

(Mr. LAZIO) and that would give him unfair publicity in a very tough Senatorial contest.

Seemed like the White House had no problems finding a picture of the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAZIO) and Mr. Arafat at a common reception when a delegation went to visit Israel and Palestine and areas of that nature in order to talk to the people to bring about peace. They can find a photo, but they cannot make time for a bill signing.

Mr. Speaker, one other critical matter coming before the Congress, and I can assure you it will get done, and that is the Everglades. Thanks to the Speaker today and others who have urged our leadership to move forward on the Everglades, we are going to see a bill before this session of Congress ends, not in lame duck but in this session, before Friday. If the other Members of the minority think it is too important to go home and campaign, well how about it, because you are missing anyway.

We are going to stay here and make certain the principles of the democracy are upheld, that we fight the good fight on behalf of our constituents. Our constituents are as important as theirs are, but I urge every Member to stop the rhetoric and nastiness and aspersions and start focusing on why we are here.

I think we have made some tremendous successes, and I compliment the other side of the aisle on a number of them but I suggest that in this day and era we need goodwill, not a poisonous atmosphere. It is time to put people before politics.

□

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair reminds Members that it is not in order in debate to characterize Senate action or, except as provided in rule XVII, to refer to Senators.

□

#### ARMY DIVISIONS WERE DECREASED, NOT INCREASED, UNDER DEMOCRAT ADMINISTRATION

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

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, we have some very serious issues on the table during this national campaign, one that involves truly all the Members of the House of Representatives, many members of the Senate and, of course, the Presidential candidates. In the last debate between Vice President GORE and Governor Bush, Vice President GORE said that he had increased a number of Army divisions.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for the American people to know that is not the case. When the Clinton-Gore administration took over in January of 1993, we had 14 Army divisions.

□ 1630

Today, we only have 10. So under President or Vice President GORE's leadership, along with that of President Clinton, we have actually cut the Army to 10 divisions; we have not increased it. So somewhere along the line he inadvertently invented four U.S. Army divisions.

Mr. Speaker, along with slashing the size of the Army, this administration has, I think, cut the Navy to 316 ships from 546 ships. That is a cut of almost 40 percent. They have cut the Air Force from 24 active fighter airwings to only 13. It is time to rebuild national security.

The interesting thing about these massive cuts in force structure, meaning we have about 60 percent of the military that we had when this administration took over, is that generally speaking, one would expect, when we cut a sports organization or we cut a business organization, we would think that when we cut it down in size, the half that one has left, if one cuts it in half, is going to be better prepared, better equipped and better trained than the big operation that one had earlier. That core should be a good, highly-efficient, highly-prepared operating core, whether it is in sports or in business or in the military world.

Well, the sad thing about this cut in our military force structure, cutting the Army from 18 to 10 division, cutting our fighter airwings from 24 to 13, and cutting our Navy from 546 ships to only 316 ships, the tragedy is, the small military we have today after these slashes is not as prepared as the big military that we had during Desert Storm. The chief of staff of the Army has told us that we are now some \$3 billion short on ammunition for the Army. The Marine Corps has told us that they are \$200 million short on ammunition. The Air Force chief of staff has told us that we are roughly 50 percent short on precision munitions. Those are the munitions that we have, where instead of carpet-bombing a bridge, one can fly in and put one precision munition, very, very accurate, on one strut of that bridge and knock the bridge down. It is a highly-efficient way to project American power.

So the Air Force told us they have cut those munitions down to the point where they only have 50 percent of what they need. The Navy has informed us that they only have 50 percent of their requirement for Tomahawk cruise missiles. Those cruise missiles are what we use to go into an area that is heavily defended, where if we send pilots in to drop bombs out of planes, we might lose some of those pilots. So those cruise missiles, those Tomahawks are very valuable; but today we only have 50 percent, according to the Navy, of what we need.

Now, along with that, we see the mission capability rate of our frontline fighter aircraft just dropping off the cliff. Mission capability rate is how many of our aircraft work. If I ask my

neighbor, what is your mission capability rate of your cars and he said, a minute and I will tell you, and he went outside and he tried to start them, and he had two cars and only one started, he would come back in and say, it is 50 percent, only one of the two cars starts.

Well, the mission capability rate for our frontline fighters, the F-15E and the F-16, has dropped into the 70 percent rate. That means that it has dropped about 10 points from the 83 percent-or-so mission capability rate to an average of about 72, 73 percent. That means out of 100 aircraft, 30 of them cannot get off the ground and cannot go do their job. So now there is this shortage of fighter airwings, these 13 fighter airwings we have, are only about 70 percent ready to go. That means we really only have about nine airwings that really are ready to go out and engage the enemy.

So Mr. GORE has not presided over a resurrection of the U.S. military; he has presided over a decline.

Mr. Speaker, I think that help is on the way.

□

#### BREAST CANCER DRUGS: INTERNATIONAL PRICE COMPARISON

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, by now, most Americans are aware that prescription drug prices are higher in the United States than any other industrialized country; 2, 3, even 4 times higher. It is difficult to believe that drug manufacturers manipulate prices even when a drug is used to treat a life-threatening illness like cancer. Unfortunately, that is exactly what the drug makers are doing.

A study I released yesterday looks at the prices charged for drugs used to treat breast cancer. Mr. Speaker, 8,600 women in Ohio will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year; and 1,900 will die from this disease. In the counties I serve as a Congressman, women with breast cancer pay 2½ times more for the 5 most commonly used breast cancer drugs than women in Canada pay, in France pay, in England pay and in Italy pay. Tamoxifen, the most widely used cancer drug, has the highest-priced differential. A monthly supply of Tamoxifen costs an uninsured woman in my district \$114. In Canada, it costs \$12; in France, it costs \$10.20. We are talking about price differentials in the 850 percent to 1,000 percent range. It is unbelievable and it is unconscionable. A woman diagnosed with breast cancer needs to devote all of her energy to fighting that cancer. The toughest battle should be surviving the cancer, not finding ways to pay for medications. Prescription drug prices are priced unreasonably, unjustifiably, and outrageously high in the United States.