivision, and invested in

land and mini-warehouses. Moreover, he is past president of the Houston Apartment Association and the National Apartment Association.

But he is also a builder for humanity. He has worked as a member of the Board of Regents of Texas Southern University Historically Black College, and he believes in housing those who need to be housed.

Mr. Speaker, as I conclude, Jeanard's business accomplishments are many, but his involvement in a number of civic and philanthropic organizations in the city of Houston are legendary.

Jenard and his wife Gail have always advocated for the voiceless. Many Houstonians have improved their lives due to the generosity and service of Gail and Jenard Gross. They are mighty and great, and I salute them and congratulate them for their great leadership.

I am reminded of a quote by Theodore Roosevelt, who stated:

Far better it is to dare mighty things, to win glorious triumphs, even though checked with failure, than to take rank with those poor spirits who neither enjoy much nor suffer much, because they live in the gray twilight that knows not victory nor defeat.

Gail and Jenard are persons of action and have dared mighty things for Houston. For their love of Houston and its people we will be eternally grateful. I can think of no other best suited to receive the Good Heart Humanitarian Award and the respect of the American people.

#### WORLD BANK AIDS MARSHALL PLAN TRUST FUND ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first I would like to thank my colleagues for allowing tonight's special order to be held to increase awareness of the AIDS epidemic which is really scourging Africa and many other developing nations throughout the world.

Sixty percent of the 16 million deaths, however, have been in sub-Saharan Africa as a result of AIDS.

I would also like to applaud the leadership and commitment of the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman LEACH) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE), the ranking member, of the House Committee on Banking, and also the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), our minority leader, for addressing this huge crises in Africa and throughout the world.

I believe that the diligence of the hearings and the markup held in March of this year on H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Prevention Trust Fund Act, represents a necessary response to the urgency of the AIDS crisis in Africa.

The World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act represents the most effective bipartisan strategy to date possible to push this issue to the national forefront.

As we work to establish partnerships and relationships with African countries whether as health care experts, business persons, activists or policy-makers, it is critical that we unite to focus both attention and resources on the global emergence of HIV and AIDS which wreaks havoc in developing countries, most tragically in sub-Saharan Africa.

I have worked very closely with my colleague and dear friend, Congressman RON DELLUMS, who served with distinction in this body for over 27 years. Congressman DELLUMS has been instrumental on focusing on this initiative and building constituent and congressional support to address the AIDS pandemic.

With his position as chair of the White House Council on AIDS and as president of the Constituency for Africa, he has engaged in consistent dialogue regarding this pandemic both here and within the United States. And I want to thank him for his remarkable contributions.

Tonight we have Members who will talk about this huge pandemic. We appreciate being allowed the hour of time.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from San Francisco, California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding. But more importantly, I thank her for her tremendous leadership and encouragement on calling to the attention of Congress and the country the global HIV/AIDS issue and working with our former colleague, Congressman RON DELLUMS, on this.

Mr. Speaker, it is really exasperating. For years we have known about the spread of global HIV and AIDS. For years Members of Congress have appealed to both Democratic and Republican administrations to put this issue on the agenda of the G-7.

What do they have to talk about that is more important than the health, or lack thereof, of millions of people in Africa and throughout the world? What has more of an impact on the economies of the developing world than the health of its people?

Now it is being considered a national security issue at long last. I commend the Clinton administration for making this very bold statement. Frankly, it is long overdue.

The extent of the global AIDS epidemic is staggering. Over 23 million people are infected with HIV in Africa, and nearly 14 million Africans have already died from AIDS. The social, economic, and human cost of the crisis is devastating entire nations. And this is just the beginning.

In Asia and India, India already has more infected people than any other nation. When I talk about Africa, I am talking about the continent. In terms of India, one nation, 3½ million infected people.

Experts are predicting that, without significant efforts to treat those with HIV and prevent new infections, the number of people living with HIV/AIDS in India could surpass the combined number of all cases in all African countries within two decades.

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We clearly have a long way to go. These numbers are staggering, but any single one of them is a tragedy and we should be motivated by it.

Think of all the orphans that this tragedy has produced. Some of those orphans are HIV infected as well; but even among those who are not, they have tremendous needs and, sadly, this was predictable.

We clearly have a long way to go. I am pleased that as a Nation we are finally beginning to focus more of our attention and resources on the global AIDS epidemic and that the National Security Council has declared HIV/AIDS to be a national security threat.

I just want to inject a word here about our colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), who has traveled the world on this issue since he came to Congress, which is nearly I think it is over a decade. So, again, this is no surprise and has been no secret. Even though there has been a great deal of denial about it, the problem has existed for a long time.

Many of us in Congress again have been working for years to draw attention to this crisis. We know sadly from our own experience, in my district in San Francisco when I came to Congress 13 years ago, 13,000 people had already died of AIDS in my district. Think of that, Mr. Speaker, if that had happened in your district, how intolerable it would be.

That is the only thing we should not tolerate in our society is the HIV rate that is among us.

Funding for prevention, education, treatment, and care must be increased dramatically and our commitment to the development of an AIDS vaccine must be strengthened.

In terms of our funding, we also have to think internationally. We have begged for the money that we have, about \$147 million, and then another \$16 million or so for orphans each year; but we need 10 times that to do our share globally in terms of HIV/AIDS.

I have introduced the Vaccines for the New Millennium Act in order to create incentives for private sector biotech and pharmaceutical companies to accelerate their research and development efforts for vaccines against HIV, tuberculosis, and malaria. Vaccines are the best hope to bring this epidemic under control.

It is about prevention. We must do all we can to facilitate cooperation between the public and private sectors in order to bring together the resources and expertise necessary to move quickly towards effective vaccines.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I want to again call to the attention of our col-

league the incredible leadership, well, it is believable so I will just say the great leadership of our colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), on this subject. She has made it a priority. She has developed legislation to meet this terrible challenge. She has not been shy about the amount of money that this is going to require, and she has been very, very bold as she has gone forth with this. She has provided great leadership for us because she has a vision about what she wants to accomplish. She has tremendous knowledge about the subject we are dealing with. She has a plan. She has a plan, a good plan, to attack the challenge; and she and her leadership is able to attract a great deal of support for this cause.

So on behalf of the many people in my district who have died of HIV and live with HIV and AIDS now, I want to commend her and thank her.

One final note is that this weekend I had the privilege of participating in the march on Washington that some of our colleagues were involved in, that we spoke to, the huge crowd, over 800,000 people; and one of the major issues on the agenda of the day was increased funding for HIV and AIDS.

What is important for us to do is with all of our research for a cure, which is very important, it must be relentless. Even though we have some protease inhibitors that prolong and improve the quality of life, that those drugs must be available to everyone. We cannot say that we are not engaged in research but the cure only goes to the wealthy. The cure must be available across the board and across the world. So I hope that we will be thinking in ways that are new and different about this.

AIDS has been a model, really the mobilization, for support for research, care, and prevention. That mobilization in our country has been a model to other illnesses. Now the mobilization is on the international and national scene, and we must not any longer ignore it. Now that it has been declared a national security threat, at least there is the attention focused at the right level on it.

I would have hoped that compassion for the millions of people who are HIV infected would have been enough motivation, but we will take the help wherever we can get it. Again, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for her leadership, for the rallying cry she has given; and we are all very, very pleased to follow her lead on this.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me just say thanks to my colleague, the gentlewoman from San Francisco, California (Ms. PELOSI), for her very strong support and also for her consistent work throughout the years on behalf of peace and security throughout the world. I thank her very much for everything that she does on behalf of all of our people, not only in the Bay Area but throughout the country and the world.

The gentlewoman mentioned the whole issue of orphans in Africa and the impact of the HIV/AIDS crisis on children. Last year I had the opportunity to participate in a presidential delegation to Africa and met with and witnessed some of the children who had been orphaned by AIDS, many who had the virus. We are told now that there are 7.8 million children in southern Africa alone who are orphaned as a result of AIDS; but by the year 2010, it is expected, if we do nothing, that there will be 40 million children orphaned by AIDS; and this number, 40 million, is the number of children in our entire public school system in the United States of America. Staggering numbers.

So I just want to thank all of the Members here tonight for helping us raise the level of awareness for the country to really understand the tremendous serious implications of what this whole virus presents to us.

Now I would like to yield to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA), who has been very instrumental in helping us forge a bipartisan strategy to tackle this pandemic.

Mrs. MORELLA. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for her leadership on this issue and for yielding me the time and for arranging this special global HIV/AIDS special order; also my colleagues who are here and others who would like to be here who do support the concept of recognizing that, as the Clinton administration has, that worldwide AIDS crisis is a threat to the United States national security and that, in fact, it could topple foreign governments, touch off ethnic wars and reverse decades of work in building free-market democracies abroad.

This declaration correctly raises the focus on this epidemic, especially in Africa, which has been reported by CNN to be, quote, "the worst health calamity since the Middle Ages and one likely to be even worse," unquote.

Statistics of the economic, social and personal devastation of the disease in sub-Saharan Africa are staggering. To mention some of them, 23.3 million of the 33.6 million people with AIDS worldwide reside in Africa; 3.8 million of the 5.6 million new HIV infections in 1999 occurred in Africa. African residents accounted for 85 percent of all AIDS-related deaths in 1999, and 10 million of the 13 million children orphaned by AIDS live in Africa.

Life expectancy in Africa is expected to plummet from 59 years to 45 years between the years of 2005 and 2010.

Now, many experts attribute the spread of the virus to a number of factors, including poverty, ignorance, costly treatments, lack of sex education and unsafe sexual practices. Some blame the transient nature of the workforce. Many men, needing to leave their families to drive trucks, work in

mines or on construction projects, engage in sex with commercial sex workers of whom an estimated 90 percent are HIV positive, and in addition many men go untested and unknowingly spread the virus.

Many of those infected cannot afford the potent combination of HIV treatments available in Western countries, and in some countries only 40 percent of the hospitals in some capital cities have access to basic drugs.

While efforts are continuing to find an AIDS vaccine, many experts fear that some African countries hardest hit by the epidemic lack the basic infrastructure to deliver the vaccine to those most in need.

More than 25 percent of working-age adults are estimated to carry the virus. Countries have lost 10 to 20 years of life expectancy due to this disease, and 80 percent of those dying from AIDS were between ages 20 and 50, which is the bulk of the African workforce.

As was mentioned by the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE), 40 million children will be orphaned by the disease by 2010. Many of these children will be forced to drop out of school to care for a dying parent or take care of younger children. Children themselves are being infected with the disease, many through maternal fetal transmission. And while drugs like AZT have been proven effective in reducing the risk of an HIV-positive mother infecting her newborn child, those drugs often are too costly for most nations.

Legislation has been introduced by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) and the gentleman from California (Ms. LEE) which particularly target the tragedy in sub-Saharan Africa. However, it also addresses the worldwide AIDS crisis.

H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Prevention Trust Fund Act, directs that the U.S. Government should seek the establishment of a new AIDS prevention trust fund at the World Bank. The bill authorizes U.S. contributions of \$100 million a year for 5 years in hopes of leveraging that contribution to obtain contributions from other governments as well as the private sector to reach \$1 billion a year. The proceeds of the trust fund would support AIDS education, prevention, treatment and vaccine development efforts in the world's poorest countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa.

The President has proposed \$350 million to prevent the spread of AIDS around the world. Under the President's proposal, funding will be targeted where it is needed the most, in sub-Saharan Africa. The AIDS Marshall Plan fund for Africa will help to ensure that the Federal Government addresses this issue over the next several years. However, studies indicate that Africa is just the tip of the iceberg. New HIV and AIDS diagnosis are escalating in the Caribbean, Latin America, Asia, and the Balkans at alarming rates.

Now the United States is uniquely positioned to lead the world in the prevention and eradication of HIV and AIDS. The administration's request, the AIDS Marshall Plan fund for Africa, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act will provide the funding and the framework to respond to the AIDS pandemic in Africa and throughout the world.

I would also like to mention legislation I have introduced to enhance the research on microbicides which would enable and empower women to be able to have a barrier against sexually transmitted diseases and HIV and AIDS.

We can no longer afford to debate whether or not fighting global disease is simply an idealistic crusade. Instead, we must recognize the fact that it has clearly become a fiscal and national security imperative.

The good news is that the United States is taking action. The bad news is it is taking so long.

I conclude with a quote from a physician who directs AIDS prevention at the CDC and he said, "Oh, yeah, it is very late but better late than never. You rarely get a second chance in an epidemic."

I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the others who have gathered here tonight to focus on this important crisis so that we can do something to ameliorate it.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) for that very eloquent statement and for setting forth the case and bringing out more statistics as it relates to this pandemic, and also for her leadership on not only HIV/AIDS but also on health care issues in general for our country.

Let me also mention that as the gentlewoman from Maryland (Mrs. MORELLA) and the gentleman from California (Ms. PELOSI) indicated earlier, AIDS threatens economic security but also human life. It has been set forth in a Washington Post article, which I would like to put into the RECORD, from today. It is titled, "AIDS is Declared Threat to Security. White House Fears Epidemic Could Destabilize the World."

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HIV and AIDS in Africa has created also an economic crisis, crippling Africa's workforce in many areas and creating even greater economic instability where poverty is ever present. In many countries now, companies are hiring two and three persons, two and three employees to fill one job, because, of course, it is assumed that one or two will die of AIDS.

In the Republic of Congo, according to the National Intelligence Estimate, it indicates, this document indicates that the militias in Anglo and the democratic Republic of Congo show an HIV prevalence rate of 40 to 60 percent.

As the AIDS crisis grows, it will only exacerbate dangerous economic and political instability.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield now to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), my colleague who throughout his life has been a consistent supporter for justice and equality and health care for all throughout our world. I want to thank the gentleman for being with us tonight.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act. I also want to take this opportunity to commend the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for the outstanding leadership that she is providing on this issue. As a matter of fact, I know that people were concerned when Representative Ron Dellums decided to retire, but they knew that they had someone waiting in the wings ready to take over and take charge and to follow along with some of the tremendous work that he started, and I certainly want to commend Ron, even though not being a current Member of Congress, he is still providing valuable leadership on this issue throughout the world.

As the most developed Nation in the world, we have an obligation and a responsibility to share our technology and medical expertise with developing nations. As a matter of fact, I come from a school of thought which suggests that to those to whom much is given, much is expected in return; therefore, we have not only an opportunity, but also the responsibility to share the great wealth and the great resources of this Nation.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt once said that the test of our progress is not whether we add more to the abundance of those who have much, it is whether we provide enough for those who have too little. And I submit to you tonight that the continent of Africa is being stripped of its most precious resource, its people.

Mr. Speaker, more than 11 million Africans have already died from AIDS since its inception; that represents more than 70 percent of the AIDS deaths worldwide. Another 23 million Africans are currently infected with HIV or AIDS.

In South Africa alone, it is estimated that there are more than 1,500 new HIV infections each and every day. We can no longer afford to sit back and do so little or in many instances do nothing about what is happening throughout the world.

HIV/AIDS is a threat, yes, to our national security, but it is also a threat to the security of the world community. I commend President Clinton for his recognition of that fact as we have seen an increase in the proposal of resources to deal with this problem, but those increases that have been proposed are not even enough.

AIDS has a major impact on our trade with Africa. The World Health Organization and other relief organizations were committed to ending this dreaded disease some time ago, but, more importantly, if we continue to do

nothing or little, eventually Africa will have a population of orphans that is unthinkable. Currently, more than 13 million children have lost one or both their parents to AIDS.

The statistics suggest that the number will reach 40 million by the year 2010. Yes, we now have an opportunity, because we had a Marshall Plan to rebuild Europe after the war. It is now time to apply the same principles, the same practices, the same techniques, the same tactics to help prevent the spread of HIV/AIDS in Africa.

Now, is the time for action. Each day that we wait, thousands more are subjected to HIV/AIDS infection. And I say to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), again, I am pleased to join with the gentlewoman and all of those who have come to call for a massive infusion of resources, similar to the Marshall Plan that we used after World War II. If we could do it then, with the strong economy that we are experiencing today there is nothing to prevent us from initiating and implementing this magnificent effort that the gentlewoman and others have put together to bring help, hope, and relief to our dying brothers and sisters in Africa, but also to our dying brothers and sisters in the American streets in every city, village, and hamlet of this Nation and throughout the world. I thank and commend the gentlewoman for her outstanding work.

Ms. LEE. I thank the gentleman. And I want to thank my colleague from Illinois for his very eloquent remarks and his kind remarks and also for bringing clarity to not only this issue but so many of the tough issues which we deal with here in the United States Congress. I also thank the gentleman for bringing this right back home, because this is a global pandemic which we are dealing with. I thank the gentleman for participating with us.

I would like to yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), a colleague who has been really in the forefront challenging the pharmaceutical companies to do the right thing, by providing affordable drugs to those in need, not only in America, but throughout the world.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for being such an outstanding leader and outspoken person on the issue of the global AIDS crisis. It is a little bit hard to follow my colleague from Illinois and his eloquence and his beautiful voice, but I appreciate the opportunity to weigh in on this important issue.

I want to also express my continuing support for H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act, which is sponsored by the gentlewoman from California and also the chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services from Iowa, and I am very proud to be a cosponsor of that bill.

If enacted, H.R. 3519 would create a worldwide trust fund that is adminis-

tered by the World Bank and funded by governments, the private sector, and international organizations. Nations would be able to receive grants from the trust fund to address the HIV/AIDS crisis. The bill would direct the United States to contribute \$200 million a year, and I hope it stays at no less than \$200 million, to the fund for 5 years, the hope being that U.S. contributions would help leverage contributions from others in the private sector and the international community.

Although the passage of this bill would be a significant victory in the battle against HIV/AIDS, it is a small drop in a very big bucket. It is estimated that about \$10 billion would be needed to fight AIDS in Africa over the next 5 years, just to fight AIDS in Africa.

We must do much more if we want to seriously address the HIV/AIDS epidemic that is killing millions of people worldwide, and the United States has to lead the way. It is in our own best interests to do so, because HIV/AIDS knows no borders and it threatens the stability of the world, even more than conventional warfare.

I have been extremely concerned in the past by the actions of our government on this issue. While a number of important initiatives have been created and championed by the administration, and I do not want to diminish those, I yet was dismayed when I realized efforts by other nations were being blocked because of objections raised by the pharmaceutical industry and in turn by our government. These were efforts that would lower the cost of AIDS drugs by manufacturing generics or importing them at a lower cost. We saw our own government step in on the side of the pharmaceutical companies to prevent that.

I have been encouraged by recent comments by the administration that appear to reflect a policy change on this issue. I hope that I will not hear any more reports of our administration weighing in to prevent others from addressing their own national emergencies. I would hope that the United States would take advantage of every opportunity to help other nations address this crisis, including relinquishing to the World Trade Organization patents on AIDS drugs that are owned by the United States and were developed using our own taxpayer funds.

I commend the administration and National Security Council for the step taken this week in designating HIV/AIDS as a threat to our national security. Indeed, HIV/AIDS stands to threaten this Nation and others. I must say that I am truly surprised that there are individuals in our Congress who would disagree and contend that the AIDS pandemic is not a national security threat. I can only assume such individuals have not been paying attention or just do not want to face the facts.

We have been hearing a number of those facts. Let me add to those a few

additional ones, and I think some bear reiterating.

AIDS is claiming more lives than all armed conflicts in the last century combined. Twelve million men, women, and children in Africa have already died of AIDS. Today in Africa, 5,500 people are buried daily because of AIDS, and that number is expected to more than double. AIDS is the leading cause of death in Africa, but also, and this is very important, among young adult African-American men in the United States as well. It is our problem.

Every day 11,000 people in Africa become infected, one every 8 seconds. According to the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, it is estimated that by 2005 there will be more than 100 million, 100 million, HIV/AIDS cases worldwide.

Today in sub-Saharan Africa, one-fifth to one-third of all children have already been orphaned by AIDS. We talked about the 40 million that within the next decade may become orphans. HIV/AIDS runs high among the world's militaries. The rapid loss of senior officers can mean destabilization for those nations where the military plays a central role.

It should be noted that the most effective means of halting the spread of AIDS in the developed or developing world is the use of effective prevention measures, including needle exchange programs and condom distribution, the kinds of efforts that, unfortunately, have been repeatedly opposed by the majority in this body.

I had the privilege of going with the President and other Members of Congress to India and met in New Delhi in a very poor neighborhood Naseem the barber, who was one of 10 barbers trained in New Delhi to not only deliver a shave and a haircut and the neighborhood gossip, but also information about AIDS prevention and a condom. This is a program that is funded in part by USAID, by American taxpayer dollars, and a good and important expenditure of funds.

Since the beginning of the epidemic, 410,800 people in the United States have died from AIDS. Today it is estimated that as many as 700,000 people in the United States have AIDS. We cannot be lulled or allow our children to become lulled into believing that the new drug cocktails, the protease inhibitors, have conquered the disease. Our policies cannot be driven by those who would say that the threat to our national security that AIDS poses does not exist or by those who would claim that it is simply a homosexual disease. It is not, it is a heterosexual disease as well. That is very important.

I was proud to join the Vice President and our Ambassador to the United Nations at a meeting of the United Nations Security Council in January. During that session the Security Council addressed the issue of HIV/AIDS in Africa. This marked the first time that the Security Council looked at a health

issue in the context of a threat to global security. The Vice President made the point that it is time for us to move beyond our classical definition of security.

We have all talked about the staggering statistics, but I want to just end by saying while I was honored to have the opportunity to attend that historic meeting, I left feeling even more unsettled than I expected. The fact that a United Nations panel considered the issue of AIDS in the form of a security meeting and our National Security Council has followed suit should be taken as both a move in the right direction for the international community as well as a serious wake-up call.

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We, the international community, are losing the fight currently against AIDS. This beast knows no borders, it does not discriminate by class, race, gender, or nationality. AIDS is not just a detriment to the health of humanity; it is a global security threat and should be addressed as such.

Again, I want to commend my colleague for her tireless effort on this issue and look forward to the passage of H.R. 3519 when it is considered by the entire House.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for that very succinct and very profound statement and also for her consistent hard work on this issue and many others that we are dealing with here in the Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to my colleague, the gentlewoman from Los Angeles, California (Ms. WATERS), whose life has been about fighting injustices wherever they may occur. She has taken the lead here in the United States Congress in terms of the whole HIV/AIDS pandemic, both here in the United States and abroad. The gentlewoman from California has been in the forefront of seeking peace and security on the continent of Africa.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), for organizing tonight's Special Order on the HIV/AIDS crisis in Africa and for her general leadership on this issue. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is providing the kind of leadership that has caused this Congress to finally focus on this crisis and on this epidemic. She is a Member of Congress that served on the staff of one of the most esteemed Members of Congress who is now retired, Congressman Ronald Dellums; and Congressman Dellums decided earlier this year that he was going to give priority time to this issue.

Even though he is away from Congress working in the private sector in the health care industry, he decided that this is the most important issue confronting the world today. So he uses most of his time now not only speaking with Members of Congress,

the President of the United States, health organizations, pharmaceutical companies, the USTR. He has just about spoken with everyone imaginable that has the power to do anything about this issue. So as a result of the efforts of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), working along with Congressman Dellums and the rest of us, we are finally, I think, being heard on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend President Bill Clinton for recognizing the importance of United States support for international HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. Earlier this year, the President requested an additional \$100 million in funding for international HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. These funds would be in addition to the \$225 million that the United States is currently spending on these programs.

The impact of the HIV/AIDS epidemic on sub-Saharan Africa has been especially severe. Since the beginning of the epidemic, over 80 percent of all AIDS deaths have occurred in sub-Saharan Africa. By the end of 1999, there were an estimated 23.3 million people in sub-Saharan Africa living with HIV/AIDS. That is 70 percent of the total number of HIV-infected people worldwide. In sub-Saharan Africa, there are over 5,000 AIDS-related funerals per day.

HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention efforts in sub-Saharan Africa are complicated by poverty. Most Africans lack access to the most basic health care services and only the wealthiest people in Africa can afford HIV/AIDS medications and advancements in treatment therapies. Furthermore, high illiteracy rates combined with low levels of education funding have made prevention efforts more difficult.

Nevertheless, experience has proven that HIV/AIDS-prevention programs can make a substantial difference if the programs are funded sufficiently and implemented in an effective manner. Uganda in particular has implemented a highly successful program which has reduced HIV/AIDS infection rates by over 50 percent. I happen to have been in Uganda when I was on one of my trips to Africa with the President when he was there. I had an opportunity to visit the clinics and to talk with people and to understand how seriously they had taken this whole epidemic and how they were moving forward and providing leadership on the continent; and it is working and it shows. Senegal has also developed a successful HIV/AIDS prevention program. However, effective HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs cannot be expanded or implemented in other countries without substantial financial assistance from the international community.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act, was passed by the Committee on Banking and Financial Services on March 15 of this year by a bipartisan

majority thanks to the leadership of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and to our Chairman, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH). This legislation would direct the Secretary of the Treasury to enter into negotiations with the World Bank for the creation of a World Bank AIDS trust fund to provide grants to support HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs in less developed countries, and I am proud to be a cosponsor of this bill.

Now, during the Committee on Banking and Financial Services' consideration of H.R. 3519, I offered an amendment to the bill that increased the amount of funds authorized to be appropriated for payment to the World Bank AIDS trust fund from \$100 million to \$200 million per year. While \$200 million is still only a small fraction of what is needed for HIV/AIDS programs, it would represent a significant commitment of financial resources by the United States and set an example for the international community.

Mr. Speaker, I know that at the time that I offered the amendment, our Chairman was a little bit worried, because this is a difficult issue; and at a time where we have competing interests and we have lots of needs here in this country, it is very difficult sometimes to get our Congress focused on a crisis like this someplace else. However, I feel that the crisis is of such proportions that we must be aggressive and we must be bold; and I still think \$200 million is but a drop in the bucket. I am worried now, I am worried that when this bill is on the floor in a few days, that there will be an effort to reduce the amount back to \$100 million because of the fear that it will not be passed if it is more than \$100 million.

I would like to encourage support from my colleagues to keep the amount at \$200 million. Let us not go backwards. Let us move forward, and let us stand up for what is right. I hope that the recent report that was put out by the CIA and others and the work that has been done now by the National Security Council identifying AIDS as a world threat to peace will help our people to understand that we cannot retreat. We must move forward. We cannot reduce the amount in this bill from \$100 million to \$200 million.

Mr. Speaker, I also offered another amendment that would allow the World Bank trust fund to provide technical assistance to countries to assist them in building the capacity to implement effective HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. I am pleased to report that both of my amendments were passed by the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

The rest of the world does look to us for leadership, and I think there is one other area that we have got to be profoundly supportive of. I would just like to give a little background on that, if I may.

Most HIV/AIDS drug therapies are well beyond the reach, as I said, of all but the wealthiest elites in sub-Saharan Africa. Drug therapies that have

extended the lives of people living with HIV/AIDS in the United States and other developed countries would cost between \$4,000 to \$20,000 per person per year in sub-Saharan Africa. However, the gross national product per capita in sub-Saharan Africa is only \$503 per year. If South Africa is excluded, the GNP per capita is only \$308 per year. Furthermore, according to the World Bank, no sub-Saharan African countries spent more than \$400 per person per year on health care between 1990 and 1995.

The agreement on trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights, known as TRIPS, is one of the international agreements enforced by the World Trade Organization. The TRIPS agreement allows corporations to benefit from patents over plants and medicines. Corporations use their patent rights to force developing countries to pay for the use of plants and medicines. In some cases, these plants and medicines were developed by indigenous people in developing countries who have been using them for hundreds of years. As a result of the TRIPS agreement, many people in developing countries have been denied lifesaving medicines because they cannot afford to pay for them.

In 1997, the South African government passed a law to make HIV/AIDS drugs more affordable and available for its people. This law allows the importation of commercial drugs from sources other than the manufacturers, a practice called parallel importing, and authorizes the South African government to license local companies to manufacture generic drugs, a practice called "compulsory licensing." The U.S. pharmaceutical industry opposed this law and our own United States Trade Representative attempted to pressure South Africa not to implement it. Fortunately, USTR has recently announced in December of 1999 that it would be more flexible in its policies towards South Africa's situation.

The amendment that I would love to have had passed in my committee would have required the United States Government to encourage sub-Saharan African countries to develop policies to make HIV/AIDS medications available to their populations at affordable prices. It would also require the United States Government to encourage pharmaceutical companies to make HIV/AIDS medications available to the populations of these countries at affordable prices. More importantly, this amendment would direct the United States representative to the WTO to encourage the World Trade Organization to exempt sub-Saharan African countries from the TRIPS agreement and other international agreements that prohibit them from implementing laws that make HIV/AIDS medications available to their populations at affordable prices. This would allow countries such as South Africa to enact legislation to expand the availability and affordability of HIV/AIDS medicines

without worrying about WTO challenges to their laws.

Mr. Speaker, access to affordable medicine is essential for sub-Saharan Africans living with HIV/AIDS. It should be the policy of the United States and the WTO to encourage policies that increase the availability and affordability of HIV/AIDS medicines in sub-Saharan Africa, not to challenge or oppose such policies.

Again, the rest of the world looks to the United States for leadership. It is essential that Congress pass the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act that has been initiated and guided by my friend and colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH); and it is equally essential that Congress fully fund the President's request for international HIV/AIDS treatment and prevention programs. Also, it is imperative that we do not pare back the \$200 million that we adopted in the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, but rather support it and move forward in a very proud way to join with other leaders in the world, some countries much smaller than ours who are doing more to deal with this crisis than we are doing. I am convinced we can do that.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from California for her very profound statement and also for once again speaking the truth and for making sure that this Congress and administration is challenged to step up to the plate to provide adequate resources to begin to tackle this pandemic at the proportion of which we see the problem.

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Madam Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Houston, Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), who has been a voice of reason, an advocate for social justice both here and abroad, and who I had the privilege to be with on our presidential delegation when we visited Southern Africa and witnessed the devastation of HIV/AIDS' toll on the orphans in Africa.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE). She is very right that together we were enormously moved, along with the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK) when we traveled to Southern Africa to witness firsthand what many of us had seen before, but together on this presidential mission.

Let me thank the gentlewoman for carrying forth the vision to help with our former colleague, our dear friend, Ron Dellums, to form and foster and nurture H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act, in collaboration with the gentleman from Iowa (Chairman LEACH). Let me thank the gentlewoman for that, because she has put the engine behind the remorse, the devastation, the sadness, the high emotions that have been brought about by understanding that since 1980, in the

1980s, 16 million people have died from AIDS.

Madam Speaker, I would like to read into the RECORD just these simple figures, if I can do this rather quickly, to elaborate on the enormity of this pandemic tragedy with respect to AIDS.

The percentage of adult population infected with HIV or suffering from AIDS in a number of countries in Africa: Zimbabwe, 25.9 percent of the adult population. Botswana, 25.1. Many of these countries I visited, particularly Botswana, a few years ago; and the numbers were climbing then. I visited an AIDS clinic and talked to a woman who had been infected and had lost her son. And I saw the pain of the country trying to grapple with this. One of the issues, of course, was the ability to have the pharmaceuticals to deal with this. The low cost of those drugs is a necessity.

Namibia, 19.4 percent; Zambia, 19.1 percent. This is the percentage of adult adoption. Swaziland, 18.5 percent; Malawi, 14.9; Mozambique, 14.2 percent; South Africa, 12.9 percent. I imagine these nations would say these percentages are growing.

Rwanda, 12.8 percent; Kenya, 11.6 percent; Central African Republic, 10.8 percent; Ivory Coast, 10.1 percent; India, .82; U.S., .76.

Just another example. Number of 15-year-olds per 10,000 of that age group who have lost their mothers or both parents to AIDS: Uganda, 1,100; Zambia, 890; Zimbabwe, 700; Malawi, 580.

The list goes on. The number of Africans that we understand die every day from HIV/AIDS: 5,000, at least.

And so as I stand on the floor of the House, I can only ask that we move quickly to support this legislation, to encourage the full funding that the President has promoted to grab hold of this and declaring this a national security issue, an international security issue; to encourage Kofi Annan to embrace this as well in his commitment to bring down the percentages of HIV infection by putting the resources of the United Nations behind this; by acknowledging that this is the number one killer of women 25 to 44 in the African-American population in the United States.

Madam Speaker, I thank my community, who I marched with 2 weeks ago, in recognizing that in pockets of the 18th Congressional District HIV/AIDS is one of the number-one killers, and to commit to my constituents in Houston as well to join them in the women's, and what I have promoted, the Mothers' March Against AIDS that we will be promoting in the next couple of months, and to say that we have to do more than simply roll up our sleeves. We have to get in the fight and really battle.

It is important to recognize that H.R. 3519, the Marshall Plan, the same concept that we used after World War II, is long overdue and that we must move this legislation along very quickly. It must pass out of the House of Representatives. It must quickly pass out

of the Senate. We must get it to the President's desk, and we must act on it.

It is likewise important that, as we move through the appropriations process, we must recognize that 13 million children have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS, and the number is projected to 40 million in the continent of Africa by 2010.

AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa accounts for nearly half all the infectious disease deaths globally, and what that translates into is TB. Many are suffering from pneumonia, and it leads into other infectious diseases as well.

We well recognize that the Pentagon budget has been one of the largest that we have had. That is why I believe it is so crucial that we have acknowledged that this is a national security issue. With that in mind, I can only say to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) in thanking her for her leadership, this Special Order should not be one in vain. It should be a Special Order of challenge, a special order that energizes us as we provide through the committee process, each of us who has any opportunity to encourage the faster process of this legislation, we should ask that it be declared an emergency and that we move it as quickly as we can to the floor of the House.

Madam Speaker, let me simply thank the gentlewoman for giving me the opportunity to speak and yield back.

Madam Speaker I rise in support of HR 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act, introduced by Congresswoman Barbara Lee.

As the Clinton Administration formally recognized just a few days ago, the spread of HIV/AIDS in the world today is an international crisis that can no longer be ignored.

The National Security Council, which has never before involved itself in combating infectious diseases, has formally designated the disease as a threat to U.S. national security.

With the establishment of the White House interagency working group on AIDS and the National Security Council's designation, America is taking steps to lead in the fight against the global AIDS crisis.

As HR 3519 correctly reiterates, AIDS is a global emergency that is devastating developing countries.

The creation of a World Wide trust for in which nations would be able to obtain grants to address the needs of HIV/AIDS victim globally is truly needed.

We know that 60% of those that have died from AIDS are in sub-Saharan Africa. That is 16 million people since the 1980's.

An even more heart-wrenching statistic is that 13 million children have lost one or both of their parents to AIDS and this number is projected to reach 40 million by 2010.

AIDS in sub-Saharan Africa accounts for nearly half of all infectious disease deaths globally.

Not since the bubonic plague of the Middle Ages, has there been a more devastating disease.

I applaud the Clinton Administration's recent push to double the budget request to \$254 million to combat AIDS overseas.

However, I still believe that much more funding is needed to adequately address this emergency epidemic.

When the Pentagon budget continues to spend more than this \$254 million on obsolete aircraft, we are struck with the remaining gap in the battle to tackle this global problem.

Consequently, Senior Clinton Administration officials clearly express their frustration that by all estimates on HIV/AIDS, that nearly \$2 billion is needed to adequately prevent the spread of this disease in Africa per year.

Although I realize that this may not be politically feasible at the time, we must take notice of the fact that if the National Security Council can designate AIDS as a national security threat, then it is time for this country to take affirmative steps to combat this devastating tragedy in the international community.

AIDS is significantly shortening the life expectancy of all and will continue to cut more years off people's lives if we do not take responsibility for combating this disease.

I applaud my colleague BARBARA LEE for her leadership. The AIDS Marshall Plan Fund for Africa will help to ensure that the federal government follows through on its recently stated plans to address the international AIDS epidemic.

In conclusion, I also believe that the private sector has a major role in fighting AIDS. In the African Growth and Opportunity, I successfully included a sense of Congress amendment to cause corporations doing business in Africa to set up a private fund that can be utilized to also fight the AIDS devastation. That provision still remains in the bill.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Texas once again for participating with us this evening and also for participating and fighting on all of the issues that we tackle here in Congress and for her leadership on the whole HIV/AIDS crisis both here and abroad. I say, Thank you very much, Congresswoman JACKSON-LEE.

Madam Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), who has been consistent and very instrumental in forcing the United States Congress to deal with the devastating effects of drugs and the impact of drugs as it relates to the HIV/AIDS crisis. I thank the gentleman very much for being with us tonight.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) for yielding, and I want to thank her for all that she does every day, everything that she does to put a face on this crisis. I think so often, I think the philosopher Camus said that a lot of times when we get so caught up in statistics, we forget that there are real people behind those statistics.

Certainly, the ones that I will cite in a minute or two are quite frightening. But the gentlewoman and I and many others who have visited Africa know that these statistics have real faces behind them.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address one of the most challenging and life-threatening public health issues facing the global community: HIV infection and AIDS.

This disease is now the world's deadliest with over 40 million persons infected worldwide. And significantly,

our President recently declared AIDS as a national security threat. Not surprisingly, this pandemic affects the most vulnerable citizens of our global community; in fact, nearly 95 percent of infected persons live in developing countries with, sub-Saharan Africa being hit harder than any other region.

Let me mention some startling statistics. New HIV infections in Africa have numbered more than 1.4 million each year since 1991. That is an average of more than 3,800 new HIV/AIDS infections per day in sub-Saharan Africa.

23.3 million adults and children are infected with the HIV virus in the region which has about 10 percent of the world's population, but nearly 70 percent of the worldwide total of infected people.

Life expectancy in these nations has been reduced by disease to between 22 and 40 years.

In several sub-Saharan nations, more than one in four pregnant women is infected with HIV/AIDS, and in many sub-Saharan nations one quarter of all children have already been orphaned by AIDS, 13 million children, the equivalent of all the children enrolled in our public school system.

As leaders of this great Nation, we have a responsibility to take the lead in efforts to overcome this AIDS pandemic. But in order to effectively combat the disease, we must come to a full understanding of two key issues. As Martin Luther King, Sr., said, "[w]e cannot lead where we do not go, and we cannot teach what we do not know."

First, we must understand what accounts for this devastating spread of this disease on the African continent. Just to name a few: lack of quality health care, poverty, lack of education, armed conflict, lack of jobs, and limited government assistance are all factors.

Second, we must come to an understanding that all sectors and all spheres of society have to be involved as equal partners in combatting this crisis. The health sector cannot meet this challenge on its own, nor can one government or one nation.

So it is imperative that we have a collective global effort to increase international AIDS spending in Africa and to improve the health care infrastructures of African countries.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3519, the Marshall Plan Trust Fund. I know my colleague, Ms. BARBARA LEE (CA), has worked diligently on this issue for some time now and I am pleased that this House is taken up this issue. Let me also thank the Chairman of the Banking Committee, Congressman JIM LEACH (IA), who is responsible for moving this bill through the Committee.

The HIV/AIDS crisis is a transnational threat. It threatens not only our public health but it is also a threat to our National Security. According to the Washington Post, "It has the potential to undo decades of work in building free-market democracies abroad."

On my visit to South Africa in December of last year, I visited an HIV/AIDS clinic and saw

first hand the education and preventive ways to combat this virus. In Soweto, South Africa, when the AIDS virus detonates this black township of 3 million in a decade or so, the disease will wipe out about 600,000 people. This is almost six times as many people as the atomic bombs killed in Hiroshima and Nagasaki.

Some estimates predict that more than 25% of the working age population in South Africa will be infected with HIV by the year 2010. The global spread of AIDS is reaching catastrophic numbers.

HIV/AIDS has greatly reduced the life span of the citizens of South African countries. Life expectancy in Botswana has declined from 61 years five years ago to 47 years, and is expected to drop to 41 years between 2000 and 2005. In Zimbabwe 1 out of every 5 adults is affected and is significantly reducing population growth from 3.3%.

More than 33 million are infected and more than 14 million have died. Of this number, more than 16 million people have died from AIDS since the 1980s, 60% of them from sub-Saharan Africa. In 1998, 200,000 people died from armed conflicts on the subcontinent, while AIDS has caused about 2.2 million deaths.

Former Congressman Ronald Dellums, who is now the President of Healthcare International Management Company, has conceived the AIDS Marshall Plan for Africa as a means to bring treatment to those affected with the HIV/AIDS virus. Also, the NAACP introduced a similar measure declaring HIV/AIDS a crisis in Africa.

The Clinton administration has taken the right step to curb the spread of AIDS. President Clinton recently declared \$254 million to prevent the spread of AIDS around the world.

Bristol-Myers, one of the largest pharmaceutical company and is headquartered in the state of New Jersey, has also pledged their support of \$1 million to prevent the further spread of HIV and to care for those affected by this devastating disease.

In conclusion, let me say that the spread of infectious diseases poses a threat to our own health here in the U.S. We should support the AIDS Marshall Plan and the Clinton administration's efforts to rid the world of this deadly disease.

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in their support of H.R. 3519 the "World Bank AIDS Marshall Plan Trust Fund Act." In Testimony before the Committee on Government Reform, Sandra Thurman, the Director of the Office of National AIDS Policy, sometimes called the AIDS CZAR said that as of this moment, AIDS has killed 12 million men women and children in Africa. Today and every day, AIDS in Africa buries more than 5,500 men, women and children. And that number is estimated to double in the next few years. AIDS has become the leading cause of death in Africa.

But in order to understand the total dimensions of this tragedy, we not only look at the dead, but we must also look at the living. It is estimated that by the year 2010, 40 million children in Africa will be orphaned by AIDS. These children will have lost their parents, and many will have lost entire families. What will these children do? Who will pay for their education? How will they get the basic necessities of food, clothing and shelter? Who will teach them right from wrong? Forty million children

with no connection to society, no connection to family, the community or each other will grow up to be forty million adults who have no sense of past, present, or future. Forty million people who are without moorings can and will destabilize a country, a region, a continent and a world.

I know that the fate of Africa or Africans may not be a high priority for many here. Many may not care about the AIDS virus or its victims. But I don't know anyone here who does not care about children. I ask you to do what you can to prevent the predictions of forty million orphans from coming true. Lets find a way to keep their parents healthy and alive. Lets find a way to provide medical assistance so that there will not be 40 million orphans. The United States can and should be a leader in the fight against this pandemic. We can not be the leader of democracy and turn our backs on these families.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The time of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) has expired. All time has expired.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of our special order tonight.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from California?

There was no objection.

#### TRIBUTE TO THE COLORADO STATE LEGISLATURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, as the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) knows, I have an hour and I would be happy to yield to the gentleman up to 5 minutes so he could conclude his statement. I think the issue that he is speaking about is very important. I yield up to 5 minutes to the gentleman.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) for yielding.

Second, we must come to an understanding that all sectors and all spheres of society have to be involved as equal persons in combatting this crisis. The health sector cannot meet this challenge on its own, nor can one government or one nation.

So it is imperative that we have a collective global effort to increase international AIDS spending in Africa. This collective effort must also make vaccine research and development a priority and secure access to treatment for infected individuals. We must encourage pharmaceutical companies to reduce the percentage of spending on marketing and advertising and instead reduce drug prices and increase expenditures on patient assistance programs.

Passage of H.R. 3519, the World Bank AIDS Marshall Trust Act, would be an important step towards these goals. This legislation calls for the governments of key nations, the private sector, and nongovernmental entities to partner in the creation of a Marshall Fund to eliminate AIDS. The fund would provide \$1 billion over 5 years for research, prevention, and treatment.

I thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH) for having the foresight to introduce this measure. When the history of our time is written, it will record the collective efforts of societies responding to a threat that has put in the balance the future of whole nations. Future generations will judge us on the adequacy of our response.

One of my mentors, the Reverend Jeremiah Wright of Chicago, has stated many times, "In my time and in my space, I will make a difference with God's grace."

And so, Madam Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 3519 for this is our space, and this is our time; and we must make a difference with God's grace. With that, I yield back; and I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. MCINNIS. Madam Speaker, I can tell my colleagues as many have experienced themselves personally, the great time in my life that I served in the State legislature, the State of which I represent here in the United States Congress.

Being able to serve in the State House of Representatives for the State of Colorado meant a great deal to me. I was honored to be elected by the people of the 57th district of the State of Colorado to serve five terms. I had the opportunity to go and serve as the chairman of a committee and ended my career in the State House of Representatives as majority leader.

During that period of time, I established lifetime friendships with fellow legislators on both sides of the aisle. By political design, the activity that we have in Congress in Washington is dramatically different than the type of system that we operate at least in the State of Colorado. In Colorado, for example, we have what we call "instant voting." Now, why do I bring up the facts to my colleagues of instant voting? Because I want to explain what that leads to.

It leads to strong friendships. Why? Because instant voting such as we have in the State of Colorado requires that all of the State legislators, and I speak generically, the State senators as well, have to be on the House floor at the time that the voting machine is opened, as compared to the United States Congress here in the House of Representatives where we have a minimum of 15 minutes on most votes, 5 if it is a subsequent vote, to come to the House floor and cast our vote.

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As a result of that here, we do not mill as a group for a very long period of time.

Under the rules of the Colorado House of Representatives, the Colorado State Senate, they in fact work with each other and stand around, sit by each other throughout the entire voting process. As a result of that, they have moments where they get to know the person sitting to their right or the person sitting to their left. They have an opportunity to stand in the back of the chambers and have a cup of coffee with a Democrat or a Republican or somebody from the city or somebody from the rural areas of the State of Colorado.

It is very easy to really bring together strong friendships that last throughout a person's political career and throughout a person's personal career. I was privileged to be fortunate enough to be able to do that.

I also want to point out, as many of my colleagues obviously know, here in the United States Congress, we have to travel great distances, and our travel is very, very extensive. The district that I represent in the State of Colorado is actually geographically larger than the State of Florida. My travel is extensive.

But in the State legislature, one does not have those kinds of traveling requirements. In the Colorado State legislature, one has more opportunity to get to know each other. In the Colorado State legislature, they have 65 members. In the United States Congress, we have 435 in the House, and we have 100 in the Senate. In the Senate in the State of Colorado, they have 35 members.

So simply by the fact that they have a smaller number of people, it is easier to make lasting and strong friendships. That is what I did.

Tonight, I stand here in front of my colleagues talking about a few of those good friends that I made. I am also going to talk about a few fine legislators whom I did not know as well but who are concluding their service for the State of Colorado.

Tomorrow, Wednesday, is the last day that the Colorado State legislature has in session. In Colorado, we have a 120-day limitation. So the legislature can only meet for 120 days. We also have in Colorado term limitations. We have a number of people who are subject to term limitations who will be leaving office or serving their last legislative day tomorrow.

So with the patience of my colleagues, I am going to go through some of the names of some of these people, talk just a little bit about them, because it is kind of special for me to be back here talking to my colleagues, Madam Speaker, as U.S. Congressmen about some people that are very exceptional people in the State of Colorado.

Let me begin with a long-time friend of mine, the speaker of the House in the State of Colorado. His name is Russell George. His wife's name is Neal. They have a fine, fine family.

Russ has impressed me over the years because, number one, no matter wheth-

er one agrees with him or disagrees with him, no matter what one thinks of his political leanings on one day or his political leanings on another day, there has never been a question about Russell George's integrity. His integrity is second to none in the State of Colorado.

Now, in the State of Colorado, we have waited for over 20 years on the western side of the State to get a speaker of the House. Russ George became our speaker from western Colorado. Unfortunately, under the term limitations, he could only be the speaker for 240 legislative days. So despite his qualifications, despite his remarkable career, he is out, automatically shoved out of the Colorado State capitol.

Now Russ has served 8 years in the 57th district. Russ is an attorney at law. He is recognized in the legal community for his capabilities and his exceptional knowledge of the law. He is also recognized in the legal community for his ability to sway in the courtroom. See, he is well known. He is soft spoken, but he is well spoken.

In the Colorado State House of Representatives, he has earned compliments from both sides of the aisle for his fairness and for his leadership. I am confident that after Russ leaves the State House of Representatives in Colorado, that there will be a number of golden opportunities for the people, for him, but for the people who might be lucky enough to retain his services in some way or another.

Russ dealt with a number of tough issues. His latest issue was the Gas and Oil Commission. Now, whether one agrees or not in the State of Colorado with what the speaker of the House attempted to do with the Oil and Gas Commission, the fact is the intensity of his work was reflected even up to the last few days that he served as a legislator. He is to be commended.

I stand in front of all my colleagues tonight, almost all of whom have never met Russell George and would say to each and every one of them, I hope that they some time have the opportunity to at least meet him. I have had the absolute privilege of considering him one of my best friends for many, many, many years.

We have others who are leaving the Colorado House and the Colorado Senate. Debbie Allen. Debbie Allen is a friend of mine. Debbie Allen was elected in 1992. She has worked hard. Some of her key issues have been crime, law enforcement obviously falls into that category, and education issues.

Debbie's husband Bob has been very faithful and good; faithful, meaning that he has been a good supporter. As my colleagues know, to be a State legislator, one has got to have a spouse that is pretty understanding. One has got to have a spouse that is ready to stand by one for those late night hours and the intensity that that job has for that 120-day period. Bob did that.

Debbie served as the chairman of the Education Committee. Madam Speak-

er, in the State of Colorado this year, education has been an especially tough issue. Now, education has always been a priority of the Republican Party and of the Democratic Party in Colorado. But this year the Republicans really led the fight on more funding for education. Debbie was the chairman of that committee.

She is the owner and the manager of a company called Custom Data Services. She served as a secretary, vice chairman, and chairman of the Arapahoe County Republican Party. She has been a Republican activist. But I can tell my colleagues, as a Republican activist, she still crosses the aisle. She considers many Democrats her friends.

She was the President of Aurora Republican forum, and she was awarded the Junior League Champion for Small Children Award.

Now, Debbie is not totally leaving the legislature. She is going to make a run for the Colorado State Senate, but her years in the State House of Representative are much appreciated.

I want to talk just for a moment here about another friend of mine, and that is representative Bob Hagedorn. Bob was elected in 1992. He was named as the CACI business legislator of the year, and his key issues have been education, reform, and health care.

Bob has faced a pretty tough challenge in the last few years, and he overcame that challenge. While I may not necessarily agree with my friend Bob on a number of different issues in the political arena, I can tell my colleagues I consider him my friend, and I admire him for his courage to overcome the challenges that faced him.

Representative Dorothy Gottlieb. Dorothy is a great person. She is an aggressive, aggressive legislator. She works very hard on the issues of the budget. She served as a member of the Denver Board of Education for 6 years, and she was the President for the Denver Board of Education for 2 years. She served as a member of the State Board of Education for 6 years and 2 years as chairman.

As a member of the Denver Public Schools Athletic League Hall of Fame, she won many different education awards. Dorothy is well known for her expertise in education. She is also known for how hard she pushes to make children the highest priority of State legislative issues.

She obviously was on the Education Committee. She served on the Transportation and the Energy Committee in the State legislature. She served on Criminal Justice. She worked hard on Small Business and efficient in Accountable Government issues.

She, too, is running for the State Senate, but she wraps up her days tomorrow in the State House. I can tell my colleagues something, Dorothy has done a great job. I want my colleagues to know that I hope they someday have the privilege of getting to meet all of these people of which I am trying to

give them some reference to this evening.

Representative Ken Gordon. Ken has done a good job as the House minority leader. Minority leader. I am a Republican. But I can tell my colleagues I respect Ken for his efforts as a minority leader. He has been strong for the Democrats. He stood up on a number of different issues. Ken is also known for his straightforwardness. He had success in his plain language law, which he passed. He was elected in 1992. Ken has done a good job.

I will talk about my good friend Bill Kaufman. Bill is a special guy to me. Bill was appointed to a vacancy in 1993, and he was elected time after time after time since then. He served as chairman of the Judiciary Committee and was a member of the Legal Services Committee. Currently my friend Bill is the Speaker Pro-Temp.

Bill served as an attorney in the Loveland area. He has a good reputation, a strong reputation in the Loveland area for his capabilities in the field of law and for his honesty in that field.

He is very active in the Republican party. He was chairman of the Dole-Kemp campaign in 1996. He coordinated the campaigns of people like Senator Armstrong, Senator Hank Brown, Senator WAYNE ALLARD.

He was named in 1996 as the Legislator of the Year. That is a great honor. CACI and the American Planning Association gave him awards in that regard. He got awards from the Social Legislation Committee and the Colorado Sheriff's Association. He has been very active in education, transportation, and prisons.

Now, the reason Bill is such a good friend is, over the years, I have had a number of tough issues, even as late as last week where I took issues that we work with on this House floor. As my colleagues know, real government is at the local level. That is where the best government is at the local level. We really should serve more of a perfunctory role. We have duties in regards to defense and in regards to commerce and international trade, but the real government is at the local level.

One can always go to Bill and sit down with Bill and discuss issues or even conflicts between the Federal government and the State government. He would listen, and if he felt that one's position had good merit, not necessarily popular merit, but good merit, he would get behind one.

I am going to miss Bill in the Colorado State House of Representatives. He has got a lot of good years ahead of him. He is a young man, and his career has just gotten off to a start. Tomorrow will be his last day as well, and he is to be congratulated.

I also want to talk about his wife Diana. I will tell my colleagues she is quite a lady, and obviously Bill could not have done this without her.

I will talk about Representative Ron May. Ron May is a good friend of mine.

He was out in Colorado Springs, Colorado. I wish my colleagues could meet Ron. Ron is very good on transportation issues. He was elected to the House in 1992. He also has worked very hard on the technological capabilities.

As my colleagues know, I think, as I have spoken before, I think we are in the second industrial revolution in this country when it comes to the Internet. Here is an individual, Ron May, who helps take elected officials like my colleagues and I, and try and bring us up to speed on some of these technological issues.

He served on the city council before he went to the State legislature; and as we all know, that is pretty good training ground. He sponsored a number of bills on workers' compensation, unemployment insurance, highway speed limits, right-to-work law and information systems.

He and his wife Onilla are good people. I will tell my colleagues something, Ron has done a great job for the people of the State of Colorado, and I hope my colleagues have an opportunity to meet him at some point.

Representative Maryanne Keller. Maryanne I do not know well, but I know about her. She was elected in 1992. She cosponsored standards in education legislation, and she is a special education teacher. I have heard more about the representative of her teaching capabilities. They have been very positive. They have been very strong.

As I understand it, she is exactly the kind of person that we want teaching. But she is an excellent teacher, and I also understand, of course, that she did an excellent job or did a good job on education issues. She did an excellent job as a State representative. She, too, will be leaving us.

Same with Representative Ben Clarke. Ben was appointed in 1994. His key issues have been health care. Why are they health care issues? Because Representative Clarke is a retired doctor. He is one of the few doctors we have in the State legislature. Instead of leaving and living a cushy life of retirement, he decided that he would become active in the State legislature, especially in regards to health care issues.

As many of my colleagues on the House floor know this evening, these health care issues are predominant, predominant on our agenda. I can go on and on. I would like to get into another subject and talk about the Republican health plan for prescription services and talk about what we are trying to do to get good health care delivery out in our country. We already have good health care delivery, but better health care delivery.

But I want to come back to Ben. He is also a veteran. He served in the war in Korea. Ben was a good legislator. Tomorrow is his last day. Again, I hope my colleagues have an opportunity to shake his hand someday.

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Representative Andy McElhany. Andy is from Colorado Springs. Andy is

probably one of the most energetic, dedicated, focused guys I have met. Andy was chairman of the State, Veterans and Military Affairs Committee. He served on the Colorado Springs Park and Recreational Advisory Board. In fact, he was the board chairman. He was a real estate broker. Has a strong reputation for integrity and professionalism in the real estate field in Colorado. He is the Colorado Library Association Legislator of the Year, the Colorado Union of Taxpayers' Friend of Taxpayer, and the Associated Press' Outstanding Legislator.

He was the sponsor of the "Deadbeat Parent" bill, denying driver's licenses to parents not paying child support. And talk about something that gets people to pay child support, as Andy told his colleagues and as Andy told me, tell them they are not going to get their driver's license. Most people gasp at that. They say, well, how do they get to work. But the fact is very few people will ever let their license go like that if they have the option of paying off that child support. It works. Andy convinced me of it, and he has proven it.

He worked, obviously, on other areas regarding health care reform, transportation, government efficiency, and tax reform. Andy has done an excellent job as a representative in the Colorado House of Representatives.

Representative Gloria Lebya, appointed in 1995 and elected in 1996. She was active with the Bobby Kennedy campaign in 1968.

She has been a champion and worked very hard with healthy communities. Communities and the centrifuge of how communities come together in regards to community activities has been where she has devoted a lot of her energy.

Again, one of the people who, obviously, I know. I have met with her. I do not know her that well, but I speak about her based on her reputation, and it is a good reputation. So it is easy to speak of her, and I wish her the very best in her future.

Representative Gary McPherson. Gary is a dedicated guy. I have known Gary for some time. He was appointed in 1994 to the Colorado State House. He was a member of the Appropriations and Judiciary Committees. He is an attorney at law, practiced for a number of years with Kissinger and Fellman, a professional corporation.

He was the vice chairman and the board member of the Arapahoe County Recreation District. He was a CACI Legislator of the Year and the recipient of the Aurora Public Schools' Superintendents' award.

He has dealt with legislation regarding minors and smoking. Gary has really focused on the problems that we have with smoking and minors. Later on, if I have the opportunity to finish what I am doing here, I would like to talk a little about how smoking impacts our minor children in this country.

Here is a guy right here, Gary, that that was a big issue for him; and he was really recognized as a leader in the Colorado Legislature as somebody who had good capable facts on what we do with that problem of our young people smoking, of our young people becoming addicted to tobacco, which every one of us in this Chamber knows is a killer. So I hand it to him. He deserves a big star for that one.

He also worked quite aggressively on education, crime, and welfare reform. Gary's done an excellent job in the Colorado House.

Representative Marcy Morrison. Now, Marcy is a character. People like Marcy. She has been very active. Her husband, Howard, is, in my opinion, an excellent guy, a good supporter. She used to be an El Paso County commissioner, and she enjoyed a strong reputation down there in El Paso County for the job she did. She is tough. She is tough, but she has some humor about her. And it is good to see somebody who is tough and holds the line but can smile and sit down and have a cup of coffee with you after the debate.

She served on the Committees of Health, Environment, Welfare and Institutions and Judiciary. She also served on the State of Colorado Board of Health. She sponsored the Post Delivery Care for Stays in Hospitals and immunization for more Colorado children, a pilot program to evaluate health care costs concerning children. She has done an excellent job. She cares and has been very active on the health care issues for seniors, the disabled, and child care.

Marcy has done an excellent job, and she is also one of the people, if any of my colleagues ever go to Colorado and are down in El Paso County, they will hear about Marcy Morrison and they will want to meet her after they hear about her. She is that kind of person.

Representative Penn Pfiffner. Penn was elected in 1992. His wife, Karen, is obviously a spouse who is supportive of the issues she has taken on.

Penn is aggressive. He is tough. I would say that he is probably one of the more conservative members of the House. He is conservative especially when it comes to these economic issues and on social issues as well. But he is particularly astute on economic issues.

He served as an officer in the United States Navy. He served on the Utility Consumer Advisory Board. He has proposed legislation on everything from prison reform to education alternatives to privatization and transportation deregulation.

He currently serves as a consulting economist to construction and real estate industries. He served, obviously, on the Finance Committee. He served on the Legislative Audit and the State, and the Veterans and Military Affairs Committees.

Penn has given good service to the State of Colorado.

I want to visit about another good friend of mine, Senator Dorothy Ru-

pert. Dorothy and I go back a long, long ways. I want to tell a special story about Dorothy and I.

Years ago, she and I came back to Washington, DC, with a group of individuals, other State legislators; and it was the first time that I had ever seen the Vietnam Memorial wall. Obviously, for my generation, the generation of most of us in this room, that Vietnam Memorial wall has a very special feeling; a sad feeling, a warm feeling, a feeling of pleasure that these people have been recognized. All of those feelings were brought out by Dorothy Rupert.

And I will never forget, as long as I have the mental capability to remember, I will never forget that evening. It was a cold evening, but the sun had been shining that day. And as Dorothy and I went up to the Vietnam Memorial wall, and as my colleagues know it is black granite, it had absorbed that sunlight. And even though there was a cold wind, the sun had just gone down; and that wall emitted warmth because it had stored it up from the sunshine during the day. It was as if the soldiers being recognized by that wall once again stood up to help protect us, keep us warm from that cold wind going down through there.

Dorothy was appointed to the State senate in 1995. She obviously served honorably in the State House of Representatives before that. She has worked very extensively on hate crime issues. She is a high school teacher. She is a counselor. And I can tell my colleagues that there were a number of issues that Dorothy and I voted on the opposite side of, but never once did I consider myself really adversarial to Dorothy Rupert. She is the kind of person who has the type of personality that does not disarm someone to a disadvantage. The feeling, I guess, is one of professionalism, the debates that she gets into.

She is recognized by her colleagues as a person who is very caring. She has a heart many, many times the size of her body. Dorothy has served the State of Colorado very well, and her friendship is something that is very special to me.

Now, let me talk about one of my western people, representative Jack Taylor. Jack's done a great job for western Colorado. Jack comes from Steamboat Springs, Colorado. He was elected in 1992. His wife, Geneva, and I go back a long ways as well. She has been very active, and Jack's been very active in the party.

But Jack understands agricultural issues. Jack knows about Colorado water. As I have said many times from this podium, Colorado's water is very unique compared to most States in the Nation. In Colorado, our State is the only State where all of our water goes out. We have no free-flowing water that comes into the State of Colorado for our use. So as a result of that, those water resources are very precious.

We do not get much rain in Colorado. It is an arid State. We depend on our

snow fall and spring runoff. Spring runoff does not last all year long. It lasts about 65 to 90 days. We just started it in Colorado. This means if we do not have the capability to store water, we are in a lot of trouble in Colorado. And there are a lot of organizations that want to make sure there are no storage projects on our rivers; that want to make sure there are no diversions from the streams. Well, that is the only way we can survive out in the West. It does not rain in the West like it rains in the East.

Jack Taylor knows that. And Jack Taylor has understood that for a long time. And Jack Taylor has been a good part of the team, lead, frankly, by Rus George, on the water issues back there in the State legislature in Colorado.

He was chairman of the Business Affairs and Labor Committee; served on the Agriculture, Livestock and Natural Resources Committee and the Legislative Audit Committee. He was a businessman for 30 years in Steamboat. He was named Business Legislator of the Year. He earned the Guardian of Small Business Awards and the NFIB, which is the National Federation of Independent Businesses, Colorado Legislator of the Year.

Jack worked very hard to get equal access to telecommunications state-of-the-art technology throughout Colorado. As many of my colleagues know that represent rural districts throughout the United States, we are concerned. We do not want to get behind the eight ball in this second industrial revolution on the Internet. We need technological advancements that are going to the cities. We need those fiber optics out in the rural areas. It hurts if we in the rural areas do not have access to fiber optics; if we do not have the technological capability to do business with our colleagues in the cities.

Jack understood this and he pushed it and pursued it very hard. Jack has a strong sense. It is kind of like a sixth sense for him, for common sense. He exercises it well. And, obviously, with his business experience that he brings to the legislative process, it has been of some assistance.

I think he has worked very hard to try to create more efficiencies for government, and I think above probably next to water his strong stances on the right to private property and the respect for private property in Colorado is probably second to none currently in the State legislature. Jack's done a good job. We will miss him in the State House of Representatives.

Senator Bob Martinez. Bob and I go back a long ways. Bob was elected in 1984, same year actually I went into office in the Colorado State House of Representatives. Bob and I had an opportunity to serve many, many years in the State House of Representatives, then he went on the State senate. He was a higher education administrator.

He has always been very strong on adoption and the ability for people to

adopt. He has been very caring for the homeless people. But I will tell my colleagues something else about Bob. Bob has always served in the minority, in the State senate and in the State house. The Republicans have controlled the State house and the State senate since Bob went into office. But Bob had that knack to be able to go across the aisle, and he built up relationships that enabled him to be a very effective legislator despite his political minority status.

Bob is a wonderful guy. He is a good guy to work with. He is a good guy to have as a friend. And he is a neat guy out of the city that understands some of the rural issues that we in rural Colorado faced. I miss Bob. Bob has done good service for the State of Colorado, and he should be recognized for that.

My next friend, Representative Steve Tool, whose father, Gene Tool, is a long-time friend of mine, former chairman of our State party. Steve is a guy, who also like Russell George, has an impeccable reputation. He serves on the Finance Committee, the Judiciary Committee, and the Health Environment and Welfare and Institutions Committee.

He is a strong family man. Has a wonderful family. He is a real estate broker, an appraiser in Fort Collins. He served in the United States Air Force as a navigator on B-52s in Vietnam. He is a Vietnam veteran. He flew 160 missions, 160 missions over Southeast Asia.

He has been very active in and has sponsored legislation for the changing of child abuse resulting in death from a felony to a homicide. He has also been very aggressive in regards to school finance and trying to balance school finance in the State of Colorado so the poorer communities are not left, and to reorganize our educational system to guarantee the maximum amount of dollars into the classroom and the maximum amount of accountability from our teachers who teach our young people. He has done a good job on that.

We are going to miss Steve. He did a good job and I hope my colleagues here on the floor also sometime have an opportunity to meet Steve Tool. He is a young man, and his career has just begun.

Senator Frank Weddig. He was appointed in 1994 and was elected in 1996. He is an electrician. Children's welfare and children's issues.

Again, Frank I do not know well, but you feel like you know him because you have heard about him. As I have said with some of my other colleagues who I have not had an opportunity to meet and know, like a Bob Martinez, or like a Rus George, or like a Jack Taylor or Bill Kaufman, some of those people I did not get to know that well. I kind of looked at their reputations and listened to what their colleagues had to say about them.

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Frank has enjoyed a strong reputation amongst his colleagues, and that speaks well for him.

My friend Senator Gloria Tanner. Gloria was appointed in 1994 in the State Senate. She served in the State House of Representatives prior to that. I got to serve with her.

Gloria represented the issues of the minority community very well. She spoke up and helped educate those of us who did not live in the urban areas in the cities. She was very patient with us and very educational with us I guess you would say in walking us through the issues that are unique to minority communities in big cities. She worked hard on the pension fund protection issues. She is a real estate agent. I can tell my colleagues, my service with Gloria Tanner was enjoyable. She is a professional, a real pro.

Well, the State House of Representatives is going to lose their Speaker of the House this year. And the State Senate in Colorado, again because of term limits, loses the Senate president.

Ray Powers. His wife's name is Dorothy, a wonderful, wonderful lady. I have known her for years. Ray has done a tremendous job as the President of the Colorado State Senate. He has had a lot of tough issues. He has been there for many years. He has worked with a lot of people. The people that have worked with Ray walk away from Ray thinking, gosh, that guy is on the ball. He knows what is going on.

To be the leader of the State Senate in Colorado, you have got to have some finesse, you have got to have some capabilities to have a strong personality to deal with people. That happens, too, with the Speaker of the House. But Ray had those.

Ray could deal with people without making them angry. Ray could be firm but he did not have to be mean. He could be firm without being mean. Ray Powers had a lot of capability in convincing people and helping educate his colleagues on the issues of the day.

Now he is a former rancher. He has a ranch down in Colorado Springs. He is active in the local bank down there. He sponsored any number of bills, including bills on the death penalty, highway funding, more judicial requirements or appropriate judicial requirements for judges. He dealt with the major regional presidential primary that we wanted to have there in Colorado. He has been recognized by the United Veterans Committee Distinguished Service Award, the Colorado Springs Chamber of Commerce named him as Legislator of the Year. The Colorado Public Affairs Council named him Business Legislator of the Year.

Dorothy and Ray will do well in their retirement. We are going to miss his service in the Colorado State Senate.

Senator Mike Feeley. Mike is the minority leader elected in 1992. He is smart. He is aggressive. He and I did not agree on a lot of issues but I can tell you, as with some of his colleagues, the disagreements were professional disagreements.

He was recognized by his colleagues as, let us just say, a person of persist-

ence, a person who when he decided to support an issue he stuck with it. He was recognized as the minority leader. He enjoyed a strong reputation for the job that he did as the minority leader.

Mike Feeley is spoken of by the Democrats in the State of Colorado as one who holds future promise for a political office. Frankly, I would like to convert him to a Republican. But the fact is he is a Democrat. They consider him a good Democrat. I consider him a good man, and we are going to miss him.

Dorothy "Dottie" Wham. Dorothy is her former name. I called her "Dottie" for all those years. I served with Dottie for the 10 years I was in the State legislature.

Let me tell my colleagues something. I am not sure I have had the opportunity to serve with a woman who I think has been more dedicated to the process, more dedicated to being sure that the government in Colorado served the people of the State of Colorado.

She comes from a community from Denver. Her husband Bob is a lawyer well recognized in the community in his own regard. But I will tell you something, Dottie took on tough issue after tough issue. Dottie never was too busy to sit down with those of us outside the Denver metropolitan city limits and talk to us about different issues.

She worked hard on the juvenile justice, on the children's code in Colorado, on the Denver Health Authority, on AIDS legislation, proposed adoption, State recodification, salaries of elected county officials. If there was a tough issue and you wanted somebody who could take the arrows, it was Dottie Wham.

I have deep, deep respect for Dottie. My years with Dottie were nothing but satisfying. My professional career with her and my professional relationship with her was excellent. Dottie will be missed not only by me. She will be missed by the State of Colorado. She will be particularly missed by the City of Denver and by her colleagues.

Ron Tupa. Ron is a representative minority whip. I have actually not gotten to talk with Ron very long, but I saw him on TV the other day. I can tell you about Ron. I watched him and I did not agree with him at all on the issue. I think Ron was talking about campaign reform. And while everybody, of course, wants campaign reform, the issue is how do you go about it. I mean, who gets the short end of the stick? That is what the issue is about.

But as I watched him, I was just flipping through with my remote control. I was in a hotel, as I often am, and sitting there and flipping through with my remote control, I come across this local station coverage and there is Ron.

He is an impressive guy. He speaks well. He was well received by the audience to whom he spoke. I thought his points were frankly to the point. I think Ron is respected outside, not just in the legislature, but outside the legislature. He is a young man. He is a social studies teacher.

I can tell just by listening to him that he probably has a knack for being able to communicate very well with his students. His issues, of course, have been e-mail privacy and some of the education issues. And, as I mentioned, he was the minority whip.

Senator Elsie Lacy. She was elected in the Senate in 1992. I will tell you, Elsie is quite a lady. She is a heck of a State senator. She is a solid, strong State senator. And she is a good friend. Elsie has done a tremendous job for the State of Colorado.

Her husband Duane, in his own regard, is well-respected. But I can tell you, Elsie has the respect of her colleagues. She was chairwoman of the appropriations committee and chairman of the joint budget committee. She served on the Aurora City Council. She worked primarily in transportation, health, education, and local government issues. Although, as chairman of the joint budget committee, her responsibilities obviously were dealing with the budget.

In Colorado, just like here, colleagues in Congress, we deal with some tough issues on the budget.

Elsie was there during the time that Colorado was just beginning to get out of the tough times, so she had to make tough decisions then. And as chairwoman she had to make tough decisions when Colorado got a surplus. Because then everybody thought Colorado had plenty of money. So people would go up to Elsie and say, Elsie, I want more money for this program. You got a surplus in Colorado. We want to start this new government program. We want to start this new government program.

Elsie had a way of being very polite in saying no if it would not give us a balanced budget.

Now, as Elsie told me one time, her choices were never choices on that joint budget committee between bad programs and good programs, as Elsie puts it. And as all of my colleagues here on the floor know, many, many times our choices are between good programs and good programs. The bad programs get eliminated very early on in the process. The tougher choices is as we begin to filter it out and we get to the good programs versus the good programs.

I thought Senator Lacy did an excellent job in shifting through that. And I think her service to the State of Colorado, especially in her focus in regards to the State's budget, will serve the State well for many, many years to come. Because the State of Colorado, I am proud to say, in large part to her and in part to our goner, Governor Bill Owens, its fiscal ship is in order and is strong.

Representative Sue Windells elected in 1998. Her big issues were education and tax reform. She is a teacher. Again, I did not know Sue that well. But I can tell you that, once again, these people that I did not know well, I went and asked because I knew I was going to give these comments tonight, I went to some of my colleagues that do know them and I asked them about them. What about Sue? What are some of her attributes?

She is well-received. She is honorable. She is knowledgeable. And she is respected by her colleagues. What more do you need said about a person?

In politics, if somebody acknowledges that you have got the technical capability, that you understand and care about people and that you are honest, that says a lot. Sue meets every one of those standards, and she is going to be missed.

Senator Dave Wattenberg. I can tell you a lot about Dave Wattenberg. He and I got elected at the same time back in 1982. He and I are from rural Colorado, the same area. Well, we actually bordered each other. He later went to the State Senate because he served in the State House of Representatives.

Dave and I, when we first ran for office, no one either gave Dave or me a chance of winning office. I was running against a very popular and very capable incumbent, and Dave was not given much of a chance of winning the seat.

I will never forget. The day before the election, he and I were sitting in a bar having a drink and Dave asked me, Wattenberg says, Scott, have you ever given any thought as to what is going to happen if by some chance we win this thing? I mean, we spent all this time campaigning, we spent all this time talking as candidates, but you and I have never been able to work as elected officials. I mean, we really are going to have to do what we said we are going to do. We are going to have to get aggressive. We really have got to stand up for issues like water and so on and so forth.

I would say in the State legislature there is probably no one right now as popular as David Wattenberg.

David is a cowboy. He is an old cowboy. I do not mean old in age. I mean old in respect. He is on a ranch up there in the northern part of the State.

For a number of years, Dave did not have opposition. In fact, I will tell my colleagues, he was so popular in one of his elections that his Democrat opponent who was very aggressive against Dave and ran a very aggressive race until about halfway through the race and, after debating Dave on a number of different occasions, liked him so well and felt he was so capable and so deserving as serving that district as State senator, pulled out of the race, and endorsed him.

Have you ever heard of somebody in a partisan race pulling out midway through the race and endorsing the other person?

That speaks very well, by the way, for the Democrat that did that, in my

opinion. I am sorry, her name slipped me this evening. But I can tell you, it speaks well for David Wattenberg.

David, as I said, was elected to the House in 1982 and to the Senate in 1992. He is chairman of the agriculture natural resource energy committee. He also served on the business affairs and labor committees. His ranch is called the Wattenberg Ranch in Walden, Colorado.

He sponsored bills on all kinds of things, everything from horse racing to water issues to mining and transportation to tort reform. He specifically focused in on agriculture, water, ranching issues, and banking issues.

He has received any number of awards. He has been named Legislator of the Year, honored by Colorado Ski Country and Consulting Engineers Council and Guardian of Small Business.

As I was on the airplane this morning, I open up the Denver Post or the Rocky Mountain News, I am not sure which one of those two major papers, and there is David Wattenberg dancing on the Senate floor. He was serious but he had good humor.

As I said earlier in my comments about Dave, he is probably the most popular legislator in Colorado today. Dave Wattenberg is going to be sorely missed.

Representative Penfield Tate. I know Penfield by his work. I know him as a person. I have respect for him. I have dealt with him not extensively, but I have dealt with him.

Penfield is one solid guy, and he is known by his work. His work product is excellent. He works aggressively on it. He works hard. He has a strong reputation. His focuses have been primarily education and health issues. He is a member of the Denver Metropolitan Chamber of Commerce. I will tell you, Penfield is a fellow that anybody would like to have work as a partner with him. He has done a good job. We are going to miss him.

Senator Maryanne Tebedo. Maryanne and I went in and she actually was appointed shortly after I was elected. But, in essence, we have served together for 10 years in the State House. She went on to the State Senate.

Her husband Don is a retired air traffic controller. She was chairman of the State Veterans Military Affairs Committee, and she served on the Finance Committee.

She is also our parliamentarian. She is actually a certified professional parliamentarian. She served on the National Task Force on Labor, and she has worked hard on uniform stated permits for concealed weapons, regulations of the funeral board, State boards, highways. I mean, Maryanne has worked on a lot of legislation.

Senator Tebedo, when she took on an issue, she did several things with that issue. Number one, she learned about the issue. Number two, she figured out what the ramifications of her bill would be with that issue. She was aggressive in her pursuit of passing her

legislation. I think she was professional at every step of the way.

Now, not everyone agreed with her. But I will tell you, if you wanted to disagree with Senator Tebedo, you better have your facts in order. Because I never saw her without having her facts in order.

We are going to miss her.

Senator Tom Blickensderfer. Tom is a long-time friend of mine. Tom is a fine man. His wife is Kristen. He just got married 4 or 5 years ago. She is a beautiful woman. And I mean that in a very broad way. She has got all kinds of things about her that just make her a beautiful person.

But back to Tom. Tom is a great guy. He has been an excellent State senator. He was in the State House. He was a Senate majority leader. He was an attorney at law. I knew him well before he came into the State legislature.

His issues ranged from everything from water in the rural areas of the State. We could always go to Tom because Tom would always sit down with us and talk about the rural issues even though he represented a metropolitan area.

His family had a long running reputation in the ski industry in the State of Colorado. Tom's leadership as the majority leader in the Senate has been second to none.

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He is a strong leader. He is recognized throughout the political community for his contributions to his party. He is Republican. I am not talking about financial. I am talking about his volunteer time, his help with other candidates.

I will say, in my opinion, Tom has a wonderful future ahead of him. He has a great family. He has a great background. He has served the State of Colorado very well, and Tom is going to do very well in his future.

Representative Stephanie Takis, she was elected in 1996 and her big issue was affordable health care. She is a financial specialist. Again, I did not know Stephanie very well but as with the others I sat down and visited with my colleagues about Stephanie. I did not find anybody who said anything critical, although they had the opportunity to because my conversations with some of my colleagues were in private, and these were the colleagues that I could have that kind of conversation with. Not one bad word said about her.

She has done well in her service to the State of Colorado; and she, too, it appears, has a very promising future ahead of her.

Madam Speaker, I know that my colleagues may be saying, gosh, we sat here this evening; and we have had SCOTT MCINNIS talk about State legislators from the State of Colorado who are concluding their service tomorrow. What has that got to do with us? What has that got to do with the U.S. House of Representatives? After all, these are

State legislators. This is the U.S. Congress in Washington, D.C.

It has a lot to do with us because those individuals that I just talked about can set an example for us back here, one that local government really truly is the best government. The Federal people in Washington, D.C., do not always know best. There are certain roles that we have to play, leadership in military, leadership in international trade, leadership in interstate commerce. But the fact is these State legislators are on the line. They are at the front of the battle.

The people that I spoke about this evening, most of my colleagues probably will never even meet one of them, but I can say what I hope was gotten out of my recognitions of these special people was the fact of their integrity, the impeccability of their hard work, the focus on the issues that they really cared about, the ability to cross party aisles. We all know politics is partisan. It is designed to be that way. It has to be that way. Somebody has to be boss. We cannot all be equal bosses. Somebody has to be the leader. So there is always partisan politics, but a real leader has the capability to step aside. The minority may not have a right to rule; but the minority has a right to be heard, and the individuals that I talked about this evening recognize that. They worked on both sides of the aisle.

I consider it a real honor to stand here in front of my colleagues in the House on the House floor of the United States Congress and recognize that tomorrow will be the last day for those colleagues of mine and their service in the State senate or State house respectively, and I want them to know from the highest level of the Federal Government here in the House of Representatives, that we acknowledge the work that they do; that we appreciate their honesty and their integrity and the respect that people who work with them understand that public officials, elected public officials, almost all of them really are good people. They work intensely for the people that they represent. They work intensely on the issues they care about. They work intensely and are proud of the States that they represent or the districts that they represent.

My colleagues in the State of Colorado are an excellent example of this.

Madam Speaker, in my concluding remark, let me just say truly it was my privilege to get to know and work with these people as they served the State of Colorado in the State legislature, and I hope to have a continued professional and profound good friendship with all of my friends in the State of Colorado.

#### WHAT IS FREE TRADE?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I asked for this Special Order this evening to talk about trade. We are going to be dealing with permanent normal trade relations with China here soon, and there is also a privileged resolution that will be brought to the floor that I have introduced, H.J.Res. 90. The discussion in the media and around the House floor has been rather clear about the permanent normal trade status, but there has not been a whole lot of talk yet about whether or not we should even really be in the World Trade Organization.

I took this time mainly because I think there is a lot of misunderstanding about what free trade is. There are not a whole lot of people who get up and say I am opposed to free trade, and many of those who say they are for free trade quite frankly I think they have a distorted definition of what free trade really is.

I would like to spend some time this evening talking a little bit about that, because as a strict constitutionalist and one who endorses laissez-faire capitalism, I do believe in free trade; and there are good reasons why countries should trade with each other.

The first reason I would like to mention is a moral reason. There is a moral element involved in trade, because when governments come in and regulate how citizens spend their money, they are telling them what they can do or cannot do. In a free society, individuals who earn money should be allowed to spend the money the way they want. So if they find that they prefer to buy a car from Japan rather than Detroit, they basically have the moral right to spend their money as they see fit and those kinds of choices should not be made by government. So there is a definite moral argument for free trade.

Patrick Henry many years ago touched on this when he said, "You are not to inquire how your trade may be increased nor how you are to become a great and powerful people but how your liberties may be secured, for liberty ought to be the direct end of your government." We have not heard much talk of liberty with regards to trade, but we do hear a lot about enhancing one's ability to make more money overseas with trading with other nations. But the argument, the moral argument, itself should be enough to convince one in a free society that we should never hamper or interfere with free trade.

When the colonies did not thrive well prior to the Constitution, two of the main reasons why the Constitutional Convention was held was, one, there was no unified currency, that provided a great deal of difficulty in trading among the States, and also trade barriers are among the States.

Even our Constitution was designed to make sure that there were not trade barriers, and this was what the interstate commerce clause was all about. Unfortunately though, in this century the interstate commerce clause has

been taken and twisted around and is the excuse for regulating even trade within a State. Not only interstate trade, but even activities within a State has nothing to do with interstate trade. They use the interstate commerce clause as an excuse, which is a wild distortion of the original intent of the Constitution, but free trade among the States having a unified currency and breaking down the barriers certainly was a great benefit for the development and the industrialization of the United States.

The second argument for free trade is an economic argument. There is a benefit to free trade. Free trade means that you will not have high tariffs and barriers so you cannot buy products and you cannot exert this freedom of choice by buying outside. If you have a restricted majority and you can evenly buy from within, it means you are protecting industries that may not be doing a very good job, and there is not enough competition.

It is conceded that probably it was a blessing in disguise when the automobile companies in this country were having trouble in the 1970s, because the American consumer was not buying the automobiles, the better automobiles were coming in, and it should not have been a surprise to anybody that all of a sudden the American cars got to be much better automobiles and they were able to compete.

There is a tremendous economic benefit to the competition by being able to buy overseas. The other economic argument is that in order to keep a product out, you put on a tariff, a protective tariff. A tariff is a tax. We should not confuse that, we should not think tariff is something softer than a tax in doing something good. A tariff is a tax on the consumer. So those American citizens who want to buy products at lower prices are forced to be taxed.

If you have poor people in this country trying to make it on their own and they are not on welfare, but they can buy clothes or shoes or an automobile or anything from overseas, they are tremendously penalized by forcing them to pay higher prices by buying domestically.

The competition is what really encourages producers to produce better products at lower costs and keep the prices down. If one believes in free trade, they do not enter into free trade for the benefit of somebody else. There is really no need for reciprocity. Free trade is beneficial because it is a moral right. Free trade is beneficial because there is an economic advantage to buying products at a certain price and the competition is beneficial.

There really are no costs in the long run. Free trade does not require management. It is implied here on conversation on the House floor so often that free trade is equivalent to say we will turn over the management of trade to the World Trade Organization, which serves special interests. Well, that is not free trade; that is a misunderstanding of free trade.

Free trade means you can buy and sell freely without interference. You do not need international management. Certainly, if we are not going to have our own government manage our own affairs, we do not want an international body to manage these international trades.

Another thing that free trade does not imply is that this opens up the doors to subsidies. Free trade does not mean subsidies, but inevitably as soon as we start trading with somebody, we accept the notion of managed trade by the World Trade Organization, but immediately we start giving subsidies to our competitors.

If our American companies and our American workers have to compete, the last thing they should ever be required to do is pay some of their tax money to the Government, to send subsidies to their competitors; and that is what is happening. They are forced to subsidize their competitors on foreign aid. They support their competitors overseas at the World Bank. They subsidize their competitors in the Export/Import Bank, the Overseas Private Investment Corporation.

We literally encourage the exportation of jobs by providing overseas protection in insurance that cannot be bought in the private sector. Here a company in the United States goes overseas for cheap labor, and if, for political or economic reasons, they go bust, who bails them out. It is the American taxpayer, once again, the people who are struggling and have to compete with the free trade.

It is so unfair to accept this notion that free trade is synonymous with permitting these subsidies overseas, and, essentially, that is what is happening all the time. Free trade should never mean that through the management of trade that it endorses the notion of retaliation and also to stop dumping.

This whole idea that all of a sudden if somebody comes in with a product with a low price that you can immediately get it stopped and retaliate, and this is all done in the name of free trade, it could be something one endorses. They might argue that they endorse this type of managed trade and subsidized trade; but what is wrong, and I want to make this clear, what is wrong is to call it free trade, because that is not free trade.

Most individuals that I know who promote free trade around Washington, D.C., do not really either understand what free trade is or they do not really endorse it. And they are very interested in the management aspect, because some of the larger companies have a much bigger clout with the World Trade Organization than would the small farmers, small rancher or small businessman because they do not have the same access to the World Trade Organization.

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For instance, there has been a big fight in the World Trade Organization

with bananas. The Europeans are fighting with the Americans over exportation of bananas. Well, bananas are not grown in Europe and they are not grown in the United States, and yet that is one of the big issues of managed trade, for the benefit of some owners of corporations that are overseas that make big donations to our political parties. That is not coincidental.

So powerful international financial individuals go to the World Trade Organization to try to get an edge on their competitor. If their competitor happens to be doing a better job and selling a little bit lower, then they come immediately to the World Trade Organization and say, Oh, you have to stop them. That is dumping. We certainly do not want to give the consumers the benefit of having a lower price.

So this to me is important, that we try to be clear on how we define free trade, and we should not do this by accepting the idea that management of trade, as well as subsidizing trade and calling it free trade is just not right. Free trade is the ability of an individual or a corporation to buy goods and spend their money as they see fit, and this provides tremendous economic benefits.

The third benefit of free trade, which has been known for many, many centuries, has been the peace effect from trade. It is known that countries that trade with each other and depend on each other for certain products and where the trade has been free and open and communications are free and open and travel is free and open, they are very less likely to fight wars. I happen to personally think this is one of the greatest benefits of free trade, that it leads us to policies that direct us away from military confrontation.

Managed trade and subsidized trade do not qualify. I will mention just a little later why I think it does exactly the opposite.

There is a little bit more to the trade issue than just the benefits of free trade, true free trade, and the disadvantages of managed trade, because we are dealing now when we have a vote on the normal trade status with China, as well as getting out of the World Trade Organization, we are dealing with the issue of sovereignty. The Constitution is very clear. Article I, section 8, gives the Congress the responsibility of dealing with international trade. It does not delegate it to the President, it does not delegate it to a judge, it does not delegate it to an international management organization like the World Trade Organization.

International trade management is to be and trade law is to be dealt with by the U.S. Congress, and yet too often the Congress has been quite willing to renege on that responsibility through fast-track legislation and deliver this authority to our President, as well as delivering through agreements, laws being passed and treaties, delivering

this authority to international bodies such as the UN-IMF-World Trade Organizations, where they make decisions that affect us and our national sovereignty.

The World Trade Organization has been in existence for 5 years. We voted to join the World Trade Organization in the fall of 1994 in the lame duck session after the Republicans took over the control of the House and Senate, but before the new Members were sworn in. So a lame duck session was brought up and they voted, and by majority vote we joined the World Trade Organization, which, under the Constitution, clearly to anybody who has studied the Constitution, is a treaty. So we have actually even invoked a treaty by majority vote.

This is a serious blunder, in my estimation, the way we have dealt with this issue, and we have accepted the idea that we will remain a member based on this particular vote.

Fortunately, in 1994 there was a provision put in the bill that said that any member could bring up a privileged resolution that gives us a chance at least to say is this a good idea to be in the World Trade Organization, or is it not? Now, my guess is that we do not have the majority of the U.S. Congress that thinks it is a bad idea. But I am wondering about the majority of the American people, and I am wondering about the number of groups now that are growing wary of the membership in the World Trade Organization, when you look at what happened in Seattle, as well as demonstrations here in D.C. So there is a growing number of people from various aspects of the political spectrum who are now saying, what does this membership mean to us? Is it good or is it bad? A lot of them are coming down on the side of saying it is bad.

Now, it is also true that some who object to membership in the World Trade Organization happen to be conservative free enterprisers, and others who object are coming from the politics of the left. But there is agreement on both sides of this issue dealing with this aspect, and it has to do with the sovereignty issue.

There may be some labor law and there may be some environmental law that I would object to, but I more strenuously object to the World Trade Organization dictating to us what our labor law ought to be and what our environmental law ought to be. I highly resent the notion that the World Trade Organization can dictate to us tax law.

We are currently under review and the World Trade Organization has ruled against the United States because we have given a tax break to our overseas company, and they have ruled against us and said that this tax break is a tax subsidy, language which annoys me to no end. They have given us until October 1 to get rid of that tax break for our corporations, so they are telling us, the U.S. Congress, what we have to do with tax law.

You say, oh, that cannot be. We do not have to do what they tell us. Well, technically we do not have to, but we will not be a very good member, and this is what we agreed to in the illegal agreement. Certainly it was not a legitimate treaty that we signed. But in this agreement we have come up and said that we would obey what the WTO says.

Our agreement says very clearly that any ruling by the WTO, the Congress is obligated to change the law. This is the interpretation and this is what we signed. This is a serious challenge, and we should not accept so easily this idea that we will just go one step further.

This has not just happened 5 years ago, there has been a gradual erosion of the concept of national sovereignty. It occurred certainly after World War II with the introduction of the United Nations, and now, under current conditions, we do not even ask the Congress to declare war, yet we still fight a lot of wars. We send troops all over the world and we are involved in combat all the time, and our presidents tell us they get the authority from a UN resolution. So we have gradually lost the concept of national sovereignty.

I want to use a quote from somebody that I consider rather typical of the establishment. We talk about the establishment, but nobody ever knows exactly who they are. But I will name this individual who I think is pretty typical of the establishment, and that is Walter Cronkite. He says, "We need not only an executive to make international law, but we need the military forces to enforce that law and the judicial system to bring the criminals to justice in an international government."

"But," he goes on to say, and this he makes very clear, and this is what we should be aware of, "the American people are going to begin to realize that perhaps they are going to have to yield some sovereignty to an international body to enforce world law, and I think that is going to come to other people as well."

So it is not like it has been hidden, it is not like it is a secret. It is something that those who disagree with me about liberty and the Constitution, they believe in internationalism and the World Trade Organization and the United Nations, and they certainly have the right to that belief, but it contradicts everything America stands for and it contradicts our Constitution, so, therefore, we should not allow this to go unchallenged.

Now, the whole idea that treaties could be passed and undermine the ability of our Congress to pass legislation or undermine our Constitution, this was thought about and talked about by the founders of this country. They were rather clear on the idea that a treaty, although the treaty can become the law of the land, a treaty could never be an acceptable law of the land if it amended or changed the Constitution. That would be ridiculous, and they made that very clear.

It could have the effect of the law of the land, as long as it was a legitimate constitutional agreement that we entered into. But Thomas Jefferson said if the treaty power is unlimited, then we do not have a Constitution. Surely the President and the Senate cannot do by treaty what the whole government is interdicted from doing in any way.

So that is very important. We cannot just sit back and accept the idea that the World Trade Organization, we have entered into it, it was not a treaty, it was an agreement, but we have entered into it, and the agreement says we have to do what they tell us, even if it contradicts the whole notion that it is the Congress' and people's responsibility to pass their own laws with regard to the environment, with regard to labor and with regard to tax law.

So I think this is important material. I think this is an important subject, a lot more important than just the vote to trade with China. I think we should trade with China. I think we should trade with Cuba. I think we should trade with everybody possible, unless we are at war with them. I do not think we should have sanctions against Iran, Iraq or Libya, and it does not make much sense to me to be struggling and fighting and giving more foreign aid to a country like China, and at the same time we have sanctions on and refuse to trade and talk with Cuba. That does not make a whole lot of sense. Yet those who believe and promote trade with China are the ones who will be strongly objecting to trade with Cuba and these other countries. So I think a little bit more consistency on this might be better for all of us.

Alexander Hamilton also talked about this. He said a treaty cannot be made which alters the Constitution of the country or which infringes any expressed exception to the powers of the Constitution of the United States.

So these were the founders talking about this, and yet we have drifted a long way. It does not happen overnight. It has been over a 50-year period. Five years ago we went one step further. First we accepted the idea that international finance would be regulated by the IMF. Then we accepted the idea that the World Bank, which was supposed to help the poor people of the world and redistribute wealth, they have redistributed a lot of wealth, but most of it ended up in the hands of wealthy individuals and wealthy politicians. But the poor people of the world never get helped by these programs. Now, 5 years ago we have accepted the notion that the World Trade Organization will bring about order in trade around the country.

Well, since that time we have had a peso crisis in Mexico and we had a crisis with currencies in Southeast Asia. So I would say that the management of finances with the IMF as well as the World Trade Organization has been very unsuccessful, and even if one does not accept my constitutional argument

that we should not be doing this, we should at least consider the fact that what we are doing is not very successful.

What I think we are seeing, when you get tens of thousands of people out on an issue that seems to be esoteric and start talking and demonstrating against our policy, essentially as they did in Seattle and Washington, I would say maybe the grassroots in America are starting to wake up a lot sooner than the people here in the U.S. Congress. So I think that it is very important that we think this through and think of it in the big context, not only in the very narrow context of voting for trade with China or not.

The World Trade Organization does not represent free trade because it is management of trade. It accepts all the complaints from the countries who think that they are being undersold or the competition is getting a little tough for them.

Just this week, the President has announced that he will send seven more complaints to the World Trade Organization, seven different countries who are being charged with unfair trade practices. The United States has not fared well with the World Trade Organization. The World Trade Organization has ruled against us on patents dealing with the playing of music, the World Trade Organization has ruled against us with regard to taxes, and also against us on some anti-dumping resolutions.

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But I am afraid that what is happening is, it is just another international bureaucracy that will be able to provide benefits for some very powerful special interests and ignore the little people who have a harder time to get an ear at the World Trade Organization.

The China situation I think is an interesting one because we are spending a lot of effort trading with China. Of course, the tragedy really here is not free trade in trading with China; it has to do with China getting some of our top secrets which to me is more disturbing than trading and buying some things that we might want from China. But China, we have gone to this extent. They have received a tremendous amount. I think they have now received \$13 billion from the World Bank. They are the largest recipient of the Export-Import Bank. And, at the same time we send these benefits to China, we still have Members in the Congress who seem to flip flop on the issues who will say well, no, I do not like China; I think China, they are not respectable enough and they will undermine what we are doing, so I do not want to trade with China and they will vote against trade with China, yet at the same time they continue to vote to subsidize China through the Export-Import Bank. That is hard for me to understand why, if one does not want to trade with China, why would one want

to continue to send them money. Why would they not vote against the World Bank sending them money. Why would they not vote against the Export-Import Bank sending money over there, because that is subsidizing them. That is where the real harm comes from. Yet, we see that inconsistency all the time.

Madam Speaker, I would like to discuss the third point about free trade that I made, and that is that free trade should lead to peace. I sincerely believe this, if we have free trade. But take an example of this: free trade is supposed to lead to lower taxes and lower prices. But here we have the World Trade Organization not telling us to lower taxes to be equal, that would not be quite as harmful, but here we have a World Trade Organization telling us to raise taxes to equal the competition. So it is working perversely. The same way in the military sense. We trade with China, we subsidize China, and yet China appears to be a threat to Taiwan.

So what do we do? Do we say let us not send any more subsidies to China? No, what we do is we hurry up and say well, there could be a conflict between Taiwan and China, so we send more weapons to Taiwan. So in subsidizing the Communist system in China, as well as militarizing and sending the military weapons and promising that we will support Taiwan, we are bound and determined to stir up a fight over there with us in the middle. So this, in itself, should tell us that this is not free trade. Free trade means that we are less likely to fight with people and yet, we are stirring up trouble over there and literally, but rather typically, we are subsidizing and helping both sides, which we have done for many, many years.

This is why the argument for national sovereignty and the national defense, a strong national defense makes a whole lot of sense, because we do not have to make these determinations. First, we do not have the authority to make the determination of the internal affairs of other nations. We do not have that authority. We probably do not have the wisdom to pick out who the good guys and the bad guys are, but we certainly do not have the finesse to do it by going in there and satisfying all sides. About all we do is we commit ourselves to these conflicts around the world, commit our troops and commit our dollars.

Instead of trying to come back from some of these commitments of troops every place in the world, we are looking for more dragons to slay. We in the Congress are going along with the President, getting prepared to send billions of dollars down to Colombia to support a faction down there that has been in a civil war for decades and 30,000 people killed. And of course the grandiose explanation is that we are going down there and we are going to stop drugs from coming in here, which is a dream, because that is not going to

happen. But the real reason why I think we venture out into these areas is to serve the financial interests, because it just happens that those individuals who like to sell helicopters and they like to sell airplanes and they like others who would like to protect oil interests are the ones who are more likely to lobby for us to be in areas like this.

Madam Speaker, free trade, if it were true free trade, we would be less likely ever to fight with other countries. There was one free trade economist who stated that he had a rule, it was called the McDonald rule. He said he has watched it so far and up until now, the best he knows, there has never been two countries that have had McDonalds in each country ever fought a war. So that is rather simplistic, but I think there is a lot of truth to that, that we should trade and talk with people, give people the freedom and the right to spend their money the way they want. Do not take the money from the people who may have short-term disadvantages from free trade and tax them in order to subsidize the competition. That is where I think we really get off track and we do way too much of it.

Madam Speaker, I would like to touch on another subject about trade that is rarely mentioned, and it may well be one of the most important aspects of trade. That has to do with the even flow of trade between countries and their currencies. Balance of payment deficits and current account deficits are very, very important in the long run, especially if they are accompanied by fiat money and not sound money and different currencies being inflated at different rates. This will cause imbalances which causes tremendous shake-outs like we had in Southeast Asia where all of a sudden there are devaluations and some of the protectionist sentiment in order to get an edge on the competitors will be frequently deliberate devaluations where they will prop up currencies in order to get an edge or keep a currency lower in order to get an edge. These things can work for a while, but they usually end up in a crisis, with a currency crisis, higher interest rates, inflations and a downturn in the economy.

Now, fortunately, over the last 10 years, most other countries have done a poorer job than we have. The United States has had a built-in advantage in the 1990s since the breakup of the Soviet Union. We have remained the power house economically and militarily which conveys a certain amount of confidence to our currency and has given us license to counterfeit. It has given our Federal Reserve license to create credit out of thin air for all of the reasons they want to do, to stimulate housing or whatever. Also, to encourage some of these trade imbalances. So some of the protectionists will look and they will say, look how much we buy from China, look how

much we buy from Japan. That is related to the fact that we have a currency that is artificially and temporarily rated very high and foreigners are willing to take our money, creating this imbalance. But that will all come to an end, because we cannot do this forever. When that happens, stocks go down, interest rates go up, the economy drops, and inflation comes back.

The benefits that we have received over these past 10 years have only been temporary. So when we look at the imbalances created by the currency system and the monetary system, we should be prepared to find out that the World Trade Organization will do absolutely nothing to solve that problem. The IMF cannot solve that problem, the World Bank cannot solve that problem, and the World Trade Organization certainly will not solve that problem, because some of the imbalances have already been built into the system.

Madam Speaker, we are the greatest debtor Nation in the world today. Our current account deficit is running at record highs. That will be reversed, and the value of the dollar will be reversed. This will cause some serious problems for all of us. It will be the paying back. We have borrowed money endlessly, the foreigners are willing to take our money, sell us cheap products. Our standard of living goes up, they loan us back the money, they buy into our stock market, so we have an illusion of wealth because we have the greatest counterfeiting machine in the world, and that is the Federal Reserve's ability to create credit out of thin air.

It would be nice if it would last forever and these perceptions would persist, but if one looks at monetary history, one finds out that it never persists forever. It persists only for a limited period of time. There was a time in the 1980s they thought in Japan it would persist forever, and then all of a sudden the investment and the adjustments that were required from the over-capacity built into their system came about, and because they have not permitted the liquidation of the debt and the adjustment in prices and wages, their problems have persisted now for more than 10 years.

So we will have to face up to that. The important thing there is that it is not a trade problem, it is a currency problem. One day, we in the Congress will have to decide whether or not we want a sound currency again, or whether we want to continue manipulating a paper currency, a paper currency backed up by nothing. Nothing but promises, promises that we will tax the American people, and that if the American people are not working hard enough and they are not paying enough taxes or the economy slips, all of a sudden that perceived value of the dollar will go down. So that is a very serious problem that we will be needing to address in the not too distant future.

I would like to mention in a little bit more detail the H. J. Res. 90, because that is the number of the resolution

that will be brought to the floor for a vote, and it is not a complicated piece of legislation, it is a single page. It just says that we do not want to be members of the World Trade Organization. People worry, well, what will this mean? It will mean that we believe in free trade. It means that we will trade with China and that we will have low tariffs and that we should not be subsidizing or managing trade for powerful special interests, but it will also mean that we do not endorse this concept that the World Trade Organization should be dictating to us the way we write our laws. The way this was stated is that we must accept the idea that we accept the rules of the WTO. I, of course, think that is a serious mistake, and that we should always work for free trade.

Monesque was very clear on his ideas about what free trade should be and why we should have it in relationship to this issue of war and peace. That, of course, I think is the most important. He says, peace is the natural effect of trade. Two nations who differ with each other become reciprocally dependent, for if one has an interest in buying, the other has an interest in selling, and thus, their union is founded on their mutual necessities. That is true, but what we are doing today by subsidizing and supporting a regime like Red China, not trading with Red China, but subsidizing them at the same time we see the antagonism building with Taiwan and our only answer there is to rush to Taiwan and send them more weapons, and we decide to stand in between them, I think is a foolish policy that will lead to trouble.

Madam Speaker, we should not be the policemen of the world. We should set a standard on free trade. We should set a standard in the ideas of liberty. We should be aware and think more seriously about what Patrick Henry said. If we are concerned only about the immediate financial benefit of some trade agreement, we forget about the bigger picture. And the bigger picture and the bigger the responsibility of all of us, my responsibility and your responsibility to our people, and the American people should think about this too. The most important thing is that we provide liberty for our people to let our people solve their problems. This blind faith in big government and this blind faith in international government and World Trade Organization, the United Nations, and this idea that we can police the world, that is a blind faith which I think has caused a lot of trouble and is bound to bring a lot more pain and suffering to us in the future.

Madam Speaker, I am quite confident that in due time, it will be the undoing of our system if we do not change our ways. Because technically, we are a bankrupt Nation. We talk about huge surpluses, but the huge surpluses are fictitious. The national debt is going up at a rate of \$100 billion a month. There is no surplus. There is a commitment made out there, and the wealth of

this country is based on borrowed money and a belief that the dollar is going to be remaining strong forever and ever. That fiction will come to an end, and we will be forced to face up to reality, and then we have to decide what really is our purpose. Is our purpose to manage people, tell them how to live, tell them how to live their personal lives? Is our job to manage the economy and distort the general welfare clause and the interstate commerce clause to the point that we tell everybody what they can do with every item they buy?

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And are we going to permit agreements that are not treaties to act as treaties to undermine our national sovereignty and write laws for us in the Congress? I do not think that is a very good idea, and I think that is the direction that we are going.

I think there is every reason to believe that if we go back to what America was all about and the importance of the American policies, what made America great, we will be all right. But we have too much emphasis on the commercialism of what people want from special advantage.

Why is it that we here in the Congress are lobbied by lobbyists willing to spend \$130 million a month? Why do they come here? Because their interests are best served because we are doing way too much. And I certainly do not believe that the answer is to regulate the lobbyists, regulate the elections or tell people how to spend their own money. What we should regulate is ourselves. We should regulate our insatiable desire to tell people what to do and how to live and how to run the economy and how the world should run.

That is what we cannot seem to control. We seem to not have any ability to just back away and have some belief and conviction that a free society works; that freedom works; that protection of life and liberty is important; the protection of property is important.

Madam Speaker, the World Trade Organization undermines property rights through the patent laws, which they have done; the Congress endlessly buying up land and confiscating land from the people, taking land from the people. We do not honor property rights. We interfere with contracts continuously.

The Government should be protecting liberty. The Government is not here under the original agreement with the people and the Constitution. The Government, we the Congress, the Constitution was designed to protect our liberties, not to undermine them; and yet we spend most of our time here undermining the liberties of the people.

Now the question is: Is that what the people want? Do the people really want us to do this and tell them what to do and how to live endlessly, and they will accept that because they will get

things from us? As long as we take care of them and provide them free medical care and free education and everything is free, everybody knows we have all of that ability to create free things.

Most people, though, I am afraid are on to us. They think the U.S. Congress and the United States Government creates nothing. They are incapable of creating anything. About all they can do is take from one and give to another, and then in the process undermine the principles of liberty. And by doing that, we will undermine the principles of the basic concept of what is necessary to produce a good standard of living. But we concentrate not on liberty, not on freedom. We concentrate on the things that are distributed and redistributed, the advantages and the disadvantages and how we are going to get bigger government. Not only bigger Federal Government, but bigger international government, never talking about what are the advantages to the people if we just give them their freedom. Just leave them alone.

The people I have my greatest sympathies for are the low middle-income people. People who do not want to go on welfare and are getting ripped off by the system because they do have to pay taxes, and they are the first ones who suffer from job losses and suffer from the inflation, and they are the last ones to have any representation up here. If one is on welfare, they have representation. And if one is a giant corporation willing to send equipment overseas and fight wars, they have great representation.

But if one is hard working, believes in freedom, accepts the responsibility for their own acts, believes they should take care of their family, would like to be left alone, then they are seen as an enemy of the State. The Government too often wants to do something to them, like tax them more and more.

So I think it is time we as a Congress started thinking about something other than the transfer of wealth and the control and manipulation of people. Think again once more of the quote that I used as I started tonight by Patrick Henry: "You are not to inquire how your trade may be increased, nor how you are to become a great and powerful people, but how your liberties may be secured. For liberty ought to be the direct end of your government."

If we make liberty the direct end of our government, I do not believe for one minute that we will have to worry about the prosperity. Because we have neglected the liberties of our people, I am deeply concerned about the prosperity of our people and I am deeply concerned about the international conflicts that we tend to stir up and demand that we send our troops throughout the world. I think that can lead to trouble. It has in the past. It will in the future.

Because we have drifted from this notion that the Government should be limited. Limited to protecting our liberty, making sure the marketplace is

free, making sure that property rights exist, and making sure that we mind our own business. And quite possibly if we would do more of that, minding our own business and not spending this money overseas, we could literally do a better job taking care of our military.

Madam Speaker, our military needs funding. They need a morale boost. They need better training. They need a better mission. And yet we send them hither and yon around the world spending hundreds of billions of dollars, at the same time our defenses are probably as low as they have ever been.

But that is not a "lack of money" problem; that is a "lack of mission" problem. It is a lack of understanding what policy ought to be. Our policy ought to be, and our purpose ought to be, the preservation of liberty. The preservation of liberty means that we should have free trade and that we should talk to our so-called enemies and trade with them and deal with them, and we are less likely to fight with them.

But we should never fall into the trap of talking and using words incorrectly, this idea that people come and talk so much about free trade and then do not defend free trade, or do not understand it. What they are talking about is managed trade by the World Trade Organization, and it means that we also subsidize our enemies and our competitors around the world. That is not free trade. That is not related to freedom. Freedom is not that complex.

Fortunately for us, we have a document that is rather clear and simple that we all can read and understand. And, unfortunately, we do not read it often enough when we pass this massive legislation here on the House floor and get ourselves involved in too many things. So, hopefully, here in the next couple of weeks as we talk more about trade and we have a vote on China, as well as a vote on whether or not we should even be in the World Trade Organization, hopefully we will have more than five or 10 or 15 or 20, say: That makes sense. Why are we in the World Trade Organization?

We can still believe in freedom, we can still believe in trade, we can still believe in the American dream without accepting the idea that free trade and freedom means we belong to the World Trade Organization. Hopefully, there will be enough people in this Congress to send the message and say at least let us question this. Why do we feel so compelled to belong to these international organizations, joining them not with a treaty but with a mere vote of this Congress and now they are dictating law back to us.

Hopefully, those individuals who are a little bit annoyed with the World Trade Organization because they have encroached upon our lawmaking process dealing with trade law, dealing with labor law, and dealing with environmental law, dealing with tax law, that they will say maybe the problem is not mismanagement of the World

Trade Organization; maybe we should not have that much confidence that if we get a few new managers in there, like they think they can do at the IMF. Maybe the problem is that we should not be in the World Trade Organization at all.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a weather delay.

Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. COBURN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

Mr. MANZULLO (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of a death in the family.

Ms. CARSON (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of official business.

#### 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. MCNULTY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. LIPINSKI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ETHERIDGE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and May 3.

Mr. METCALF, for 5 minutes, today, May 3, and May 5.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, today.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 397. An act to authorize the Secretary of Energy to establish a multiagency program to alleviate the problems caused by rapid economic development along the United States-Mexico border, particularly those associated with public health and environmental security, to support the Materials Corridor Partnership Initiative, and to promote energy efficient, environmentally

sound economic development along that border through the development and use of new technology, particularly hazardous waste and materials technology; to the Committee on Science.

S. 408. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a former Bureau of Land Management administrative site to the city of Carson City, Nevada, for use as a senior center; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1218. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to issue to the Landusky School District, without consideration, a patent for the surface and mineral estates of certain lots, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1629. An act to provide for the exchange of certain land in the State of Oregon; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1694. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the reclamation and reuse of water and wastewater in the State of Hawaii; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1705. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to enter into land exchanges to acquire from the private owner and to convey to the State of Idaho approximately 1,240 acres of land near the City of Rocks National Reserve, Idaho, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1727. An act to authorize funding for the expansion annex of the historic Palace of the Governors, a public history museum located, and relating to the history of Hispanic and Native American culture, in the Southwest and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1778. An act to provide for equal exchanges of land around the Cascade Reservoir; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1797. An act to provide for a land conveyance to the city of Craig, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1836. An act to extend the deadline for commencement of construction of a hydroelectric project in the State of Alabama; to the Committee on Commerce.

S. 1849. An act to designate segments and tributaries of White Clay Creek, Delaware and Pennsylvania, as a component of the National Wild and Scenic Rivers System; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1892. An act to authorize the acquisition of the Valles Caldera, to provide for an effective land and wildlife management program for this resource within the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1910. An act to amend the Act establishing Women's Rights National Historical Park to permit the Secretary of the Interior to acquire title in fee simple to the Hunt House located in Waterloo, New York; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1946. An act to amend the National Environmental Education Act to redesignate that Act as the "John H. Chafee Environmental Education Act", to establish the John H. Chafee Memorial Fellowship Program, to extend the programs under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

#### BILLS AND A JOINT RESOLUTION PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. THOMAS, from the Committee on House Administration, reported that that committee did on the following dates present to the President, for his approval, bills and a joint resolution of the House of the following titles:

On April 13, 2000:

H.R. 1658. To provide a more just and uniform procedure for Federal civil forfeitures, and for other purposes.

On April 20, 2000:

H.R. 1231. To direct the Secretary of Agriculture to convey certain National Forest lands to Elko County, Nevada, for continued use as a cemetery.

H.R. 1615. To amend the Wild and Scenic Rivers Act to extend the designation of a portion of the Lamprey River in New Hampshire as a recreational river to include an additional river segment.

H.R. 1753. To promote the research, identification, assessment, exploration, and development of gas hydrate resources, and for other purposes.

H.J. Res. 86. Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces during such war, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3090. To amend the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act to restore certain lands to the Elim Native Corporation, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3063. To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to increase the maximum acreage of Federal leases for sodium that may be held by an entity in any one State, and for other purposes.

H.R. 2863. To clarify the legal effect on the United States of the acquisition of a parcel of land in the Red Cliffs Desert Reserve in the State of Utah.

H.R. 2862. To direct the Secretary of the Interior to release reversionary interests held by the United States in certain parcels of land in Washington County, Utah, to facilitate an anticipated land exchange.

H.R. 2368. To assist in the resettlement and relocation of the people of Bikini Atoll by amending the terms of the trust fund established during the United States administration of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, May 3, 2000, 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:

7149. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Seed Regulatory and Testing Branch, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Department's final rule—Increase in Fees for Federal Seed Testing and Certification Services [Docket No. LS-99-05] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7150. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Use of Electronic Signatures by Customers, Participants and Clients of Registrants—received March 15, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7151. A letter from the Acting Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Exemption from Registration as a Commodity Trading Advisor (RIN: 3038-AB48) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7152. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Seed

Regulatory and Testing Branch, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to Regulations Under the Federal Seed Act [No. LS-94-012] (RIN: 0581-AB55) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7153. A letter from the Regulatory Liaison, Grain Inspection, Packers, and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, USDA (RIN: 0580-AA70) received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7154. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Revision of Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches [Docket No. FV00-916-1 IFR] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7155. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation of Poultry Meat and other Poultry Products from Sinaloa and Sonora, Mexico [APHIS Docket No. 98-034-2] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7156. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterinary Services User Fees; Export Certificate Endorsements [APHIS Docket No. 98-003-02] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7157. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 1999-2000 Marketing Year [Docket No. FV00-985-3 IFR] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7158. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Services, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Avocados Grown in South Florida; Relaxation of Container and Pack Requirements [Docket No. FV00-915-1 FIR] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7159. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Importation and Interstate Movement of Certain Land Tortoises [Docket No. 00-016-1] received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7160. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Fruits and Vegetables, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Blueberry Promotion, Research, and Information Order; Referendum Procedures [FV-99-702-FR] received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7161. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Seed

Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Melons Grown in South Texas; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV00-979-1 FR] received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7162. A letter from the Associate Administrator, Livestock and Seed Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pork Promotion and Research [No. LS-98-007] received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7163. A letter from the Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Labeling; Nutrient Content Claims, Definition of Term: Healthy [Docket No. 99-050IF] (RIN: 0583-AC65) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7164. A letter from the Administrator, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—1999-Crop Peanuts National Poundage Quota (RIN: 0560-AF48) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7165. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Dichloromid; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300988; FRL-6498-7] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7166. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Cucurbitacins; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300965; FRL-6485-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7167. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Glufosinate Ammonium; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300986; FRL-6498-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7168. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Polyvinyl Acetate, Carboxyl Modified Sodium Salt; Tolerance Exemption [OPP-300942; FRL-6389-8] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

7169. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the annual report on conditional registration of pesticides during Fiscal Year 1999, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 136w-4; to the Committee on Agriculture.

7170. A letter from the Comptroller General, the General Accounting Office, transmitting a review of the President's first special impoundment message for fiscal year 2000, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685; (H. Doc. No. 106-224); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7171. A letter from the Director, the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting Cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685(e); (H. Doc. No. 106-229); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7172. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a request for emergency Fiscal Year 2000 supplemental

appropriations to assist in reconstruction expenses in Southern Africa; (H. Doc. No. 106-230); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

7173. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of violations of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Air Force personnel; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7174. A letter from the Under Secretary, Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of the violations of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army; to the Committee on Appropriations.

7175. A letter from the Under Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting On payment of restructuring costs under defense contracts, pursuant to Public Law 105-85 section 804(a)(1) (111 Stat. 1832); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7176. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting F-22 aircraft program report for FY 2000 and the event-based decisions planned for FY 2001, pursuant to Public Law 104-201, section 218(a) (110 Stat. 2455); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7177. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting the Annual Report of the Scientific Advisory Board of the Strategic Environmental Research and Development Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7178. A letter from the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation and Deputy Under Secretary (Science and Technology), Department of Defense, transmitting a report on the selection of the laboratories and T&E Centers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7179. A letter from the Acting General Counsel, Department of Defense, transmitting proposed legislation to authorize military construction and related activities of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7180. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting the report on reimbursement of contractor environmental response action cost; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7181. A letter from the Alternate OSD Federal Register Liaison Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Collection From Third Party Players of Reasonable Costs of Healthcare Services (RIN: 0790-AG51) received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7182. A letter from the Program Manager, Department of Defense, Pentagon Renovation Program, transmitting the 10th Annual Report on the renovation of the Pentagon Reservation; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7183. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Procurement and Assistance Management, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Transfer of Real Property at Defense Nuclear Facilities for Economic Development [Docket No. FM-RM-99-RPROP] (RIN: 1901-AA82) received March 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

7184. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the approved retirement and advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list of Lieutenant General Michael C. Short, United States Air Force; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7185. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting a report on plans to establish and deploy Rapid Assessment and Initial Detection (RAID) teams that would re-

spond to incidents involving weapons of mass destruction; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7186. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting a proposed bill, "To authorize appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001 for certain maritime programs of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

7187. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendments to HUD's Mortgage Review Board and Civil Money Penalty Regulations [Docket No. FR-4308-I-01] (RIN: 2501-AC44) received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7188. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Turkey, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7189. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Restrictions on the Purchase of Assets from the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (RIN: 3064-AB37) received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7190. A letter from the Assistant, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Regulation Y; Bank Holding Companies and Change in Bank Control [Docket No. R-1062] received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7191. A letter from the Assistant, Division of Consumer and Community Affairs, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Truth in Lending [Regulation Z; Docket No. R-1050] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7192. A letter from the Assistant, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Financial Subsidiaries [Regulation H; Docket No. R-1066] (RIN: 1505-AA77) received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7193. A letter from the Assistant, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Bank Holding Companies and Change in Bank Control [Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1067] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7194. A letter from the Assistant, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Bank Holding Companies and Change in Bank Control [Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1065] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7195. A letter from the Assistant, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Bank Holding Companies and Change in Bank Control [Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1057] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7196. A letter from the Assistant, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Membership of State Banking Institutions in the Federal Reserve System [Regulation H; Docket No. R-1064] received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7197. A letter from the Assistant, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Bank Holding Companies and

Change in Bank Control; Securities Underwriting, Dealing, and Market-Making Activities of Financial Holding Companies [Regulation Y; Docket No. R-1063] received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7198. A letter from the Director, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's 2000 compensation plan, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 18336; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7199. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting a draft bill, "To amend section 504 of the Housing Act of 1949"; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

7200. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting Final Regulations—Administration of Grants and Agreements with Institutions of Higher Education, Hospitals, and other Non-Profit Organizations, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7201. A letter from the Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the twentieth annual report on the implementation of the Age Discrimination Act of 1975 by departments and agencies which administer programs of Federal financial assistance, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 6106a(b); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7202. A letter from the Administrator, Food and Nutrition Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of the "Vegetable Protein Products" Requirements for the National School Lunch Program, School Breakfast Program, Summer Food Service Program and Child and Adult Care Food Program (RIN: 0584-AC82) received March 13, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7203. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's final rule—Amendment of Equal Access to Justice Act Attorney Fees Regulations—received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7204. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits—received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

7205. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Internal Dosimetry—received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7206. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—The DOE Corporate Lessons Learned Program [DOE-STD 7501-99] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7207. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Backup Power Sources for DOE Facilities [DOE-STD 3003-2000] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7208. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Office of Environment, Safety and Health, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final

rule—Preparation Guide for U.S. Department of Energy Nonreactor Nuclear Facility Safety Analysis Reports [DOE-STD 3009-94] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7209. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Paper and Paperboard Components [Docket No. 95F-0065] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7210. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 94F-0334] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7211. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Public Information; Communications With State and Foreign Government Officials [Docket No. 98N-0518] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7212. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Polymers [Docket No. 99F-0461] received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7213. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Requirements Applicable to Albumin (Human), Plasma Protein Fraction (Human), and Immune Globulin (Human); Confirmation in Part and Technical Amendment [Docket No. 98N-0608] received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7214. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; School Bus Body Joint Strength [Docket No. NHTSA-2000-6994] (RIN: 2127-AH84) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7215. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Anthropomorphic Test Devices; 3-Year-Old Child Crash Test Dummy [Docket No. NHTSA-2000-7051] (RIN: 2127-AG 77) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7216. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Phase 2 Emission Standards for New Nonroad Spark-Ignition Handheld Engines At or Below 19 Kilowatts and Minor Amendments to Emission Requirements Applicable to Small Spark-Ignition Engines and Marine Spark-Ignition Engines [FRL-6548-2] (RIN: 2060-AE29) received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7217. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Alabama [AL52-200014; FRL-6568-6] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7218. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [MO 099-1099; FRL-6568-8] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7219. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—West Virginia: Final Determination of Partial Program Adequacy of the State's Municipal Solid Waste Landfill Permitting Program [FRL-6565-6 40 CFR-Part 258] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7220. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Oklahoma: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [FRL-6565-4] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7221. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—A Required State Implementation Plan for Carbon Monoxide; Spokane, Washington [FRL-6566-9] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7222. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Finding of Failure To Submit A Required State Implementation Plan for Carbon Monoxide; Fairbanks, Alaska [FRL-6566] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7223. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Indiana; Control of Landfill Gas Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [IN193-1a; FRL-6566-7] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7224. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Municipal Solid Waste Landfills State Plan For Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Idaho [Docket No. 01-0001; FRL-6566-2] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7225. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plan for New Mexico: Transportation Conformity Rule [NM-26-1-6944a; FRL-6561-6] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7226. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Texas; Control of Air Pollution from Volatile Organic Compounds, Vent Gas Control and Offset Lithographic Printing Rules [TX-107-2-7424a; FRL-6567-5] received March 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7227. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Connecticut and Rhode Island;

Clean Fuel Fleets [CT061-7220A; A-1-FRL-6542-3] received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7228. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Prevention of Significant Deterioration Delegation of Authority to Mendocino County Air Pollution Control District to Administer Permits Issued by EPA [NZ001; FRL-6561-80] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7229. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Organobromine Production Wastes; Identification and Listing of Hazardous Waste; Land Disposal Restrictions; Listing of CERCLA Hazardous Substances, Reportable Quantities; Final Rule [FRL-6560-4] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7230. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Implementation Plans: Oregon [OR-73-7288-a; FRL-6544-2] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7231. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District, South Coast Air Quality Air Management District [CA 224-0213a FRL-6549-7] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7232. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Ventura County Air Pollution Control District, Monterey Bay Unified Air Pollution Control District, and Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District [CA 040-0223a; FRL-6563-3] received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7233. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Outer Continental Shelf Air Regulations Consistency Update for California [FRL-6563-9] received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7234. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Refugio and Taft, Texas) [MM Docket No. 99-256 RM-9527] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7235. A letter from the Chief, Legal Branch, Accounting Safeguards Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Comprehensive Review of the Accounting Requirements for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers: Phase 1 [CC Docket No. 99-253] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7236. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Com-

munications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations (Lufkin and Corrigan, TX) [MM Docket No. 98-135 RM-9300 RM-9383] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7237. A letter from the Chief, Legal Branch, Accounting Safeguards Division, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—1998 Biennial Regulatory Review—Review of Depreciation Requirements for Incumbent Local Exchange Carriers [CC Docket No. 98-137] United States Telephone Association's Petition for Forbearance from Depreciation Regulation of Price Cap for Local Exchange Carriers [ASD 98-91] received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7238. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Common Carrier Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Telecommunications Relay Services and Speech-to-Speech Services for Individuals with Hearing and Speech Disabilities [CC Docket No. 98-67] received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7239. A letter from the Deputy Chief, Auctions and Industry Analysis Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Part 90 of the Commission's Rules to Facilities Future Development of SMR Systems in the 800 MHz Frequency Band [PR Docket No. 93-144 RM-8117, RM-8030 RM-8029] Implementation of Section 3(n) and 332 of the Communications Act—Regulatory Treatment of Mobile Services [GN Docket No. 93-252] Implementation of Section 309(j) of the Communication Act—Competitive Bidding [PP Docket No. 93-253] received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7240. A letter from the Associate Bureau Chief, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—1998 Biennial Regulatory Review—Amendment of Part 97 of the Commission's Amateur Rules [WT Docket No. 98-143, RM-9148, RM-9150, RM-9196] received March 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7241. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Middlebury, Berlin and Hardwick, Vermont) [MM Docket No. 98-72, RM-9265, RM-9368] received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7242. A letter from the Special Assistant to the Bureau Chief, Mass Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Alberton, Montana) [MM Docket No. 99-305 RM-9537] (Big Sky, Montana) [MM Docket No. 99-307 RM-9739] (Albany, Texas) [MM Docket No. 99-286 RM-9713] (Seymour, Texas) [MM Docket No. 99-303 RM-9737] (Inglis, Florida) [MM Docket No. 99-306 RM-9729] received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7243. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Open Access-Same-Time Information System and Standards of Conduct [Docket No. RM95-9-003; Order No. 638] received March 20, 2000,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7244. A letter from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Regional Transmission Organizations [Docket No. RM99-2-001; Order No. 2000-A] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7245. A letter from the Secretary, Bureau of Consumer Protection, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rule Concerning Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act ("Appliance Labeling Rule") [Billing Code 6750-01-M] received March 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7246. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rule Concerning Disclosures Regarding Energy Consumption and Water Use of Certain Home Appliances and Other Products Required Under the Energy Policy and Conservation Act ("Appliance Labeling Rule")—received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7247. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks; Revision, NUHOMS 24-P and NUHOMS 52-B (RIN: 3150-AG19) received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7248. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—List of Approved Spent Fuel Storage Casks; TN-32 Addition (RIN: 3150-AG18) received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

7249. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a proposed bill for Authorization of Appropriations for Fiscal Year 2001; to the Committee on Commerce.

7250. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report on the National Institutes of Health (NIH) Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals From Disadvantaged Backgrounds (CR-LRP) for FY 1999; to the Committee on Commerce.

7251. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report of the National Institutes of Health (NIH) AIDS Research Loan Repayment Program (LRP) for FY 1999; to the Committee on Commerce.

7252. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Annual Report in the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development (NICHD) Contraception and Infertility Research Loan Repayment Program (CIR-LRP) for FY 1999; to the Committee on Commerce.

7253. A letter from the Lieutenant General, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the listing of all outstanding Letters of Offer to sell any major defense equipment for \$1 million or more; the listing of all Letters of Offer that were accepted, as of December 31, 1999, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7254. A letter from the Lieutenant General, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Belgium for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 00-31), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

7255. A letter from the Lieutenant General, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the United Kingdom for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 00-32), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

7256. A letter from the Lieutenant General, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Norway for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 00-34), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

7257. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 05-00 which constitutes a Request for Final Approval to conclude Supplement 3 to the Program Memorandum of Understanding for Cooperative Production of the Multifunctional; Information Distribution System Low Volume Terminal (MIDS-LVT), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

7258. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed Technical Assistance Agreements and Manufacturing License Agreements with Russia (Transmittal No. DTC-125-99), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

7259. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract to Japan [Transmittal No. DTC 019-00], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

7260. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on the activities of United States Government departments and agencies relating to the prevention of nuclear proliferation during January 1, 1998 and December 31, 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 3281; to the Committee on International Relations.

7261. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7262. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

7263. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification that effective February 27, 2000, danger pay rate for the Montenegro Province was designated at the 20% level, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 5928; to the Committee on International Relations.

7264. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Department's report entitled "Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 1999," pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2151n(d); to the Committee on International Relations.

7265. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a listing of gifts by the U.S. Government to foreign individuals during fiscal year 1999, pursuant to Public Law 94-59, title III (89 Stat. 283); to the Committee on International Relations.

7266. A letter from the Director, Agency for International Development, transmitting a report on economic conditions prevailing in Egypt that may affect its ability to meet international debt obligations and stabilize its economy, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2346 nt.; to the Committee on International Relations.

7267. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the annual report on Military Assistance, Military Exports, and Military Imports for Fiscal Year 1999; to the Committee on International Relations.

7268. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Export Administration Regulations Entity List: Removal of Entities, Revision in License Policy, and Reformat of List [Docket No. 981019261-0020-02] (RIN: 0694-AB73) received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

7269. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revisions to License Exception CTP [Docket No. 000204027-0027-01] (RIN: 0694-AC14) received March 9, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

7270. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision to the Export Administration Regulations; Administrative Enforcement Proceedings [Docket No. 00306060-0060-01] (RIN: 0694-AC16) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

7271. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Export Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Editorial Clarifications and Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations [Docket No. 000207028-0028-01] (RIN: 0694-AC02) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

7272. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Schedule of Fees for Consular Services, Department of State and Overseas Embassies and Consulates—received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

7273. A letter from the Staff Director, Commission On Civil Rights, transmitting the annual report on compliance and enforcement activities for fiscal year 1999, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 3413(b)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7274. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-298, "Tax Increment Financing Amendment Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7275. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-304, "Harry L. THOMAS, Sr., Recreation Center Designation Temporary Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7276. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-303, "Limited Liability Company Amendment Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7277. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-302, "Management Super-

visory Service Exclusion Amendment Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7278. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-300, "Retail Service Station Amendment Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7279. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-299, "Fairness in Real Estate Transactions and Retirement Funds Protection Amendment Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7280. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-297, "Assisted Living Residence Regulatory Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7281. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-296, "Tax Conformity Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7282. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-301, "Performance Rating Levels Amendment Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7283. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. Act 13-313, "Comprehensive Advisory Neighborhood Commissions Reform Amendment Act of 2000" received April 14, 2000, pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7284. A letter from the Acting President, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's Fiscal Year 1999 Audited Financial Statements, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 283j-1(c); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7285. A letter from the Director, Administrative Committee of the Federal Register, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Prices, Availability and Official Status of Federal Register Publications (RIN: 3095-ZA02) received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7286. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting the FY 2001 Annual Performance Plan for the U.S. Agency for International Development; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7287. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7288. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List: Additions—received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7289. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind Or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List: Additions and Deletions—received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7290. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Intergovernmental Consultation—received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7291. A letter from the President, Federal Financing Bank, transmitting the Annual Management Report of the Federal Financing Bank's 1999 CFOA Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9106; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7292. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1999, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7293. A letter from the Director, Financial Management, General Accounting Office, transmitting transmitting the annual report disclosing the financial condition of the Retirement Plan and Annual Report as required by Public Law 95-595, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 9503(a)(1)(B); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7294. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1999; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7295. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting the report entitled, "Audit of the District of Columbia Sports and Entertainment Commission for Fiscal Years 1996 Through 1998"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7296. A letter from the General Counsel, Cost Accounting Standards Board, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the Office's final rule—Cost Accounting Standards Board; Applicability, Thresholds and Waiver of Cost Accounting Standards Coverage—received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7297. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting written certifications received from agencies confirming that they have assessed the impact of their policies and regulations on the family; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7298. A letter from the Director, Staffing Reinvention Office Employment Service, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Excepted Service; The Career Conditional Employment System; Promotion and Internal Placement (RIN: 3206-AI51) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7299. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Changes in the Survey Cycle for the Orleans, LA, Nonappropriated Fund Wage Area (RIN: 3206-AJ05) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

7300. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the 1999 Annual Performance Report and the 2001 Annual Performance Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

7301. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Filing Copies of Campaign Finance Reports and Statements With State Officers [Notice 2000-4] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

7302. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting six recommendations for legislative action, pursu-

ant to 2 U.S.C. 437d(d)(2); to the Committee on House Administration.

7303. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Office of Indian Gaming Management, Bureau of Indian Affairs, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Tribal Revenue Allocation Plans (RIN: 1076-AD74) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7304. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marine Mammals; Incidental Take During Specified Activities (RIN: 1018-AF54) received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7305. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, National Park Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Personal Watercraft Use Within the NPS System (RIN: 1024-AC65) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7306. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft bill, "To amend the National Historic Trails System Act to designate the Ala Kahakai Trail in Hawaii as a National Historic Trail"; to the Committee on Resources.

7307. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting a draft bill, "To correct spelling errors in the statutory designations of Hawaiian National Parks, and for other purposes"; to the Committee on Resources.

7308. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pennsylvania Regulatory Program [PA-127-FOR] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7309. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Status for *Holocarpa macradenia* (Santa Cruz tarplant) (RIN: 1018-AE80) received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7310. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule for Endangered Status for Four Plants from South Central Coastal California (RIN: 1018-AE81) received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7311. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for *Chlorogalum purpureum* (Purple Amole), a Plant from the South Coast Ranges of California (RIN: 1018-AE76) received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7312. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Law, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule—Regarding Bonneville Power Administration's subscription power sales to customer's sales of firm resources—received March 14, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7313. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Indian Environmental General Assistance Program, Final

Guidelines on the Award and Management of General Assistance Agreements for Indian Tribes—received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7314. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Trawling in Steller Sea Lion Critical Habitat in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 000211040-0040-01; I.D. 032100B] received March 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7315. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements [Docket No. 99120 7322-9322-01; I.D. 12-399A] (RIN: 0648-AN30) received March 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7316. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Sea Turtle Conservation; Shrimp Trawling Requirements [Docket No. 950427117-9278-11; I.D. 100899A] (RIN: 0648-AN30) received March 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7317. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Sea Turtle Conservation; Restrictions to Fishing Activities [Docket No. 991207322-9328-02; I.D. 120899D] (RIN: 0648-AN45) received March 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7318. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Extension of Effective Date of Red Snapper Bag Limit Reduction [Docket No. 990615162-9162-01; I.D. 122298A] (RIN: 0648-AM73) received March 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7319. A letter from the Deputy Asst. Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Red Snapper Minimum Size Limit [Docket No. 990527145-9145-01; I.D. 052199B] (RIN: 0648-AM71) received March 29, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7320. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Financial Assistance for Chesapeake Bay Stock Assessments to Encourage Research Projects for Improvement in the Stock Conditions of the Chesapeake Bay Fisheries [Docket No. 000301055-0055-01; I.D. 012400A] (RIN: 0648-ZA81) received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7321. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of

the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the Statistical Area 620 of the Gulf of the Alaska [Docket No. 990304062-9062-01; I.D. 091099B] received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7322. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 000211039-0039-01; I.D. 031600A] received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7323. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 610 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 000211039-0039-01; I.D. 031700A] received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7324. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Inshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 000211039-0039-01; I.D. 030200A] received March 15, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7325. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Using Hook-and-line or Pot Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 000211040-0040-01; I.D. 030700B] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7326. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Groundfish Fisheries by Vessels using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 000211039-0039-01; I.D. 030800A] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7327. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Inshore Fee System for Repayment of the Loan to Harvesters of Pollock from the Directed Fishing Allowance Allocated to the Inshore Component Under Section 206(b)(1) of the American Fisheries Act (AFA) [Docket No. 991210331-0017-02; I.D. 102899B] (RIN: 0648-AN34) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7328. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 000211039-0039-01; I.D. 031000A] received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7329. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plans [Docket No. 991220343-0071-02; I.D. 120999D] (RIN: 0648-AM52) received March 15, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7330. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Designated Critical Habitat: Critical Habitat for 19 Evolutionarily Significant Units of Salmon and Steelhead in Washington, Oregon, Idaho, and California [Docket No. 990128036-0025-02; I.D. 012100E] (RIN: 0648-AG49) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7331. A letter from the Chief, Endangered Species Division, Office of Protected Resources, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; 90-Day Findings for a Petition to List North American Populations of Smalltooth Sawfish and Largemouth Sawfish as Endangered Under the Endangered Species Act [Docket No. 000303059-0059-01; I.D. No. 021700B] (RIN: 0648-XA49) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7332. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; A Cost Recovery Program for the Individual Fishing Quota Program [Docket No. 991207325-0063-02; 100699A] (RIN: 0648-AJ52) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

7333. A letter from the the Chief Justice, the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 106—225); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7334. A letter from the the Chief Justice, the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Bankruptcy Procedure that have been adopted by the Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2075; (H. Doc. No. 106—226); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7335. A letter from the the Chief Justice, the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure adopted by the Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 106—227); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7336. A letter from the the Chief Justice, the Supreme Court of the United States, transmitting amendments to the Federal Rules of Civil Procedure that have been adopted by the Court, pursuant to 28 U.S.C. 2072; (H. Doc. No. 106—228); to the Committee on the Judiciary and ordered to be printed.

7337. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the Office for Victims of Crime's Report to Congress on the Department of Justice's implementation of the Victims of Crime Act for Fiscal Years 1997 and 1998, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10604(g); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7338. A letter from the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's

final rule—Adjustment of Status for Certain Nationals of Nicaragua and Cuba [INS No. 1893-97; AG Order No. 2293-2000] (RIN: 1115-AF04) received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7339. A letter from the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Adjustment of Status for Certain Nationals of Haiti [INS No. 1963-98; AG Order No. 2294-2000] (RIN: 1115-AF33) received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7340. A letter from the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Petitioning Requirements for the H-1B Nonimmigrant Classification Under Public Law 105-277 [INS 1962-98] (RIN: 1115-AF31) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7341. A letter from the Director, Policy Directives and Instructions Branch, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program [INS No. 2000-99] (RIN: 1115-AF51) received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7342. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Visas: Documentation of Immigrants and Nonimmigrants under the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended—received March 28, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7343. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—VISAS: Nonimmigrant classes; Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Visitors, Q Classification—received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7344. A letter from the Acting Solicitor, U.S. Patent and Trademark Office, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Changes to Application Examination and Provisional Application Practice [Docket No. 000301056-0056-01] (RIN: 0651-AB13) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

7345. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Civil Works, Department of Army, transmitting the flood damage reduction project for the Turkey Creek Basin, Kansas and Missouri; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7346. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, Office of the Secretary, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Third Extension of Computer Reservations Systems (CRS) Regulations [Docket No. OST-2000-6984] (RIN: 2105-AC75) received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7347. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc 524 Series and Trent 768-60 and 772-60 Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 99-NE-59-AD; Amendment 39-11605; AD 2000-04-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7348. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Sikorsky Model S-61

Helicopters [Docket No. 99-SW-61-AD; Amendment 39-11626; AD 2000-05-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7349. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-57-AD; Amendment 39-11623; AD 2000-05-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7350. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model EC 120B Helicopters [Docket No. 99-SW-85-AD; Amendment 39-11627; AD 2000-05-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7351. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dassault Model Fan Jet Falcon Series Airplanes; Model Mystere-Falcon 20, 50, 200, and 900 Series Airplanes; and Model Falcon 10, 900EX, and 2000 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-319-AD; Amendment 39-11630; AD 2000-05-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7352. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A. (CASA) Model CN-235-100 and CN-235-200 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-261-AD; Amendment 39-11614; AD 2000-05-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7353. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada (BHTC) Model 407 Helicopters [Docket No. 98-SW-70-AD; Amendment 39-11608; AD 2000-04-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7354. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A330 and A340 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-241-AD; Amendment 39-11613; AD 2000-05-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7355. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 and A300-600 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-337-AD; Amendment 39-11616; AD 2000-05-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7356. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319 and A321 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-353-AD; Amendment 39-11617; AD 2000-05-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7357. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, trans-

mitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F27 Mark 500, 200, 500, and 600 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-186-AD; Amendment 39-11611; AD 2000-05-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7358. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International (formerly AlliedSignal Inc.) 36-300(A), 36-280(B), and 36-280(D) Series Auxiliary Power Units [Docket No. 99-NE-34-AD; Amendment 39-11607; AD 2000-04-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7359. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon (Beech) Model 400A and 400T Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-334-AD; Amendment 39-11615; AD 2000-05-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7360. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Marshall, MO; Correction [Airspace Docket No. 99-ACE-51] received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7361. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29946; Amdt. No. 1979] received March 17, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7362. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Terrain Awareness and Warning System [Docket No. 29312; Amendment No. 91-263; 121-273; 135-75] (RIN: 2120-AG46) received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7363. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone Regulations: Saint Pete Beach, Florida [COTP Tampa 00-016] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7364. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operating Regulation; Pass Manchac, LA [CGD08-00-003] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7365. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Pine River (Charlevoix), MI [CGD09-00-001] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7366. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Visual Flight Rules [Docket No. FAA-2000-7100; Amdt. No. 91-262] (RIN: 2120-AG94) received March 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7367. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Federal Aviation Regulation (SFAR) No. 84 Removal of Prohibition Against Certain Flights Within the Territory and Airspace of Serbia-Montenegro [Docket No. 29508] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7368. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A319, A320, A321, A330, and A340 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-349-AD; Amendment 39-11631; AD 2000-05-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7369. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model SA330F, SA330G, SA330J, AS332C, AS332L, AS332L1, and AS332L2 [Docket No. 2000-SW-06-AD; Amendment 39-11645; AD 2000-06-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7370. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; AlliedSignal Inc. ALF502 and LF507 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 96-ANE-36-AD; Amendment 39-11624; AD 2000-05-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7371. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GMBH Model MBB-BK 117 Helicopters [Docket No. 98-SW-77-AD; Amendment 39-11647; AD 2000-06-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7372. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company (GE) CF34 Series Turbofan Engines; Correction [Docket No. 99-NE-49-AD; Amendment 39-11560; AD 2000-03-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7373. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. PA-31 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-CE-49-AD; Amendment 39-11646; AD 2000-06-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7374. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class D Airspace, Alexandria England AFB, LA; Revocation of Class D Airspace, Alexandria Esler Regional Airport, LA; and Revision of Class E Airspace, Alexandria, LA [Airspace Docket No. 2000-ASW-10] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7375. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Stinger, OK

[Airspace Docket No. 2000-ASW-02] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7376. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class D Airspace; Hobbs, NM [Airspace Docket No. 99-ASW-32] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7377. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company 150, 152, 172, 177, 180, 182, 185, 188, 206, 207, 210, and 337 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-CE-114-AD; Amendment 39-11641; AD 2000-06-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7378. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model BAe 146 and Avro 146-RJ Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-347-AD; Amendment 39-11638; AD 2000-05-28] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7379. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aerospatiale Model ATR42-200, ATR-42-300, and ATR42-320 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-94-AD; Amendment 39-11636; AD 2000-05-26] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7380. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Inc. Models DHC-6-1, DHC-6-100, DHC-6-200, and DHC-6-300 Airplanes [Docket No. 99-CE-44-AD; Amendment 39-11643; AD 2000-06-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7381. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fairchild Aircraft Corporation SA226 and SA227 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-CE-52-AD; Amendment 39-11644; AD 2000-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7382. A letter from the Administrator, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting a Study to Congress: Air Carrier Pilot Pre-Employment Screening Standards and Criteria Study; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7383. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29959; Amdt. No. 1982] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7384. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29958; Amdt. No. 1981] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7385. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29960; Amdt. No. 1983] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7386. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Traffic Separation Scheme in the Approaches to Delaware Bay (RIN: 2115-AF42) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7387. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Anchorage Area; Henderson Harbor, New York [CGD09-99-081] (RIN: 2115-AA98) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7388. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Big Bear City, CA [Airspace Docket No. 99-AWP-26] received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7389. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Saugus River, MA [CGD01-99-193] received March 6, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7390. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; MD Helicopters Inc. Model MD600N Helicopters [Docket No. 99-SW-54-AD; Amendment 39-11604; AD 2000-04-21] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7391. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Alexander Schleicher Segelflugzeugbau Models ASH 25M and ASH 26E Sailplanes [Docket No. 99-CE-78-AD; Amendment 39-11599; AD 2000-04-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7392. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron Canada Model 407 Helicopters [Docket No. 98-SW-64-AD; Amendment 39-11603; AD 2000-04-20] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7393. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company CF6-80C2 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 99-NE-24-AD; Amendment 39-11597; AD 2000-04-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7394. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A340-211, -212, -213, -311, -312, and -313, Series Air-

planes; Correction [Docket No. 99-NM-336-AD; Amendment 39-11495; AD 99-27-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7395. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 and -300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2000-NM-59-AD; Amendment 39-11606; AD 2000-04-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7396. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29947; Amdt. No. 1980] received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7397. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29950; Amdt. No. 421] received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7398. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standard Instrument Approach Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29945; Amdt. No. 1978] received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7399. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Puget Sound Vessel Traffic Service [USCG-1999-6141] (RIN: 2115-AF92) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7400. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone Regulations; San Juan Harbor, San Juan, Puerto Rico [COTP San Juan 00-013] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7401. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolls-Royce plc RB211-524 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 2000-NE-02-AD; Amendment 39-11622; AD 2000-05-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7402. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS355N Helicopters [Docket No. 99-SW-87-AD; Amendment 39-11625; AD 2000-05-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7403. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-211-AD; Amendment 39-11628; AD 2000-05-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7404. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-73-AD; Amendment 39-11629; AD 2000-05-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7405. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model BAe 146-100A, -200A, and -300A Series Airplanes Equipped with AlliedSignal ALF502R-Series Engines [Docket No. 98-NM-174-AD; Amendment 39-11635; AD 2000-05-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7406. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Honeywell International Inc. KAP 140 and KFC 225 Autopilot Systems [Docket No. 2000-CE-11-AD; Amendment 39-11634; AD 2000-05-24] received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7407. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Ayres Corporation S2R Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-CE-57-AD; Amendment 39-11633; AD 2000-05-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7408. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 737-100, -200, -300, -400, and -500 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-58-AD; Amendment 39-11639; AD 2000-05-29] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7409. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-22-AD; Amendment 39-11640; AD 2000-05-30] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7410. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model BAe 146-100A, -200A, and -300A Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-NM-237-AD; Amendment 39-11637; AD 2000-05-27] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7411. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS355N Helicopters [Docket No. 99-SW-87-AD; Amendment 39-11625; AD 2000-05-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7412. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Luftfahrt GmbH 228 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 99-CE-43-AD; Amendment 39-11642; AD 2000-06-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 21, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Com-

mittee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7413. A letter from the Chief, Office of Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Frequency of Inspection [USCG-1999-4976] (RIN: 2115-AF73) received March 3, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7414. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Award of Grants for Special Projects and Programs Authorized by this Agency's FY 2000 Appropriations Act—received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7415. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Amendment to the Effluent Limitations Guidelines, Pretreatment Standards, and New Source Performance Standards for the Builders' Paper and Board Mills Point Source Category; Technical Amendment; Removal [FRL-6562-3] received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

7416. A letter from the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Collaborative Science, Technology, and Applied Research (CSTAR) Program [Docket No. 991215340-9340-01] (RIN: 0648-ZA78) received March 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

7417. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Appeals Regulations and Rules of Practice—Case Docketing (RIN: 2900-AJ72) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7418. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterans Education: Increased Allowances for the Educational Assistance Test Program (RIN: 2900-AJ87) received March 16, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7419. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Eligibility Reporting Requirements (RIN: 2900-AJ09) received March 24, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

7420. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Branch, Customs Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Technical Corrections Relating To Customs Forms [T.D. 00-22] received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7421. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a draft bill entitled, "Customs Automation Modernization Act of 2000"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7422. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Unemployment Insurance Program Letter No. 3-95, Change 3—received March 6, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7423. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Weighted Average

Interest Rate Update—received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7424. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Transfer of Qualified Replacement Property to a Partnership [Rev. Ruling 2000-18] received March 27, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7425. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tax Treatment of Cafeteria Plans [TD 8878] (RIN: 1545-AU61) received March 23, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7426. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Request for Comments on the Revision of Proposed Section 987 Regulation [Notice 2000-20] received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7427. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Closing agreements concerning variable annuity contracts [Notice 2000-9] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7428. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Interest Rate—received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7429. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Appeals Settlement Guidelines: Excess Moisture—received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7430. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Interim Waiver of Signature Requirement for Form SS-4 [Notice 2000-19] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7431. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2000 Prevailing State Assumed Interest Rates [Rev. Ruling 2000-17] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7432. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Revision of Revenue Procedure 80-18 to reflect repeal of U.K. Act [Rev. Ruling 2000-13] received March 20, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7433. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Election in respect of losses attributable to a disaster—received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7434. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Extension of Time to File and Pay Due to Patriot's Day [Notice 2000-17] received March 7, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7435. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Taxation of Fringe Benefits [Rev. Rul. 2000-13] received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7436. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—April 2000 Applicable Federal Rates [Rev. Ruling 2000-19] received March 22, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7437. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Differential Earnings Rate for Mutual Life Insurance Companies [Notice 2000-16] received March 2, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7438. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2000 Automobile Inflation Adjustment [Rev. Ruling 2000-18] received March 1, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

7439. A letter from the General Sales Manager and Vice President, Commodity Credit Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report on sales and barter of commodities donated under section 416(b) of the Agricultural Act of 1949; jointly to the Committees on Agriculture and International Relations.

7440. A letter from the Secretary of Energy, transmitting the report on the Department of Energy's Activities Relating to the Defense Nuclear Facilities Safety Board Calendar Year 1999; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and Commerce.

7441. A letter from the Chairman, International Financial Institution Advisory Commission, transmitting the Report of the International Financial Institution Advisory Commission; jointly to the Committees on Banking and Financial Services and Ways and Means.

7442. A letter from the Deputy Executive Secretary, Health Care Financing Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Prospective Payment System for Hospital Outpatient Services [HCFA-1005-FC] (RIN: 0938-A156) received April 25, 2000, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Ways and Means.

7443. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services and Attorney General, transmitting the Annual Report on Health Care Fraud and Abuse Control Program FY 1999; jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Ways and Means.

7444. A letter from the Lieutenant General, USA, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a copy of the Secretary's Memorandum of Justification for Transfer of Defense Articles and Services to the Government of Bosnia, pursuant to Public Law 104-107, section 540(b) (110 Stat. 736); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

7445. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of the allocation of funds the Executive Branch intends to make available from funding levels established in the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

7446. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination 2000-10 pursuant to Section 523 of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2000, as Contained in the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2000; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

7447. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting 32 recommendations for legislative action, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 438(a)(9); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and the Judiciary.

7448. A letter from the Director, Corporate Audits and Standards, General Accounting

Office, transmitting the financial statements of the Capitol Preservation Fund for fiscal years ended September 30, 1999 and 1998; jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Government Reform.

7449. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on progress made toward achieving benchmarks for a sustainable peace process; (H. Doc. No. 106-231); jointly to the Committees on International Relations, Appropriations, and Armed Services and ordered to be printed.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 673. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys; with an amendment (Rept. 106-592). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1106. A bill to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to State agencies with responsibility for water source development for the purpose of maximizing available water supply and protecting the environment through the development of alternative water sources; with an amendment (Rept. 106-593). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 2957. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality restoration projects for Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106-594). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 855. A bill to amend the Marine Protection, Research, and Sanctuaries Act of 1972 relating to the dumping of dredged material in Long Island Sound, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106-595). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 1237. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to permit grants for the national estuary program to be used for the development and implementation of a comprehensive conservation and management plan, to reauthorize appropriations to carry out the program, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106-596). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SHUSTER: Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. H.R. 3313. A bill to amend section 119 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to reauthorize the program for Long Island Sound, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 106-597). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2647. A bill to amend the Act entitled "An Act relating to the water rights of the Ak-Chin Indian Community" to clar-

ify certain provisions concerning the leasing of such water rights, and for other purposes (Rept. 106-598). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3577. A bill to increase the amount authorized to be appropriated for the north side pumping division of the Minidoka reclamation project, Idaho (Rept. 106-599). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. REYNOLDS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 482. Resolution providing for consideration of motions to suspend the rules (Rept. 106-600). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 483. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 673) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to the Florida Keys Aqueduct Authority and other appropriate agencies for the purpose of improving water quality throughout the marine ecosystem of the Florida Keys (Rept. 106-601). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 484. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2957) to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize funding to carry out certain water quality restoration projects for Lake Pontchartrain Basin, Louisiana, and for other purposes (Rept. 106-602). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. GOSS: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 485. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1106) to authorize the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to make grants to State agencies with responsibility for water source development for the purpose of maximizing available water supply and protecting the environment through the development of alternative water sources (Rept. 106-603). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

[The following action occurred on April 14, 2000]

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X, the Committee on Banking and Financial Services discharged from further consideration of H.R. 3244.

#### TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 5 of rule X the following action was taken by the Speaker:

[The following action occurred on Apr. 14, 2000]

H.R. 3244. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than May 2, 2000.

H.R. 1656. Referral to the Committees on Commerce and Education and the Workforce extended for a period ending not later than May 26, 2000.

[Submitted May 2, 2000]

H.R. 3244. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than May 3, 2000.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CLAY (for himself, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SCOTT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr.

HINOJOSA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. KIND, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. FORD, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WU, Mr. HOLT, and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 4346. A bill to modernize public schools, reduce class sizes, increase access to technology, enhance school safety, improve teacher quality and strengthen accountability for academic results, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. ANDREWS:

H.R. 4347. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to modify authorities relating to the use of pen registers and trap and trace devices, to modify provisions relating to fraud and related activities in connection with computers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 4348. A bill to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to conduct a study of developing residential mortgage programs that provide low-cost health insurance in connection with low-cost mortgages; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

By Mr. BACA:

H.R. 4349. A bill to provide grants to local educational agencies to provide financial assistance to elementary and secondary schools for obtaining computer software for bilingual education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts:

H.R. 4350. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for the forgiveness of Perkins loans to members of the armed services on active duty; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. GEKAS (for himself and Mr. BOUCHER):

H.R. 4351. A bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to preserve efficient low-cost commercial financing of enterprises based upon the security of their copyrights and copyrightable assets by confirming that a security interest perfected therein through traditional, practical, and appropriate means will prevail over lien creditors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GIBBONS (for himself and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 4352. A bill to limit the age restrictions imposed by the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration for the issuance or renewal of certain airman certificates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GUTIERREZ (for himself, Mr.

BONIOR, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. STARK, Mr. EVANS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. FILLNER, Ms. LEE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. WYNN, Mr. HOFFFEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. NADLER, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. RUSH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. CARSON, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. COYNE, Mr. MARTINEZ, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. TIERNEY, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN,

Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. PHELPS, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. RAHALL, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OLVER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLAY, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. SABO, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. DIXON, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. REYES, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. BACA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, and Ms. ROYBAL-AL-LARD):

H.R. 4353. A bill to provide for a livable wage for employees under Federal contracts and subcontracts; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 4354. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the adjustment of status of certain unaccompanied alien children and the establishment of a panel of advisors to assist unaccompanied alien children in immigration proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HILLEARY:

H.R. 4355. A bill to authorize retention by the City of Tullahoma, Tennessee, of all funds received under Environmental Protection Agency construction grants c470319-03 and c470319-04; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. LATOURETTE:

H.R. 4356. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide additional protections for Medicare beneficiaries under the MedicareChoice Program; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCGOVERN (for himself, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. WEYGAND, and Ms. PELOSI):

H.R. 4357. A bill to continue the current prohibition of military relations with and assistance for the armed forces of the Republic of Indonesia until the President determines and certifies to the Congress that certain conditions with respect to East Timor are being met; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 4358. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to promote the economic recovery of the District of Columbia; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 4359. A bill to provide for permanent resident status for any alien orphan physically present in the United States who is less than 12 years of age and to provide for deferred enforced departure status for any alien physically present in the United States who is the natural and legal parent of a child

born in the United States who is less than 18 years of age; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota:

H.R. 4360. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to end the prohibition against overtime pay for National Guard technicians; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota:

H.R. 4361. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to extend to National Guard military technicians the applicability of certain provisions concerning separation and retirement of Army Reserve and Air Force Reserve military technicians; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCARBOROUGH (for himself, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 4362. A bill to require that each Government agency post monthly, on its public Web site, certain statistical data relating to Federal sector equal employment opportunity complaints filed with such agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SCARBOROUGH:

H.R. 4363. A bill to provide for the implementation of the provisions of law allowing members of the uniformed services to participate in the Thrift Savings Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BACA:

H. Con. Res. 313. Concurrent resolution recognizing the historical significance of the Mexican holiday of Cinco de Mayo; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H. Con. Res. 314. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for a bike rodeo to be conducted by the Earth Force Youth Bike Summit; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BACA:

H. Res. 486. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding Cesar E. Chavez and farm worker housing programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BACA:

H. Res. 487. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that schools across the Nation should teach about the role of Native American Indians in American history and culture and lead community service projects that further that education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. DREIER introduced a bill (H.R. 4364) for the relief of Fred Forrest; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

- H.R. 25: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. MCKINNEY.  
H.R. 49: Mr. MCINTYRE and Ms. BERKLEY.  
H.R. 65: Mr. SANDERS.  
H.R. 86: Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.  
H.R. 110: Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 148: Mr. COBURN, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. BALDACCI, and Mr. VITTER.  
H.R. 303: Mr. TALENT.  
H.R. 306: Mr. HOFFFEL and Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 347: Mr. COOK.  
H.R. 382: Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 407: Mr. NORWOOD.  
H.R. 453: Mr. CHABOT.  
H.R. 488: Mr. LOBIONDO.  
H.R. 531: Ms. CARSON and Mr. KLINK.  
H.R. 534: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. WU.  
H.R. 583: Mr. DEFazio.  
H.R. 670: Mr. ENGEL.  
H.R. 684: Ms. PELOSI.  
H.R. 783: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. RILEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. CLEMENT.  
H.R. 828: Mr. BATEMAN and Mr. GILMAN.  
H.R. 860: Mr. BOSWELL and Mr. COOK.  
H.R. 890: Mr. BENTSEN.  
H.R. 894: Mr. WAMP.  
H.R. 896: Mr. KING and Mr. STENHOLM.  
H.R. 914: Mr. GILCHREST and Mr. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 920: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
H.R. 959: Mr. LAFALCE.  
H.R. 1020: Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. GALLEGLY, and Mr. BALDACCI.  
H.R. 1050: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. KUCINICH.  
H.R. 1053: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 1071: Ms. WOOLSEY.  
H.R. 1083: Mr. SUNUNU.  
H.R. 1093: Mr. BECERRA.  
H.R. 1095: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.  
H.R. 1102: Mr. JENKINS and Mr. MCCOLLUM.  
H.R. 1115: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 1139: Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 1145: Mr. NORWOOD.  
H.R. 1168: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MOORE, and Mr. BOYD.  
H.R. 1217: Mr. VISCLOSKEY.  
H.R. 1227: Mr. SANDERS.  
H.R. 1291: Mr. FOSSELLA, Mrs. WILSON, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. PAUL, and Ms. GRANGER.  
H.R. 1304: Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
H.R. 1310: Mrs. BIGGERT.  
H.R. 1311: Mr. MCDERMOTT.  
H.R. 1363: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 1367: Mr. BACA and Ms. MCKINNEY.  
H.R. 1413: Ms. DANNER and Mr. CANNON.  
H.R. 1485: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.  
H.R. 1621: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. BALDACCI, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. BACA, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 1622: Mr. TRAFICANT and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.  
H.R. 1625: Mr. FORD.  
H.R. 1690: Mr. MATSUI.  
H.R. 1731: Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 1804: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
H.R. 1841: Mr. OLVER and Mr. WU.  
H.R. 1917: Mr. HOLT.  
H.R. 1976: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.  
H.R. 2000: Mr. GONZALEZ and Mr. GEJDENSON.  
H.R. 2004: Mr. EHRlich and Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.  
H.R. 2059: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.  
H.R. 2120: Mr. GILMAN.  
H.R. 2129: Mr. WISE, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BUYER, Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. BASS, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. LINDER.  
H.R. 2136: Mr. DICKEY.  
H.R. 2221: Mr. CHAMBLISS.  
H.R. 2258: Mr. SANDERS.  
H.R. 2298: Mr. STRICKLAND.  
H.R. 2308: Mr. NETHERCUTT and Mr. BASS.  
H.R. 2339: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky.  
H.R. 2341: Mr. GOODLING and Mr. KANJORSKI.  
H.R. 2382: Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Mr. EHLERS, and Mr. HOFFFEL.  
H.R. 2391: Mr. ISTOOK and Mr. FOLEY.  
H.R. 2511: Mr. WAMP, Mr. MOLLOHAN, and Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.  
H.R. 2553: Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 2562: Mr. HOLT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Ms. BERKLEY.  
H.R. 2573: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HALL of Ohio, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 2631: Mr. TURNER, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. RODRIGUEZ.  
H.R. 2635: Mr. GILMAN.  
H.R. 2660: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey and Mr. WU.  
H.R. 2697: Mr. FILNER.  
H.R. 2713: Ms. DEGETTE.  
H.R. 2722: Mrs. CLAYTON.  
H.R. 2727: Mr. STRICKLAND.  
H.R. 2741: Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.  
H.R. 2867: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.  
H.R. 2870: Mr. FOLEY.  
H.R. 2883: Mr. MEEHAN and Mrs. TAUSCHER.  
H.R. 2925: Mr. MINGE.  
H.R. 2969: Mr. DEFazio.  
H.R. 3000: Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 3032: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. BOUCHER.  
H.R. 3044: Mr. CLEMENT.  
H.R. 3140: Mr. BOSWELL.  
H.R. 3192: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. HORN, Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. BARRETT of Wisconsin, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BALDACCI, and Mr. BORSKI.  
H.R. 3193: Ms. DELAURIO, Mr. HILL of Montana, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. WAMP.  
H.R. 3224: Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3235: Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mrs. BONO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. BALDACCI, and Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3244: Mr. OXLEY and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 3246: Mr. HOFFFEL.  
H.R. 3256: Mr. OSE and Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3267: Mr. FALCOMA and Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3301: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. WOLF, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. HOLT.  
H.R. 3375: Mr. PORTER.  
H.R. 3397: Mr. LANTOS.  
H.R. 3461: Mrs. FOWLER.  
H.R. 3514: Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.  
H.R. 3518: Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3520: Mr. ANDREWS.  
H.R. 3535: Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, and Mr. RAMSTAD.  
H.R. 3544: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. NETHERCUTT, Mr. DICKS, Mr. GILMAN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LAZIO, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FORD, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. FLETCHER, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OBEY, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. VITTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 3556: Mr. ANDREWS.  
H.R. 3565: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington.  
H.R. 3569: Mr. DAVIS of Illinois and Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 3571: Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
H.R. 3573: Mr. HILLIARD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. HALL of Ohio.  
H.R. 3575: Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, and Mr. ANDREWS.  
H.R. 3580: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. SPENCE, Mr. WEYGAND, Mr. MCCOLLUM, Mrs. FOWLER, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. LEACH, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. STUMP, and Mr. GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 3594: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, and Mr. VITTER.  
H.R. 3614: Mr. FILNER, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. PICKETT, Mr. BASS, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. BOUCHER.  
H.R. 3633: Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MALONEY of Connecticut, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. DICKS, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. METCALF, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LAZIO, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. TRAFICANT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. ROMEMRO-BARCELO, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WATT of North Carolina, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CONDIT, Mr. FORD, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. MOORE, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. OBEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SHOWS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 3634: Mr. DELAHUNT.  
H.R. 3639: Mr. CLEMENT.  
H.R. 3686: Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.  
H.R. 3694: Mr. STUPAK and Mr. ANDREWS.  
H.R. 3709: Mr. ROGAN.  
H.R. 3819: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FORBES, Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. FALCOMA and Mr. BACA.  
H.R. 3861: Ms. SLAUGHTER.  
H.R. 3885: Mr. EVANS, Mr. HYDE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. BLAGOJEVICH.  
H.R. 3915: Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. HANSEN, Mr. NEY, Mr. HORN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. GOODE, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. MCCREERY, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mr. TRAFICANT.  
H.R. 3916: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. GEKAS.  
H.R. 3983: Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. REYNOLDS, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. NETHERCUTT.  
H.R. 4007: Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 4011: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. THURMAN, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.  
H.R. 4018: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. MINGE, Mr. BISHOP, and Mr. BOEHLER.  
H.R. 4033: Mr. MOORE, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. SABO, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. FORBES, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CLEMENT, Mr. BACA, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. FORD, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. BECERRA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. CLAYTON, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. CANNON, and Mr. SANDLIN.  
H.R. 4040: Mr. WAMP and Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 4055: Mr. OWENS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. TALENT, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. KUYKENDALL, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BAIRD, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BERMAN,

- Mr. ROGAN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. BACA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. HORN, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. STARK, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. BASS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. DEMINT, and Ms. SANCHEZ.  
 H.R. 4069: Mr. FARR of California, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. MASCARA, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. DIXON.  
 H.R. 4071: Mr. ISAKSON and Mr. TERRY.  
 H.R. 4085: Mr. MANZULLO.  
 H.R. 4100: Mr. GILCHREST.  
 H.R. 4101: Mr. GILCHREST.  
 H.R. 4105: Mr. DUNCAN.  
 H.R. 4106: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. KILDEE, and Mrs. MYRICK.  
 H.R. 4118: Mr. GOODLING.  
 H.R. 4124: Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. HILLEARY, and Mr. STUPAK.  
 H.R. 4133: Mr. FARR of California, Mr. SABO, and Mr. OWENS.  
 H.R. 4142: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.  
 H.R. 4149: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SOUDER, and Mr. BALDACCI.  
 H.R. 4154: Mr. GOODLING, Mr. NEY, Mr. MANZULLO, and Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 4176: Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. FROST, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. STARK, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. OWENS.  
 H.R. 4182: Mr. TALENT, Mr. EWING, Mr. HILLEARY, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. KNOLLENBERG.  
 H.R. 4184: Mr. NETHERCUTT.  
 H.R. 4200: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Ms. KILPATRICK.  
 H.R. 4207: Mr. METCALF, Mr. BERMAN, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. HOEFFEL, Ms. LEE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. STARK, and Mr. TIERNEY.  
 H.R. 4209: Mr. GONZALEZ.  
 H.R. 4211: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. STARK, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mr. WEXLER.  
 H.R. 4213: Mr. LATOURETTE, Mrs. TAUSCHER, and Mr. GARY MILLER of California.  
 H.R. 4214: Mr. NEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HORN, Mr. SISISKY, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO.  
 H.R. 4232: Ms. LEE.  
 H.R. 4233: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. LOBIONDO, and Mr. TRAFICANT.  
 H.R. 4239: Mr. CARDIN, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 4242: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.  
 H.R. 4245: Mr. SISISKY, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. NEY, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HORN, Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, Mr. HUNTER, and Mr. BUYER.  
 H.R. 4248: Mr. COOK and Mr. MARTINEZ.  
 H.R. 4277: Mr. WOLF, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mrs. MORELLA.  
 H.R. 4278: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
 H.R. 4281: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. BILBRAY, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. METCALF, and Mr. RAMSTAD.  
 H.R. 4290: Mr. FATTAH.  
 H.R. 4303: Mr. GUTKNECHT.  
 H.R. 4315: Mr. OXLEY and Mr. REGULA.  
 H.R. 4334: Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. ROMERO-BARCELO, and Mr. OWENS.  
 H. Con. Res. 177: Mr. RAHALL.  
 H. Con. Res. 209: Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. COOK, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. DELAHUNT.  
 H. Con. Res. 220: Mr. BACHUS.  
 H. Con. Res. 251: Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. GEJDENSON, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. DUNN, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. ROGAN.  
 H. Con. Res. 256: Mrs. THURMAN and Mr. SOUDER.  
 H. Con. Res. 262: Mr. SPENCE.  
 H. Con. Res. 283: Mr. SPENCE.  
 H. Con. Res. 286: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.  
 H. Con. Res. 300: Mr. SOUDER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. BERKLEY.  
 H. Con. Res. 301: Mr. EVANS.  
 H. Con. Res. 308: Mr. TRAFICANT and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.  
 H. Con. Res. 309: Mr. POMEROY, Mr. FRANKS of New Jersey, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. RAMSTAD.  
 H. Res. 187: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. COX, and Mr. CLEMENT.  
 H. Res. 398: Mr. NADLER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. BLAGOJEVICH, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. OLVER.  
 H. Res. 414: Mr. DOOLEY of California, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. GONZALEZ.  
 H. Res. 420: Mr. GILCHREST and Mr. PALLONE.  
 H. Res. 452: Mr. REYES, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. STUPAK, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
 H. Res. 459: Mr. WATTS of Oklahoma and Mr. MILLER of Florida.