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House of Representatives

The House met at 9 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 27, 2001.

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.

PRAYER

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

Lord God, may the prayers of people across this Nation endow this Chamber with Your justice. May right judgement be brought to bear on all issues which affect Your people.

Floods, fire and volcanoes seize our attention. Negotiating war rooms, security chambers, prisons and waiting rooms cannot contain the anxiety of Your people.

Yet You, O Lord, endure like the Sun and the Moon from age to age. Your presence is like soft rain on the meadow, like raindrops on the earth.

In our own days, justice shall flourish and peace till the Moon fails if You, Lord, rule from sea to sea.

Once again save the children when they cry and the needy who are helpless. Have pity on the weak for You alone have the power to save the lives of all.

Blessed be You, Lord God. You alone work wonders. May Your glorious name be blessed forever. Let Your glory cover the Earth both now and forever. Amen. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. SHIMKUS 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.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain 1-minutes at the end of the legislative day.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 210 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2620.

□ 0904

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. SHIMKUS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose on Thursday, July 26, 2001, the amendment by the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAFALCE) had been disposed of and the bill was open for amendment from page 33, line 5, through page 37, line 9.

AMENDMENT OFFERED BY MR. FRANK

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. FRANK:

In title II, in the item relating to ''COMMUNITY PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT—HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS ACT'', strike ''That of the total amount provided under this heading, $200,000,000'' and all that follows through ''as amended: *Provided further*,''.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, one of the popular and successful innovations in Federal aid to housing in recent years dating back to when the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GONZALEZ) was the Chair of the committee is the HOME program. The HOME program is one of the few programs now existing, perhaps the only one, which allows municipalities that feel the need to do housing construction. Many of us feel that we have a terrible problem in this country because of the increased price of housing, particularly in areas of housing shortage. While we are strong supporters of the section 8 voucher program, there is a large consensus, which you saw in the bipartisan witnesses before our hearings, that the voucher program alone is not enough, that it does not deal with the situation increasingly common in many of our areas, metropolitan areas and others, but particularly metropolitan areas, where economic pressures have driven housing prices so high and where production is so difficult for a variety of reasons.

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The HOME program is the premier general production program. It is strongly supported by elected officials. The President proposed to take $200 million of the HOME funds and restrict them, restrict them in a way that they have not previously been restricted. The HOME program has been a genuine block grant with complete flexibility. One of the things you can do under the HOME program if the municipality or the consortium of municipalities wants to is to do a homeownership program. But it is not mandatory. This is part of a flexible approach. The President said, let's take $200 million of this plan and make it mandatory that they use it for that and only that. Now, the committee increased the funding, but it increased the funding by picking up this restriction.

What my amendment does is very simple. It has no offset because it needs no offset. It does not change the dollar amount of the bill, of the HOME program or of anything else. It simply removes from the HOME program as put forward in the bill a restriction on the use of $200 million which restriction would be imposed over the objection of the mayors. It is a restriction which takes a first unfortunate step towards converting a genuine flexible, successful, local-oriented block grant program into a partial categorical program. I stress again that the category which is earmarked in this bill at the President's request is an entirely permissible one. We are not preventing those municipalities that want to do it from doing this. We are saying that if the municipality wants to do it, it should be able to do it, but if it does not wish to do it, it should not have to do it. That is the critical point here.

I want to stress again that this is important because this bill, which fails because of the tax reductions having taken away the revenue that we need to be responsible, this bill fails entirely to deal with the production problem. We do have some money in the 202 program for the elderly. We just had testimony that there are nine people on the waiting list for every section 202 elderly unit. If you want to know whether these programs are successful or not, look at that consumer satisfaction. Older people, 9 to 1, want to get into what is available. But that is only for the elderly. We have the low-income housing tax credit which does some good. But the primary program by which we can today do production is the HOME program. This bill fails as I said in not responding to the needs for another production program.

The problem of course is that no such program was on the books and so you cannot expect it to be appropriated before it is authorized. I hope we will in this Congress create an increased production program. But one way to do production—the only way—is to increase home funds. So I want Members to be very clear. The only way you can meet even a small part of the need for increased housing production, particularly in those metropolitan areas where the housing shortage makes vouchers unusable, is to free up the money in HOME. A homeownership program might be a useful one in some municipalities. My amendment does not in any way, shape or form restrict the ability to do that. But to impose that and to say to a city, here is a chunk of money that you cannot use for production, you cannot use for rehabilitation, you cannot use for anything else, you can only use it for homeownership, when that city might prefer to do it in different ways is a reversion to a way of thinking about congressional imposition on municipal flexibility that I had thought this Congress was beyond and I thought my friends on the other side were beyond.

So I hope the amendment is adopted. Now, there are other potential uses of the $200 million. We will have that conflict. But at this point I hope we can free this up and let the mayors spend this money as they see it, including on production.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the gentleman's amendment. The President and the Secretary have made increasing homeownership opportunities for low-income families a top priority, one I believe each and every one of us can and should support. My experience as a city council member in Syracuse and city council president was that the strongest neighborhoods are the ones with the highest percentage of homeownership. Anything that we can do to promote homeownership, we should do.

The program that the President has asked us to support would provide funds for individuals and families to make a down payment in order to get a mortgage on a property. As most of us know who have bought homes, the hardest part is that initial stretch, to meet those initial monthly mortgage payments the first several years, but also to get that money for the down payment. It is essential to the equation of homeownership.

As you know, Mr. Chairman, we have made dramatic changes in this country in recent years through welfare reform. Thousands and thousands of families who have been chained to welfare over the years have now benefited by moving from the strictures of welfare into the workplace. The efforts of the Congress and the administration, in both parties, has given them hope, given them the opportunity and pride of being productive citizens. The next critical step to giving Americans the opportunity to really get a piece of the American dream, is homeownership.

This is a very critical program. This is the President's major initiative in this bill. So while the Administration request proposed an earmark for this initiative out of the HOME program, we did not do that. Instead, we have provided a $200 million increase over the request for the initiative. I want to make sure Members are aware that the down payment assistance is already authorized as a part of the HOME program. In fact, many States and localities are already using their HOME funds for this purpose. However, given the priority that many of us believe should be placed on homeownership, we have targeted the increase provided over the last year for homeownership as the President requested.

While down payment assistance is an authorized HOME activity, targeted funds would require some authorization changes to preserve the prerogatives of the authorization committee on which the gentleman from Massachusetts serves as ranking member by requiring those authorization changes to be made before targeting the funds. Should those changes not be made by next June, which I certainly hope will not be the case, States and localities can use these increased funds for any authorized HOME purpose.

□ 0915

The debate over what changes should be made to bolster home ownership is not an issue for this bill. We leave that to the authorizing committee. However, I believe we should support the President and the Secretary in these efforts.

Mr. Chairman, if this program is implemented properly, we have the opportunity to help over 100,000 American families move from tenantship, rentership, to ownership. What a marvelous concept that is. What better way to use taxpayers dollars than to help people get their piece of the rock, to fulfill their American dream. Anyone who knows the rights and the responsibilities of home ownership knows there is a special feeling that goes with that.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield for a clarification question?

Mr. WALSH. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I understand the point that says authorizing legislation has to be adopted, but it says until June 30, 2002. The appropriation, I assume, begins October 1st. Does this mean no money can be spent between October 1 and June 30, or that the mandate would not be in effect from October 1 until June 30?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, my understanding is that the requirement is that the authorization committee do their job this year, pass the authorization. If they do not, then those funds would revert to the States and localities, as with the rest of the program.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman would yield further, there is a time gap, because the appropriation kicks in October 1.

The CHAIRMAN. The time of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has expired.

(On request of Mr. FRANK, and by unanimous consent, Mr. WALSH was allowed to proceed for 1 additional minute.)

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. My question was just this: Since the appropriation begins October 1, but the lapsing of the mandate kicks in June 30, 2002, what happens if the authorizing committee and the Congress do not pass the legislation then as of October 1? Is the mandate in effect and it ends on June 30, or does it never go into effect?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, if the authorizing committee does its job, there is not a problem. We would expect the authorizing committee to do their job. If they do not do their job, then money reverts back to the States.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, could I ask the distinguished chairman a question, please, because I heard the gentleman from Massachusetts; and I thought he made good sense. And I heard the chairman, the gentleman from New York, I thought he made good sense.

Is there a disconnect here that has not been made clear to me? I did not hear the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) say anything about what the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) said. I would like to yield for the gentleman to explain that.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, my response was that this program is not authorized. We expect it to be authorized. If it is not authorized, the money would revert to the States as the rest of the formula for the HOME program already does.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, we can authorize it ourselves. Do we not have at least that much power? I thought we could do that. Who is this supreme authorizing body in Washington, D.C., that I do not know much about?

Mr. WALSH. If the gentleman would yield further, I would hope that the authorization committee would respect that this is the President's number one priority in housing this year and honor that request by doing the authorization.

Mr. CONYERS. So that is the gentleman's only reservation? That is the complaint?

Mr. WALSH. If the gentleman will continue to yield, we would expect the authorizing committee to get their work done. There is sufficient time in the year.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. CONYERS. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, there is a technical point and a more substantive one. The technical point is this: the gentleman from New York says that if the legislation is not authorized, then the money does go back to the recipient municipalities the way my amendment says.

The problem is that that does not happen in the bill until June 30, 2002, and this appropriation becomes effective on October 1. So from October 1 of 2001 until June 30, the money will be mandated and not available freely. The gentleman said well, he would hope, recognizing it was the President's priority, they would authorize it.

I know that motivates many on the gentleman's side. But the President's priority was not to have the Patients' Bill of Rights of Ganske-Norwood-Dingell, and the President's priority has been a different campaign finance reform.

I am pleased to say from time to time this House constitutionally differs with Presidential priorities, and the argument that something is not a Presidential priority, as my friend from Michigan has said, is not an argument.

So I think if the gentleman concedes that we should not be doing this without authorization, then he has it backwards, because his amendment language says as of October 1, if my amendment does not pass, there is this mandate and the mandate stays in effect for most of the fiscal year. I think that is the wrong way to deal with it.

Mr. CONYERS. Reclaiming my time, I do too. I think the subcommittee chairman is of good heart and great cheer and wonderful spirit, and I think the Frank amendment to this, notwithstanding what the President wished and wanted earlier on, maybe if we went back to the President, he would say this is not such a bad idea either. I do not know if we have time to do that, but I think the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) has come up at least with a good idea.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to my friend from Massachusetts's amendment to strike the earmark for the Down Payment Assistance Initiative program in the HOME program. As a member of the Committee on Financial Services Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, on which I serve with my friend from Massachusetts, I believe that the President's proposal for low-income down-payment assistance must be a top priority.

When I read the Frank amendment, I was a little surprised, since I know my friend from Massachusetts to be a knowledgeable individual on issues concerning housing. Hence, I assumed he would realize the down payment assistance program is already an authorized purpose of the HOME program and is one that is in current use in towns and cities across the country.

In the past few months, we have both participated in a number of hearings on the lack of affordable housing in our Nation. We have been told again and again of the crisis we face.

The HOME program is important to housing production. It is an important housing production program, and I believe the gentleman from Massachusetts wants to facilitate as much new housing as possible. However, I also believe my friend from Massachusetts would recognize the real need to help low-income families with their down payments for their purchase of first home.

Let me be clear: the down payment initiative is not a solution to all the problems we face, but it is one important step that will greatly assist the families who use it.

In addition, in order to target this excess $200 million solely to down-payment assistance, we are required to take this issue up in our committee to target the assistance. I will do everything possible to work with my friend from Massachusetts and all of the other members of our committee to ensure we make these changes. However, if we fail to do this by next June, the funding will be utilized as regular HOME funds would.

With this in mind, I would hope that my friend from Massachusetts would withdraw his amendment so that we can join together to work on this issue and craft a program in the committee. I believe that our Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity has a solid bipartisan approach to the housing programs that our Nation uses. This initiative will require us to work together to bring it into reality.

I also hope that my friend and all of our colleagues on this subcommittee will join us in working on this issue. As the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) is the ranking member of the committee, I hope he will work to help craft a program to help more people own their own homes.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. KELLY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, first, I would point out the ranking member does not set the committee agenda. The committee has been in existence since January or February. The majority has not brought this item forward for us to debate.

Secondly, I thought the gentlewoman was making my argument. Of course I understand it is already authorized. That is why I do not think we need to force communities to do it. It is fully authorized. Some communities are doing it.

The difference between us is not whether this is not in some places a good idea, but whether Congress should retreat from the notion of a block-granted HOME program with reliance on local judgment and take for the first time the wrong step, I think, of mandating the specifics.

I would be glad to have the committee bring it up, but I do want to point out to the gentlewoman, she is a member of the majority. It is up to them to bring something forward.

The problem is this says the committee and House and Senate. It is not only up to the committee. If we do not

get legislation through as of October 1, this gets mandated and the communities cannot enjoy the previous flexibility, and that is what I object to.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I believe very strongly that this is a program that we must authorize very quickly. I believe very strongly that this is a program that will allow people to own their own homes. The more people at the low-income level that are able to do that, the better we all are, for our communities and across the Nation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in opposition to this amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) will be postponed.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that amendments numbered 44, 45 and 46 may be offered at any point during further consideration of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, I reserve the right to object only to explain the purpose for this unanimous consent request is to try to help us get an organized schedule today so we can move along expeditiously. This would simply allow these three amendments to be taken up early in the day. They will tend to be the more controversial amendments. We would like to get this process organized.

In addition, I would like to suggest that Members that have amendments that they wish to offer really should let us know what they are quickly, so that we can try to organize the balance of the day so we can complete this legislation.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I have first a question and then a comment.

If this request is granted, it is my understanding that this in no way affects the rights of other amendments to be offered, even though when we consider some of these amendments we would be moving ahead in the bill.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the gentleman is correct. However, as we proceed through the bill, I think the gentleman and I both agree that Members that have amendments at a particular place in the bill should be here to offer them, because, as we announced several days ago, we are not going to be able to go back to the bill once we have passed that point.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will yield further, I will simply reemphasize that. If Members have amendments, they have a responsibility to be here in a timely fashion. It is not the committee's responsibility to protect Members who are not protecting themselves.

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 OFFERED BY MS. KAPTUR

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment concerning the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 44 offered by Ms. KAPTUR:

At the end of title II, insert the following new section:

SEC. 2___. For carrying out the Public and Assisted Housing Drug Elimination Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 11901 et seq.) and the functions of the clearinghouse authorized under section 5143 of the Drug-Free Public Housing Act of 1988 (42 U.S.C. 11922), and the aggregate amount otherwise provided by this title for the ''HOME INVESTMENT PARTNERSHIPS PROGRAM'' is hereby reduced by, and the amount provided under such item for the Downpayment Assistance Initiative is hereby reduced by, $175,000,000.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, the amendment I am proposing would restore a program that the majority party has zeroed out in this legislation for the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program. This program has been in operation since President Reagan signed the legislation in his last administration, and was first appropriated, funds were first let around the country, by the first Bush Administration back in 1988.

Our amendment has been scored by CBO as budget neutral, both in outlays and budget authority, because of offsets from the HOME program and the Down Payment Assistance Initiative, which has not been authorized.

Last year Congress provided over $310 million to over 1,100 housing authorities across the country for this very, very successful program, which aims at keeping criminal activity down in some of the most vulnerable neighborhoods in our country where seniors, low-income families, and the disabled live on a daily basis.

□ 0930

It is a worthy program; it is a successful program that has been supported by both Republican and Democratic administrations. Frankly, I am rather perplexed, I am mystified, as to why any administration or any subcommittee would zero out a program with this rate of success.

Over 118 Members of this Congress have signed a letter to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) supporting the continuation of this program, and with me here at the desk I have a list of Members' districts that include over 1,100 Housing Authorities where this program has been in operation and so successful.

Now, there is no question that crime has dropped nationwide and, in particular, in some of the most vulnerable areas of our cities, so let me explain what used to happen. What used to happen is that drug lords in places like Chicago literally controlled the roofs. I was in the housing field long before I was elected to Congress. I know what it is like to stand on the roof of a building and watch as mothers cannot leave a housing project to go buy milk because the drug lords control the streets, and if they had a deal coming down, you could not live your life.

This program aims to get rid of that, to set up police substations in many of these housing projects in some of the most dangerous parts of America to let the children in those areas have a chance at a decent life. This is a program with a track record, and it is a good one, and it should not be zeroed out.

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. KAPTUR. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Chairman, I would like to take a moment to thank the gentlewoman for her enormous effort with regard to this program.

I am in support of this amendment. This amendment will help make sure that children living in our Nation's public housing, over 1 million of them, have safe and secure environments in which they can grow and succeed. They deserve this opportunity.

This amendment restores funds to the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program. These are programs that are disparate all across the country. Local authorities use these funds to supplement law enforcement activities in some cases, while others create drug intervention programs and new social support services. This program has a sterling record of success.

One reason is it allows housing authorities to tailor their programs to fit their individual needs and the needs of their residents. All over the country, children living in public housing who have participated in drug prevention activities have higher self-esteem, higher grades and fewer school absences.

Mr. Chairman, the gentlewoman talks about this program coming into effect under Ronald Reagan and being administered by President George Bush and HUD Secretary Jack Kemp. Earlier this session, the gentlewoman pointed out that more than a quarter of us, from one end of the political spectrum to the other, signed a letter to the

leaders of this subcommittee to ask to continue funding for this program. That is because I suppose, in the end, children are not a partisan issue. The Public Housing Drug Elimination Program has never been a partisan issue, and neither is this amendment. Many Members have indicated their support for continued funding for this program. The amendment gives us the opportunity to show our support. It is drugs, and not this effective undertaking, that needs to be eliminated.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I would say to the gentleman from Akron, Ohio (Mr. SAWYER), thank you so very much. The gentleman was mayor of Ohio long before he was elected to this Congress and understands the importance of this program. He took time from a markup in another committee to be here this morning. We thank him so very, very much for his leadership and interest on this issue.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I would just like to begin my portion of this debate by stating that I am not aware that there has ever been a study to show that this drug elimination program is successful as a national policy. There are lots of anecdotal comments and individual programs around the country that have had some degree of success, but this program has never been declared a success by the Federal Government.

I am also not aware that there is a higher degree or a higher percentage of drug use or drug abuse in public housing than anywhere else in this country. I think, to a degree, it is a negative statement about the Federal Government's view of public housing to have a program specifically for drug elimination in public housing.

Having said that, the HOME program, as I have said before, will help Americans to move from tenantship, rentership, to homeownership. I think it is important that we provide specific funds for that purpose, and I hope the authorizing committee will make this authorization a reality.

Let me just talk a little bit about the drug elimination program. First of all, the program has $700 million of unspent funds. When this program began 13 years ago, it was funded at $8 million. It was designed to address a gap in services that State and local governments were not filling for public housing. A lot has changed since then. The crime bill, for example, provided somewhere in the neighborhood of $9 billion to States and localities to hire over 100,000 additional police officers, to fund 1,000 new Boys and Girls Clubs in public housing, as well as a variety of other juvenile crime prevention activities.

State and local governments have been provided the resources in public housing. Residents should be receiving the benefit of those Federal programs like everyone else.

Currently, less than one-third of all public housing authorities receive drug elimination funds. Just four of the public housing authorities in the country are receiving 25 percent of all of these funds. In New York City, where they receive somewhere in the neighborhood of $35 million to $40 million, half of the money, half of it, is going to pay the salaries of New York City police officers. That is what the crime bill was for.

So they are getting Federal funds through the crime bill to hire additional police. They are also using these drug elimination funds to pay police salaries, and that just is not what these funds were for.

All of the PHAs that have received money have not been able to spend it. The gentlewoman's hometown of Toledo, Ohio, is only now in the process of spending 1999 funds. In my hometown, in Syracuse, there is about $2 million in the pipeline for drug elimination programs. They can continue to use that money under this bill if they have pipeline funds and they have a program that they believe is effective. In Syracuse there are several that they believe are effective, so they can continue to use those funds.

In addition, we have increased the public housing operating fund by a little more than 8 percent, a very substantial increase. Under the law, public housing authorities can use those operating expenses for drug elimination programs or, basically, for any other program that they see fit. So they have the flexibility there to continue to do this sort of activity.

Secretary Martinez and President Bush asked us to eliminate this program. Secretary Martinez is a new Secretary. Just as we did with Secretary Cuomo when he had policy initiatives, we tried to honor those public policy initiatives; and the Congress, in most cases, complied. I would ask my colleagues to comply with Secretary Martinez. He does not believe that criminal justice is part of the core business of HUD. He wants HUD to get out of the criminal justice business.

As I said, if individual public housing authorities want to continue the programs that they feel are effective, they can use the pipeline funds, and they can use their HUD operating expenses which we have provided for a very strong increase.

Mr. Chairman, to close, I have a letter here signed by the Enterprise Foundation, the National Council of State Housing Agencies, the National League of Cities, the National Association of Counties, National Community Development Association which says, we need these home funds. We do not want them used for any other program. So they would oppose this amendment.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, the tragedy in this whole HUD bill is that it is underfunded. I rise to support the amendment to keep the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program in operation.

Last night we discussed until 11 o'clock that there is $640 million cut out of the Section 8 Program. There is $240 million cut out of the Community Development Block Program. There is $445 million cut out now, in this budget, out of the Housing Modernization Program. There is $97 million less this year in the Homeless Assistance Program, and now we come to the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program, which has not been cut back but eliminated.

This program was started and signed into law in 1988 by President Reagan. President Bush won and continued the program. President Clinton increased the program, and last year it had a $310 million appropriation. This budget gives it zero.

So not only have we reduced those other categories of housing needed, one of the most-needed categories behind education and health in our country, moderate safe, clean housing does not exist for many Americans, and what this Republican Congress does, it has decimated that in this HUD budget even more.

What my colleagues need to also know is that last week this Congress passed a bill that gave $675 million to Colombia. Last year, this Congress gave $1.3 billion to Colombia, where it is documented that 90 percent of the cocaine and heroin comes from.

So I say to my colleagues, this drug elimination for public housing program, which does work well; and, the chairman ask for a study, do not zero it out. It is doing marvelous things. It is hiring people who live in public housing to take care, to guide, and to monitor their own living conditions so that the children can be safe, so that the seniors can have opportunity.

On the one hand, we can give Colombia $2 billion and cannot find $175 million for those who live in public housing to try to eradicate drugs, keep drugs down, and keep their housing safe. Something is wrong with that equation.

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for introducing the amendment. Our offices have worked closely on this. This is not the time to cut public housing funds. Perhaps we should send the money to Colombia so we can stop the interdiction, but, quite certainly, we also ought to have treatment on demand, which none of these budgets address. Quite certainly, we ought to have a minimum of $175 million for people who live in public housing, again, not to eliminate the program. We need to ask for the testimony. We have testimonies to tell the gentleman that it works, and the study will prove that, too. It works.

Mr. Chairman, $2 billion to Colombia, and we cannot give $175 million to public housing who want to help themselves, to do what it takes to live in clean and safe housing. I think we can do better than that as a Congress. We are a much better Nation than that.

All of us do not agree with the Andean Colombia program, but we do support eradicating drugs in our society. The way we do that is to stop the flow, yes, and also treatment on demand.

When somebody who is addicted, whose life is in chaos finally gets ready for treatment and goes to a center in my district, they say, okay, fine, we are glad you are here. Come back in 3 months, and we will find a slot for you.

Come on. That is not how it works, America. My colleagues on both sides of the aisle, they have it in their districts, and I have it in mine. It is an American problem. We cannot give Colombia $2 billion on the one hand and not give a few million for the American citizens who Colombia has strung out.

Mr. Chairman, it is important that we adopt this amendment. It is important that we talk about what is really happening here. The HOME Program is a marvelous program. We want the Downpayment Program as well. The most important thing a person can do, a family can have, is a home. The stability, the consciousness, the being somebody really is defined in America by their home and their home conditions and how they live.

So I hope the Congress will think deeply about this amendment. Mr. Chairman, this is $175 million, on top of all of the cuts I already mentioned in Section 8, community development block grants, housing modernization and homeless assistance. We are going in the wrong direction. Vote ''yes'' on the Kaptur amendment.

□ 0945

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) to strike the $200 million from the President's down payment assistance initiative and add it to the drug elimination program.

This amendment would make two changes to this legislation we have at hand. I believe they are both wrong.

The amendment strikes down the President's proposed $200 million down payment assistance initiative. To strike this funding takes the legislation in the wrong direction.

As a member of the Committee on Financial Services' Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, we have held several hearings on the current affordable housing crisis we face in this Nation. We have heard again and again that affordable housing is not available, and many families cannot afford market rents. HUD has declared further that a fair market rent for a two-bedroom apartment in my area of Westchester County is $1,144 a month. That is higher than in New York City.

What we have to do is to help these families get out of the rentals and into their own homes so they can build equity in their home. To own their own homes means they can also build equity into our communities. That builds stronger communities for America. The President recognizes this need, and that is the purpose of the down payment assistance initiative.

First-time home buyers need all the assistance we can give them. It comes down to the fact that when one owns one's own home, they are vested. They are vested in the interests of the neighborhood, the local schools, and the community.

Unfortunately, this amendment seeks to strike this valuable initiative in order to fund the drug elimination program. In past years, I was a strong supporter of the drug elimination program. I have heard positive programs that are run with drug elimination funds. But this year, I have come to the conclusion that this program should be ended.

Let me just read some of the abuses from the Miami-Dade Housing Agency:

The money was spent before receiving the grant. Overtime money was paid to officers to bowl and play basketball. Janitorial services were done at elderly developments; and that is a good thing, but they bought phones and beepers and copiers, shirts and clocks, recreation equipment, journal vouchers. A lot of money was wasted instead of doing drug elimination.

I believe that it is very important that we try. I think Secretary Martinez has put it best when he testified before our Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity this spring as to problems inherent in the program. He told us HUD does not have the resources to enforce and ensure that these funds are spent properly. He asked us to add additional funding to the public housing capital fund rather than to the drug elimination grant fund.

Since then, I have looked into the use of the drug elimination grants and I have been greatly saddened at the waste, fraud and abuse that has occurred in this program. I have found these funds have been spent on things like trips to Washington, D.C., a board retreat to St. Simon's Island in Georgia, renovations to kitchens that never existed, and consultants that pocketed a lot of money. The list goes on and on.

Worst of all, $800,000 was approved for creative wellness programs that are considered on the outer fringes of alternative medicine. This program involves God-Goddess typing according to an individual's gland activity. It also involves gemstones and colors for each personality type. This is not what the drug elimination program was meant to do. These abuses need to stop. We must ensure that HUD funds are spent on housing, not incense.

How do we start? I think it is very important that we join together in voting against the Kaptur amendment.

One last thing that I think is important to point out, this current appropriations bill has $34,000 new section 8 vouchers. That is twice as many as the Senate has in their bill.

The appropriations bill is a good bill for housing, and it is good for America. My friend, the gentleman from New York, has a good bill; and I ask my colleagues to join together in voting against the Kaptur amendment.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in enthusiastic and fervent support of the amendment of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) to fund the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program.

It strikes me, Mr. Chairman, or it reminds me, it is reminiscent of the mathematical maxim that the whole equals the sum of its parts. We want safe communities. We want productive and mature and healthy children. We want public housing to thrive and to ultimately move those residents out into the economic mainstream. We want to continue to work on ways where we can reduce the size of the jail population, recognizing that the majority of inmates in jails in my district, and certainly around the country, are there because of drug-related offenses, which bears a humongous cost to taxpayers.

The Public Housing Drug Elimination Program has successfully enabled housing authorities to work cooperatively with residents, local officials, police departments, community groups, boys and girls clubs, drug counseling centers, and other community-based organizations to develop locally supported anticrime activities.

There is good public housing in Indianapolis. The Indianapolis housing agency, under the leadership of Bud Myers, has demonstrated expertise in administering the system. They received $2.2 over the last 4 years to help them in their work of drug elimination. The housing department has set up youth programs that focus on building self-esteem and reliance, and primary preventative kinds of activities to stop housing residents from getting involved in drug activities in the first place.

It is up to us as civic leaders and responsible citizens to instill a sense of value, dignity, and pride in today's youth. It is impossible, Mr. Chairman, for these people that work in the community to eliminate drugs, for people who work in public housing to do this without proper support.

Using the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program, our housing agency has been able to reduce criminal activity by 60 percent since 1995. The grants from this program have enabled IHA to implement a visible community policing effort, and thus has enabled these properties to be among the safest in the city. Imagine public housing safe in the city.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentlewoman's statement and yielding to me.

Mr. Chairman, I have just lifted myself off the floor when I heard the chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), say that there is no proof that public housing has more drug abuse. When the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) said there was no proof that public housing has more drug abuse than anywhere else, this has to be put in some context.

I ask of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), where has the gentleman been? There is public housing, and this is not a condemnation of all public housing, but there is some public housing in which there is plenty of drug problems. I do not know what kind of proof the gentleman wants about that. Any inspection would tell the gentleman that. Ask the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), or ask any of us in any major city.

For the gentleman to be the chairman of the committee that determines what kind of protection we give to the people in public housing, and over billions of dollars controlled Federally, and for the gentleman to tell us that there is no indication that some public housing has more drug abuse than anywhere else, many of the public housing is in places where everybody has a high level of drug abuse all over the place.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. It is my understanding, and we do have some communication on this and I will try to locate it if I can, from public housing directors who say to us, ''We think that Members should know that there is no higher level of drug use or drug abuse in our housing than there is in the neighborhoods around our public housing authorities.'' We have provided billions of dollars to the criminal justice system.

Mr. CONYERS. If the gentlewoman will yield further, has the gentleman not gone out to a public housing project himself?

Mr. WALSH. I have. Absolutely. In my hometown, that is not the case.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, there is an interesting argument going on. We have a disagreement here. Someone said or we say there are no studies that demonstrate there is a problem. We talk about abuses. I have a list of abuses that I have no question about.

On the other side, we talk about a need for funding because there are criminal elements within public housing. I do not disagree with that. I am going to accept that argument, and from some facilities I have seen, I think the Members are accurate in that argument. I had one in the city of Upland that had a problem, and with additional funding, they reformed that problem.

I am willing to accept the argument from my colleagues on the other side that there is a problem in public housing and we need drug elimination funds to eliminate and deter these problems. But the problem with government is that rather than addressing the problem, we continue to put a Band-Aid over the sore. The problem is, we have forced people into public housing projects with section 8 vouchers because there is no place else for them to go.

A good friend of mine owns one of the largest nonprofits in the United States, and they have probably made 25,000 loans to low-income families to get them into housing. The name of the company is Hart. If Members go into Hart's buildings, every one of the employees in there were single parents, single women formerly on welfare. Every one of them today is in a home. They helped them get into homes. They provided buyers' assistance, down payments with zero government funding.

The problem we have here, Mr. Chairman, we have an administration and a Secretary of HUD altogether different than the previous Secretary of HUD that we had. For the last 2 years, I have spent more time battling with HUD, trying to make sure nonprofits could continue to operate to help poor people, because HUD did not like the competition.

Our Secretary today is different. How do we resolve this problem? Is there a problem with the criminal element within the public housing projects and drugs? I believe that is the case. How do we resolve that problem? Let us help people get out of public housing and into homes. Let us allow them to take the section 8 money and place a down payment on that home. Let us even let them take the section 8 vouchers that we force them to use to live in a dwelling, to use that to pay part of their payment to become productive parts of the community and established parts of the community.

Guess what is going to happen when we do that? I think my friends on the opposite side of the aisle have a different problem with this than I do. In 4 to 5 or 6 years, they will have built up enough equity in that home they are likely not to need the government's assistance to live any longer. To some people, that is scary. To me it is not.

So what do we do? We say we have a problem with housing projects that are funded by the government, but let us force people to live in those housing projects, because we will not let them use the money to buy a home. That just does not make sense to me at all.

Last year some of my colleagues on the opposite side of the aisle said on the drug elimination program money, when we finally start to succeed and eliminate the problem, let us cut their money off. What we are doing then, we were saying that we are only going to give money to communities that fail to solve the problem, and those that work hard and diligently and succeed in resolving the problem, we are going to cut their funds off, so they have to look to the local law enforcement to deal with a problem that tends to be generated by public housing.

If there was not a problem, address this question: Why do not funds provided by local government adequately deal with the problems within these housing projects? Because every community hires police officers. They manage to protect the rest of the community without assistance otherwise than what they receive in funding.

What we do is we say that is not adequate. We need to give them additional funding because there is a problem that is worse and needs Federal assistance than the rest of the community is experiencing.

That in and of itself is a problem. In this country, we have not been able to provide affordable housing for people, nor have we been able to provide housing stock for most people to move out of affordable housing into the next level.

□ 1000

Because the average home owner, when they buy a new home, realizes that 35 percent of the sales price of that home is directly attributed to government. Not indirectly through taxation of others; but direct assessments against the developer in order to get a building permit, 35 percent of that sales price goes to government. That means that if a young couple wants to but a $100,000 home, guess what? $35,000 of that $100,000 went to government.

Then, on the other hand we say, why cannot people in this country afford a home? The government is the problem. The government will never resolve the problem unless government does something to let the private sector work.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Let me speak in support of the Kaptur amendment. Let me say a couple of things. First of all, I have heard we should eliminate the drug elimination program because of waste and fraud. I cannot seem to recall a Member on the other side of the aisle ever wanting to eliminate any program in the Pentagon's budget because of waste or fraud. But any social program, any program focused at helping particularly disadvantaged communities is subject to this attack.

What we have is, for the first time in the country's modern history, the crime rate has gone down 8 years in a row. The majority party says let us try to interfere with that. Let us eliminate the COPS program. Let us make sure we do not have the gun buy back program. Let us eliminate the drug elimination program. Let us find those initiatives of the past administration that helped move the country in a downward trend in terms of the crime rate and let us remove them out of the way. Somehow, it would seem to me, that we would all, both parties, both the majority and the minority, be celebrating an 8-year decline in the crime

rate in our country and that we would want to reinforce those initiatives that have been proven to be successful.

We just heard the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) speak. I do not know where some of the Members here have been; but in any major city in our country, the police department proudly proclaims that they will not go in and provide protection in these public housing developments. It is unfortunate, but in our city it has been this way for a very long time. It is this way around the country.

It is the Federal Government's unfortunate burden since we are the landlord for these families which are mainly women and children, and rather than provide some assistance to them so they can live in safety or require the local community to provide adequate law enforcement, we want to wipe our hands of both this program in any other responsibility.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield, unlike your colleague who would not yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I would not tolerate that in my hometown.

Mr. FATTAH. The whole world is not your hometown.

Mr. WALSH. I understand that, but if we took some aggressive action with the local police, they have to go where the city council and the leaders of the community tell them. If it is in the city, it is their responsibility.

Mr. FATTAH. Reclaiming my time, we have a situation right now in the home city of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), Cincinnati, where the police department has refused to police in parts of the community. We cannot sit and ignore the fact that as a Congress we are saying, in these communities with a 99 percent of population of women and small children in which the Federal Government is the landlord, that we are not going to do anything to make sure that these communities are safe. And we are going to eliminate this program, and ignore the fact that, in our country, we have finally seen a major decrease in crime.

Maybe the majority party is not happy with that. I do not know. Maybe it is not politically helpful that there is a reduction in crime. Maybe that is why we want to pull the rug out of the COPS program and the drug elimination program and the gun buy back program, but I think that is an unfortunate way to proceed. I would hope that people would support the Kaptur amendment.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FATTAH. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) for bringing up the important point, that in many communities across this country, until this program was enacted, local police were not policing. In fact, in many places in America the local police had no relationship with the authorities. This program has drawn in local policing, whether it is county, State officials, local police, on-site resident management that are trained now in working with the local residents.

The relationship locally with the authorities was not always a good one. In many cases, and I cited Chicago in particular, which I never forgot after visiting there, the authorities were completely out of control. They were neglected. They neglected areas of our community.

I want to thank the gentleman for pointing out the importance of this program in creating an appropriate bond with local authorities so that now there is security, and crime has gone down all over this country including in these very important neighborhoods.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I have a similar amendment that I will withdraw. As I listen to this debate it seems to me that we are talking about two different worlds. It does not seem to me that we are talking about the one United States of America. I come from the city of Chicago, the third largest city in the country. I also represent 68 percent of the public housing in the city of Chicago. I want to invite the President and the Secretary of HUD to come and look at what public housing is like in the largest urban centers.

I also listen to my colleagues who do not seem to understand the differences between communities. And nobody created them exactly the way that they are; but if we look at the causes for drug addiction, the causes for drug use, I represent a district that has lost more than 140,000 manufacturing jobs over the last 40 years; 140,000 solid good-paying jobs have gone as a result of our trade policies.

I come from a community that represents the last wave of migration for people trying to escape what was a South that they could not tolerate and refused to continue to live in.

When we talk about public housing, in many instances we are talking about thousands of people stacked on top of one another. I have a stretch of public housing that goes from 2200 South to 5700 South, straight down what we call the State Street Corridor.

The second poorest urban area in America. And so if my colleagues tell me that we do not need drug elimination efforts, there is nothing the residents of public housing have liked more than to be able to establish their own drug prevention program on site right where they are so that, in spite of the conditions under which they live, children can understand that they can, in fact, grow up with the idea of doing more than standing on the corner hollering ''crack'' and ''blow'' or looking for a nickel bag or a dime bag.

So I really do not know where my colleagues have been or what it is that they are talking about. I invite all of my colleagues to come to the big city public housing developments and see what the policies of this Nation have created and then to tell me that we cannot find a little bit of money; that because of some fraud and abuse, that we are going to throw out the baby with the bath water.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot think of any program, any activity where we have not discovered some fraud, some abuse. But we did not stop making airplanes because there was fraud and abuse. We did not stop manufacturing automobiles.

So I would urge us, Mr. Chairman, that we rethink our position. That we take another look. That we support the reconstitution of this program. And I too would commend the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for all of the work and the tenacity with which she has pursued this issue.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his eloquent statement. I thank him for giving us a snapshot of places in America where programs like this make an enormous difference. I thank him for his leadership, and I just wanted to place on the record the fact that HUD did do a study in 1999. In fact the inspector general of HUD did a study. They found no abuse in this program.

In fact, all HUD said, the inspector general, the inspection side of HUD merely said they ought to do some more studies around the country on how the program is working. They only asked for more paper reporting.

But on the ground, on the ground where people live every day, this is a successful program.

Mr. Chairman, I wanted to use this moment also to say to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), my good friend, who I really do not think his heart is in opposition on this program, but I want to say in my own town he said the money was not being spent. I would have to say that is not an accurate statement. In fact, over $700,000 of Federal and local money is being spent every year and is being spent according to the allocation formulas from HUD on schedule.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I say that we will either pay now or we will pay later.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, unfortunately, I was unable to be here when there was a debate on the Frank amendment earlier this morning. As the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, I want to repeat my opposition to the Frank amendment and repeat what I stated in the general debate as of yesterday. That is the reference to the President's downpayment assistance program.

As I stated in the general debate, this is really a compassionate program so that we can help low-income people achieve the American dream. And that is what that program is all about.

Mr. Chairman, I want the Members to know also, because there was some discussion about the authorization of this legislation. As chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity, the authorizing subcommittee, I stated in the general debate that I would make every effort to assure that this important initiative would be authorized before the June 2002 deadline that is outlined in this bill, and I recommit myself to that publicly here.

Again, I think this is a compassionate effort. The President's program is an important one that will allow low-income families to share in the American dream of homeownership, and we should support it. In that context, as I stated in the general debate, I would, unfortunately, have to oppose the Frank amendment.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Mrs. ROUKEMA. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Chairman, I repeat that the gentlewoman's chairmanship of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity has been a very constructive one, because we have been building, I think, a very important record on the importance of housing and moving forward.

I do have to say on the specific question of authorization, I mentioned it only because the gentlewoman from New York who is no longer here said, ''Well, I was the ranking member, we could do this.'' And my response was well, I am ready. Because I would say this to the gentlewoman, while there is a June 30 date in the bill which says we must authorize by June 30, or the funds revert, the funds start being subject to this restriction on October 1.

So I would ask the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. ROUKEMA), could she then schedule a hearing and markup? We probably cannot pass it by October 1, and we are about to go out. But I would hope as soon as we come back in session we could have such a markup so we could get this.

Mr. Chairman, the reason is this: This will be going to conference in September. I would hope the conference committee, which will have to ultimately decide whether to earmark it or not, would have the benefit of at least some committee deliberation on this substance.

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I will make that commitment to the gentleman, regarding expediting a markup as soon as possible. But I do not believe that it is a reason for us to eliminate this provision in this appropriations bill.

As I pledged in my statement during general debate, I will move to expedite consideration for legislation. I believe the President's program is an important one that allows low-income families to share in the American dream of homeownership. This is evidence of the President's commitment to compassionate care for all our people.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to bring this debate back to where it started. We were in the midst of a very important debate on drug elimination grants. I rise in support of the Kaptur amendment and want to emphasize how important this program has been.

This program provides resources for public housing authorities to fight crime and drug use, an incredibly targeted and flexible program for that purpose. Many will say that that is not the proper role of public housing authorities. And while this may be true in the ideal world, the practical experience shows that local law enforcement authorities are not always up to the job. We know that housing authorities have crime problems that are indigenous, that are rooted, and we need programs which focus on that and go to those roots.

□ 1015

Why do we propose reducing funds that they receive to fight crime, to hire law enforcement, to construct fences, to remove debris from alleys and to help residents break drug addiction? If we have problems with how some of the funding has been used, then we should address the inappropriate use of the program. Eliminating the entire program is not the answer. We really should be adequately funding drug elimination grants. This amendment, the Kaptur amendment, is an excellent start.

By supporting this amendment, I do not want to give the impression that the homeownership initiative she seeks to reduce is unworthy. It is not unworthy. It is a good proposal and should be considered. It is a new start, it is a new initiative, it is the President's. It has not gone through the authorizing process per se, but localities are already permitted to undertake downpayment assistance programs with funds that they receive through the normal HOME program allotment process.

This is simply a case of priorities. Drug use in public housing is a problem so great that it merits priority attention. The drug elimination grants program merits support.

I remember when Secretary Martinez appeared before our committee, he did not say, or I do not remember him saying, that this program was a bad program, the drug elimination program. He did not say that there was not the problem in housing authorities. What he said, as I remember it, was that this is not the right jurisdiction, this is not the proper place to fund this program, maybe it should be in the Justice Department.

Mr. Chairman, I serve on the subcommittee that funds the Justice Department. The Justice Department says that they are not into prevention programs, they are into solving crimes. So they say that Justice is not the proper place to fund drug elimination grant programs. So this bill is where the program is. This is where the program has been funded. This is where the program has been successful, however many hiccups it has had.

The problem still remains. We hope that the program has been successful so that the problem is on a downward trend line. But it still remains, the program is still viable, and the program should be funded.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the gentlewoman's amendment and commend her for her efforts in this area.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. First of all, I would like to thank the ranking member for his strong support in clarifying why HUD is the proper administering authority for this program and the distinction between the Department of Justice and the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

I thought I would also like to place on the record a comment made by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) a little bit earlier. His time expired, but in other comments that Secretary Martinez made before the Subcommittee on Housing that the gentleman from Massachusetts is the ranking member of, he mentioned that Mr. Martinez said that, in terms of money available to HUD this year, that the Department of Energy estimated that utility costs would be going down; that before the Subcommittee on Housing he actually stated that the Department of Energy had told him to tell us that utility costs would be going down.

I find that incredible. The operating funds that exist in this bill will not be sufficient if you look at what is happening to utility rates across this country.

So this program is even more necessary in order to keep the cap on crime, keep arrests up, keep neighborhoods more safe and help with the prevention programs that the gentleman from West Virginia has so aptly described.

I thank him for yielding to me and for his support of this program.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words, and I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH).

Mr. WALSH. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I just wanted to address some comments that were made earlier.

I have the greatest respect for every Member who has spoken. I think these are heartfelt statements that are being made, but I wanted to just add some additional data to the arguments.

The gentleman from Chicago, who represents a very large public housing authority that he spoke about, their

budget for drug elimination is approximately $8 million per year. Based on our analysis and HUD's audits, the Chicago Public Housing Authority has right now close to $19 million on hand to provide for future drug elimination programs. We do not say you cannot use existing funds. What we are saying is that, from this bill forward, we are not going to specifically appropriate funds for drug elimination. That means they can use those $19 million.

We provided an increase in funds for operating expenses across the board to public housing authorities, an 8 percent increase. In the case of Chicago, that would mean about a $15 million increase. That means they could take half of that operating fund increase and dedicate that for drug elimination if they saw fit for the future.

The gentlewoman who is about to speak I believe represents the Cleveland area. The Cuyahoga County Public Housing Authority has about $7.5 million available for drug elimination. They spend about $2.5 million per year. That would provide about 3 years' worth of drug elimination funds; and the operating fund increase for Cuyahoga County would be about $3.5 million per year, which is in excess of what their annual operating expenses are for drug elimination.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Would the gentleman repeat that, since he was talking about my congressional district? I did not quite hear what he said. Would he say it again?

Mr. WALSH. I would be happy to. In Cuyahoga County, which encompasses Cleveland, I believe, the public housing authority funding for drug elimination in 1999 was $2.4 million. That will not be spent out until next year. Those are 1999 funds. In 2000, $2.5 million was appropriated. That has not been spent, either. In 2001, another $2.5 million has not been spent. So there is approximately $7.5 million of unexpended funds in the drug elimination program.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. This is as of today, what he is reporting from?

Mr. WALSH. As of today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I would like to see it when he is done.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WEINER. I would point out that many housing authorities around the country have a similar situation where drug elimination funds appear not to be spent because a large number of those dollars are used to recruit and hire police officers.

As the gentleman knows, right now in the country we have a phenomenon from coast to coast that there is a decline in the number of people that are coming forward to take these positions. In most cases, New York City being one of them, those funds have already been allocated.

Mr. WALSH. For example, New York City receives in the neighborhood of $40 million a year in drug elimination funds. Half of that money is going to pay salaries for police officers. Under the crime bill and the COPS AHEAD bill, New York City has received a half billion dollars to hire police officers. The drug elimination funds were not a supplement to the budget of the New York City Police Department. These funds were supposed to go for public housing authorities.

So the fact is, Mr. Chairman, there are lots and lots of dollars in the pipeline for drug elimination. If public housing authorities wish to use their operating fund balance to continue these programs, as my public housing authority in Syracuse has chosen to do, they can.

But what we are saying is we are not going to continue to fund this program because the Secretary of HUD, our new Secretary, has asked us to say we want to stick to our core business; we do not want to be in the criminal justice system; let the Justice Department fund this. And they do fund juvenile crime programs into the hundreds of millions of dollars. We think that these funds for the HOME project are far more important and far more in line with the core business of HUD. Let us help Americans to buy homes with these funds.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, to the people of the United States, the argument that you are hearing this morning is the real reason why we should not have had a tax cut. We should not be standing here arguing about whether we fund a drug elimination program or we fund a homeless downpayment assistance program. The reality is that both of these programs need funding, and there are dollars in the U.S. budget to fund them both. But, instead, the United States policy on housing is such that we have to argue over $20 million for each of these programs.

Let me just switch for a moment to a discussion as to whether or not we should fund drug elimination programs in public housing. Before I came to Congress, I served for 8 years as the Cuyahoga County prosecutor. Many of you can stand up here and say what you think works. I can tell you what I know works. I know it works because it was my responsibility to have oversight over the Cleveland Police Department as well as oversight over the Cuyahoga County Metropolitan Housing Police Department. It took the effort of both of those departments to diminish and eliminate the drug problem at the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority.

See, when we start talking about the importance of law enforcement, it is important to understand that the people get to know who the police officers are. You can stand in a vacuum and say that the City of Cleveland or the City of New York or the City of Chicago ought to fund police departments, but we as a government, the City of Cleveland is part of the United States Government. The City of Chicago is part of the United States Government. HUD housing is Federal housing. It is public housing. And the people there, regardless of who funds it, need to be able to live in safe housing.

Let me talk a little bit more about how law enforcement has moved from ''lock them up and throw away the key'' to some point talking about prevention. Part of prevention is using innovative programs to be able to talk to young people, to talk to older people about how you eliminate an addiction and begin to live in a wholesome housing situation. In fact, the public housing neighborhoods across this country have begun to be able to do that. It would seem to me that it would really be in the best interests of these United States, of the Federal Government, to talk about saving programs that are working.

Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman from New York letting me know that Cuyahoga County has $2.5 million in the pipeline and $2.5 million that might be available next year. I would like to ask him to give me more than $2.5 and to suggest to him, after having talked to the director of the Cuyahoga Metropolitan Housing Authority less than an hour ago, that maybe as of today's record there is not showing an expenditure but those funds are in fact ready and have been expended for purposes of that program. I am not sure how their accounting works.

Let me further say that some of the programs may not be what you traditionally believe are programs to deal with drug elimination, but I find it hard to believe that any of us who have not had the experience of working in drug elimination can stand on the floor of the House of Representatives and talk like we are experts. Those of you who have not had the experience owe it to yourself to go visit a housing authority to understand what you may in fact be funding.

I am heartened because, when we did in fact have a Subcommittee on Housing hearing and the Secretary of Housing came before the Subcommittee on Housing, I was dismissed as being out of line when I said to the Secretary of Housing, after he said there are no drug problems in elderly public housing in the United States, to ask him what country he had lived in in the past 10 years. I meant no disrespect. Mr. Secretary, if you are listening this morning, I mean no disrespect this morning. But what I need you to be able to understand is the problem that exists.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. The Chair will remind Members that remarks need to be

addressed to the Chair, not to the listening audience and not to anyone else observing this proceeding.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. I apologize to the Chair.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Before my comments, might I ask a question of the ranking member?

□ 1030

I am just curious. I hear lots of discussion that communities can use their operating subsidy to fund this program. If we look at the current year's budget for the operating subsidy and the drug elimination program, and compare it to the projected request for operating subsidy for next year, including all the increases in energy costs, does that amount exceed what we appropriated this current year for these two programs of operating subsidy and drug elimination?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. SABO. I yield to the gentleman from West Virginia.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Mr. Chairman, I understand what the gentleman is asking. He is asking is there a net increase or decrease of the funds out of which the drug elimination grants could be funded last year, as compared to this year.

Mr. SABO. That is right.

Mr. MOLLOHAN. There is a net decrease of $47 million as I compute it. The drug elimination program was funded at $310 million in 2001, and eliminated this year. $263 million was added to the Public Housing Operating Fund, and that resulted in a net decrease, or a net cut. And drug elimination grants were authorized to be activities to be funded out of the public housing operations up to $110 million. So the overall net cut is $47 million.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, that is an actual cut in funding from what is appropriated for this current year, at the same time that these housing agencies are also going to be required to pay significantly higher energy costs?

Mr. MOLLOHAN. Yes.

Mr. SABO. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, the answer is obvious what we should do with the amendment proposed by the gentlewoman from Ohio: we should support it. But let me make a few other comments.

I think this debate is very useful, because it highlights the importance of housing. Over the last several years, I have been disappointed to the degree that housing has been off the agenda for both parties, and if there is any area where the Federal Government has played a primary role for decades, it has been in the development of housing policy in this country, whether it is through tax programs, through insurance programs, or through direct expenditures.

We have a crisis in the availability of low- and moderate-income housing in this country today, and I would suggest to my friends that while we have our extensive debates on education policy, that the Federal role in providing for low- and moderate-income housing in this country, in my judgment, is of greater importance to education policy in this country than many of the things we are doing in the education bill.

But if we have limited resources, what should be our priority? Clearly the first priority has to be that we are funding and operating in a decent and efficient manner the housing that exists. That means that we have to have sufficient appropriations for operating subsidies, that we deal with unique programs and problems, like the drug problem in public housing throughout this country. Next we should move to make sure that the housing that we have today is maintained through our rehab programs. Again, we find that those programs are funded at a grossly inadequate level in this bill.

Then we should move on to production, and we desperately need a production program in this country. We are not close to beginning to deal with that problem. I would love to see us doing it. But if we have to make choices, the first choice has to be that we fund in a sufficient fashion those programs that simply keep the existing housing supply operating in a safe manner for its residents, where they can enjoy life.

For some people to suggest that as part of that process of running large public housing projects we should not provide for security, I think flies in the face of reality.

Mr. Chairman, I hope we adopt the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I have the highest respect for my chairman. I think he is a very fair man. He has operated this committee in a fair manner. But he is faced with a daunting task, which I do not think is defensible. He cannot defend the fact that the drug elimination grants have been worked out of the program.

Mr. Chairman, I stand to support the amendment offered by my good sister from Ohio. Her position is one of a white woman who has come to this arena to defend a program which has been eliminated which pretty much helps low-income people. The gentlewoman is not a lower income person. There are very few of them in this Congress.

I stand today to represent those neighborhoods which many of you have never seen. I stand today to talk about Peaches, who was killed in the housing project. I stand to talk about Little Bit, who was killed in the housing project, by drug dealers who live in the housing projects, who come in the housing projects and prey on the children, because they know they are hopeless residents of these areas.

Now, it is pretty good to talk about what is in the pipeline, and that is the argument which my good chairman has used. But it is a specious argument, in that it cannot be made for public housing, in that last year this Congress, of which I am a Member, appropriated $1.3 billion for Plan Colombia, the anti-drug program that was supposed to stop the flow of drugs from South America to this country. $1.3 billion. Yet I stand today trying to defend a program which we know is needed for the young people of our country.

Our good President wants to leave no child behind, but if he eliminates this program, he has already left behind the many youngsters in public housing who will be unprotected from the drug dealers that our police department overlooked for years because they did not have the manpower nor the ability to come in to public housing and fight this real ominous enemy we have in there, the drug dealers.

Now they have their own situation, where they can collaborate with the police department, where they can work with local agencies and bring a network to work against drugs in public housing. Public housing is good. It is the people that come into public housing and the people who come off the street and come in to hurt our children that are bad.

The Washington Post also reported that only about 5 percent of Plan Colombia's money has been spent, only about 5 percent. Yet we argue against $175 million which this good gentlewoman has asked for. Does the Congress zero the amount for Plan Colombia out of this year's funding bill? I repeat that question. It is not a rhetorical question, it is a true question.

Does the Congress zero them out, Plan Columbia, in this year's funding bill? No. Earlier this week we voted to add another $676 million to the program of Plan Colombia. That shows that the argument is specious that is used by my good chairman. So all this money that is supposed to be in the pipeline, it remains in there for Plan Colombia, but it does not remain in there for the poor residents of public housing. We must begin to respect these people. We must begin to note that it is the Government's job to respect them.

So I must say, if you do not fund this program, you are showing this Nation that you have turned around a program that works. Regardless of the party that you are in, you are doing the wrong thing for the American people, and it is indefensible. So anyone who stands up to defend this knows it is wrong.

It is so important that we understand, these are very small grants. They are not large. If one reads the report of our committee, you will see very large grants. But these grants, some are less than $25,000. A few million dollars they get for public housing. They are a small amount compared to the problem in New York, a small

amount compared to the problem in California, a small amount compared to the public housing in Dade County-Miami. It is a small amount of money. Some of them are as small as $25,000.

We must slow the relationship of violent crime in public housing. You do not need a statistical report to see this. You read the paper every day, you listen to the radio. You see how it is rampant.

There is no report, and this again goes against something my chairman said, there is no report, statistical or not, that supports the claim that the drug elimination program is not effective. There are no reports. But there is a body of information that points to the success of the program, including the Best Practices Award given to them by HUD and organizations like public housing that recognize that the person-to-person, life-to-life success of this program is successful.

My point is, it is a specious argument. Let us pass this amendment offered by the good gentlewoman from Ohio, and let us go on with this good program.

Mr. WEINER. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I have the greatest respect for the chairman of the subcommittee, and I believe if we had an allocation that was sufficient this subcommittee would not have chosen to make this cut.

In the 1980s, we had a debate in this House and in this country about ways to make housing programs more efficient. I thought often that debate was mean-spirited. But the mantra was over and over again throughout those years, let us keep what is working and let us eliminate what is not. As a result, unfortunately, that meant cuts in the modernization program. It meant cuts in operating assistance.

In 1988, Ronald Reagan famously said our barest responsibility to the residents of public housing is their safety, and the drug elimination program was born. Since that time, we have had nearly a 30 percent reduction in crime in public housing. The program has been a success.

Now, you should not take my word for it, although when I was in the New York City Council I was the chairman of the Committee on Public Housing. Listen to what some Republicans have said.

Listen to what Secretary Martinez said earlier this year in response to a question from a Member of the other body. ''HUD's Public Housing Drug Elimination Program supports a wide variety of efforts. Based on this core purpose, I certainly support the program.''

A short while ago the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) stood up to oppose this program. Let me tell you what he said on April 6 of the year 2000. ''If the public housing are unable to continue the drug prevention efforts, the problems will return. Will we only allow a doctor to give enough medicine to reduce illness, or will we give enough medicine to cure the disease?'' This is what he said in support of the program that supports public housing in Upland, California.

We have also heard from the former chairman of the Committee on Banking and Financial Services, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH.) ''This type of program is necessary if we are to make public housing developments decent and safe communities.''

Mr. Lazio, the former Member of this House from my State, also said, ''The drug elimination program has funded many important and worthwhile items that have resulted in protecting people in public and assisted housing.''

For a moment I would like to address some of the criticisms to this program raised by the opponents of the gentlewoman from Ohio. First, it is that crime reduction is not the primary mission of HUD. True enough. But that does not mean we do not fund modernization programs for better security systems. It does not mean we do not fund modernization programs and operating assistance for security guards. It is absurd to say that simply because it is not our primary mission, that we should walk away from a program that works.

Secondly, there is this weird Alice in Wonderland argument that says we are reinforcing the perception that drug problems are bad in public housing by having a program that has reduced crime problems in public housing.

I can tell you as a matter of fact, in New York City we have something called the COMSTAT program where you can see block by block, address by address, where the crime problems are.

Before the drug elimination program came into effect, there was a 30 percent difference the moment you crossed the street into public housing as opposed to the other way, and the reason is we used to have police precincts that were divided from the housing authority police division so we could see that.

If you think that the program is not working, all you have to do is look at the State of Texas. In the State of Texas, in the Austin Housing Authority, they had a 10 percent reduction compared to outside the housing authority because of the drug elimination program. In San Antonio, there was a 31 percent reduction in crime in the housing authorities, while the crime outside the housing authorities went up. So we not only know as a matter of fact that there is a problem, but we also know as a matter of fact that the problem is being solved by the drug elimination program.

Finally, because New York City has been mentioned so many times in a pejorative sense here, let me explain why it is that New York City is a slightly different creature than other places as it relates to the drug elimination program.

Unlike other places that throughout the eighties were tearing down their public housing, New York City was investing in it, so much so that it not only did not neglect housing authorities, it created its own police department specifically for the housing authority projects, unlike other municipalities in this country.

□ 1045

Later on, a decision was made under Mayor Giuliani, and, frankly, when I served on the city council, to merge the police departments; and the Housing Authority and HUD said, under Republicans and Democrats alike, that that does not mean that New York City should then have to walk away from the assistance it was getting, simply because it made its police department more efficient.

One final point. This is the point about why there is so much money in the pipeline, and I tried to make the point earlier. We have a fundamental problem in this country, and we are seeing it in law enforcement programs throughout, that there is a backlog in the money we are allocating to police officers and when those dollars are hitting the streets. We saw that same spurious argument used against the COPS program, but every city supports it and, frankly, every Housing Authority supports this program.

Mr. MEEKS of New York. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for this amendment, but, most importantly, I want to thank the gentlewoman of Ohio for thinking about me.

Mr. Chairman, as I hear people talking about the drug elimination program and hear people talking about those who live in public housing and I hear people talking about the American dream, let me tell my colleagues, I lived in public housing. I lived in public housing until I graduated law school. I have a relative that lives in public housing. Just because I am a Member of Congress does not mean I can get all of my relatives and friends out of public housing who live there on a daily basis. I visit them every time that I go home.

Not only do I represent public housing, I have relatives, I have lived there, and I would not be here if it was not for public housing.

We can build all the prisons we want, and they will come. They will fill up if we do not do anything.

When we talk about medicine today, we talk about preventive care. We talk about how we have to stop it early. We can stop them and kill diseases early so that we do not have to worry about disease.

What the drug elimination program is, it is preventive care. If we are talking about preventive care everywhere else, why can we not take care of America's poor? Because America's poor, like I, want to live the American dream; and the first thing in public housing that we see young people

today, what they want to do is, indeed, that: just live. They are worried about their lives, when we talk to 15-, 16-year-olds; and they say they may not live until they are 18, 19, 20 years old. They just want to live. And what the drug elimination program does is give them the opportunity to have hope to live for tomorrow.

Why are we playing reverse RobinHoodism? Why are we taking away from the poor to give to the rich? What makes this country great, or what should make it great, is how we take care of the least of these.

The drug elimination program and the money that we are talking about really is just a drop in the bucket. We have got to have a conscience in this body.

When we talk about security and I think about my childhood, security happens in two ways. Security happens when, in fact, one has law enforcement there. One puts up gates. They put up these gates that help prevent crime. But it also beautifies the area for the people, the residents that are living there, and that presence helps, and it gives a relationship between the individuals who live in the complexes and the police officers.

But, most importantly, let me tell my colleagues why I could be a Member of the United States Congress today, because without certain programs of public housing, I doubt that I would be here. But it has programs that teaches and encourages young people and gives them hope and keeps them out of trouble. It has programs that has the opportunity and the ability to transcend one who is living among drugs and keeping drugs out of public housing. That is what this is all about.

So when we talk about a mere $175 million when we have over $7 trillion budget, a mere $175 million to save lives.

Mr. Chairman, there has been a big discussion about people receiving these tax cuts of $300 or $600 in a few weeks or a few months or whenever it comes. Do we know that that $300 or $600 will not save one life? It will not save one life. And what we are talking about here is saving lives, something that no one can ever recover. We must save lives so that people have the opportunity to live so that they can have hope for the American dream. And taking this money away, we are taking away people's hope, we are taking away their dream, and that is wrong.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I had not intended to speak this morning. I know that people are all poised to go home, and we wanted to see if we could expedite the proceedings today so that we can get out as early as possible. But I could not help but come to the floor to speak on this issue.

I cannot believe that my friends on the opposite side of the aisle who define themselves as law and order, who would have us believe that they have some values that are better than others, who would have us believe that they are the only ones who care about crime in America, who would have us believe that we do not pay enough attention to crime, would dare come to this floor and support the elimination of a drug program in America's public housing projects.

America's public housing projects, for the most part, are poor people and some working people who are living basically in congested areas on top of each other, having to deal with some of the most difficult problems any human being could ever envision.

We have a lot of young people who are attracted to the lifestyles they see on television, who want to go to the concerts; a lot of young people who want the cars; a lot of young people who want what we tell them America can afford. No, they do not have the kind of support oftentimes that will ensure that they keep going and they get educated. Many of them are dropouts. Many of them are coming from families who are in trouble. But they are all stacked into many of America's public housing projects; and, yes, the dope dealers and others come into these places.

Mr. Chairman, we need the opportunity to educate, to prevent, to teach, to say to young people, there is another way. But Members on the other side of the aisle will tell us on this floor that we do not need to have a drug elimination program. Drugs are not a problem in the housing project, is that what they are telling us? No, what they are saying is, it is a problem, we know it is a problem, but we do not want the public housing project management to take the responsibility for the elimination of the drugs in public housing. What we would rather do is have the police run in, catch a 19-year-old with one rock crack cocaine and send him to the Federal penitentiary for 5 years on mandatory minimum sentencing. No prevention, no rehab, no inclusion of drug elimination in the management.

It is so outrageous to say this is not our core program. This is not what we do. We would not tell a high-paid co-op in New York, we would not tell the resident, we do not have anything to do with your security and drug elimination; we do not have anything to do with making sure this building is safe and you are not at risk. And we are not going to allow you to say that here today. It is absolutely hypocritical to talk about eliminating this drug program in public housing.

We know that many of us can talk from experience. We heard the previous speaker, the gentleman from New York, talk about his life, his experiences. Well, I want my colleagues to know many of us in the Congressional Black Caucus represent most of the public housing projects in America. They are part of our districts. We work there. We advocate for them. We try to make them safer. We try to give people hope. We try to give them a way by which they can get up and get out.

But when our colleagues come to the floor and they tell us that they do not care enough to support the idea that we can eliminate drugs, we can eliminate crime, that we can provide some security in public housing, then we must come to this floor and we must take our colleagues on and take our colleagues on our will.

Mr. Chairman, I am going to ask the Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle on this vote to forget about the fact that somebody told them they do not want to do this job. I do not know this new Secretary, but I am hopeful that is not the message that he sent to this floor. I am hopeful that somehow the gentleman is a little bit confused about the message.

I would ask that we support the amendment, and I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for putting this back on this floor so that we could have this debate.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, first, let me thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for offering this amendment and really allowing us the time to debate this issue and to talk about those that we never have a chance to talk about, those individuals in our districts who are really just hanging from a cliff in terms of the basic substance and in terms of their income and in terms of the housing conditions in which they live.

This is just another example, this elimination of the public housing, drug elimination program, is just another example of really how shortsighted both in terms of policy and in terms of funding that this bill really is.

Mr. Chairman, now one-third of all residents who live in public housing, I want to remind our colleagues that a third of our residents are elderly. They are elderly. Local police officers do not patrol public housing. So if one does not support this amendment, one is really also in fact allowing thousands of elderly people to live in unsafe environments. How ironic, Mr. Chairman, that as my colleague so eloquently laid out and so clearly laid out, my colleague from Florida, how this Congress will support billions of dollars to be spent on drug interdiction in Colombia and in Peru, a policy that many of us know does nothing to stop drug abuse in this country, but this Congress just this week sent a message and now again, unless we support this amendment, will be sending another message, unfortunately, that we do not support a few hundred million dollars for drug elimination and patrol right here in our own country, in our own communities.

This is just downright wrong. This hypocrisy is really unjustified. I do not know how my colleagues go home and explain this to their constituents. I just do not know how they do it.

Mr. Chairman, I want to reiterate also that this bill cuts a total of over

$1.7 billion from our national housing programs. This is no time to cut any funds to the HUD budget, because the Federal Government of the richest country in the world should and must provide a safety net at least for decent and safe shelter. When the richest country in the world has a growing homeless population, a working population where individuals work sometimes 80 hours a week to afford just a modest place to live, not spending valuable quality time with their children and families, then we really are not that rich after all.

This is really not the time to cut in real terms funding for community development block grants and home formula grants and public housing capital funds and, now, the drug elimination program. This whole budget really is a sham and a shell game, and it is a disgrace. It places this $2 trillion plus tax cut for the wealthy square on the backs of the homeless, public housing residents, the working poor. It is a real cynical ploy I think to pit all of these groups against each other so that they cannot come together and demand that this Congress finally stand up for them.

□ 1100

They do not have a lot of lobbyists here. Our public housing residents may not have one representative here to really look out for them the way that they should.

But I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and Members here today who are fighting drugs in our own country by fighting to restore this drug elimination program. It makes more sense than sending the money to Colombia and Peru for anti-narcotics efforts that really are not working.

Mr. Chairman, this VA–HUD bill cuts $493 million from public housing programs including the complete elimination of the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program. It is just another example of how short sighted—both in terms of policy and funding—this bill really is. I thank my colleague from Ohio for offering this amendment and for her leadership.

Mr. Chairman, let me remind you that one third of all residents who live in public housing are elderly. Local police officers do not patrol public housing. If you do not support the Kaptur amendment, you are in fact also allowing thousands of elderly people to live in unsafe environments.

How ironic, Mr. Chairman, as my colleague from Florida so eloquently and clearly laid out that this Congress will support billions to be spent on drug interdiction in Colombia and Peru—a policy that many know does nothing to stop drug abuse in this country—but this Congress will not support a few hundred million for drug elimination and patrol right here in our own country. This hypocrisy is unjustified and wrong and I don't know how you explain this back home

Mr. Chairman, I reiterate, this bill cuts $1.7 billion from our national housing programs.

This is no time for any cuts to the HUD budget because the federal government of the richest country in the world must provide a safety net, at the very least, of decent and safe shelter. When the richest country in the world has a growing homeless population and a working population where individuals must work 80 hours a week to afford a modest place to live, not spending valuable quality time with their children and families, then we really aren't that rich after all.

This is not the time to cut in real terms the Community Development Block Grant, HOME formula grants, and public housing capital funds and the Drug Elimination Program. This budget is a sham and a shell game. This bill places the $2 trillion plus tax cut, of which working families will see pennies on the dollar of the tax cuts realized for the wealthy, square on the backs of the homeless, working poor, middle income, and public housing residents. It is a cynical ploy to pit these groups against each other. Fighting drugs in our own country makes more sense to me than sending billions to Colombia for anti-narcotics efforts that are not working. Support the Kaptur amendment.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. LEE. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I failed to mention, and I thank the gentlewoman from California for yielding, that before I came to Congress, our district was represented by the Honorable Lewis Stokes. Congressman Stokes made a huge effort to see that public housing had the funding that it needed.

One of his real reasons for doing so was the fact that both he and his brother, the former mayor, Carl Stokes, former Ambassador Stokes, were both raised in public housing. At the public housing unit in Cuyahoga County, they made a museum to Carl and Lewis Stokes for the work that they had done in that community, where their mother by herself raised two young men.

We have to think about it like this, there may be another Carl and Lewis Stokes actually residing in public housing across this country. If we do not continue to fund a program such as this so that they can be inspired, so they can have an opportunity to live in a community that is free of drugs, we may be in a dilemma that we do not want to find ourselves in.

Again, I plead to my colleagues to listen to what we are saying, to listen to people who have experience and background and knowledge of what is going on in public housing.

The other thing I plead with them is to not get so caught up to say that the people here do not know what they are talking about, or our function is in a different direction, or our assignment is in a different direction. Our assignment as public officials is to do all on behalf of all the residents of the United States.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, as I have listened to the debate, and I am here for amendments that I intend to offer, but I captured from the collective voices that are raised that we do not want to go back. I rise to support the amendment of the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), hoping that this Congress does not take us back 10, 15, 20 years.

As we watched the Department of Housing and Urban Development mature and grow in the last 8 years, we saw its vision was a corrective vision, focusing on distressed housing, rebuilding and providing opportunities for mixed units so seniors and single parents and others could live together in harmony.

We watched as we rebuilt not only Northern facilities but Southern facilities. We watched as we recognized that public housing has no neighborhood. It is in the South, the North, the East, and the West.

Now I come to find out that for some reason that the collective voices of the majority believe that our public housing developments, which I have come to know not as projects but as public housing developments, are not neighborhoods.

When I served on the Houston City Council, the public housing developments in my jurisdiction, which was city wide, became my neighborhoods. We worked together to plant community gardens. We talked about after-school programs in the housing developments for the children there. We began to talk about transit systems that would address the needs of the children in the housing developments. In fact, in one of mine, we have a partnership between the Department of Education and a school on the grounds of that public housing development that is one of the best in the city.

What is missing in the vision or the concept of the majority on this idea of eliminating these drug enforcement programs is the fact that these are wholesale entities onto themselves. The Federal Government is the landlord, so in order to make it better, the landlord must provide policing, it must provide extracurricular activities, transportation, rehabilitation, and certainly, it must be able to provide the protection of those residents who live there against drugs.

In my community alone, 3,394 units of public housing will be impacted and 7,840 persons and 799 senior citizens. Multiply that minimally by 200 districts and we see the millions and millions of people that will be impacted.

It is my hope that this amendment passes, not because this is a tension between majority and minority, but because it is the right thing to do; that we made a mistake, that we are misdirected by taking monies and gutting, zeroing out a program that involves crime prevention, law enforcement, security, intervention, investigation, improvements in tenant patrols, treatment, and other activities geared toward cleaning up our neighborhoods, which happen to be public housing.

I believe this is a very, very vital program. I would ask that my colleagues protect this program. If there is fraud in this program, we do not throw the baby out with the bath

water. We fix what is broken and we provide the opportunity for this program to work.

Mr. Chairman, I would inquire of the gentlewoman, she is from Ohio, I am from Texas, and I would ask her to explain that this is a regional program and will hurt all of us across the country as we attempt to clean up drugs in these housing developments, creating safe neighborhoods. This is what the vision of this Congress should be.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding.

To reaffirm what she has said with me here today, I have documents from over 1,100 public housing authorities in our country and their neighborhoods that are benefiting from this program. Members should know and should check their own districts prior to voting on this amendment. It serves America coast-to-coast. It has made our communities more beautiful and safer places in which to live. It saves lives every day. I thank the gentlewoman for asking for that clarification.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, let me join the leadership of the ranking member. I appreciate his leadership on these many, many issues.

Mr. Chairman, I ask this Congress today to make a stand for not taking us back, I do not want to go back, and creating a vision of America that assumes that those who live in public housing developments are our neighbors, as well, and would want to have clean and safe places to live, and want the degradation of drugs to be taken away from them, lifted up from them so children can grow, elderly can be safe, and families can thrive.

I ask my colleagues to envision a future where all of us are united behind a new day, and that we vote for this amendment.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the requisite number of words.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Mr. Chairman, I come from a city that I am so proud of, but we have more than our share of problems when it comes to crime and drug addiction. The reason I have such a heavy heart is because from these poor communities, those that have access to a decent education and are able to get the tools to be able to negotiate through life, some have been able to make some major contributions to our communities, our city, our State, and indeed, our country. So many of us that come from these very same communities have been able to have the privilege to serve right here in the House of Representatives. I have heard a lot of that testimony here today.

One of the greatest things in being an American is not how much money one has, not how much wealth one has, but how much hope one has. When one comes from a poor community and is forced, through racism and economic circumstances, to see poverty every day, and one does not have hope nor believe one has an opportunity to get out of it, then sometimes one looks at drugs and abuses drugs and alcohol, figuring that one has nothing to lose.

Our young people really deserve better than that. That is what these programs are all about, to give kids enough hope to know that there is something to lose by making the mistakes and abusing drugs.

Mr. Chairman, I cannot understand why this great Nation and this Congress is prepared year after year to invest billions of dollars in the building of jails and penitentiaries, and yet refuses to recognize not only the money that we would be saving in education and prevention, but the contribution we are making to our great country by increasing the productivity, increasing the competition. If we say that we respect the people living in public housing, why can we not give them the support that they need in the communities to make certain that the kids can have a productive life?

These are rough times that we are going through because the majority has seen fit to rely on a $1.3 tax cut, and more is coming. But what good is the tax cut if we are not certain that we are going to be able to maintain economic growth? How can we do this unless we know that the workplace is going to be as productive as it can be, and how can we have this if we know that this great Nation of ours has more people locked up in jail per capita than any nation in the world and that 80 percent of the people who are locked up are there for drug- and alcohol-related crimes and that most all of these crimes are not crimes of violence but crimes where people have abused their own bodies?

So it seems to me that we all can be better Americans and better legislators if we could leave here knowing that we supported legislation to provide the resources to allow our young people to know that there are higher dreams, there are better opportunities than abusing drugs.

I congratulate all of those who have come to the well to try to convince us that we should leave here today saying that we have restored the money to the program.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the amendment of my colleague from Ohio, to restore the Public Housing Drug Elimination Grant. I am dumbfounded as to why the President and my Republican colleagues would eliminate this program, which has proved to be an effective tool at combating drugs in public housing communities.

My colleagues, Public Housing faces a devastating cut of $494 million in cuts in this bill. The modest Kaptur amendment would restore funding to the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program. I cannot understand, Mr. Chairman, how this Congress can justify providing nearly $2 trillion to fight drugs in Colombia and yet provide nothing to fight drugs and crime in public housing communities here at home.

Sadly, Mr. Chairman, the public housing communities in all our districts have become a magnet for the purveyors of drugs and death. The Drug Elimination Program has been like a beacon in these communities helping authorities to eliminate drug-related crime. In addition to being used to pay for law enforcement personnel and investigators, it has been used for the development of drug abuse prevention programs that employ residents of public housing, as well as to provide physical improvements that increase security such as lighting and tenant support patrols. Indeed, the residents of public housing communities in the Virgin Islands have benefited from this program and will be hurt if it is eliminated as the underlying bill proposes to do.

I urge my colleagues to support the Kaptur amendment. If you support the residents of public housing communities in your districts having a safe, crime-free place to live, then you must support this amendment.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I am compelled to speak on the issue of drug elimination in public housing given the many public housing units in my district and the need to address my constituents' concerns regarding drug trafficking. I am here to support Representative KAPTUR's amendment. It is imperative that we in Congress pay more than lip service to the notion of truly attempting to eradicate drugs and violence in public housing.

Throughout my congressional district there are numerous public housing unit residents who are pleading for help and relief of violence and criminal acts. And I can tell you that those residents want to experience safe and secure lives devoid of drug traffickers and violence. However, it is puzzling to me that my colleagues in the majority fail to see the merits of providing for others what they routinely experience—safe and secure neighborhoods oftimes devoid of drug trafficking.

We need to be supporting residents of public housing by providing the funds necessary to eliminate the insidious impact of drug use, abuse, and trafficking. It appears that conservative compassion is nowhere to be found on this issue. I call upon my colleagues to support the Kaptur amendment.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Chairman, I rise today to support the gentlelady's amendment to restore funding for the Public Housing Drug Elimination Program. I appreciate her compassion, thoughtfulness, and leadership on this important issue.

However, I must reluctantly oppose the bill. I know my good friend, the Chairman, has worked very hard to produce a bill. He is a good man and I cast no stones toward him today. I will just say that this bill wasn't given any where near the proper funding required to meet the pressing needs of public housing, veterans, environmental protection and research. In fact, the President didn't request nearly enough money for the programs in the HUD portion.

The committee's website states this bill increases the HUD budget $1.4 billion over FY01, bringing FY02 funding to $30 billion. Yet, even at that level it is $509 million below the President's request. After factoring out the budgetary impact of rescissions in funding, the bill actually provides just $449 million or 1.5 percent more than comparable FY2001 appropriations and $285 million—1 percent more than the request.

The bill before us cuts funding for public housing modernization by 15 percent, community development block grants by 6 percent and homeless assistance by 9 percent. It eliminates funding for public-housing drug-elimination grants, rural housing and economic development, and empowerment zones and enterprise communities. This is just unacceptable.

This bill cuts $445 million from the Capital Fund. Just weeks ago, I attempted to offer an amendment to the FY01 supplemental bill to provide additional funding to assist those in public housing with their rising utility costs. I said then that Public Housing Authorities were raiding their Capital Funds to pay utility costs. Now, we have a bill before us that takes more money from the Capital Funds.

I also take issue with the complete decimation of the Drug Elimination Program. For years, I have heard complaints that Public Housing was infested with drug dealers—I heard this from residents and from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. As a result, we created a program to dedicate funds to hire police and get rid of drug dealers. It is very successful. What happens? In comes the new administration and they need to hold to their budget numbers so they propose killing it. The majority says that Public Housing Authorities can use their operating funds for drug elimination—but those funds are empty because of the utility bills. I feel like we are going in circles!

I looked for a way to boost funding in the public housing budget. But where would I find it? The other agencies in this bill are just as starved for funding and just as worthy. I will not steal from Peter to pay Paul.

Finally, I want to take a minute to talk about the perception of public housing. For too long, Congress has looked upon public housing residents as second class citizens. We continue to have the outrageous requirement that residents of public housing do community service. Do we ask that people who take the mortgage interest tax deduction? Do we require the CEO of the major defense contractors to spend 3 hours a week in community service? No, and we never will. I am a product of public housing. Many of the other members of this body from New York City are products of public housing. We should celebrate the success that is public housing. Instead, with this bill we condemn it.

Mr. Chairman, this bill needs billions more. Billions that would be available were it not for the irresponsible tax cut just passed. This is a shame. We should do better. But, instead we have acquiesced our priorities to those of the new administration. The new administration has made it clear—it is more important to give rich Americans a tax cut than meeting our responsibilities to residents of public housing. That is why there is inadequate funds for this bill today.

I urge my colleagues to vote against this bill.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) will be postponed.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last word.

Mr. Chairman, I rise for the purpose of engaging in a colloquy with the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), the chairman of the subcommittee, and also with my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH), who is also a member of the subcommittee, on language in the bill that will reduce the defined reserves available to individual public housing authorities for administering their tenant-based section 8 programs.

During full committee consideration of the bill, the gentleman from Pennsylvania and I expressed some concern that without the cushion of a guaranteed reserve beyond a single month, public housing authorities, when they seek to avoid running out of money before the end of the year, might less aggressively pursue full utilization of their allocation of vouchers.

I understand the committee's intention, through this language, to reduce the amount of unused budget authority that has resided in the section 8 reserve account. I hope to be able to continue talking with the subcommittee chairman between now and conference about ways to accomplish this goal without reducing the ability of public housing authorities to access the funding that is necessary to ensure that housing for families is not put in jeopardy.

In the meantime, I hope we can clarify for the record what is the committee's intent exactly with regard to the language in the bill.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I want to join the gentleman from North Carolina in again expressing concern about the possible effect of the language in the bill on the availability of supplemental funding for public housing authorities, who, due to unforeseen circumstances, exhaust their 1-month reserves.

I would like to ask the gentleman from New York, the distinguished chairman of the subcommittee, if it is the committee's intention that the language in the bill should have no practical affect on the ability of public housing authorities to aggressively pursue maximum utilization of section 8 vouchers within the regulatory guidelines.

Further, I would like to ask the gentleman if it is the committee's intention that HUD should provide additional resources to any public housing authority that exhausts its allocated reserves due to unforeseen circumstances.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. I would be happy to respond to the gentleman, Mr. Chairman.

Certainly it is not the Committee's intent, nor do I believe this action will have any negative impact on the ability of public housing authorities to fully utilize their vouchers. It is my understanding that less than $46 million of the $1.3 billion in reserve funding was used last year.

□ 1115

I assure the gentleman that it is the Committee's intention that any public housing authority which exhausts its funds be given additional funds to ensure that its legitimate needs are met.

In fact, I have a letter from the Deputy Secretary which indicates that HUD will continue its long-standing policy to provide any public housing authority that has exhausted its funds for legitimate needs with whatever funding is necessary to ensure that all families currently served retain their assistance

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New York for his helpful clarification of the committee's intent. I, too, have seen that letter from the Deputy Secretary and am somewhat reassured by the commitment that letter makes.

I am still a bit concerned, however, about how the bill's statutory reduction in the amount of reserves available to individual public housing authorities might in practice affect their ability to gain access to additional resources for legitimate needs.

I still hope we can come up with another solution that would provide a firmer guarantee to public housing authorities before the conference bill is finalized. But I do appreciate the gentleman's description of the committee's intent, and I look forward to talking further about this issue with both the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Whatever we do, we do not want to have our public housing authorities stopping short of providing as much

housing as they possibly can to people in need.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman continue to yield?

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FATTAH. Mr. Chairman, I would also like to thank my chairman and also the gentleman from North Carolina for their interest in this matter, and I also look forward to further discussions as we approach conference on this bill. So I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. I thank the gentleman.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. BONIOR

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 45 offered by Mr. BONIOR:

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. [-]. None of the funds appropriated by this Act may be used to delay the national primary drinking water regulation for Arsenic published on January 22, 2001, in the Federal Register (66 Fed.Reg. pages 6976 through 7066, amending parts 141 through 142 of title 40 of the Code of Federal Regulations) or to propose or finalize a rule to increase the levels of arsenic in drinking water permitted under that regulation.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that debate on this amendment and any amendments thereto be limited to 60 minutes, to be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and the opponent, myself.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My colleagues, years ago, Agatha Christie wrote a story of a wedding cake that was laced with arsenic. It took the world's greatest detective to untangle the mystery and to expose the culprit. Well, today's arsenic threat is not fiction, it is real, and it is no mystery. We do not need a brilliant detective to figure out the danger that this poses to the American people. We cannot continue to allow arsenic to poison America's drinking water.

The scientific evidence, Mr. Chairman, is beyond dispute. The National Academy of Science has determined that current drinking water standards are exposing millions of Americans to dangerous levels of cancer-causing arsenic. Recent tests show that in my home State of Michigan we have roughly 450 wells out of 3,000 community wells that feed drinking water to 376,000 people in my State that have high contaminants of arsenic in them.

There is one family that came to Washington very recently to describe the pain they are having, the Burr family. I met Katherine Burr a few months ago. She told me about her little boy, Richard. This boy, this baby, was born at 9 pounds, a healthy baby, but it struggled to keep baby formula down. The doctors did not know what to make of it. Four years later, Richard weighed 18 pounds, and his bones refused to harden. At age 10, he weighed 48 pounds, only half the normal weight of children his age.

His parents were desperate to find out what was going wrong here, and so they turned to another doctor. He suggested they test their drinking water. Of course, it was laced with arsenic. He had essentially been drinking a diluted form of rat poison for a decade. When they took him off, his health started to be restored somewhat. But who knows what lies ahead for Richard down the road.

Now the Bush White House is telling the Burr and millions of other Americans that it will block the tough new arsenic standards established in January. We have had 25 years of research on this. Twenty-five years. This original standard goes back to 1942, almost 60 years ago. We need to move forward.

This is not an isolated problem. A look at this map reveals arsenic concentrations in America. It reflects high levels of arsenic in major populated areas, such as California, New York, Michigan, Minnesota, Ohio, Illinois, North Carolina, and a whole host of other States, Utah, throughout this Nation. We all know that Americans may disagree on a lot of things, but drinking arsenic, Mr. Chairman, is not one of them. When we turn on the kitchen sink, we ought to be able to drink what comes out without worrying about being poisoned or poisoning our family.

This amendment which I am sponsoring with my colleagues, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), and many, many others, will prevent this weakening or delaying of tough new standards on arsenic in our water.

I want to show my colleagues one other chart, if I might. Take a look at this chart. Arsenic and drinking water, 10 parts per billion. Most of the developed world has 10 parts per billion, most of the European Union countries, and, in addition to that, Australia, Mongolia, and there are a few others, Namibia, Syria, and a few other places around the world as well. At 50 parts per billion, Bangladesh, Bolivia, China, Indonesia, and the United States. We need to protect our citizens much better than we have.

Ultimately, doing this amendment will help people like the Burr family and protect communities across this country for generations to come. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment. Let us set a high standard for America's drinking water and give American families both peace of mind and healthier lives.

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) is recognized for 30 minutes.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I would like to make this as clear as I can at the beginning of the debate. This amendment changes nothing. And, by the way, this is a rider. We try diligently to keep riders off of the appropriations bills. It is a legislative rider. I have heard the gentleman who is offering this amendment rail against riders in the past. This is a legislative rider to the bill; and if it were enacted, it would be the only legislative rider in the bill. So I would urge Members who oppose riders in general to oppose this amendment.

Having said that, whether or not this rider is passed, nothing changes. The law requires that the compliance date is 2006 for the standard for arsenic, regardless of when the rule is promulgated. So whether the standard that the Clinton Administration suggested in the late hours of its administration or the standard that current law requires is promulgated, neither will have to be complied with until the year 2006.

Let me just talk about the substance of the issue a little bit. Arsenic is a naturally occurring contaminant present in drinking water in 3,700 mostly small communities, particularly in the West. The Administration is updating the standard for arsenic to provide safe and affordable drinking water for all Americans. EPA recently began a review of the new arsenic standard that was issued just days before the end of the Clinton Administration to ensure that the standard is based on sound science, accurate cost estimates and is achievable for small communities.

The real concern here, obviously, is the health of Americans and the cost of promulgating a new compliance standard and implementing that standard in each and every town across the United States. And just to give my colleagues an idea what the impact is on small communities, 97 percent of those 3,700 systems affected by this rule are communities serving less than 10,000 people.

Treating water to remove arsenic is much more expensive for small communities than for large systems. The annual cost per household in small communities are projected to range up to $327 to comply with the regulatory level. Just to give an idea of the degree of difficulty for communities, we put in a small rural drinking water system in south Onondaga County, in my county. Just to provide water for those individuals, a public water system, it cost them over $300 annually just to get the water, to get the pipeline laid and to do the work. In addition, they will have to pay, obviously, for their consumption.

So to comply with the standard that is proposed under this legislative rider would cost towns and individuals as much as it would cost just to have water. So it doubles the cost, in effect, for water.

EPA's Small Community Advisory Committee recommended a level of no lower than 20 parts per billion, in part because of the potentially high cost of the rule. Additionally, time is needed to fully understand the magnitude of the impact of the standard on small communities. EPA has asked the National Drinking Water Advisory Council to review economic issues associated with the standard. The same organization will consider differences between EPA's cost estimates and those developed by the American Water Works Association Research Foundation.

EPA has estimated the cost of compliance of the rule at $180 million to $205 million per year, significantly different than AWWARF's October 2000, estimate of $690 million. Stakeholders will be provided the full opportunity to review and comment at each step of the review process.

The Safe Drinking Water Act of EPA required EPA to revise the existing 50 parts per billion standard for arsenic in drinking water by January 2001. Last year, Congress extended the deadline for the arsenic rule until June 22, 2001, allowing additional time to develop the final rule. In January 2001, EPA published a new standard for arsenic in drinking water that requires public water supplies to reduce arsenic to 10 parts per billion by 2006. On May 22, 2001, EPA delayed the rule's effective date until February 2002, to provide time for further review.

During May to August of 2001 the EPA is seeking outside expert review of the cost and the science underlying the arsenic standard. The expert panel will review health effect issues, cost issues, and benefit analysis.

We need to have good science. We need to make sure that the standard that is developed and that communities are forced to comply with meets all of those goals, health effect issues, cost issues, benefit analysis and estimates issues.

We all agree that we need safe drinking water. This bill provides hundreds of millions of dollars across the country, in my home State, in the home State of my colleague from West Virginia, in literally every State. Every Member in this body is committed to clean water and safe water in the strictest of standards. But those standards have to be determined by good science. Let us give the EPA the opportunity to develop and promulgate a proper rule based on good science.

But, remember, my colleagues, whether or not this legislative rider is attached to this bill, and I urge my colleagues not to do that, it will change nothing until 2006. So I urge that we reject this amendment and keep this legislative rider off of this bill.

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to answer the last assertion by the distinguished gentleman from New York about not changing anything until 2006.

□ 1130

That was, in fact, not correct. The new standard was to become effective on March 23, 2001. It would have taken effect immediately, Mr. Chairman, but it allowed eight water systems up until 2006 to install the necessary treatment facilities.

So that statement that the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has given us is not correct. It will take effect immediately but will allow people up to 2006 to install the facilities. We have waited 25 years for this 60-year-old standard to be lowered to get us in compliance with the rest of the civilized world that recognizes the poison's terrible effect that arsenic has on the human bodies. We are talking about skin cancer, lung cancer, bladder cancer, kidney problems. This is serious, serious stuff. Exponentially, the rate of incidence for these type of illnesses go up dramatically when we go over 10 parts per billion.

I urge my colleagues to look at the science and the data on this and vote accordingly.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) on this amendment.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I rise to urge a yes vote on this effort to get arsenic out of our drinking water.

It seems to me there could be two reasons for opposing this amendment. If one thinks arsenic in drinking water is a good thing, that would be a legitimate reason to vote against this effort. But I have not heard anyone make that argument.

If there is one thing we all seem to agree on is that we do not want arsenic in our drinking water. It is an extremely potent human carcinogen and it causes lung, bladder, and skin cancer and is linked to liver and kidney cancer. It is this simple: arsenic is a killer.

The second argument one could make against this amendment is that we need more science and that we are rushing a decision. One could make that argument, but the record shows this is not true.

Let me relate the brief history of this problem. For over 50 years, we had a woefully outdated drinking water standard for arsenic. Then in 1996, the House voted unanimously to require EPA to update the arsenic standard for drinking water. We required that EPA act by 2001. Finally in January, 2001 EPA set a new standard for arsenic at 10 parts per billion. Public health and environmental groups thought the standards should be lower. States suggested lower standards as well. Even Christie Todd Whitman had supported the standard at half this level when she was Governor of New Jersey. But EPA decided to stick to 10 parts per billion because the science supported it and it was a commonsense number.

This was the same standard adopted by the World Health Organization and the European Union. This amendment is based on good science and a comprehensive record and it accomplishes a comminutions goal. It reduces the amount of arsenic in our drinking water. In addition, we know that no major water company trade association has challenged the rule. In fact, the California/Nevada section of the American Water Works Association has written in strong support of the new arsenic standard.

We can have safe water at a reasonable cost all across the country. I think it is our obligation as a Congress to do that. That is what this amendment will do. I urge my colleagues to vote for the Bonior-Waxman-Obey-Brown-Kildee amendment.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5½ minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to this amendment because it is wrong and based on bad science. This has nothing to do with politics here in Washington. It has everything to do with public health in the American West.

The Environmental Protection Agency proposed to reduce the arsenic standard in water from 50 parts per billion to something lower. Then right at the last moment before the change in administrations, they set that level at 10 parts per billion. I think it is important to start out by understanding what small amount we are talking about. A part per billion means nothing to me. But this is what it is: in 32 years' time we are talking about the difference between 10 seconds and 50 seconds. That is the kind of levels we are talking about, detecting what the public health effects are in that small a difference.

The fact is we know very little about the effects of arsenic on people at low levels. It is broadly acknowledged that high levels of arsenic cause cancer. But we do not know what happens at low levels of arsenic. There is a terrible public health consequence that will affect rural water systems.

The EPA estimates that there are 3,500 rural water systems that would be effected by this. It is not about the timber industry. It is not about mining. It is about naturally occurring arsenic in the West. Arsenic is organic in the soil in the West because of our volcanic soils. In the State of New Mexico we have about 150 rural water systems where the naturally occurring arsenic level is about 10 parts per billion but below the current standard. They are in small parts, small communities all over New Mexico.

The gentleman wants to ignore the lack of scientific evidence at low levels

of arsenic and just impose this rule without reviewing it. Guess what that means for me in New Mexico? That means the rural water system in San Ysidro, New Mexico will have to take out a loan of $2 million in order to meet the new standard. There are only 80 families served by that water system.

What that means is they are going to lose their rural water supply in San Ysidro, in Placitas, in Alto, in Cloudcroft. That does not help public health. The thing that is inexplicable about this is we have been living in New Mexico for hundreds and hundreds of years, and yet we have disproportionately low occurrences of the diseases associated with arsenic.

It is naturally occurring in our water and our soil, and yet the things that people are afraid of we have less of in New Mexico than in other parts of the country where there is no arsenic.

When I get up in the morning, I take vitamins. I take vitamins with iron. Most women do. If my daughter were to get into my vitamin bottle and take a lot of those vitamins, she could get really sick. But at low levels, they are healthy and we need them to survive.

We do not know what the health affects are of arsenic in very low levels. We do know that if we set that standard so low, we will force rural water systems to close and we will go back to having untreated water with wells.

There have been a number of scientific studies, some of which are selectively used by the Environmental Protection Agency. Most of them were done abroad. Very few of them deal with arsenic at low levels. There was only one in the State of Utah that looked at naturally occurring organic arsenic and the effect on the population. And while it was a small study, the only one funded by EPA in creating this rule, they ignored it because it was a small population. And yet the results showed that in that town in Utah, even though they have high levels of naturally occurring arsenic, they have very low levels of the diseases associated with arsenic and have for generations.

Mr. Chairman, it does not make any sense. That is why it does make sense to look at the science behind the rules.

Now, we think 20 parts per billion, 10 parts per billion, it does not make a big difference. But it does. It costs twice as much in capital costs to set up a water plant to treat down to 10 parts per billion as it does to 20. In my State of New Mexico, we are talking about a minimum of $300 million in capital investment, and then it costs more to take care of the water and operate it.

In closing, Mr. Chairman, I would like to read a letter from a gentleman in Cloudcroft, New Mexico. It says,

I am the president, water boss, chief hole digger, fixer of leaks, certified small system operator of Silver Springs Water Association located near Cloudcroft, New Mexico. We are in the Lincoln National Forest, Sacramento Mountains at an elevation of about 9000 feet. We have no landfills, junk yards, Mafia burial grounds, large cemeteries, nuclear reactors, industry of any kind, sewage disposal plants, or anything which is a threat to our drinking water. Rain falls on our forests, trickles down into cracks and crevices and replenishes our water table. We gather our water from a spring and distribute it to about 25 homes. Before us, the Mescalero Apache Indians did the same.

Mr. Chairman, this is a wrong-headed amendment for policy reasons, and I urge that this House reject it.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, if I could respond to the comments of the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), number one, the difference in the number of people that are affected between 10 and 20 parts per billion in the State of New Mexico is about 78,000 individuals in that State. The National Academy of Sciences said that drinking water at the current EPA standard could easily result in a total fatal cancer risk of 1 in 100. That is a cancer risk 10,000 times higher than EPA allows for food.

In addition to that, what are we talking about in terms of this risk? We are talking about especially children and pregnant women being vulnerable. We are talking about bladder, lung, skin cancer, kidney, liver and other types of cancers, skin lesions, birth defects, reproduction problems.

Mr. Chairman, this is a real problem. That is why so many countries, so many jurisdictions around the world have moved to this standard of 10 parts per billion.

We have good science dictating that this is a level at which we should move to, as opposed to staying at the old 60-year standard of 50 parts per billion that has caused problems like that which I have recited on the floor affected the Burr family in my own State.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. LUTHER).

Mr. LUTHER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment to prevent any further delay or weakening in the arsenic standard for drinking water. As a Minnesotan and as a member of the Energy and Commerce subcommittee that deals with this particular issue, I wrote a letter to President Bush on this precise issue expressing my concerns over his failure to adhere to the lower standard in this area.

Mr. Chairman, we should not even be arguing about this issue today. Over 25 years of scientific research confirms the danger of arsenic. Arsenic is not a good thing. It is not a vitamin, as has been suggested here today, or alluded to.

It is a carcinogen that has been linked to many forms of cancer. As such, the dangers of arsenic warrant an urgent response from our government, and the Bush administration's withdrawal of the revised rule is unnecessarily risking millions of Americans today.

Mr. Chairman, the bottom line is that the United States' standard for arsenic should not be amongst the worst in the world. Our country should, in fact, be a leader in the world. And there is simply no excuse for delay.

Mr. Chairman, I submit a copy of my letter to President Bush on this issue, and I urge a ''yes'' vote on this amendment.

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, March 27, 2001.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,
President of the United States,
The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write this letter to express extreme concern over your Administration's decision to withdraw the recently revised standard for arsenic in America's drinking water. As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, which has jurisdiction over the Safe Drinking Water Act, I have requested a Congressional hearing on this matter.

In particular, I have two concerns about your Administration's decision. First, ample scientific evidence indicates that the finalized arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion (''ppb''), promulgated by the Clinton Administration, serves an important public health interest. Indeed, the current standard of 50 ppb was based upon data dating back to 1942; and water utilities, states, scientists, public health officials and environmentalists recommended a significant downward revision of this outdated standard. As I understand it, over 25 years of scientific research confirms the dangers of arsenic—a carcinogen that has been linked to lung, bladder, skin, liver, and kidney cancer—and warrants an urgent and expeditious response to improve the quality of our drinking water. As such, your Administration's withdrawal of the rule raises serious concerns about whether your decision jeopardizes the health of millions of Americans.

Second, Congress directed EPA to promulgate final standards on safe arsenic levels by January 1st of 2001 pursuant to the Safe Drinking Water Act Amendments of 1996. This deadline was extended to June 22nd, 2001, in the HUD/VA Conference Report for FY 2001. Consequently, your Administration's decision to withdraw the final rule is questionable legal fidelity. I would like to know how your Administration justifies its decision to ostensibly defy this legislative directive from Congress.

Mr. President, I look forward to a response from you on this important issue. In general, I believe that we can work together to resolve this issue in a bipartisan manner that best serves the public health interests of the American people.

Sincerely,

BILL LUTHER,
Member of Congress.

Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

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

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong opposition to the amendment. This Member urges his colleagues to look at the facts when it comes to the issue of arsenic in drinking water.

The Bush administration's re-examination of this matter has led to heated rhetoric, wild exaggerations, and sound-bite politics. It is important to get the full story and to listen to those who would have been most affected by the proposed changes.

□ 1145

Many State and local officials as well as water system administrators have expressed concerns about the unnecessary and extraordinary costs which could be caused by the proposed change to 10 parts per billion. Unlike what the gentleman from Minnesota said or implied, no one is suggesting arsenic in drinking water is good. It is a matter of how much we reduce the standards to what the costs and benefits are.

This Member would begin by clearly stating the obvious. Everyone recognizes the importance of providing safe drinking water to all of our Nation's citizens. Also, I will say this. Some change in the arsenic standard may well be justified. However, it makes sense, it is rational, to base these changes on sound science rather than on emotion. The sound science is simply not there to justify a change from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion.

Mr. Chairman, as many of us now know, in the last-minute flurry of activism in the final days of the Clinton administration, a final rule was rushed through which would have reduced the acceptable arsenic level in drinking water from 50 parts per billion to 10 parts per billion. However, new EPA Administrator Christine Todd Whitman quite rationally later announced that the Agency would seek a scientific review of this standard before implementing a new rule. I think everybody understands that arsenic standard is going to come down, and it should.

The Bush administration has made it clear that the arsenic level will be significantly reduced, in fact. However, it wants the final rule to be based upon sound science. It certainly appears that the Clinton administration made a very arbitrary decision based upon questionable studies.

The EPA seems to dismiss the most comprehensive U.S. study on this matter. In 1999, a study in Utah involving more than 5,000 people failed to find an increased incidence of cancer associated with arsenic in drinking water.

I think it is helpful to note that any community in the country now has the authority to lower arsenic in drinking water if they wish. The reason communities have not lowered their levels to 10 parts per billion is that the health benefits have not been shown to justify the enormous costs.

The American Waterworks Association stated in comments last year, ''At a level of 10 parts per billion or lower, the health risk reduction benefits become vanishingly small as compared to the costs.'' The costs, however, are very real. The Association, which supports a reduction in the current arsenic standard, has estimated that the proposed rule would cost $600 million annually and require $5 billion in capital outlays.

The gentlewoman from New Mexico made the case about what had happened to her constituents in the State of New Mexico. My State is the most groundwater-dependent State in the Nation by a wide margin. Of 1,395 public water systems, only six or seven get any of their water from surface water sources. All the rest comes from groundwater. The result is that we put wells down that are not interconnected for treatment. Basically, our water is so good, with a few exceptions, we do not treat. We have no central point of treatment for groundwater that we use in our public water supplies. The costs to us are astronomical. The smaller the community, the larger the cost proportionally by a wide measure.

If there is a justification for moving to a lower standard, our communities will have to bite the bullet; and we will have to help them find a way to do that. But right now just to arbitrarily suggest money cannot be spent with respect to EPA's current examination when there is no sound science to suggest that it is reasonable to reduce it to 10 parts per billion does not make sense.

One of the claims that has been made about the arsenic problem is it is a result of mining. The arsenic in my State's water supply where it is found has nothing to do with mining. We basically have no mining. It is naturally occurring in our soils. Until lately, people in my district lived longer than any part of the country. La Jollans have passed us now, but we still, despite drinking some water that has arsenic levels relatively low in most areas and in other cases not quite as low as 10 parts per billion, it has not had an effect.

The standards that have been proposed here are not based upon good, sound science. I urge defeat of the amendment.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just say that this science argument that is being raised, I want to point out to the Members that it was a unanimous decision by the National Academy of Sciences to go to this safer level. This is based on 25 years of science.

Let me also say that for the vast majority affected by this high level of arsenic in their water, over 90 percent, the remedial cost of removing it is about $3 a month. What a price to pay for the knowledge and the peace of mind and the safety of one's family. It seems to me it is a reasonable thing to do.

With the cost of this, Mr. Chairman, with regard to our own fund to deal with cleaning our drinking water, we appropriated 800 and some million dollars last year to do that. We have a bill, H.R. 1413 right now, that would assist to improve public water systems, would be doubled to $2 billion annually. It has 174 Members who have sponsored that bill. I would urge my colleagues and the leadership on the other side of the aisle to schedule it for floor action.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I am happy to say that I have two healthy sons. When you look at your kids when they are newborn and you ask yourself, what do you want for them, what you conclude is that you want them to be able to go to a good school, you want them to be able to get a good job, you want them to be able to find a good life's partner, and you hope to God that they live long, happy, healthy lives.

The little things mean a lot. People talk about security for your families. The number one thing you want to know in your own home is that when you turn on that tap water, it is safe, it is reliable, it is not going to do any long-term damage. And people really do not know, they just count on their public authorities to keep their kids from harm. That is what this amendment is trying to do, plain and simple.

You have a choice. You can recognize the standards that were recommended by the scientific community, or you can decide you are going to stick by an outmoded standard which has been on the books since 1942. To any of you who are about to have children or grandchildren, I would suggest that is not even a close call. The Bonior amendment is clearly in the interest of public health, public safety. It is clearly in the interest of every single child and every single family in America.

When people prattle on in political debates about family values, I would suggest that this is a family value that ought to be put at the top of the list. Keeping every kid safe when they pick up a glass of water or when they go to a hamburger stand and get a hamburger or when they walk into a restaurant and get a glass of water, those are the basic issues that really account for quality in life. That is what the gentleman from Michigan is trying to say with this amendment. I am proud to cosponsor it with him. I would urge the House to adopt the amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), chairman of the Committee on Science.

Mr. BOEHLERT. I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, let me start with a basic proposition on which I think we can all agree. Arsenic is not very good for us. Ever since I first read ''Arsenic and Old Lace'' as a kid, I made up my mind I was going to try to avoid it as much as possible throughout the rest of my life. I am absolutely convinced that arsenic would not appear on Martha Stewart's ''It's a Good Thing'' list. That I think we can all agree with.

But in my capacity as chairman of the Committee on Science, I would like to go over a little history. In 1999, the National Academy of Sciences issued a report on the safety of arsenic in drinking water. The Academy concluded that the arsenic standard for drinking water that we have had for the past 50 years was too high to ensure public safety and should come

down as soon as possible. That standard was 50 parts per billion.

On January 22 of this year, the previous administration issued a regulation to lower the arsenic standard to 10 parts per billion and for the new standard to go into effect by the year 2006. The fact that the regulation was issued on the last day of the previous administration in and of itself does not necessarily mean that the arsenic regulation was rushed. As a matter of fact, it has been cooking for a number of years. A number of people have been legitimately concerned about it.

But regulations issued so late in any administration create at least the appearance of being rushed. That maybe is not necessarily so. But when the new administration came in, the new chief of staff Andy Card immediately issued an order: Hold everything. If I was President, I would have said to Andy Card, if you did not issue that regulation, I would have called you to task, because we want to take a good look at all these regulations. Particularly, we want to look at those that were issued in the waning days of an administration. And so the pause was ordered.

I want to stress this point. Any review of regulations must be fair. It should not simply be an excuse to gut the regulation. I agree, the National Academy of Sciences was absolutely right. We have to lower the arsenic level in our water. Fifty parts per billion is hard for me to even comprehend what that really means in my everyday life as I draw a glass of water from the tap. But if the National Academy of Sciences says it is so, I believe them.

We are in a time where everyone likes to say they are for science-based decision-making until the scientific consensus leads to a politically inconvenient solution, and then we look for an alternative. I like the idea that we are focusing on science.

So I was very pleased when the Administrator of EPA, soon to be the Secretary of EPA, a well-deserved acknowledgment of the importance of that responsibility, when she, unlike, I must admit, a counterpart in the Department of Labor who tried to make us feel good when they rejected the ergonomics rule which I think should not have been rejected and said we are going to deal with it sometime in the future, we did not say sometime in the future, Secretary Whitman said right now, and she is doing it in a very thorough, a very methodical way. She has given us assurance that we are going to meet the same timetable as the Clinton administration wanted to meet, that is, have full compliance by the year 2006.

That makes sense to me. That says no inordinate delay.

She has made certain that we understand the full dimensions of the problem. We have a range of from 3 to 20 parts per billion, and the proposed regulation that will be forthcoming in a timely fashion to meet the deadline will fall within that range. It might actually be more reduction than some people have called for.

The whole point of this is this: Let us do it right. Let us not decide that it is going to be 10 parts per billion only to find out after this very timely and expedited review that it really should be 7 parts per billion. Shame on us if we did that.

So let us get it right the first time. I have the fullest confidence in the Secretary of the Environmental Protection Agency that she will do it right. I have the fullest confidence that we are dealing with science-based decision-making. That is the right way to go about it.

I will feel a lot more comfortable when this is behind us instead of pending. I share the view of my distinguished colleagues that are advancing this proposal that we have to deal with it in a timely, constructive manner and we have to deal with it so that it gets the issue behind us in a way that we can all point to with a great deal of pride.

I hope one day, when this regulation is issued, Martha Stewart will say, ''It's a good thing.''

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I bet Martha Stewart does not drink 50 parts per billion of water. I think she is probably drinking out of a really nice container of filtered water.

But to my friend from New York, whom I do respect enormously on these issues, let me just say a couple of things quickly before I yield to my friend from Ohio.

Number one, this does not preclude the Administrator from going lower than 10 parts, so if she wanted to go to 7 parts per billion she could do that under this amendment.

The second thing I would point out is that there is a dangerous level between 10 and 20 parts per billion, and it seems from everything that we know already that the Administrator is going to have a range, anywhere from 20 down to whatever level she decides.

□ 1200

I would say to my friend from New York, that means that 246,000 people in the State of New York will be at between that 10 and 20 parts per billion level, which the National Academy of Sciences in a unanimous vote in 1999 has said is not safe.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I want to protect the life of every single New Yorker because we have been losing population. We have been redistricted, we will go down two seats, and I do not want any New Yorker to go away. But I am just as much concerned with the people of Michigan as I am with New York.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I appreciate that.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 3¼ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN), a sponsor of the amendment.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Michigan for yielding me time.

Mr. Chairman, we obviously know this issue. In 1942, a standard was set of 50 parts per billion. Science in those days recognized that arsenic was dangerous, they recognized it was a toxic substance. We all knew that. We have seen the play and the movie.

In 1942, when arsenic was set at 50 parts per billion, we did not know so much about arsenic as a potent carcinogen that can cause bladder cancer and lung cancer and skin cancer. We did not know it had been linked to kidney and liver cancer. We did not know in 1942 that it can be linked to birth defects and reproductive problems. We know that today.

The World Health Organization has recommended that that number be brought to 10 parts per billion. The National Academy of Sciences has said the 50 parts per billion is much, much too high. State after State after State in this country has brought the number way down to 10 or less. The State of Washington has recommended a standard of 3 parts per billion. My State of Ohio has recommended a standard of 10 parts per billion. Massachusetts has supported a standard of 5 parts per billion. Alabama supported a standard of 10 parts per billion.

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) mentioned the number of people in Michigan than in New York. In Ohio, 137,000 residents in my home State may be drinking water with arsenic above the levels recommended by the National Academy of Sciences. Also the World Health Organization, in State after State after State in this country.

We can choose to stay with the 1942 level, the level that was determined 49 years ago, the level that we would continue to share with Bangladesh, the People's Republic of China, Bolivia, and a host of other countries; or we can bring our standard to 10, still exceeded by some countries, some countries are still more strict than 10, but we can bring our levels to 10 and join most of the rest of the industrialized democratic world.

You sit here and think why would this administration want to keep it at 50? Why would this administration, even if it says it wants to bring it down, why would it delay what the EPA, after years of study recommended to come to 10, and you keep asking yourself why would this administration do that?

We have heard this song before, but the administration clearly does not want to bring the standard down. It has delayed the standard, will not come to 10, likely, because all you got to do is look at the kind of people that are influential in this White House.

On energy issues, the energy companies seem to have a major role to play in White House decision making. On the Patients' Bill of Rights, it is the insurance companies that seem to have

a major role in policy in this administration. On prescription drug coverage for seniors, this administration, this Congress has done nothing substantive on this issue, likely because of the influence of the prescription drug companies, the big, huge drug firms in this country, the influence they have on the White House.

Look at this issue. When you look at why won't they bring the standard for arsenic down to 10 parts per billion, why are they delaying this. This Republican Party received $5.6 million from the mining companies, $9 million from the chemical companies.

Mr. Chairman, listen to the scientists. Do not listen to the political contributors. Listen to the scientists. Support the Bonior amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

For those of my colleagues who seem lost in the haze of rhetoric that we have heard from the other side that seems to surround the issue of arsenic, let me say that arsenic has nothing to do with oil, it has nothing to do with prescription drugs. Arsenic is a naturally occurring component in groundwater, particularly in the Western States, like Nevada, the one I represent.

There are communities in my State that have 100 parts per billion naturally occurring arsenic in the water. People have been drinking it for 5 and 6 generations, living decades into their 80s and 90s, with no ill-effects, like my colleague from New Mexico has said, of the current indicators that have been heard about by the fact that arsenic exists there.

The gentleman from Michigan should know that local communities in the district that I represent in Nevada want nothing more than to provide safe drinking water for everyone, and especially to the citizens of their communities.

But the gentleman should also know that before these small communities in my district can go out and build $10 million and $20 million water treatment plants, they want assurance that the EPA's mandated arsenic standards are based on sound science and accurate costs and benefit analysis. I do not know if anyone can tell me whether it is trivalent or pentavalent arsenic which is the high component in anybody's water that has the effect they are talking about.

But, keep in mind, if we implement such strict standards, and it is of such importance, as it is to this administration as well, then why did the previous administration under Mr. Clinton put this in place on his way out the door, and not 8 years ago when he came in prior to that? If this was such an important issue, I do not know and I am not sure anyone knows why they did not implement the new standards 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 years ago.

Mr. Chairman, this administration is committed to a stricter arsenic standard, and I support the implementation of a stricter standard. Mayors in Nevada and small communities, who have high levels of arsenic in their water, support stricter standards. But meeting the 25 parts per billion standard will cost our small communities millions of dollars to comply with; meeting a 15 parts per billion standard will cost even more; and meeting stricter standards will virtually bankrupt every small community.

I commend Administrator Whitman for taking a good, hard look at the politically motivated standard put in place by the outgoing Clinton Administration. Certainly, we should not be undercutting the hard work that she and her agency has put into this important issue.

Let us allow the EPA to complete its science review of arsenic standards, and let us vote no on Mr. BONIOR'S amendment.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, to my friend from Nevada, the Nevada-California American Water Works Association has fully supported the 10 parts per billion standard. So when the gentleman talks about local input, I would say his own State and this association is asking for what we are asking for in this matter. I would like to hear the gentleman's response, if the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) will yield.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield ½ minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to my friend, the gentleman from Nevada.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the gentleman's response to that. Certainly the California and Nevada Water Users Association has endorsed stricter standards, but the fact is that science does not tell us exactly at what level that standard should be and it has not looked at it from a cost-benefit analysis or operating cost.

They do want strict standards, they do want to lower it. As I have said, the mayors and all the water-user communities in my State want to have lower standards, but we also want the science to show exactly what standard we are going to and what the cost is going to be for these people.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER).

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and I certainly want to join my colleagues on this side of the aisle who have spoken in support of the gentleman's amendment to preclude this administration from weakening the arsenic standard.

The chairman of the subcommittee suggested that if this amendment passes, nothing changes. Oh, yes, something changes. What changes is we will stop seeing the EPA administrator, as she did yesterday, suggesting that she may weaken the standard; because if Congress overwhelmingly supports this amendment, the message will come from the House of Representatives that we want the standard to go forward, we want a standard to go forward that protects the American people from increased arsenic in their water supply, and we want the administration to quit fooling around with the special interests for the purposes of weakening this standard. Because that is what the EPA administrator, Ms. Whitman, said yesterday in the newspaper, that quite possibly this standard will be weakened.

That is exactly what the National Academy of Sciences suggested we not do. What the National Academy of Sciences suggested we do is the arsenic had to be reduced, and it had to be reduced as promptly as possible. Now what we see after years of work, after years of scientific study, after years of public comment, after years of the process going forward as it should, now the suggestion is somehow that we need good science.

Nobody has suggested that this is bad science. Nobody has suggested that. But the offering is now somehow we need good science so we can further delay this activity. The suggestion is somehow this amendment should not go forward because it would be a rider. Well, let me say, it would be nice to have a rider once in the public interest, because what we spend most of our time doing around here is fighting off riders that are added on to appropriations bills that are there for the special interests, that attack the environment, that attack the kind of regulation to protect the health and safety of the American people and their families in this country.

So, yes, I would hope finally we support a rider that defends the public interest and seeks to protect children and to protect families from increased arsenic in the water supply.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), who has been a strong leader on this issue.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I am listening to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle talk about the science; but this is not about science, this is about special interests. If we remember at the time when this decision was made by the administrator of the EPA in March to delay, we read about all the reports and the papers about the chemical and mining industries that were at the White House asking that these arsenic standards, the good standard, be delayed.

One of the worst was the American Timber Industry. There was an article in The Washington Post the day before about how the American timber interests had come to the White House and demanded that the standard be delayed

because they were concerned about wood beams that were treated and used for decks on boardwalks or in beaches or in people's backyards.

Let me tell you, my constituents who are very concerned about drinking water would much rather have the knowledge that they can drink water that is safe, rather than worrying about whether or not a board that is used for the boardwalk or their backyard deck is treated.

This is ridiculous. To suggest somehow that the science is still out there and that we do not know what the science is, we have said over and over again, the European Union, the World Health Organization, used the 10 parts per billion. The National Academy of Science talks about exposure at the current level and how it can result in serious cancer risk. The level of risk is much higher than the maximum cancer risk typically allowed by the Safe Drinking Water Act. Even the EPA administrator, my own former Governor, has said that the standard needs to be reduced. She talks about a reduction of at least 60 percent.

Well, we know the science is out there, and that this level, this standard that we are using now of 50 parts per billion, is going to cause people to have cancer and die.

What are we talking about here? We have statistics that show if you just go from 10 to 20 parts per billion, which maybe is what the EPA could ultimately do, that 3.5 million people would be impacted. It is ridiculous to suggest this standard. We know what the standard is. Let us adopt it. Let us adopt this amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Chairman, it is amazing to me to watch this debate and see people rise one after the other talking about how important it is to lower this standard, and not one of you comes from a place where there is naturally occurring arsenic. It is real easy for a State to lower a standard to 10 or less, when you do not have any arsenic in the water. Who cares? There is no cost. There is no benefit to calculate. Do whatever you want to do, because you do not have the problem.

We are the ones that have the problem. We want the standard to be set right for public health, and that is what this debate is about.

The National Academy of Sciences did not say the standard should be at 10 parts per billion. It said that they unanimously decided it should be lower; not how low it should be. After the Clinton administration made its decision, the American Society of Civil Engineers in January concluded, ''We believe that the Agency's final standard of 10 parts per billion is not supported by an unbiased weighing of the best available science.''

□ 1215

These are the chemical engineers, the civil engineers in this country.

The problem with arsenic is not only in the water, though. A quarter of the food we eat has three times as much arsenic in it, 30 parts per billion, as we are setting for the standard for the water. When we eat seafood or mushrooms or rice, that has three times the standard my colleagues are requiring that we take out of the tap. This makes absolutely no sense, based on science.

The EPA was charged with coming up with a science-based standard, and they only funded one study in the State of Utah, and then they ignored the results and relied on others done in foreign countries with less stringent parameters that do not deal with low levels of arsenic exposure. That is what we are talking about, micro levels of arsenic exposure.

Mr. Chairman, I have heard talk today on the floor about plays and about movies and about Martha Stewart and about short stories in high school. But can anyone here answer me this: Why is it that New Mexico has higher naturally occurring arsenic than almost any other State in the Nation, but we have less bladder cancer, less liver cancer, the things associated with arsenic? The answer may be that green chili is the natural antidote, but the other answer may be that the standard is not right, and the science is not right, and we should not take away our water until we have the right answer.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond to the gentlewoman from New Mexico. I want to inform my friend that there are many people on our side of the aisle who have naturally occurring arsenic in our own States and in our own communities. Michigan is a good example of that. We have a doughnut that extends from Washington County to Ann Arbor that runs up to the top of what we call the ''thumb,'' where we have many, many naturally occurring arsenic components in well water.

So the gentlewoman is not the only one that has this particular problem, nor is the gentleman from Nevada.

The second point, in response to my colleague from New Mexico, is this: This is not just one National Academy of Science study. They have had six studies. This has been going on, as we have heard repeatedly now, for 25 years. This science has been looked at not only here in this country but abroad.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), a person who has this in his particular constituency in a naturally forming way.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Bonior-Waxman-Obey-Brown-Kildee amendment for the fiscal year 2002 VA–HUD appropriations bill.

This amendment will restore implementation of reasonable arsenic reductions in drinking water, and it is time to address this very important health problem.

In some areas of my district in Michigan, we have a very high occurrence of unhealthy arsenic content in public drinking water systems and individual wells. I have heard too many stories of the negative health effects suffered by my constituents, and I believe we should move quickly to rectify this problem.

The current arsenic standards of 50 parts per million was developed in 1942, before President Bush was born, and it does not represent a public health standard consistent with our responsibility to ensure the health and welfare of citizens nationwide. We have learned much about arsenic since 1942.

The Clinton administration spent years studying the issue; and, in 1999, the National Academy of Science again affirmed the public health threat of 50 parts per million arsenic levels. Despite National Academy of Science's affirmation of our position, the Bush administration has unwisely delayed implementation of this health protection.

It is inaccurately suggested that the rulemaking was rushed. This is simply not so. This rulemaking is a result of years of study and public comment. The time for studies and delays has passed. The time for healthy drinking water is here. This Congress owes this to our people.

Mr. Chairman, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO), and a member of our leadership.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, the Bonior amendment simply prevents the Environmental Protection Agency from further delay or weakening of the arsenic standards for our drinking water. That is it.

We know that there are dangers in arsenic. We have known that for centuries. We know it is toxic. We know it is a carcinogen. It is found in the drinking water of millions of Americans. There have been many studies that show that it endangers our health, our children's health. The National Academy of Science has said it causes several forms of cancer, it causes heart disease and lung disease. In 1999, they further reported that the old standard ''requires downward revision as promptly as possible.'' It could easily result in a total of a fatal cancer rate of 1 in 100.

Mr. Chairman, I say to my colleagues, there is not any question about it, arsenic is a killer.

So, what happened here in 1996? Oftentimes, people say that the Congress never acts to do anything. The Congress acted. It addressed this issue. It required the EPA to issue a safer arsenic standard and to issue a new regulation by January 1, 2001. That standard was put into place by the previous

administration. But facing the pressure from its friends in the chemical industry and in the energy industries, the Bush administration delayed it for another 9 months and requested additional studies.

Mr. Chairman, how many studies do we need? We know what the standards should be. We have been looking at this for years. The fact is that 56 million Americans today drink tap water with excessive levels of arsenic. How many people have to develop cancer before the administration moves on this issue?

Let us strengthen our standards for our drinking water. Let us not delay. Why do we want to jeopardize the health of our children, our families any longer?

It is time for a stringent arsenic standard. I urge my colleagues to vote ''yes'' on this amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve 1½ minutes for closing.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the distinguished gentleman from Washington State (Mr. INSLEE).

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Chairman, I support this amendment because I think it will help restore Americans' trust in their government.

There is a sad context of this debate which is that, unfortunately, the administration has poisoned the well of environmental consideration in this country.

When an administration tries to make it easier to use cyanide for mining waste, when it makes it easier to clear-cut international forests, when it backtracks on its climate change commitments to the world, when it tries to drill in our national monuments, how can we expect the American people to trust it when it sets an arsenic level for the water we drink?

We need this administration and this Congress to try to heal the breach and the lack of trust of Washington, D.C., right now and the administration policies on environmental measures. There is two ways to do that. Number one, pass this amendment. Number two, next week when our energy bill is on the floor, do not vote for a rule unless it lets a full group of environmental amendments to this energy policy to come to consideration of this House.

I hope that this weekend Members will think about what rule they are going to support. We need to have environmental decisions made by this House.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of our time to the distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) to close.

Mr. GILCHREST. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I rise in opposition to this amendment, not because I am opposed to the concept but because I think that the gathering of science needs to be clearly understood as soon as possible in order for us to implement a level of arsenic that we know beyond a reasonable doubt that is safe for consumers.

I would like to tell the previous speaker that I believe totally that human activity is causing climate change, and we are working with the administration. We have a difference of opinion, but I as a Republican believe that climate change is real. I believe in strong protections for wetlands, strong protections for our national forests, strong protections for all of our environmental issues. But I believe in those issues based on the best available data and the best science that we can gather. It is difficult to get the best available science on the House floor by nonscientists as we continue to debate this issue.

The gentlewoman from Connecticut said it is time that we bring the studies to a conclusion and implement that information. Well, I would say that I would hope that scientific studies never come to a conclusion, that they continue to be ongoing, that when we have what we feel at the end of a particular study is the best available information then we will implement that particular process.

The EPA director, Christine Todd Whitman, is now engaged in a very quick, ongoing analysis of the data from the Clinton administration, from the National Academy of Sciences, and from the scientists that she has put on this particular issue. Christine Todd Wittman said in a very short period of time the level of arsenic that will be acceptable could be down to 5 parts per billion; not 10 parts per billion, but 5 parts per billion.

So let us let the administration move forward. I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Chairman, I would like to express my strong support for the Bonior Amendment, which prohibits funds from being used to delay the national primary drinking water regulation for Arsenic, which was published on January 22, 2001. It is clear we have a problem with Arsenic in our water systems, and Congress must act expeditiously to remedy the problem. In 1999, in their report examining the levels of arsenic in drinking water, the National Academy of Sciences recommend that:

EPA Must Immediately Propose and Finalize by January 1, 2001 a Health-Protective Standard for Arsenic in Tap Water. The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has made it clear, and we agree, that EPA should expeditiously issue a stricter Maximum Contaminant Level standard for arsenic. Based on available scientific literature and NAS risk estimates, this standard should be set no higher than 3 ppb—the lowest level reliably quantifiable, according to EPA. Even an arsenic standard of 3 ppb could pose a fatal cancer risk several times higher than EPA has traditionally accepted in drinking water.

EPA Must Revise Downward its Reference Dose for Arsenic. EPA's current reference dose likely does not protect such vulnerable populations as infants and children. Furthermore, ''safe'' arsenic intakes in the RfD present unacceptably high cancer risks. To protect children, EPA should reduce this reference dose from 0.3 micrograms per kilogram per day (μμg-kg/day) to at most 0.1 μμg-kg/day. For concordance with cancer risk numbers, EPA should reevaluate the RfD in more depth as expeditiously as feasible.

EPA Should Assure that Improve Analytical Methods Are Widely Available to Lower Detection Limits for Arsenic. EPA must act to reduce the level at which arsenic can be reliably detected in drinking water, so that it can be reliably quantified by most labs at below 1 ppb, the level at which it may pose a health risk.

Water Systems Should be honest With Consumers about Arsenic Levels and Risks. It is in public water systems' best long-term interest to tell their customers about arsenic levels in their tap water and the health implications of this contamination. Only when it is armed with such knowledge can the public be expected to support funding and efforts to remedy the problem.

Water Systems Should Seek Government and Citizen Help to Protect Source Water. Water systems should work with government officials and citizens to prevent their source water from being contaminated with arsenic.

Water Systems Should Treat to Remove Arsenic, and Government Funds Should be Increased to Help Smaller Systems Pay for Improvements. Readily available treatment technology can remove arsenic from tap water, at a cost that is reasonable ($5 to $14 per month per household) for the vast majority of people (87 percent) served by systems with arsenic problems. Very small systems serving a small fraction of the population drinking arsenic-contaminated water, however, will often be more expensive to clean up per household. Assistance to such systems should be a high priority for drinking water funds such as the SRF and USDA's Rural Utility Service programs. The SRF should be funded at least $1 billion per year to help systems with arsenic problems.

EPA Should Improve its Arsenic, Geographic Information, and Drinking Water Databases. EPA should upgrade its Safe Drinking Water Information System to include and make publicly accessible all of the arsenic and unregulated contaminant data, as required by the Safe Drinking Water Act. EPA also should require water systems to provide accurate lat-long data using GPS systems, which will have widespread use in GIS systems by federal, state, and local officials, and the public, for source water protection, developing targeted and well-documented rules, and for other purposes.

The risk of cancer from arsenic contamination is too great for Congress to further delay the rule. According to the National Academy of Sciences, the lifetime risks of dying from cancer due to Arsenic in tap water is 1 in 100, when the arsenic level in tap water is at 50 parts per billion (ppb), which is the current rate. At 10ppb, the risk is 1 in 500, and at .5ppb, the risk is 1 in 10,000. One in 10,000 is the highest cancer risk the EPA usually allows in tap water for any element—why should arsenic be different?

Mr. Chairman, throughout my tenure in Congress I have supported legislation to reduce health risks and inform the public about water safety standards. in 1996, I voted for the Safe Drinking Water Reauthorization Act (PL 104–182), which directed the EPA to propose a new, cleaner, standard for arsenic in drinking water. At that time, Congress also directed the EPA, with the National Academy of Sciences (NAS), to study arsenic's health effects and the risks associated with exposure to low levels of arsenic. Three years later, in 1999, NAS concluded their report, and made the appropriate recommendations. Now, nearly two years later, we are still debating the rule. Mr.

Chairman, the evidence is clear, Arsenic is in our water and poses a serious health risk—the American people can not wait any longer for action. I urge all members of Congress to support the Bonior Amendment.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment offered by Representatives BONIOR, WAXMAN, and BROWN. This amendment will prevent any further delay or weakening the arsenic standard for drinking water.

One of the very first acts of the new Administration was to delay EPA's new drinking water standard of 10 parts per billion for arsenic. The new proposed regulation would have replaced a nearly 60-year old standard adopted in 1942 before arsenic was even known to cause cancer. In 1999, the National Academy of Sciences found that the old arsenic standard of 50 parts per billion for drinking water did not achieve EPA's goal for public health protection and therefore, required a downward revision as promptly as possible.

As statutory deadlines for revision were missed in 1974, 1986, and 1996, we cannot afford to miss another one. The National Academy of Sciences easily estimated that the old standard could result in a total cancer rate of one in 100—a cancer risk 10,000 times higher than EPA allows for food. Questions have been raised as to causes associated with arsenic. As a known carcinogenic substance, arsenic causes bladder, lung, and skin cancer, and is toxic to the heart, blood vessels, and the central nervous system. Who in America is most vulnerable? America's children and pregnant women are more susceptible to this form of poisoning.

Mr. Chairman, we cannot afford any further delay in the implementation of EPA's arsenic standard. The EPA invested time and resources and the new standard is the result of 25 years of public comment and debate. Congress cannot miss this opportunity to improve America's water quality. We owe it to our nation's children.

I urge my colleagues to support the Amendment offered by Representatives BONIOR, WAXMAN, and BROWN.

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Chairman, after catering to a host of special interests on the issues of tax policy and energy, it's amazing the reasons that the majority have come up with to stop legislation that is clearly in the public interest.

In this case, the majority wants to block efforts to protect citizens from arsenic in drinking water.

Anyone who's read an Agatha Christie mystery knows that arsenic is a poison.

We've spent 17 years extensively reviewing and studying the lethality of this element. We've learned that even low levels of arsenic exposure pose a public health risk.

Earlier this year, the EPA approved an arsenic standard of 10 parts per billion instead of the current standard 50 parts per billion.

The Bush administration rescinded this regulation pending further review by the National Academy of Sciences.

Do we really need more review? The standard has been on the table for decades. In fact, the U.S. Public Health Service first advanced it in 1962.

Is this debate really about sound science? Or is it really setting the public interest aside?

No matter where one lives in this country, we should be assured of safe drinking water. We cannot delay making this a reality. We must adopt the Bonior amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. All time having expired, the question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote and, pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I move that the committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER) having assumed the chair, Mr. SHIMKUS, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

LIMITATION ON AMENDMENTS DURING FURTHER CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2620, DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I believe an agreement has been worked out to the satisfaction of both parties. I ask unanimous consent that during further consideration of H.R. 2620 in the Committee of the Whole pursuant to House Resolution 210——

One, no amendment to the bill may be offered except:

Pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate.

The amendment printed in House Report 107–164.

The amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD numbered 5, 6, 7, 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 30, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42 and 46.

Two amendments by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and one amendment by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) that I have placed at the desk.

One amendment en bloc by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) consisting of the amendments numbered 31, 33, 34 and 35.

Two, such amendments shall be debatable as follows:

Except as specified, each amendment shall be debatable for 10 minutes only.

The amendments numbered 6, 12, 24, 39 and 42 shall be debatable for 20 minutes each.

The amendments numbered 5 and 37 and one amendment by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) shall be debatable only for 30 minutes each.

The amendment numbered 46 shall be debatable only for 40 minutes.

Such debate shall be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

□ 1230

Three, each such amendment shall be offered only by the Member designated in this request, the Member who caused it to be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read, shall not be subject to amendment, except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or a designee, each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the whole.

Four, all points of order are waived against amendment numbered 25.

Five, the amendment printed in House Report 107–164 may amend portions of the bill not yet read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). The Clerk will report the amendments.

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment Offered by Mr. FRANK:

Page 93, after line 25, insert the following new section:

SEC. 427. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are hereby revised by reducing the aggregate amount made available for ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND'', reducing the amount specified under such ''PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND'' item for the Inspector General for Operation Safe Home, reducing the aggregate amount provided for ''MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION—OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'', and reducing the amount specified under such ''OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'' item that is to be provided from the amount earmarked for Operation Safe Home, and none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fix, establish, charge, or collect mortgage insurance premiums for mortgage insurance made available pursuant to the program under section 221(d)(4) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715l(d)(4)) in an amount greater than the cost (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) of such program, by $5,000,000.

Page 93, after line 25, insert the following new section:

SEC. 427. The amounts otherwise provided by this Act are hereby revised by reducing the aggregate amount made available for ''PUBLIC AND INDIAN HOUSING—PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND'', reducing the amount specified under such ''PUBLIC HOUSING OPERATING FUND'' item for the Inspector General for Operation Safe Home, reducing the aggregate amount provided for ''MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION—OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'', and reducing the amount specified under such ''OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL'' item that is to be provided from the amount earmarked for Operation Safe Home, and none of the funds made available in this Act may be used to fix, establish, charge, or

collect mortgage insurance premiums for mortgage insurance under title II of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1707 et seq.) made available under any multifamily housing mortgage insurance program affected by the interim rule issued by the Department of Housing and Urban Development on July 2, 2001 (66 Federal Register 35070; Docket No. FR 4679-I-01), in an amount greater than the cost (as such term is defined in section 502 of the Federal Credit Reform Act of 1990) of such program, by $5,000,000.

Mr. WALSH (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendments be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, reserving the right to object, I just do so in order to allow the gentleman to make clear to the membership what this will mean for all of them for the rest of the day, and what it will mean for the further consideration of this bill.

It is my understanding that this will mean that after we take up the Menendez amendment, we will then vote on the accumulated amendments, and that there will be no further votes today; that the committee will rise, and that we will resume consideration of this bill Monday after 7, and proceed to completion of the bill Monday evening.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. OBEY. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, that is precisely our understanding of this agreement.

Mr. OBEY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman from New York and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN) for the agreement.

Mr. Speaker, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BEREUTER). Would the gentleman from New York specify the Traficant amendment that he intends?

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, one Traficant amendment is printed and the other is not printed yet. It is at the desk. It is his Buy American amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. Traficant).

The Clerk read as follows:

Amendment offered by Mr. TRAFICANT:

At the end of the bill, insert after the last section (preceding the short title) the following new section:

SEC. . None of the funds appropriated or otherwise made available in this Act may be made available to any person or entity convicted of violating the Buy American Act (41 U.S.C. 10a–10c).

Mr. WALSH (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the requests of the gentleman from New York to dispense with the readings of the three unprinted amendments?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the original request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

DEPARTMENTS OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2002

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 210 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 2620.

□ 1233

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, with Mr. SHIMKUS in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 45 offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) had been postponed and the bill was open for amendment from page 33, line 5, through page 37, line 9.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, no amendment to the bill may be offered except:

Pro forma amendments offered by the chairman or ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees for the purpose of debate.

The amendment printed in House Report 107–164.

The amendments printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and numbered 5, 6, 7, 12, 19, 20, 21, 24, 25, 30, 36, 37, 38, 39, 40, 41, 42, and 46.

Two amendments offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and one amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT) that have been placed at the desk.

One amendment en bloc offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) consisting of amendments numbered 31, 33, 34, and 35.

Such amendments shall be debatable as follows:

Except as specified, each amendment shall be debatable only for 10 minutes each.

The amendments numbered 6, 12, 24, 39, and 42 shall be debatable only for 20 minutes each;

The amendments numbered 5 and 37 and one amendment offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) shall be debatable for only 30 minutes each.

The amendment numbered 46 shall be debatable only for 40 minutes.

Such debate shall be equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent.

Each such amendment may be offered only by the Member designated in the request, the Member who caused it to be printed, or a designee, shall be considered as read and shall not be subject to amendment, except that the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations, or a designee, each may offer one pro forma amendment for the purpose of further debate on any pending amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The amendment printed in House Report 107–164, may amend portions of the bill not yet read.

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. MENENDEZ

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 46 offered by Mr. MENENDEZ:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

''SEC. . Funding made available under this Act for salaries and expenses, excluding those made available for the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Environmental Protection Agency, are reduced by $25,000,000 and funds made available for ''Environmental Programs and Management'' at the Environmental Protection Agency are increased by $25,000,000 for activities authorized by law: Provided, none of the funds in this Act shall be available by reason of the next to last specific dollar earmark under the heading ''State and Tribal Assistance Grants.''

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and a Member opposed each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

At the outset, I want to thank the ranking member of the full committee and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. MOLLOHAN), the subcommittee ranking member, for all their hard work and cooperation on this amendment.

This amendment which I am sponsoring with my colleagues, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY) would restore critically needed funding to the Environmental Protection Agency's Office of Compliance and Enforcement, which is responsible for enforcing America's most important and effective environmental laws.

To do so, we cut $25 million from nonpersonnel administrative costs from other parts of the bill except EPA and veterans' programs. Spread out over this bill, this will require very modest cuts in administrative expenses.

Mr. Chairman, I stand before the House today because I believe America's environment is under attack. Not too long ago, as a Presidential candidate, George Bush spoke strong words about protecting the environment, but today his promises to the American people ring hollow. In only a few short months, the Bush administration made its priorities clear to all of us, and environmental protection is apparently very low on the list.

While I am not surprised at the actions of President Bush or of EPA administrator Whitman, given her shoddy record of environmental enforcement in my home State of New Jersey, I am surprised that the committee went along with this dangerous course of action.

The bill before us today, at the direction of the administration, irresponsibly cuts $25 million from the EPA's enforcement budget, specifically targeting compliance, monitoring, civil and criminal enforcement, and Superfund enforcement.

If this bill passes in its present form, 270 positions would be eliminated from the Office of Compliance and Enforcement, which will result in 2,000 fewer inspections, an 11 percent reduction in criminal actions, and a 20 percent reduction in civil actions. These reductions would be devastating to EPA's ability to enforce clean air, clean water, and hazardous waste laws.

These are not just numbers we are talking about here. This is the water our children drink, the air they breathe, and the legacy we leave to the next generation. It is because of Federal enforcement officers that we have made so much progress in cleaning up our air and water.

Experience tells us the difference a strong EPA can make. Civil enforcement activities have resulted in real improvements in environmental quality. In fiscal year 1999, EPA's civil enforcement actions achieved over 6.8 billion pounds of pollutant reductions, but the bill before us would cut 6 percent of the staff positions from the Superfund hazardous waste cost recovery efforts, this from a program that in fiscal year 2000 recovered $231 million from responsible parties at Superfund sites.

This is pennywise and pound foolish because the cut in Superfund enforcement would reduce cost recoveries by over $50 million in fiscal year 2002, a reduction in revenue that greatly exceeds the funding necessary to fully restore the enforcement efforts.

The administration's budget also proposes to transfer $25 million to the States for environmental enforcement. While States could use additional help in ensuring compliance with environmental laws, that help should not come at the expense of EPA's successful enforcement programs.

Federal and State resources combined are not enough to fully enforce our Federal environmental laws as it is. Transferring scarce Federal resources to State programs when both compliance programs are underfunded is like robbing Peter to pay Paul. The fact is, the air and water quality in one State impacts the air and water in another State. There are no borders when the goal is a clean environment. That is why a clean environment should be a national priority.

Big polluters would like nothing more than to see a major reduction in Federal, civil, and criminal enforcement by the EPA, so cutting EPA's enforcement budget is sending the wrong message at a time when over 60 million Americans live in areas of the country that still fail to meet air quality standards.

We can do better, but this bill takes us in the wrong direction. I urge my colleagues to support this amendment because it is the right thing for the environment and it is right for America. Let us leave a legacy of clean lakes, clean rivers, fresh air. Let us leave a clean environment for our children.

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I am opposed to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) is recognized to control the time in opposition.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the gentleman's amendment.

Mr. Chairman, there is no one in this Congress who cares more about the environment than I do. I had the good fortune as a young boy of growing up in the Finger Lakes region of New York State, and my experience showed me that the people that I saw on the streams where I fished, in the woods where I hunted, in the woods where I skied, are State officials, State employees. The States are the ones who do the enforcement work for the Environmental Protection Agency. The State folks know those streams. They know those lakes. They know the conditions and industry surrounding our watersheds. They enforce the laws.

I want to make it very clear, there are no cuts in the EPA budget. There are no cuts. The amendment that the gentleman proposes, however, is a cut. It is a cut to HUD, it is a cut to NASA, it is a cut to FEMA, it is a cut to the National Science Foundation.

If Members want to cut HUD or NASA, FEMA, the National Science Foundation, support the gentleman's amendment. But what I submit is that the people who do the enforcement day-to-day, who know the conditions, who know the watersheds, who know the lakes and rivers, we are providing them with the additional funds.

States conduct more than 95 percent of the environmental inspections and more than 90 percent of the environmental enforcement actions. It is the States that do the lion's share of the work, and it is the States that get the lion's share of this increase. This is an increase in the EPA enforcement budget.

As a fact, the fiscal year 2001 enacted budget for enforcement is $465 million. In this budget, according to the President's budget request and what we have committed to, the subcommittee has committed to, the level of funding is $475 million. How Members can arrive at a cut from that, it just defies logic.

What we do is we put the money where it is needed and where it is used. Mr. Chairman, I have the greatest respect for the Federal Government. I work in the Federal Government. I have the greatest respect for the employees who work within the Federal Government. But I want to make sure that the people who have the responsibility to protect my watershed, my drinking water, my neighbor's good health, I want to make sure those people know the system, the environmental systems. I want to make sure that they know the businesses and the business owners. I want to make sure that they know that their neighbors are the ones who are going to benefit from their vigor and activity in enforcing the laws of the land.

So let us put the money in the hands of the people who are going to do the enforcement work, and that is the State employees who have traditionally done the lion's share of this work. There is not a cut. I will just restate that, there is no cut in enforcement. This is an increase in enforcement. But if Members want to cut Federal agencies, cut HUD, cut NASA, cut FEMA, cut NSF, support the gentleman's amendment.

□ 1245

I would strongly urge that my colleagues not do that. These funds are needed by those agencies, and let us keep the enforcement in the hands of the State.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Two points on the gentleman's comments. Number one, we simply cut nonpersonnel administrative expenses. Number one. And, number two, even EPA's own justification to Congress shows that there will be dramatic reductions in their staffing, in their ability for enforcement, in their civil and criminal penalties that they will be able to pursue.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Chairman, I have great respect for the chairman of the subcommittee, but the reality is that if we do not provide enough money to keep these Federal enforcement officers in place and they have to be laid

off, then, in effect, this is a cut and it means we cannot enforce the law. That is what we face here today.

We saw the same thing in New Jersey. The current EPA administrator used to be our governor in New Jersey. When she was governor, she cut back on the amount of money for the personnel, for the people that go out and do the inspections, for the people that conduct the criminal investigations against the polluters; and the consequence was that in New Jersey the environmental laws were not enforced. That is what is going to happen here again with this budget unless the Menendez amendment passes today.

It is a very insidious thing. People do not pay a lot of attention to enforcement. They pay attention to when the Clean Air Act or the Clean Water Act is weakened. But when an attempt is made to weaken the enforcement by not providing the personnel, the public does not notice. But it is more damaging, and I would suggest what is happening in this budget and the laying off these enforcement personnel will be more damaging to the environment than almost anything else the Republican leadership or the President has proposed since he came to office. So we must speak out against it.

I want to give an example how it also impacts the taxpayer. New Jersey has more Superfund sites than any other State. My district has more than any other district in New Jersey. When we cut back on the inspections for Superfund and we do not go after the polluters, then we do not get the money from the polluters to clean up the Superfund sites and then we have to spend the money out of the Superfund, which is taxpayers' money.

And my colleagues on the other side know that, in the case of the Superfund, we do not even have the tax in place on the chemical and oil polluting companies to pay for the Superfund. The money increasingly is coming out of the general funds, which means income taxes.

So the consequence of this is not only that we weaken the environmental laws but also that we put more of a burden on the taxpayer rather than on the polluters these inspectors go out and find and go out and enforce to clean up their act.

What is happening here is very insidious. I am sure this is only going to be the beginning. We will see the same thing next year with the President's budget. We have to put a stop to it. Pass the Menendez amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, could I inquire how much time remains on both sides?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) has 12½ minutes remaining, and the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mr. MENENDEZ. May I inquire if the gentleman from New York has any speakers at all?

Mr. WALSH. I have not identified that yet. But as soon as I have a better figure on it, I will provide the gentleman with that.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Appropriations.

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Chairman, I rise to strongly support this amendment. This amendment, very simply, restores 270 positions that are being cut by the Bush administration, positions that are needed to enforce our environmental laws.

I think the cutbacks that the administration is providing are consistent with what I regard as its generally misguided policy on environmental cleanup. I think the cutbacks they are trying to achieve in EPA enforcement are similar to the weakening of our attack on environmental problems that we see by their walking away from our obligation to try to work out an international treaty on global warming, for instance.

I think that their efforts to cut back on EPA enforcement are consistent with the White House efforts to reverse the new, more stringent standards for air-conditioning efficiency, a standard which the Clinton administration tried to implement and which would have saved us billions of dollars in energy costs if the White House had not walked away from those new standards.

If we take a look generally across the board at what the administration tried to do to shred the New Lands Legacy Agreement, which we reached in the Subcommittee on Interior last year, which over the next 6 years essentially doubles our ability to purchase key parcels of lands for future generations, all of those initiatives that the administration has taken have operated to reduce rather than strengthen our support for environmental cleanup. This is just one more instance.

It may seem like a small thing, but in my view it is not. The amendment is consistent with our efforts, for instance, to strengthen standards on arsenic in drinking water, which we just completed. So I would urge the House to support this amendment. I congratulate the gentleman for offering it, and I am happy to cosponsor it with him, and I would urge that the House adopt this amendment unanimously. I cannot think of a single constructive argument against the amendment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I have no additional requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. TIERNEY), a cosponsor of this amendment.

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding me this time and thank all those who have worked on this amendment.

I think we should just get rid of the mirrors and the smoke on this, Mr. Chairman, and cut straight to the heart of the matter. This administration is simply attempting to undercut the authority and the effectiveness of the EPA by reducing its funding by 25 million people and putting 270 people out to pasture.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. TIERNEY. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. WALSH. I would just remind the gentleman this year's budget is $10 million higher for enforcement in EPA.

Mr. TIERNEY. Reclaiming my time, I have respect for that, but the short part of the matter is that people are being put out of work at the EPA and enforcement will not proceed as it should on this.

This is nothing new. This majority and this administration have had a hostile attitude toward environmental protection for several years. In 1995, the House majority attacked an astounding 17 riders to eviscerate the EPA. And over several years running, the EPA was forbidden to spend any funds to implement or even prepare to implement the Kyoto Protocol that combatted global climate change. Frankly, without the efforts of colleagues in the Senate, without vetoes of then President Clinton, and without substantial public outcry, the EPA simply would have been crippled.

Further, it seems this administration has not learned anything from the last several months. Nearly every public indicator signals there is no issue on which the public and the administration disagree more strongly than on the environment. From clean air to water quality, the public is acutely aware that the majority and the White House are not protecting the people's interest or their needs.

Now they seek to attempt to undercut the EPA by shifting enforcement responsibility entirely to the States. We all support assisting the States in their efforts to ensure environmental law compliance, but that will not take care of problems across borders, that will not take care of the problem that this administration, in transferring that responsibility to the States, is risking an erosion of the standards that this legislative body has passed and calls upon the States to enforce.

This administration will almost certainly permit States to issue proposals that include incentives for voluntary compliance. And while some States are good stewards of environmental issues, others have a history of diluting enforcement of provisions that protect the public.

In such States, we have seen what happens to violators who simply choose not to voluntarily comply. Nothing. No penalties, no deadlines by which the standards must be enacted, nothing at all, Mr. Chairman. Voluntary compliance too often simply means ''never having to say you're sorry.''

Findings by the General Accounting Office also echo this sentiment. It finds

serious cuts would result in 15 to 25 States receiving no funding at all. In those States the cutbacks would result in the absence of effective enforcement of protective safety measures. The EPA knows that there would be serious staff reductions that would result in this proposal; and I believe, Mr. Chairman, that is exactly what the administration is intending.

The facts are that the EPA enforcement resources are already stretched thin. The Washington Post recently outlined a case where a State seriously neglected its responsibilities and violated numerous environmental laws. The State had also shifted the burden to the residents to prove violations.

One case involved a power plant illegally emitting the hazardous gas styrene, which harms the nervous and respiratory systems. Without the efforts of the EPA, Mr. Chairman, which requires States to enforce the code, who knows how long those violations would have continued.

It is crucial that the EPA have the resources to enforce environmental laws. Enforcement of those laws is often the only thing that stands between polluters and justice. The Senate has already restored this funding in their version of the bill, Mr. Chairman, and I strongly encourage Members to do the same in this body.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just want to reiterate that the budget for enforcement is not cut, it is increased. And since the States do the lion's share of the enforcement, they receive the lion's share of the increase.

I think the idea is that we want to make sure that the money that is being spent on environmental protection is spent wisely, and we would like to have it in the hands of the individuals and in the hands of the States that are going to do the enforcement.

So this is obviously an increase in enforcement. I think if my colleagues support increasing enforcement, they would oppose this amendment.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. WALSH. The gentleman has more time than I do.

Mr. MENENDEZ. No, at this point, the gentleman has more time than I do.

Mr. WALSH. Then, in that case, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Just two points. As I understand it, $10 million of this goes to COLA, and the rest gets out of Federal enforcement. So to say Federal enforcement is in fact increased is not the reality. Federal enforcement is not increased.

Mr. WALSH. Reclaiming my time, Mr. Chairman, in fact, the EPA budget for enforcement is increased by $10 million over last year. The gentleman can define it any way he wants to, but this is an increase in funding for enforcement.

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

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 10 seconds simply to say that all the EPA COLA does is take those employees and give them an increase. It does not increase the manpower at EPA to do something about the environment. It takes the environmental cop off the beat.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD).

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I would like to thank the many friends who are in support of this amendment that has been offered, the Menendez-Waxman-Pallone-Tierney amendment.

This amendment simply restores EPA's enforcement budget to current levels. Without these funds, the EPA's ability to enforce the Nation's environmental laws will be greatly reduced.

Mr. Chairman, if we pass this appropriation without adopting this amendment, we will be doing a grave disservice to America's environmental health. The cut in the EPA's enforcement budget will result in a further degradation and destruction of environmental resources. As a result of this cut, there will be fewer than 2,000 inspectors, 50 fewer criminal actions and 50 fewer civil actions and the loss of millions of dollars in cost recovery.

This administration would like to rely on the States for enforcement action and, as a result, will cut some 270 enforcement positions. The EPA Inspector General said in a September, 1998, audit that six States have failed to report numerous serious violations of the Clean Air Act, as they are required to do. While performing more than 3,300 inspections, six States reported only 18 significant violations. In reviewing a small portion of those 3,300 inspections, the EPA turned up an additional 103 serious violations.

Other States have failed to report serious violations of Federal pollution laws, allowed major industrial polluters to operate without proper permits, and failed to conduct basic emissions tests of industry smokestacks, according to the studies.

□ 1300

Mr. Chairman, the EPA and the Justice Department can step up if we conclude a State is not doing an adequate job. But with limited resources only 3,537 lawyers, investigators, and staff will be involved in enforcement. I urge this amendment to be adopted.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman. I ask two questions. First, what is the time on each side?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) has 5 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) has 15 minutes remaining.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I continue to reserve my time.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, the second question I have is who has the right to close in this debate?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New York has the right to close.

Mr. MENENDEZ. He has the right to close on my amendment?

The CHAIRMAN. That is correct.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I would ask of the gentleman then, since the time is lopsided, what does the gentleman intend to do in terms of speakers? It would be unfair to have a long list of speakers come at the very end.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I am not quite sure how to help the gentleman out. He has had more speakers than I have. He has expended his time less frugally than I have. I do not intend to use all my time to close.

Mr. MENENDEZ. I do not know if the gentleman should characterize it as ''less frugally.'' We have Members who feel very passionately about this.

Mr. WALSH. I appreciate that. Many of our Members are very passionate about this also. But the fact of the matter is, I do not have any additional speakers right now so I will continue to reserve my time.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN).

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Chairman, I want to commend the gentleman for this amendment and rise in support of it.

President Bush has proposed cutting EPA's enforcement budget by $25 million and giving these funds to the States. I do not oppose giving the States money for enhanced enforcement of environmental laws, however, our laws cannot be adequately enforced if EPA's budget is slashed.

This amendment restores critically needed funding for enforcement of our environmental laws. I urge all my colleagues to support this. If we have these cuts we are talking about 2,000 fewer inspections, a 20 percent reduction in civil actions, an 11 percent reduction in criminal actions. There are many environmental programs that the States are simply not in a position to enforce. For example, States cannot ensure that pollution from one State does not affect neighboring States. This is a job only the Federal Government can do. So I support the gentleman's amendment. I commend him for his leadership. I urge all my colleagues to vote for it.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman very much for his amendment. I thank him for yielding the time because I think it is important to clarify what we are doing here. It is to suggest to the American public that we do not want them to be denied of enforcement protection that the EPA provides them in clean water protection and clean air protection.

It is interesting that my colleague would cite the cuts coming from across the board and he cited FEMA. Obviously, coming from Texas, I am particularly interested in making sure

FEMA is funded fully. But we well know that OMB can make the decision as to where those cuts would come. This is simply an inclusion of $25 million to allow for 2,000 more inspections, to allow for 20 percent more civil actions to protect Americans in the issues of clean air and clean water, and to allow 11 percent more in criminal prosecutions when individuals ignore the environmental protection laws to enhance the quality of life for Americans.

So I think this is a simple process and a simple proposition and a good proposition. Let us do the right thing and provide the Environmental Protection Agency with the kind of enforcement they need to enhance the quality of life for all Americans.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I intend to use 2 minutes of our remaining time to close. As soon as the gentleman completes, I will yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, could I ask how much time I have?

The CHAIRMAN. The gentleman from New Jersey has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, we are not taking money from the States, just a particular earmark. Nothing can stop the EPA administrator from using those monies for State programs if that is where they are most needed.

What we are doing is what I hear my colleague from the other side suggest that they want, which is more flexibility. We have greater flexibility here. But it is foolish to suggest that, in fact, we are not robbing Peter to pay Paul. And, secondly, it is also from the EPA's own estimate submitted to the Congress, not my words, the Republican-appointed administrator submits to the Congress this information, that, in fact, this is 270 or so full-time employees less than compared to the actual number of inspections done in fiscal year 2000 to the one under this request, we would have 5,000 less inspections, that we would have about 70 some-odd less criminal investigations, that we would have a serious number of decline in civil investigations, over 400 from fiscal year 2000.

That is not in any sense justified by saying that there is an increase. There cannot be an increase when we dramatically drop the number of people in the department, when we dramatically drop the number of civil and criminal actions, when we dramatically drop the number of inspections by EPA's own words. So this simply cannot be categorized anywhere, in fact, as an increase. Again, we are taking our monies for this purpose from nonpersonnel administrative functions and not out of veterans and not out of EPA.

Lastly, EPA remains the only enforcement authority for many Federal laws. Under the existing program as it is, 15 to 25 States would not get anything under the provisions that the chairman continues to seek to have.

So, Mr. Chairman, the question is simple. Do we want to leave a legacy of clean air and water for our children and grandchildren or do we want to take the environmental cop off the street?

A vote in favor of the amendment is a vote to keep the environmental cop on the street. It is a vote to ensure that the number one agency for all Americans in terms of their quality of their air, their water, their rivers, their streams, their lakes being protected is the EPA.

If we do not pass this amendment, we will have degraded the ability to enforce. This is a real cut to the EPA. That is why we need to restore the enforcement capacity the EPA must have for all Americans in all States across the Nation.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support the amendment.

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

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I would end this debate by suggesting that there is no cut in enforcement. In fact, there is an increase in enforcement. This amendment is a fiction.

The funding level for last year was $465 million. This year it is $475 million. The fact of the matter is that the lion's share of the increase will go to the States where the lion's share of the work is done. Mr. Chairman, 95 percent of the environmental inspections are done at the State level; 90 percent of the enforcement actions are taken at the State level.

We need to empower the States to do the work. We need to get the money into the hands of the individuals who know our watersheds, our industries, and the sensitive areas of the country that need to be protected.

If my colleagues want to cut Federal agencies, HUD, NASA, FEMA, National Science Foundation, this is the amendment to do it. I do not advise that. Those agencies need these funds. This budget for this bill has been developed on a bipartisan basis. We have tried to provide assets where they are needed. We do not need to cut NASA any more. We certainly do not need to cut FEMA any more. We are trying to increase the National Science Foundation budget.

We have a terrific administrator for the Environmental Protection Agency. She is a tiger for the defense of our national environment. She has shown that through her experience as Governor. I think she will do a marvelous job. She believes that the lion's share of the enforcement belongs at the State level. At the end of the day when this bill is passed, the Environmental Protection Agency will have virtually the same number of people working in enforcement in 2002 as they have in 2001.

So, Mr. Chairman, I strongly urge that we reject this amendment and retain this level of funding, this increase in funding over last year.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Menendez-Waxman-Pallone-Tierney amendment to restore funding for EPA's efforts to protect human health and the environment. Without the amendment, this bill will significantly reduce the protection our Nation's environmental laws provide to the daily lives of our constituents.

Increasing resources for the states to enforce environmental laws is fine, but it must not come at the expense of Federal efforts. The Nation's advancements in environmental protection are as a direct result of Federal laws put in place where states simply could not or would not do the job.

The reason we have Federal environmental laws is because there is a need for Federal action. Taking money away from EPA to give it to the States does not result in a benefit to the environment, but only a benefit to the polluter. States and EPA work best when they work in partnership, not in competition. The Menendez-Waxman-Pallone-Tierney amendment restores this partnership.

Proponents of taking money from EPA and giving it to the States argue that the States are better equipped to handle local issues. Pollution is not a uniquely local blight. Pollution discharged from one State into a river affects the residents of other cities within a State or of other States. While many States are the primary enforcer of some portions of environmental laws, the State and Federal programs are not duplicative.

For example, States are not the enforcement authority for many environmental laws such as Clean Air Act mobile source standards affecting cars and trucks; right-to-know and emergency planning; the Toxic Substances and Control Act; the wetlands program under the Clean Water Act in 48 States; and the Oil Pollution Act. Even where States have primary implementing responsibilities, in areas such as the Great Lakes, the States have relied on EPA to ensure uniform and effective progress toward water quality improvement.

Shifting resources from the Federal Government to the States is not as simple as which entity will spend the money. Besides the diminution in enforcement of Federal laws where States are not coenforcement authorities, the Bush budget indicated that the funds would not be provided to all the States. EPA expects that 15 to 25 States will receive no funding under this new program. Therefore, in those States, EPA enforcement capabilities will be reduced with no additional resources available for the States to make up the shortcoming.

There will be no inspections, no enforcement, and public health will suffer, the environment will suffer. While States do conduct the largest amount of inspections and institute the greater number of enforcement actions, the Federal programs are the ones that take on the difficult cases where States are unwilling or unable to act.

The Federal Government has the unique role of addressing multistate issues where large corporations operate in several States; dealing with pollution that crosses State boundaries, like acid rain or downstream pollution of rivers or lakes; interstate hazardous waste; and global warming.

EPA enforcement is of direct benefit to the taxpayer and the environment. Every $1 spent

on Superfund enforcement results on average in about $1.60 in direct cost recovery of government cleanup costs, and it creates another $6 in private party spending for cleanup of the Nation's most dangerous hazardous waste sites. A $5 million cut in Superfund enforcement activity could cost the Federal Government $8 million in recovery of money already spent, and preclude $30 million in additional cleanup.

Every $1 spent on enforcement of Federal clean air, clean water, and hazardous waste laws results in an average of $10 to $20 spent directly on pollution control equipment and other improvements. Without these non-Federal investments, continued progress in cleaning up the air, water and land cannot be achieved.

Providing additional resources to States to enforce their environmental laws can benefit human health and the environment. However, where these additional resources are provided at the expense of the Federal programs, environmental protection will suffer and human health will be compromised.

Support the Menendez-Waxman-Pallone-Tierney amendment to protect human health and the environment.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

The question was taken; and the Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make a point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order: amendment No. 43 offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK); the amendment No. 44 offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR); the amendment No. 45, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR); and the amendment No. 46 offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 43 OFFERED BY MR. FRANK

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment No. 43 offered by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 163, noes 247, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 286]

AYES—163

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Clay
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Gephardt
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Hastings (FL)
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Moore
Moran (VA)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Smith (WA)
Solis
Stark
Strickland
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu

NOES—247

Aderholt
Akin
Andrews
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Boswell
Boucher
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cooksey
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeGette
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Dooley
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Engel
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Harman
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kleczka
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Larsen (WA)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
Mascara
McCrery
McHugh
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Morella
Murtha
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Ortiz
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rodriguez
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)
Snyder
Souder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Stupak
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Wynn
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—23

Blumenauer
Callahan
Cubin
Dunn
Frost
Hansen
Keller
Largent
Linder
Lipinski
McInnis
Miller (FL)
Quinn
Ros-Lehtinen
Scarborough
Slaughter
Smith (TX)
Spence
Sununu
Taylor (NC)
Watt (NC)
Wolf
Young (AK)

□ 1332

Mr. BERRY and Mrs. CLAYTON changed their vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. RANGEL, UDALL of Colorado, and BOYD changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the Chair announces that he will reduce to a minimum of 5 minutes the period of time within which a vote by electronic device will be taken on the additional amendments on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

AMENDMENT NO. 44 BY MS. KAPTUR

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 197, noes 213, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 287]

AYES—197

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barr
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Foley
Ford
Fossella
Frank
Gephardt
Gilman
Gonzalez
Gordon
Granger
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hutchinson
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kingston
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Lowey
Lucas (KY)
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Shows
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Solis
Souder
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thurman
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Whitfield
Woolsey
Wu

NOES—213

Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Clyburn
Coble
Collins
Combest
Cooksey
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Forbes
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hill
Hilleary
Hilliard
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kanjorski
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Langevin
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lofgren
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCrery
McHugh
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Pomeroy
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (MI)
Snyder
Spratt
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (MS)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Wicker
Wilson
Wynn
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—23

Blumenauer
Callahan
Cubin
Dunn
Frost
Hansen
Keller
Largent
Linder
Lipinski
McInnis
Miller (FL)
Quinn
Ros-Lehtinen
Slaughter
Smith (TX)
Spence
Sununu
Taylor (NC)
Tierney
Watt (NC)
Wolf
Young (AK)

□ 1341

Ms. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia changed her vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

Messrs. WHITFIELD, SHOWS, and FOSSELLA changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 45 OFFERED BY MR. BONIOR

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 218, noes 189, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 288]

AYES—218

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Becerra
Bentsen
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop
Blagojevich
Bonior
Borski
Boswell
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Castle
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Costello
Coyne
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Engel
English
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Ford
Frank
Frelinghuysen
Ganske
Gephardt
Gilman
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Kind (WI)
Kirk
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
LoBiondo
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Phelps
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sandlin
Sawyer
Saxton
Scarborough
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Simmons
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—189

Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Barton
Bass
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer

Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Chabot
Chambliss
Coble
Combest
Cooksey
Cox
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Diaz-Balart
Dooley
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
Everett
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Gallegly
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hilleary
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McHugh
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Roukema
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shows
Shuster
Simpson
Skeen
Smith (MI)
Souder
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Terry
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—26

Blumenauer
Callahan
Collins
Cubin
Dunn
Frost
Hansen
Hinojosa
Keller
Largent
Linder
Lipinski
McCrery
McInnis
Miller (FL)
Quinn
Ros-Lehtinen
Slaughter
Smith (TX)
Spence
Sununu
Taylor (NC)
Thomas
Watt (NC)
Wolf
Young (AK)

□ 1350

Mr. ENGLISH and Ms. HART changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained during rollcall No. 288. Had I been present I would have voted ''no.''

AMENDMENT NO. 46 OFFERED BY MR. MENENDEZ

The CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on Amendment No. 46 offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 182, noes 214, not voting 37, as follows:

[Roll No. 289]

AYES—182

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldacci
Baldwin
Barcia
Barrett
Barton
Becerra
Berkley
Berry
Bishop
Blagojevich
Boehlert
Bonior
Borski
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (FL)
Brown (OH)
Capps
Cardin
Carson (IN)
Clay
Clayton
Clement
Clyburn
Condit
Conyers
Coyne
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Deutsch
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Dooley
Edwards
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank
Gephardt
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Gutierrez
Hall (OH)
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hilliard
Hinchey
Hoeffel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kelly
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kind (WI)
Kleczka
Kucinich
LaFalce
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lofgren
Lowey
Luther
Maloney (CT)
Maloney (NY)
Markey
Mascara
Matsui
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Menendez
Millender-McDonald
Miller, George
Mink
Moore
Moran (VA)
Morella
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Price (NC)
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Reyes
Rivers
Rodriguez
Roemer
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Rush
Sabo
Sanchez
Sanders
Sawyer
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott
Serrano
Sherman
Shows
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thurman
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watson (CA)
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—214

Aderholt
Akin
Armey
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barr
Bartlett
Bass
Bentsen
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Blunt
Bonilla
Bono
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Bryant
Burr
Burton
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capuano
Carson (OK)
Castle
Chabot
Chambliss
Coble
Combest
Cooksey
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crane
Crenshaw
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal
DeLay
DeMint
Doolittle
Doyle
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Ehrlich
Emerson
English
Everett
Ferguson
Flake
Fletcher
Foley
Forbes
Fossella
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Ganske
Gekas
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gilman
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Graham
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Grucci
Gutknecht
Hall (TX)
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Horn
Hostettler
Houghton
Hulshof
Hunter
Hutchinson
Hyde
Isakson
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
John
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Kennedy (MN)
Kerns
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Lampson
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
Matheson
McHugh
McKeon
Mica
Miller, Gary
Mollohan
Moran (KS)
Murtha
Myrick
Nethercutt
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Phelps
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Pombo
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Regula
Rehberg
Reynolds
Riley
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ross
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sandlin
Saxton
Scarborough
Schaffer
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skeen
Skelton
Smith (NJ)
Souder
Stearns
Stenholm
Stump
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauzin
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Thune
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Toomey
Traficant
Turner
Upton
Vitter
Walden
Walsh
Wamp
Watkins (OK)
Watts (OK)
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—37

Berman
Blumenauer
Boehner
Boswell
Callahan
Camp
Collins
Cubin
DeFazio
Diaz-Balart
Dunn
Frost
Hansen
Hilleary
Hinojosa
Keller
Kilpatrick
Largent
Larson (CT)
Linder
Lipinski
McCrery
McInnis
Miller (FL)
Pomeroy
Quinn
Ros-Lehtinen
Roukema
Slaughter
Smith (MI)
Smith (TX)
Spence
Sununu
Taylor (NC)
Watt (NC)
Wolf
Young (AK)

□ 1358

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. DUNN. Mr. Chairman, on Friday, July 27, 2001, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes 286 through 289.

Had I been present, I would have voted ''no'' on rollcall No. 286, ''no'' on rollcall No. 287, ''no'' on rollcall No. 288, and ''no'' on rollcall No. 289.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Chairman, I was unable to be present for rollcall votes Nos. 286, 287, 288, and 289, amendments to H.R. 2620, a bill making appropriations for the VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies for Fiscal Year 2002. Had I been present, I would have voted ''yes'' on rollcall votes Nos. 286, 287, 288 and 289.

Mrs. CLAYTON. Mr. Chairman, today, I rise in strong opposition to the elimination of the Office of Rural Housing and Economic Development (ORHED) of HUD. I recognize that there were many priorities in this appropriations bill, and not all of them could be addressed. However, Mr. Chairman, to eliminate essential programs such as Drug Prevention in public housing, and the Rural Housing and

Economic Development program of HUD is a direct affront on my constituencies in North Carolina and on Rural America as a whole. I wish to discuss Rural Housing needs in this statement.

I applaud my colleague, MARCY KAPTUR, a champion of rural America, for her efforts by amendment to reinstate $25 million ($25,000,000) to maintain this program, but unfortunately, to no avail. I would like to also recognize my colleague Mr. HASTINGS, of Florida, who spoke passionately to restore this funding in the Rules committee, although, he represents an urban district, Mr. Chairman.

I can not stress enough the importance of the housing problems facing rural communities. In the richest country on earth, we still have close to 1 million occupied homes without adequate indoor plumbing; and 30 percent of all rural homes have coliform bacteria contamination in their water supplies. This is a disgrace, especially when it is apparent that this HUD program can help.

Consider these facts, Colleagues:

Over 2.1 million rural households are so severely cost-burdened that they pay more than half of their incomes for their dwellings. In addition, despite housing quality improvements in recent decades, many still continue to live in substandard housing, encompassing an astonishing 8.2 percent, or 1.8 million rural households.

There are approximately 36 million homes in rural America. Nearly half of them are actually located near larger cities within metropolitan areas.

Over 9 million rural households experience major housing problems, including cost burdens, moderate or serious physical problems, and overcrowding, with more than one person occupying a room. Many rural households have more than one of these problems, generally both high costs and substandard quality.

The most significant disgrace, Mr. Chairman, is the fact that more than a quarter of the rural households living in poor housing are required to pay more than 30 percent of their incomes for their substandard units.

Consider also that there are 200 counties in America that have poverty rates of 30 percent or higher. Almost all are rural counties. Only one is a big city county, and only 8 have populations of 60,000 or more.

Six of ten poor people in this country live outside the central cities, that is not to say that there are not great needs in our cities, but there is also a rural need. Those figures in a nutshell show why this program is so important.

There is also a tremendous housing need among certain populations such as migrant and seasonal farmworkers.

Mr. Chairman, we should remember that rural concerns and issues are nationwide. In fact, the largest rural states in terms of population are in this particular order: Pennsylvania, Texas, North Carolina, Ohio, New York and Michigan.

Mr. Chairman, there is no duplication of the ORHED programs; services provided by ORHED have unique qualities. Eventhough USDA Rural Housing Service (RHS) programs have been known to cater to rural residents RHS has suffered substantial funding cuts in recent years, and none of the RHS programs duplicate ORHED.

The HUD (ORHED) program is very useful to local groups because of its flexibility. Many groups of varying levels of experience and capacity have successfully applied to this popular program. This program provides flexible, innovative housing production and capacity building funds and constitutes a very small portion of the HUD budget. The program allows local communities to define their own needs and projects. The very high demand for this program attests to its need.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Chairman, I rise to speak in favor of a little known, but important program in the federal government—the U.S. Chemical Safety and Hazard Inspection Board (CSB). Many Americans are familiar with the work of the National Transportation Safety Board, which investigates airplane accidents. The CSB performs a similar role by investigating chemical accidents.

The CSB suddenly became important to Delaware nine days ago when a major chemical fire ignited at the Motiva Enterprises refinery in Delaware City, Delaware on July 17, 2001. This accident left eight people injured and one man missing. What makes this accident most troubling is that the sulfuric acid storage tank that caught fire had been declared unsafe by company inspectors a month earlier. The inspectors further recommended that it be taken out of service. In fact, the same tank had a previous record of vapor and liquid emission leaks.

I strongly believe that the time has come for a thorough investigation of the operations and practices at the Motiva Enterprises refinery at Delaware City. CSB's specialty in investigating such accidents and making recommendations for safety improvements are sorely needed in Delaware.

Currently, the CSB is conducting a preliminary investigation to determine if a more extensive investigation is warranted. My suspicion is that a full investigation will be required and I will be meeting with the CSB shortly to discuss this issue further.

Mr. Chairman, I want to express my strong support for the additional funding provided in this bill for the CSB. The bill increases funding for the CSB by $500,000 to $8 million. Because the accident at Motiva is just another in a long series of accidents at that plant, I want to make sure CSB has the resources to conduct a thorough investigation and make solid recommendations on how changes can be made at Motiva to keep Delawareans safe in the future. Last year, the CSB completed three investigations. So far this year, it has already initiated investigations of two incidents in Georgia and Indiana. Should the need for additional funding arise, I hope I can count on support from the VA–HUD Appropriations Committee to provide the necessary resources for the CSB.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, we are fortunate in Ohio to have one of the most outstanding federal installations that exists in the United States—NASA Glenn Research Center.

I wish to thank Chairman WALSH and Representative HOBSON for their hard work of the VA, HUD, Appropriations Committee, and for recognizing the importance of the work done at NASA Glenn.

This VA–HUD appropriations legislation goes a far way in restoring many of the dollars that have been cut over the years to NASA Glenn Research Center, and the Subcommittee should be applauded for its recognition of the importance of this Center.

Yet, there is still work to be done. There are advances in biotechnology to improve our health care; Quiet Aircraft Technology to improve our quality of life, and other important energy saving research—all conducted right at NASA Glenn Research Center.

This Center has an annual economic impact of more than $1 billion to the State of Ohio and provides in excess of 12,000 jobs.

And these are high tech jobs. Scientists and engineers in areas such as aerospace engineering, electrical engineering, chemistry, and physics account for more than half of the jobs at the Center . . . 25 percent of these employees have Ph.Ds.

NASA Glenn grants more than $10 million a year to Ohio's universities and pumps more than $243 million into Ohio industry through contracts.

Because NASA Glenn is the only NASA installation north of the Mason Dixon Line, its impact is felt far and wide across our Nation.

The accomplishments of NASA over the years are nothing short of amazing and many times we overlook the impact the NASA Glenn Center has on our everyday lives. NASA Glenn has been a leader among other NASA centers by winning more R&D 100 Awards than all other NASA Centers combined.

Historically, NASA Glenn's value to the Agency has been its strength in aeronautics and space. In response to the Agency's changing priorities NASA Glenn has endeavored to redirect its core competencies toward biotechnology (fluids and sensors), nanotechnology (advanced materials), and information technology (communications). NASA Glenn remains a leader in the areas of propulsion, power and communications.

Several of the testing facilities at NASA Glenn are unequaled, from the largest icing tunnel in the world, to the zero gravity research facility where most space shuttle and International Space Station experiments are tested before being launched.

The Agency encourages its centers to share knowledge and research with area academic institutions and research facilities. Northeast Ohio has an unbelievable wealth of knowledge when it comes to biotechnology. We have world-class health care facilities like the Cleveland Clinic and University hospitals. We also have some of the finest educational institutions like Case Western Reserve University.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that this Congress continues to realize the impact of NASA Glenn, and I urge the President and my colleagues to support NASA and the work at NASA Glenn to continue the fundamental research so vital to our future.

□ 1400

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) having assumed the chair, Mr. SHIMKUS, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2620) making appropriations for the Departments of Veterans Affairs and Housing and Urban Development, and for sundry independent agencies, boards, commissions, corporations, and offices for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF PROCEDURES AND DEADLINE FOR PRINTING OF AMENDMENTS ON H.R. 4, SECURING AMERICA'S FUTURE ENERGY ACT OF 2001

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to notify Members that this morning the Committee on Rules sent out a Dear Colleague letter announcing that it intends to meet next week to grant a rule which may limit the amendment process on H.R. 4, the Securing America's Future Energy Act of 2001. The consolidated bill was introduced this morning and the text is available on the Committee on Rules Web site at www.house.gov/rules.

Any Member wishing to offer an amendment must submit 55 copies of the amendment and one copy of a very brief explanation, very brief explanation, of the amendment to the Committee on Rules in room H–312 of the Capitol no later than 6 p.m. on Monday. Let me say that again, Mr. Speaker, that is no later than 6 p.m. this coming Monday.

Members should draft their amendments to the bill that was introduced this morning. Members should use the Office of Legislative Counsel to ensure that their amendments are properly drafted and should check with the Office of the Parliamentarian to be certain that their amendments comply with the rules of the House.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 770

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 770, the Morris K. Udall Arctic Wilderness Act of 2001.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 1745

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 1745. My name is mistakenly added as a cosponsor.

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

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to inquire from the distinguished majority leader the schedule for the remainder of the week and next week.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BONIOR. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to announce that the House has now completed its legislative business for the week. On behalf of all of us in the House, I would like to thank the Committee on Appropriations for its hard work on the VA-HUD appropriations bill that has been under consideration yesterday and today.

I would like to thank them in particular for the unanimous consent agreement reached earlier today. We will now be able to complete the consideration of that bill on Monday, once again due to their willingness to work on that night for that purpose and in that manner, Mr. Speaker, so it will become no longer necessary for us to worry about our weekend.

Mr. Speaker, the House will next meet for legislative business on Monday, July 30, at 12:30 p.m. for morning hour and 2 o'clock p.m. for legislative business.

The House will consider a number of measures under suspension of the rules, a list of which will be distributed to Members' offices later today.

On Monday, no recorded votes are expected before 6 o'clock p.m. Following suspension votes, the House will complete consideration of H.R. 2620, the VA-HUD Appropriations Act.

On Tuesday and the balance of the week, the House will consider the following measures:

The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act;

H.R. 2505, the Human Cloning Prohibition Act;

The Jordan Free Trade Agreement; and

H.R. 4, the Secure America's Future Energy Act of 2001.

Members should also be prepared to consider HMO reform legislation and trade promotion authority next week as they become available. Obviously, Members should expect another busy and productive week in the House with the possibility of several late nights.

Mr. Speaker, as is the tradition of this House, we must advise Members that we can give no firm guarantee for 2 o'clock getaway on Friday, the day we break for such a long work period. But I must say, Mr. Speaker, given the cooperative nature of this body, I have every confidence if we are willing to work late evenings, we will be able to get away for our district work period at the designated time next week.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for informing us of the schedule for next week.

If I might inquire of him a couple of questions. Is it his anticipation to finish up this bill we have just completed today, or at least finished working on today, on Monday evening?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, yes. In accordance with our unanimous consent request propounded earlier by the bill managers, we believe we can finish it Monday night after we take the suspension votes.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, we expect a late night on Monday, then. Would the gentleman care to venture how late we might be going Monday, and then the other evenings during the week?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, my impression is that there is little work remaining on the bill, so we should not be extraordinarily late on Monday.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, the HMO bill, the Patients' Bill of Rights, do we have a time when that might be coming to the floor next week?

Mr. ARMEY. If the gentleman will continue to yield, Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his interest.

We are continuing to work with several Members on that bill. At this point, I can only say that we would expect it sometime from Wednesday through Friday.

Mr. BONIOR. The energy bill, can the gentleman give us a day when that may, in fact, reach the floor?

Mr. ARMEY. Again, we would expect that probably on Wednesday, but in that time frame, from Wednesday to Friday.

Mr. BONIOR. On the energy bill, can the distinguished majority leader give us an idea what kind of rule we are going to have on that? Are we going to have an open rule? Is it going to be closed? What are the feelings at this point with respect to the ability to bring that bill to the floor?

Mr. ARMEY. I am informed that the Committee on Rules is meeting next week. They have just announced a filing deadline for Monday. I understand that there are a great many Members with some very, what should I say, controversial amendments over which they are concerned; but I can only say that every conversation I have had leads me to believe that the Members should expect the Committee on Rules to be very understanding and generous with the rule.

Mr. BONIOR. And the fast track legislation? The gentleman is suggesting we will definitely see that, we might see that, or is it 50/50 we could see that? Where are we with fast track?

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman for his inquiry. If the gentleman will continue to yield, I am confident we will see it before we retire from work for our recess on Friday. I am just sorry I cannot give a more specific time.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague. I wish him a good weekend.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman.

ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, JULY 30, 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Monday next for morning hour debates.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

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

There was no objection.

PERMISSION FOR COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY TO HAVE UNTIL 5 P.M. ON SATURDAY, JULY 28, 2001 TO FILE REPORT ON H.R. 2505, HUMAN CLONING PROHIBITION ACT OF 2001

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary may have until 5 p.m. on Saturday, July 28, to file a report on H.R. 2505.

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

There was no objection.

URGING SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, Tuesday at 1:39 p.m. the Space Shuttle Atlantis and its crew returned to Earth, successfully delivering and installing a new portal for spacewalkers, the International Space Station. On Monday of next week, we just learned, Mr. Speaker, that the debate over the future of NASA will land in this Chamber.

I rise today to urge my colleagues to remember that despite the fact that some of our forebears came to this continent in chains, all Americans are descended of pioneers who journeyed to or prevailed in this wilderness nation.

More than any other people on the Earth, we are a nation of explorers, and the debate next week will provide an important opportunity to restate this by providing resources for the International Space Station, for return vehicles and urgent repairs for the vehicle assembly building at Kennedy Space Station.

Let us not abandon this character of exploration that is one of the most compelling aspects of the American character.

DEBATING AMERICA'S ENERGY POLICY

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, next week we will take up the energy policy bill, which really is going to be one of the most important bills, both from an energy and from an environmental perspective, in the next 10 years. It is our hope that during the next few days, the majority leadership will fashion a rule which will, in fact, allow environmental considerations in this bill.

We definitely need to improve this bill. We need to improve it by increasing the energy efficiency of our automobiles. This bill does not do it. We need to have additional tax incentives for renewable energy and clean conservation technologies. This bill does not do it. We need pipeline safety to make sure pipelines do not explode. This bill does not do it. We need better efficiency standards. Lastly, we ought to make sure we do not drill in the Arctic Refuge.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the Speaker will personally use his energy in the majority caucus to make sure we have a fair and honest debate on these very important environmental measures. Next week the House needs to speak on these. Let us give people in America trust in the environment as well as energy next week.

URGING THE HOUSE TO CONTINUE FULL SUPPORT FOR THE INTERNATIONAL SPACE STATION

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to associate my words with those of the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE) who made the comments about the NASA budget, and to urge our colleagues to continue to support the tremendous work that has been done by the Committee on Appropriations to make sure that we have adequate funding to keep the International Space Station on the path that we have set it on, to make sure that we have a full crew of seven researchers and astronauts there, and that we accomplish the goals that we set for that, with a safe crew return vehicle and continued operation of the space shuttle in a safe and effective manner.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

(Mr. SKELTON 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DEFAZIO 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 Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois 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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. JONES of Ohio addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO MR. JOHN ROUSE, EDITOR OF THE BOWIE BLADE NEWS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. John Rouse. He is celebrating his 30th anniversary as the editor of the Bowie Blade News, a hometown newspaper located in Bowie, Maryland, in the heart of my district.

The first amendment states, and I quote, ''Congress shall make no law abridging the freedom of speech or of the press.'' This first tenet of freedom in the Bill of Rights is vigorously exercised by the thousands of hometown newspapers that act as watchdogs for the American public against intrusion on its rights and property by the government and by others.

Newspapers across the country oversee elected officials' conduct and performance, reporting the facts and offering praise or criticism on their editorial pages. It is the prism by which many Americans gain their insight on just what is happening in the world, in America, and even right next door.

□ 1415

We lament the fact that sometimes they are wrong, as human beings are wont to do, but most times they are right. In any event, they are absolutely essential to the continuation, to the growth and the vitality of democracy.

John Rouse, Mr. Speaker, has made an extraordinary contribution to his community by fulfilling this watchdog role in Bowie, Maryland, for 30 years.

After serving in Vietnam as an Air Force officer, John joined the Bowie News as editor and became the editor and general manager of the new Bowie Blade News in 1978 when the two papers merged.

John reports issues fully and fairly and often shows his keen sense of humor. He is an adept writer, a skilled editor, and very much in tune to the needs, the hopes, and the vision of the people of Bowie. John's skills earned the Bowie Blade the 1999 Best in Show award by the Maryland, Delaware and D.C. Press Association, and his walls are covered by numerous other awards he and the paper have won over the years. The paper itself has received dozens of accolades under his stewardship.

Bowie, Mr. Speaker, is a vibrant community that has grown rapidly and changed greatly over the past 30 years. The city is in many ways a microcosm of the changes that have buffeted this country over the past few decades, from increased suburbanization to greater diversity. It certainly is no easy task to keep one's hand on the pulse of such a community, but that is exactly what John Rouse has been able to do for 30-plus years. He has kept himself constantly connected with the issues that are important to the city of Bowie and to its people.

John has snapped and growled at me more than once. I know that my colleagues can empathize with that in dealing with some of their local editors. But he has been an editor that I have been always in respect of. I always appreciate that his goal is to advocate for the best interest of his city, of his county, his State, and his country. He and I have grown to be friends and to hold each other in mutual respect and esteem.

Our democracy, Mr. Speaker, cannot continue to thrive without the likes of John Rouse, without whom the electorate would have a much harder time discerning fact from fiction when it comes to their local politicians, their community leaders, and the policies that are proposed.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I would like to say thank you, thank you to John Rouse, an editor of a small paper. Unlike Katherine Graham, not known worldwide, but equally important in the strength of our democracy, equally important to the informed citizenry of his community. I want to wish him the best of luck as he continues as the editor of this great little paper.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent Resolution to waive the provisions of the Legislative Reorganization Act of 1970 which require the adjournment of the House and Senate by July 31.

27TH ANNIVERSARY OF TURKISH OCCUPATION OF NORTHERN CYPRUS

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate an anniversary of human suffering, loss of life, and the usurpation of the basic rights of people and nations to live within secure borders. The anniversary I am referring to is that of the Turkish invasion and occupation of northern Cyprus 27 years ago. Some 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks invaded the resource-rich north coast of Cyprus. In less than a month's time, more than one-third of the island was under Turkish control, displacing 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes.

Today, 35,000 Turkish soldiers, armed with the latest weapons and supported by land and sea, are stationed in the occupied area, making it, according to the United Nations Secretary General, one of the most militarized regions in the world. At an estimated cost of $300 million annually, Turkey continues to defy the international community and the U.N. resolutions with its policies towards Cyprus.

To date, more than 1,600 Greek Cypriots and four Americans remain unaccounted for, serving as a silent reminder of the unlawful invasion.

Eighty-five thousand Turks have been brought over from Turkey to colonize the occupied area with the aim of changing the demography of the island and controlling the political situation. The Greek Cypriot community that remains enclaved within the occupied villages continues to live under conditions of oppression, harassment, and deprivation.

Throughout the occupation, the U.N. has been trying to encourage a solution to the Cyprus problem. U.N. Secretary Kofi Annan has sponsored proximity talks between the President of Cyprus, Glafcos Clerides, and Rauf Denktash, the self-proclaimed leader of the occupied area. Unfortunately, those talks have been suspended due to Rauf Denktash's abrupt departure from the negotiating table.

Turkey's military and financial backing provides a leverage for the Turkish Cypriot leadership in its unwillingness to make any compromises. In 2000, Turkey provided $195.5 million to the self-proclaimed Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus to relieve budget deficits and a 3-year aid package to boost the economy.

A sixth round of U.N.-mediated proximity talks did not convene in January, 2001, because Denktash refused to participate. The U.N. has said that Denktash has requested new talks not be scheduled. On May 29, 2001, the Turkish National Security Council, which expresses the views of the powerful Turkish military, declared an agreement depends on ''the acknowledgment of the sovereign equality of two states on the island.''

Mr. Speaker, the United States has a national interest in fostering peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean region. We as a Nation cannot continue to pretend our NATO partner is not in clear violation of international law for its continued illegal occupation of its neighbor.

Last year, the Turkish government announced it had awarded a $4 billion contract for attack helicopters to an American company, Bell-Textron. However, before the sale can take place, the Department of State must issue an export license, and its decision must take into account both foreign policy and human rights considerations.

Sending attack helicopters to Turkey runs directly counter to American interests and values in the region and does not in any way foster peace and stability in the eastern Mediterranean.

Turkey has had a long record of using U.S.-supplied military equipment in direct violation of U.S. law. In 1974, Turkey employed U.S.-supplied aircraft and tanks in its invasion of northern Cyprus. Turkish forces continue to occupy today with the use of U.S.-supplied military equipment.

For the past 16 years, Turkey has been illegally using American weaponry, especially attack helicopters, in a campaign against its Kurdish population and has threatened to use them against Greece and Cyprus as well.

Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and even our own State Department have reported that Turkey has illegally used American attack helicopters in these attacks on the Kurds.

In a judgment delivered at Strasbourg on May 10, 2001, in the case of Cyprus versus Turkey, the European Court of Human Rights of the Council of Europe found Turkey to be in violation of 14 articles of the European Convention on Human Rights.

The 16–1 decision relating to the situation that exists in the occupied northern part of Cyprus since the 1974 Turkish invasion, found Turkey to be in violation of (Article 2) right to life; (Article 3) prohibition of inhuman or degrading treatment; (Article 5) right to liberty and security; (Article 6) right to a fair trial; (Article 8) right to respect for private and family life, home and correspondence; (Article 9) freedom of thought; (Article 10) freedom of expression; (Article 13) right to an effective remedy; (Article 1 of Protocol No. 1) protection of property; and (Article 2 of Protocol No. 1) right to education.

We in the United States pride ourselves for our respect for fundamental freedoms. Human rights norms are the cornerstone of U.S. foreign policy. It is time, Mr. Speaker, for the U.S. to use its considerable influence with Turkey to press Ankara to end its 27-year occupation of Cyprus.

Why are we so accommodating toward a country whose military regularly intervenes in domestic politics; a country that refuses to come to terms with its history of genocide against the Armenians; a country that is in violation of international law in the Aegean Sea; a country that imprisons an

American citizen for allegedly conducting illegal prayer in a private home and insulting the secular regime; a country that has imprisoned four democratically elected Kurdish parliamentarians and a host of Turkish human rights activists and journalists; and a country that refuses to fully respect the rights and religious practices of its Christian communities?

It is time to speak out against these violations. It is time for the United States to take the lead.

EXONERATION OF CAPTAIN CHARLES B. MCVAY III

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to call to the attention of the House of Representatives a decision by the Department of the Navy that exonerates the late Charles Butler McVay III, captain of the heavy cruiser, the USS *Indianapolis* who was court-martialed and convicted 56 years ago after his ship sank in the closing days of World War II.

The survivors of that tragedy, Mr. Speaker, have relentlessly sought to have Captain McVay vindicated; and those who remain are relieved by the Navy's long-delayed yet justifiable decision.

On May 14, 1999, I ushered an 11-year-old student from Florida to drop H.J. Res. 48 into the system for consideration by the House. Hunter Scott went to a movie in Pensacola, Florida, and saw Jaws, in which there was a brief soliloquy about the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*. Hunter's interest in the ship's disaster was the beginning of a school history project, trips to Washington, D.C., media attention, and an upcoming movie.

Language to exonerate Captain McVay was inserted in the Defense Authorization Act of 2001. The legislation expresses the sense of Congress that Captain McVay should be exonerated because some facts important to the case were never considered by the 1945 court-martial board. Classified data were not even made available to the board.

Survivors of the greatest sea disaster in our Navy's history at that time sought to have their captain's name cleared for periods that spanned several years, oftentimes efforts that drew controversy. The magnitude of the crusade was elevated by this young man's trip to the movies, his campaign to derive justice for the captain and the crew. Indeed, one person can make a difference.

Captain McVay's record has been modified to reflect his exoneration, a profound tribute to the crew, myself and young Hunter Scott especially.

Of the 317 survivors of the USS *Indianapolis* disaster, only 120 remain alive today. One of our strongest supporters has been Michael Monroney. Mike, the son of the late Senator A.S. Mike Monroney of Oklahoma and the retired vice president of TWR, Inc., is no stranger to Indiana. Mike served as administrative assistant to former Congressman John Brademas of Indiana in his first term.

Mike has an original poem, Mr. Speaker, which tells the story of the sinking of the USS *Indianapolis*, the fight for the survival of his crew, and the steadfast loyalty to their Captain. I submit herewith for the RECORD his poem:

A TRIBUTE TO THE MEN OF THE USS INDIANAPOLIS

(By Michael Monroney)

A still across the peaceful night
As the great ship split the sea
No omen nor warning
Of the disaster yet to be

The ship soon steered a straightened course
When the midnight bells did sound
Still no omen nor warning
Of the blast to drive her down

But then it struck in black of night
The death that came their way
With no omen nor warning
With no time for them to pray

The ripping crash of metal torn
The sound of dreadful screams
Though no omen nor a warning
It was, for some, the end of dreams

The torpedo hits had doomed their ship
She slipped into the deep
Too many of her youthful crew
Rode down to eternal sleep

Spread far across the heaving waves
In shock and left alone
The men of the *Indianapolis*
Had lost their mighty home

The dawn was slow in coming
But, when the sun rose in the sky
You could hear the sounds of moaning
From those who were yet to die

The tropic sea was cold at night
A merciless sun by day
Oh, yes, Lord be my shepherd
For the time had come to pray

They fought the thirst and hunger
And the monster from below
They shared their fears together
And watched their comrades go

As dead men slipped beneath the waves
Those left were heard to say
Oh, Lord, Please be my shepherd
Time had surely come to pray

The days went by, their ranks grew thin
And hopes began to fade
Would salvation ever reach them
As apparitions on them played

Ashore their ship was never missed
Their fate was in God's hands
But upon the empty ocean
Rose visions of fair lands

They had no food nor water
And more their rank grew thin
Until an angel flew above
A man named Wilbur Gwinn

An oil-slicked sea and blackened forms
Is what the pilot saw
What ship has sunk? He asked himself
As he looked down in awe

He dipped his wings, their spirits soared
Help must be on the way
And all their prayers seemed answered
On that sunny August day

Soon a second angel came in sight
His name was Adrian Marks
He set the plane down on the sea
To save them from the sharks

Their prayers were finally answered
Those living had been saved
Oh, yes, the Lord's their shepherd
For their ordeal have been waived

But no so for their captain
His anguish lay ahead
They blamed him for this tragic loss
Unjust charges to him read

His youthful crew was mystified
What could he have done wrong?
A man of such great honor
And they stood behind him strong

The trial took place, the statement heard
But facts were not exposed
The jury's verdict had been made
Yet truth was ne'er disclosed

The captain's name was ruined
And, though many questioned why,
So great the weight upon him
By his own hand did he die

Yet he's never been forgotten
By his crew he's still revered
And they'll remain united
Until his name's cleared

They seek the wrongful verdict
Struck from their captain's name
And all left from that fateful night
Stay angered by his shame

Their numbers dwindle through the years
Yet their fervor is still high
For their captain they'll seek justice
Until the last of them shall die

As legend grows around these men
Their story transcends time
Such loyalty to their captain
Should also live in rhyme

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

(Mr. INSLEE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TO HONOR ADAM WALSH

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to invite my colleagues to join me as a member of the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus, and I choose to make yet another plea to my colleagues for them to join this caucus, because today marks the 20th anniversary of the abduction of Adam Walsh.

Many of my colleagues are familiar with John Walsh, the host of America's Most Wanted. John and his wife, Reve, lived through the personal tragedy of having their 6-year-old son, Adam, abducted and murdered at the hands of a stranger in 1981. After suffering through this tremendously emotional ordeal, John became a dedicated advocate to end violence against children, to fight crime, and to expand victims' rights in our criminal justice system.

John has shown, through his efforts and over 19 years of hard work, that one committed individual can make a difference to benefit all. Working with his wife, John became the Nation's leading advocate in the cause of protecting our children from violence and

exploitation. He helped expand the powers of law enforcement authorities through the Missing Children Act of 1982, as well as working toward the creation of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

Four years ago I came to Congress with what I thought was a very full agenda. However, in April of 1997, a 13-year-old constituent of mine was abducted and murdered, and my mission in Congress changed. I, along with the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. CRAMER) and former Congressman Bob Franks from New Jersey founded the Congressional Missing and Exploited Children's Caucus.

□ 1430

The purpose of this caucus is threefold. One, to build awareness around the issue of missing and exploited children for the purpose of finding children who are currently missing and to prevent future abductions.

Two, to create a voice within Congress on the issue of missing and exploited children and to introduce legislation that would strengthen law enforcement, community organizing and school-based efforts to address child abduction.

Three, to identify ways to work effectively in our districts to address child abduction. By developing cooperative efforts that involve police departments, educators and community groups, we can heighten awareness of the issue and pool resources for the purpose of solving outstanding cases and preventing future abductions, hold briefings with the National Center For Missing and Exploited Children and other child advocacy organizations.

Those are worthy goals. As a society, our efforts to prevent crimes against children have not kept pace with the increasing vulnerability of our young citizens. So I ask my colleagues to please contact my office if you are interested in joining this very important caucus. I ask the citizens of the United States of America to be aware of this dire problem that we face with our children in every community throughout our country. Our children, our grandchildren, our nieces, our nephews are counting on you to give them a voice in Washington, D.C.

STATEMENT AGAINST FEDERAL FUNDING OF EMBRYONIC STEM CELL RESEARCH

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to talk about a very serious issue that is currently under review by the Bush administration. Included in his decision process is a question, should the Federal Government fund human embryonic stem cell research.

This is clearly a very emotional issue with strong views on both sides. Viewpoints from groups as disparate as patient advocates and religious groups have weighed in. This is virtually a tug of war with neither side willing to concede.

As a strong supporter of biomedical research at the National Institutes of Health, I unquestionably recognized the call for the onward march towards understanding treatments and cures for many debilitating conditions that have been plaguing mankind for as long as we can remember. However, I also can see the morally troubling question behind embryonic stem cell research. Is it justifiable to purposefully end one life even if it results in the salvation of millions of others?

While religious viewpoints can certainly play a role in this debate, let us put that aside for the moment and approach this subject from a purely historical scientific perspective. Throughout history, scientific research has produced substantial social benefits. It has also posed some disturbing ethical questions. Indeed, public attention was first drawn to questions about reported abuses of human subjects in horrifying biomedical experiments during World War II.

During the Nuremberg War Crime Trials, the Nuremberg Code was drafted as a set of standards for judging physicians and scientists who had conducted biomedical experiments on concentration camp prisoners.

This code became the prototype of many later codes with the intention of assuring that research involving human subjects would be carried out in an ethical manner. It became a foundation of much international and United States law surrounding clinical research. Since 1975, embryos in the woman at this stage, at this same stage of development, about a week old, have been seen by the Federal Government as ''human subjects'' to be protected from harmful research.

Therefore, Mr. Speaker, my colleagues and the American people should realize since an embryo is a human subject, embryonic stem cell research without a doubt violates many of the tenets of the Nuremberg Code and U.S. law.

First, it says, ''The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential.'' Of course, the embryo from whom a well-meaning scientist would extract cells would have no capacity to give its consent and exercise its free choice. Further, the code states that any experiments should yield results that are ''unprocurable by other methods or means of study.'' Because stem cells can be obtained from other tissues and fluids of adult subjects without harm, it is unnecessary to perform cell extraction from embryos that will result in their death.

Even the Clinton National Bioethics Advisory Commission said that embryo destructive research should go forward only ''if no less morally problematic alternatives are available for the research.'' They did not say to go forward with embryonic and adult stem cell research so we can see what works better. They did not say the alternatives had to work better than embryo destructive research. The only criteria that they gave is if there was a less morally problematic alternative to embryo destroying research, then using embryos would not be justifiable.

This is from the National Bioethics Advisory Commission, September 1999, this quote, ''In our judgment, the derivation of stem cells from embryos remaining following infertility treatments is justifiable only if no less morally problematic alternatives are available for advancing the research . . . The claim that there are alternatives to using stem cells derived from embryos is not, at the present time, supported scientifically.'' There is an ethical alternative, and Federal money should not be spent on destroying human embryos.

Finally the code insists that ''no experiment should be conducted where there is an a priori reason to believe that death or disabling injury will occur . . . even remote possibilities of injury, disability, or death.'' Without a doubt the embryo, of course, dies.

These are but a few doctrines of the Nuremberg Code which I ask you to consider while the Nation and the President grapples with this very serious decision.

Embryonic stem cell research treats an embryo as a clump of tissue with less protection than a laboratory rat. There are promising alternative sources of stem cells with which to perform promising medical research. We must not allow Federal dollars to fund this destructive and needless practice.

SUPPORT FOR THE DECISION TO REJECT UNITED-US AIRWAYS MERGER

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, an hour or so ago the U.S. Department of Justice announced that they will file suit to block the proposed merger of United Airlines and U.S. Airways. That announcement is the best news in U.S. aviation since deregulation.

The decision by the Justice Department to oppose the merger of United and U.S. Airways will keep airline competition alive. It will spare the flying public the increased costs, reduced competition, and deteriorating service that would have resulted from this merger, which in turn would have precipitated the consolidation of all of the remainder of domestic air service into three globe straddling mega carriers.

The Department of Justice and the Department of Transportation must now continue their vigilance to maintain strong and healthy competition in aviation and prohibiting barriers to competition that result from mergers, from biased reservation systems, and

from predatory pricing practices. I congratulate the Justice Department for completing a thorough painstaking analysis of this proposed merger, reviewing its effects on hub-to-hub nonstop service in currently competitive markets, on the down-stream effect on remaining mergers, as well as the consequences for international competition.

ISOLATIONISM OF UNITED STATES

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to speak about something that really bothers me. This country has a constant debate within its political body about what role we in the United States will play with respect to the rest of the world.

The battle between being an internationalist and being an isolationist is something that has gone on in this country, back and forth. Our decisions in the 1920s in this body to pass the Smoot-Hawley Tariff Act was a way of erecting barriers around the United States and ultimately led to the depression in 1929.

Those of us who consider themselves to be both free and fair traders have had great hope in our decision nationally to deal in trade with the whole world as a way of preventing countries from getting into wars. If one is trading with somebody it is much less likely that one is going to involve oneself in some kind of destructive war that will destroy one's own resources as well as those of the country with which one is dealing.

Beginning with the installation of the President by the Supreme Court of the United States, a new isolationism has begun to set in in this country and most people are not paying much attention to it or they are not putting it together and seeing the whole picture.

This isolationism is not one of economics but one of which the United States is isolating itself from the rest of the world in terms of public opinion about the problems which face the entire globe. And our country willy-nilly goes along deciding we are going to do it our own way. Never mind anybody else. We will do it our own way.

Now, in 1972 they created a convention to prevent the spread of biological warfare, 1972. It has been there for 30 years. But this administration went to the U.N. and said we refuse to be involved in finding any way to enforce that convention.

It is the same government that says that we are going to bomb the living daylights out of and sanction Iraq because they are creating biological weapons. If you refuse yourself to be allowed to be inspected on that issue, how can you stand and take a public position in that world and say, but they cannot do it and we are going to isolate them until we stop them. It is simply the United States saying we are bigger than they are, we can do whatever we want.

Recently within the last week or so, the Japanese and the European Union decided they were going to try and save the globe from global warming. They came to an agreement, a sort of Kyoto II if you will, because the United States walked away and said we will not be a part of this. We are not going to do anything. We will not worry about global warming. We will continue to do what we have always done.

We are 5 percent of the world's population using 25 percent of the energy in the world and producing the largest portion of the global-damaging chemicals in our air. But the rest of the world has said, well, okay, if the United States wants to sit over there on the sidelines we will try to save it without them. We isolated ourselves.

The President does not believe in the anti-ballistic missile treaty. He said we have to begin putting up a missile shield because we are really afraid of Korea and we are afraid of Iraq and we are afraid of these rogue countries. We are going to spend 50, $70 billion trying to prevent one missile if it ever should come from one of these countries and, in the process, tear up the treaty that said we are not going to have more missiles.

I do not think the problem is going to come from Korea or some other rogue country, North Korea. The problems are the old Soviet Union and Russia and the Chinese and some of these countries. It is much better to have an anti-ballistic missile treaty in place that is gradually bringing the number of missiles down.

To say we are going to prepare for the fact that there is going to be an escalation is simply to set it in motion. The minute we put up a shield everybody is going to say we have to arm because the Americans have a shield up and they can zing us any time they want. We will set off back into the Cold War. It is like George Bush won, when the Cold War ended, and they did not know what to do so now they will create Cold War II. That is what is going on here.

The CTBT Treaty, the Confidential Test Ban Treaty, the United States will not sign that. Why should anyone else? People get all excited when the Indians do it or the Pakistanis do it. Why? The United States of America will not say we will stop. Where do we have the moral authority to tell anybody else? We have isolated ourselves into a position of moral authority, but we cloak it in a kind of funny way with we will tell all the rest of the world what to do but do not tell us anything. That is not going to work.

□ 1445

HUMAN CLONING

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to try in the next hour to cover a host of issues that are being hotly debated today in this country. I mainly want to focus on the issue of human cloning.

Next week, the House of Representatives will take up a piece of legislation I authored with my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), the Human Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001, H.R. 2505. This bill cleared the Committee on the Judiciary and is now scheduled to be taken up by the House on Tuesday.

I wanted to talk this afternoon about that bill, about a competing piece of legislation that has been introduced by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), H.R. 2172, focus on some of the differences between these two bills in terms of the way they deal with this issue of human cloning. And then I would also like to just go over some of the basics of sexual reproduction versus cloning reproduction and as well some of the issues associated with the stem cell debate, because the issue of human cloning and the issue of stem cells do overlap somewhat.

This chart I have next to me here on my left highlights some of the differences between these two bills. I would just like to go over that briefly.

The legislation introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH) is H.R. 2172. I think theirs is also entitled the Human Cloning Prohibition Act. It allows the creation of human embryos through cloning technology to be used specifically for research and then for destruction. It allows research cloning, but I want to highlight there are no therapies that exist today in humans, nor is there an animal model. I say this because this form of cloning is referred to as therapeutic cloning. While it may be true that someday it may be possible to do this type of cloning they are talking about and use it for a therapeutic intervention in a patient, there are no known therapies today available for human cloning.

What their bill essentially is is a moratorium on implantation. I will get into that in a little bit more detail. Implantation is when the embryo actually seats itself in the womb and begins the process of further differentiating into a fetus. I say that their bill is a moratorium because they have a 10-year sunset on their bill. Their bill goes away, would have to be reauthorized in 10 years, and so I think it could legitimately be called a moratorium and not a real ban on so-called reproductive cloning.

I just want to highlight that all creation of cloned embryos is reproductive cloning. To say that their bill is a reproductive cloning ban I believe it is

not really scientifically accurate. Really what it is is an implantation ban. The outcome of their bill is that it would create a 10-year prison sentence if it were enacted into law and up to a $1 million penalty if there was an attempt to implant a cloned human embryo. It would sanction the creation of embryos in the United States. It would make it legal.

There is a lab up in Worcester, Massachusetts, that I understand has harvested eggs from female donors specifically for this purpose. The Greenwood alternative would essentially give them the green light to go ahead.

What is, I think, potentially tragic about this bill is it would be the first time ever a Federal law would mandate the destruction of human embryos. Under the provisions of their bill, at least the way I read it, the embryos that they would create would have to be destroyed in the scientific research process because it makes it a crime to actually implant any of those embryos. And it would encourage the creation of cloned embryos which I think would increase the likelihood of reproductive cloning, the thing they are trying to ban.

The reason for that is really quite simple. If you are allowing laboratories all over America that are doing research in this arena to produce large quantities of cloned human embryos, then it would only be a matter of time before one of those embryos would be implanted in a woman. That would occur within the privacy of the doctor-patient relationship. Indeed, if one of those implanted embryos took and the woman became pregnant, that pregnancy essentially would be protected by the privacy provisions of Roe v. Wade. I think it is a piece of legislation that increases the likelihood of occurring exactly what it claims to be trying to ban.

I want to contrast that with the legislation that the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK) and I have introduced, H.R. 2505. It bans human cloning for any purpose, both the creation of cloned embryos and implantation of those to initiate a pregnancy. I think this is the most effective way to prevent so-called reproductive cloning, trying to actually bring a cloned baby to birth. It does not affect embryo research or other cloning techniques.

I want to highlight that, but before I do that, I want to just get back to this issue here. Why is it so important and why is the Congress taking this issue up?

For one reason, I already said this, there is a lab that wants to start producing cloned embryos immediately and using those embryos to harvest stem cells for research. But, as well, the attempt to produce Dolly the sheep, which most people have heard of, the first mammal that was cloned, it took 276 tries to create Dolly the sheep. Many of those attempts ended in no pregnancy essentially, a miscarriage, but there were many, many sheep that were born with very, very severe birth defects.

Additionally, of all the species that have been cloned so far, and this includes cows, goats, mice, all of the animals, the babies that are born are very, very large. They have very, very large placentas. They are 15, 20, 30, 50 percent above normal birth weight. They have very, very enlarged umbilical cords. This is not well understood, but clearly if anybody attempts to do this with a human, it would be extremely hazardous to the woman who would be trying to give birth to a cloned human being. As I said, many were born with very severe birth defects when they tried to produce Dolly, particularly heart and lung defects.

So there are many issues here. The health of the mother could be threatened in trying to produce a cloned human baby. Additionally, the baby that was produced, if it had serious birth defects, who would be responsible for the health care of that baby? Who would be responsible for paying all those medical bills?

So it is universally agreed, we need to prohibit this. The best way to prohibit it, I believe, is to pass H.R. 2505.

Let me also add, and there has been, I think, some misinformation or disinformation that has been distributed on this issue. Our bill does not ban much of the research in this area. Specifically, I want to read directly from the bill.

Section 302(d) of the legislation states that ''nothing in this section restricts areas of scientific research not specifically prohibited by this section, including research in the use of nuclear transfer or other cloning techniques to produce molecules, DNA, cells other than human embryos, tissues, organs, plants, or animals other than humans.''

So much of the research that will be done can continue to be done. You just cannot produce human embryos. I make this point and I am stressing this point for a reason. There are people opposed to our bill who are falsely saying that our legislation would essentially shut down this whole area of cloning research. That is just not correct. If you actually read the legislation, it can proceed.

So what would be the outcome if our bill becomes law?

Number one, similar to their bill, it creates a 10-year prison sentence and monetary penalties.

Obviously, as I stated, it prevents the creation of cloned human embryos as well as any attempt to try to induce pregnancy.

I want to also point out that it conforms with the currently existing law with many of our European allies.

There are some people falsely claiming that there are many countries where this is legal right now and it will, quote, all go overseas. In point of fact, that is not the case. Indeed, I spoke to a group from the European Parliament just this week. One of the members sent me a letter following our meeting, Dr. Peter Liese, who is a physician like myself, an internist like myself. He wrote to me pointing out that in a lot of European countries, and I am quoting him, like Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Portugal, Ireland, Norway and Poland, any kind of research which destroys embryos is prohibited by law.

In point of fact, the approach to this issue that is being suggested by the legislation introduced by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DEUTSCH), the only country in the world where that is currently allowed is the United Kingdom, in England. And, indeed, it is a fact that they have come under a lot of criticism within the community of Europe because of their extremely liberal policy. And even in their country, they have a prohibition on doing any experimentation on embryos once the embryo has developed the early signs of a nervous system. So they at least have some restrictions on what can be done, whereas the Greenwood-Deutsch approach would set the United States apart from the rest of the world as having the most liberal approach to the creation of human embryos through the process of cloning and then essentially mandating that these cloned human embryos be destroyed.

I just want to cover a couple of important points in terms of the terminology associated with all this and some important facts as well. Embryo stem cells, which I will get into in more detail later, which can be used for research as everybody knows, there are no clinical applications of embryo stem cells today. We have heard a lot of rhetoric about the tremendous potential, quote-unquote, but there are no clinical applications using embryo stem cells today.

□ 1500

They were discovered in 1998, and the issue and debate in Washington is on whether or not we should have Federal funding. No attempt has been made, nor to my knowledge is it being considered, to make this illegal in the United States, embryo stem cell research. The debate we are having in this city is whether or not the Federal Government should pay for it. It is very similar to the debate as to whether or not the Federal Government should pay for abortions.

It has been a consensus here in this city amongst Democrats and Republicans that being that abortion is a very controversial issue, that the Federal Government will not fund abortions. This is a very, very similar debate.

It has been felt by many people that doing destructive research on human embryos is unethical and immoral. Therefore, perhaps maybe it should be made illegal that the Federal Government should not fund it, and that is the debate today, should the Federal Government start funding this research.

I want to point out that adult stem cells, which are being held out as a potential alternative to embryo stem cells for research purposes, have been successfully used in more than 45 clinical trials. I have been following the literature on this recently. The applications have been really, really, many. They have been used successfully to ameliorate the symptoms of multiple sclerosis, obviously to treat a whole bunch of bone marrow disorders, leukemias, anemias, used successfully to treat cartilage defects in kids, combined immuno-deficiency syndrome in kids, and this is going on today, using adult stem cells. Actually, it has been going on since the 1980s, and it receives all types of Federal funding. There are absolutely no restrictions today on adult stem cell research, nor is it considered unethical.

Now, just quickly, there are many types of cloning. You can clone cells, and this has been done with skin cells to do skin grafts, to create tissues, monoclonal antibodies, recombinate proteins. It has been going on since the 1940s. Our legislation will not affect this. This will be able to continue. Various types of non-cellular cloning, such as cloning DNA, proteins, RNA, which is ribonucleic acid. This has been used in genetic therapy. The production of recombinate insulins, DNA fingerprinting, diagnostic tests for forensics, fingerprint testing, parental tests, all have been going on since the 1980s. It is not affected by our legislation. People are falsely claiming that it will prohibit all forms of cloning. This is not true.

What it does is it makes illegal this procedure right here, and I am going to get into this in more detail, somatic cell nuclear transfer. This procedure has been around for many, many years, but in 1997 it was done to produce Dolly the Sheep. The question today is are we going to start cloning human embryos in the United States and in the near future.

Now, this poster I am showing here gets into the basics of how cloning is done. On the top here we show normal reproduction, where an egg unites with a sperm. Human beings, our cells have 46 chromosomes. It is actually 23 pairs of chromosomes in your body's cells, the cells of your skin, the cells of your liver.

The body goes through the process in the ovary and in the testes to produce 23 chromosomes in each one of these, so rather than having 23 pairs, you have the individual chromosomes. Then in the process of fertilization, the 23 here unite with the 23 here to produce a new human being. This is how each of us gets started, and the diagram shows the single cell fertilized egg, a 3 day old embryo shown here, and then a 5 to 7 day embryo.

Now, in the process of somatic cell nuclear transfer, what is done is you take an egg, and this is what they did with Dolly the Sheep. They extracted the nucleus with all of the chromosomes out of the egg. There is an alternate technique where you neutralize the nucleus. So you create an egg with no genetic material in it.

Then they went in the case of Dolly, they got this from a duct cell, and this just represents any cell in the body, and you extract the nucleus out of that cell. Then you take the nucleus and you put it in to the egg, and the egg begins to divide and forms an embryo, shown here.

Now, I want to highlight a couple of important points. When you go through this process, you create a unique individual, because you are reshuffling the chromosomes, and that is how each of us ends up with our own personal uniqueness.

In this situation here, you are creating a genetic duplicate of the individual that you have gotten this nucleus out of.

The other important point is biologically, ethically, morally, there is nothing different between this form and this form, other than this form is a genetic duplicate of the person you got the nucleus from. Indeed, if I were to do this procedure and extract the nucleus from any person, the baby that would be created here would be an identical twin of the person that you extract the nucleus from.

Now, this is the world's most famous clone, Dolly the Sheep. And just to reiterate how it was done, you had a female sheep, they extracted an egg from that sheep. They removed the genes, the nucleus out of that sheep, and created an egg that had no nuclear material in it.

In the case of Dolly, they got her nucleus from another sheep's udder and they put it in that egg. They cultured the embryo for a while, and once they were assured it was growing properly, they inserted it into the womb of a surrogate mother, essentially a third sheep, and, bingo, you get a clone.

Now, this diagram just shows the normal process in the human where an egg is produced from the ovary. High up in the fallopian tube is where the fertilization occurs. You get cell division, first into a two cell stage of embryo development, then a four cell stage, and then it goes to an eight cell stage called an uncompacted morula, and then that body of cells shrinks down to a compacted eight cell morula, and then you get further differentiation into an embryo. This is what we call implantation, when it actually adheres to the lining of the womb begins to actually differentiate into a fetus.

This diagram just shows the continuation of that process. This is a four week old embryo, a six week old embryo. It is in this stage here where they want to extract embryonic stem cells to do a lot of the stem cell research. Once the baby is born, if you extract cells from the baby or the umbilical cord blood, or from an adult person, and use stem cells from either of these sources, that is called adult stem cells. There is no destruction of the person when you extract stem cells there. But when you extract stem cells here, you essentially destroy the embryo. That is why it is called destructive embryonic stem cell research.

Now, the reason myself and many others are very optimistic that adult stem cell research, which is much less ethically and morally controversial than destructive embryonic stem cell research, is because we have been able to get bone marrow cells to differentiate into bone marrow adult stem cells.

These are adult stem cells extracted from the bone marrow to form more marrow, bone, cartilage, tendon, muscle, fat, liver, brain or nerve cells, other blood cells, heart tissue, essentially all tissues from bone marrow.

They have been able to extract adult stem cells from peripheral blood in your circulation and been able to get those differentiate into bone marrow, blood cells, nerves.

They have extracted stem cells from skeletal muscle and got them to differentiate into more skeletal muscle, smooth muscle, bone, cartilage, fat, heart tissue.

They have extracted adult stem cells from the gastro-intestinal tract and successfully been able to get them to differentiate into esophagus, stomach, small intestine and large intestine or colon cells.

Placental stem cells, adult stem cells in the placenta, have successfully been differentiated into bone, cartilage, muscle, nerve, bone marrow, tendon and blood vessel.

They have actually extracted stem cells from brain tissue and been able to get them to differentiate into all of these types of cells.

I say this just to simply make a point. There are lots of people claiming that destructive embryo stem cells research is so critically important, we have to do it. Adult stem cells research is very, very promising. Indeed, I believe it is much more promising, because embryonic stem cells, if they were implanted somebody to treat them, would be rejected by the immune system of a patient who received those cells, whereas if you extract adult stem cells from the patient themselves, from their marrow or from their peripheral blood, then there are no tissue rejection issues. So not only are you overcoming the ethical and moral concerns, but you are as well overcoming an important scientific concern.

Now, advocates for embryonic stem cells argue that the embryonic stem cells multiply much more and you can get them to grow much, much more in tissue culture. That indeed is true. The adult stem cells do not duplicate as often. They do not live as long in the lab as the embryonic stem cells have successfully done. And while on the surface that may sound good, a lot of the research with embryonic stem cells show when you implant them in animals, you get the same phenomena; the

cells continue to grow, and they essentially form tumors. So the very argument that researchers are putting forward that these cells are more robust and they grow and grow and grow, is actually a significant clinical problem if you are ever going to use them in treating patients with disease.

□ 1515

They are going to have to somehow get these cells to stop duplicating. Otherwise, they will form tumors or cancers in the patients that they are putting them into. Indeed, it is my personal opinion that embryonic stem cell research will never, never turn out to have the kind of clinical applications that people are claiming that it will.

Indeed, I believe that the future is in adult stem cells for all the reasons I just outlined. There is genetic compatibility; there will not be tissue rejections for patients; there are not the problems with them duplicating over and over again so we will not have the concerns about them forming tumors; and, as well, obviously, there are no ethical or moral objections on the part of the public.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to assert that our legislation does not get into this issue of embryonic stem cell research. Heretofore, embryonic research has always centered on the issue of these embryos that are in the freezers in the IVF clinics that are so-called excess embryos that are so-called destined for destruction. Now, some people, myself included, argue that that is not necessarily the case.

The reason these embryos are in the freezers is because the fertility experts that keep them there have a lot of their patients come back years after they have had a baby by IVF technology and they say they want to have another baby, so that is why the embryos are in the freezer in the first place. As well, there are people that want to adopt these embryos out.

There is the adoption agency in California, Snowflake, that is actually doing this. I had the opportunity to see three babies that were born through this technology of adopting embryos.

But the debate has always been centered on those embryos in the freezers and that they are destined for destruction, supposedly, and, therefore, it is ethically and morally okay to use them in research protocols that essentially destroy them. But human cloning, as it is currently contrived and being proposed, takes us as a Nation in a whole new ghastly and horrible direction, and that is in one of creating embryos for destruction, for destructive research purposes. The morality and the ethics of this I think are totally different.

We have never as a Nation ventured into this area before where we are saying we are going to create embryos now purely for research purposes to be destroyed. We have that before us today. We have it before us now. It will be before this body, the House of Representatives, next week.

We will have two alternatives. Members of this body can choose the direction that is supported by me and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), which is to say we are not going to go in that direction. We are not going to have human cloning, the creation of embryos, human life at its earliest stages, specifically just for research purposes and for destruction. We are going to say no to that procedure. As well, we are going to say no to allowing those embryos to be implanted in a woman for the purpose of generating a pregnancy, a baby, a human being.

Members of the body will have a choice, though. They will have another bill before them. The bill I spoke of at the beginning of this Special Order, the Greenwood-Deutsche bill, H.R. 2172, and their bill specifically allows the creation of human embryos through cloning technology to be used specifically for research purposes and destruction.

Our bill says, no, we do not want to move in that direction. It is not necessary. It is morally and ethically wrong, and it will ultimately, if we move in the direction that they are proposing, it will ultimately take us to the place where we are creating embryos in such quantities that eventually we will have attempts made at creating babies, creating human clones. Or, the body can choose to support and approve H.R. 2505, the bill that I believe very, very strongly is the morally and ethically correct way to go.

I believe this is a critical juncture for our Nation. The whole arena of biotechnology is exploding. We have had the human genome project, and we are moving very, very rapidly to a place where there can be many new breakthroughs in science and technology. Many of these are very, very good, but some of these I believe are extremely dangerous, extremely hazardous, and are morally and ethically wrong.

To say that we as a Nation are going to allow, permit, even encourage the creation of embryos, human embryos for destructive research purposes I think is extremely, extremely bad policy. It would put the United States in a position where it would have the most liberal policy on this issue in the world. Our bill I think puts us in the right direction where we are saying we are going to allow the good science to proceed, but we are not going to take this ghastly or grizzly step.

Now, before I close, I want to say one additional very important thing, and my colleagues are going to hear this from some people, that if we do this, if we pass this bill, if this bill is signed into law and, by the way, it has received the support of the Bush administration, they have indicated that they will support the bill of myself and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. STUPAK), that this technology will just somehow go overseas and the cloning will proceed there. In response to that I want to say a couple of important things.

Number one, I think we have a moral and ethical obligation to do what is right within our own borders. To say that something bad is going to happen overseas, therefore we should not bother making it illegal here is absurd. I mean, nobody would suggest repealing our laws against slavery just because slavery currently exists in the Sudan. That would be, of course, reprehensible. Nobody in their right mind would propose that.

So I think the obverse certainly applies, that we would never want to say, no, we do not want to pass good legislation to make something that is morally and ethically wrong, you would never want to do that because it may happen somewhere else. I think that is a totally unjustifiable argument.

Another important point in this arena is this: I think the world does look up to the United States, and I think if we can pass a strong bill in this arena other countries will follow suit. Certainly, they will be encouraged to do so.

An important provision of our bill which I did not mention is the prohibition on importation. There are some people who would like to repeal this provision and essentially allow the creation of clones overseas and in the Bahamas, Mexico, whatever country, and then the stem cells or whatever material people are wanting to extract from those clones, part of their destruction could then be brought back into the United States. I thought this was an unacceptable situation so we have language in the bill barring the importation of clones or products from clones.

Lastly, I want to just cover a few important points.

I have talked a lot about the morality and ethics of this; and they will say, well, you cannot legislate morality. We hear that all the time. I would counter that everything we do in this body is rooted in morality and ethics.

We were debating earlier today the housing bill. Well, why do we have a housing program? Well, we have a housing program because when all of that got started during the New Deal there were a lot of people who thought it was morally and ethically wrong to have millions of Americans who were living well living next to people in squalor, without homes, with substandard housing, and so we began those programs.

We have the Social Security program, I believe, because most people feel it is morally and ethically wrong to allow senior citizens who do not have the ability to save during their working lifetime to live in abject poverty.

All of our laws, laws against murder and rape, are rooted in morality and ethics. This is just one more example. It is ethically and morally wrong.

Finally, let me close by just saying to all of my colleagues in the House, and I have heard this from some Members, why are we getting into this issue? As I stated at the outset, we are

getting into the issue because we have to get into the issue. There is a company in Massachusetts that is preparing to begin the process of creating human embryos. As I understand it, they have harvested eggs from women donors, they have the eggs, they want to do the sematic cell nuclear transfer technology, begin creating clones, and then extracting from those embryos stem cells for research purposes and then destroying those cloned embryos.

So, Mr. Speaker, the time is now. We need to speak on this issue as a body. The Congress needs to speak on it, the President needs to speak on it, and I believe we should stand with the vast majority of Americans. A poll that I have seen shows that 86 percent of the American people feel that it is wrong to create embryos specifically to be used for research purposes and then destroyed. Eighty-six percent of the American people feel that this is the wrong thing to do.

Let me just add again, and I have said this earlier, I know there are many people, particularly many pro-life people, several of the Republican senators I know have gotten up in that body and spoken on this issue, that feel that we should allow the destructive embryo research on these excess embryos in the freezers in the IVF clinics, so-called excess embryos. This bill does not address that issue. If this bill becomes law, that research could proceed and, indeed, that research actually can proceed in this country today. The debate is exclusively over whether or not the Federal Government should fund that research.

So I think we are headed as a body to a very, very critical point. Medical technology has been evolving rapidly in the United States for years and years and years, and we are at a precipice. We are at the edge of a tremendous decision. I think the right decision is to pass this bill, H.R. 2505, the Weldon-Stupak Cloning Prohibition Act of 2001. It is supported by the President of the United States; and the Senate, the other body, hopefully, will take the bill up and pass it as well.

□ 1530

PATIENT PROTECTIONS IN THE REPUBLICAN PATIENT BILL OF RIGHTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. FLETCHER) is recognized for the remaining time of the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WELDON).

Mr. FLETCHER. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted to rise and discuss some issues regarding patient protections.

As we know, this is a piece of legislation that is anticipated to come before this body next week. It is a piece of legislation that has been debated for quite some time for a number of years here. Yet, unfortunately, we seem to be at somewhat of a logjam.

Let me say that we have been able to reach quite a compromise position in the bill that we have put forth, myself along with the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON), a Democrat, as well as the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHNSON), who have worked very, very hard to really come together with a piece of legislation that is a very balanced approach.

Mr. Speaker, we have come a long way. However, there are some Members who did not want to increase the liabilities of HMOs at all. There are some people who wanted to open up unlimited lawsuits that would have driven up the cost of health care and increased the number of uninsured in this country.

Yet, Mr. Speaker, we have reached a good balance in this piece of legislation, the Fletcher-Peterson-Johnson legislation, that does three things particularly.

One, it increases the quality of health care in America. How does it do this? It does that by establishing the right of every patient in America that has insurance to be able to appeal to a panel of expert physicians. These are practicing physicians that are trained in the specialty to be reviewed. So if a patient has an HMO that questions their ability to get a particular treatment, they can go to this panel.

What we do is set the criteria of that panel to make sure that it is the highest standards of medical care in this country, state-of-the-art care. We establish that based on a consensus of expert opinion and what we call referred journals. Those are those medical journals like the New England Journal of Medicine, the Journal of the American Medical Association, that are reviewed by peers to make sure that the information in those journals is accurate and substantiated by scientific research.

We make sure that every patient in America has that option of coming and asking that expert panel whether or not they should receive this treatment. If they are not given that treatment, then we hold the HMOs liable. We hold them liable. Actually, if the HMO refuses to give what the experts say, we hold them just as liable as any physician is held liable in this country.

Yet the other side says that is not enough because they want to allow trial lawyers to sue no matter what the case is, even if the plan is offering the care; or if the plan actually is saying that the experts say this is not the appropriate treatment, then they want an opportunity, a right, to be able to sue that managed care facility.

What is that going to do? This is unlimited lawsuits. We have debated this for years. As a family physician, I know the extra costs of what we call defensive medicine, what the costs are. It is not thousands, it is not millions, it is billions of dollars of tests that are run, procedures that are performed, that are only done because of fear of frivolous lawsuits.

That does not improve the quality of health care. It actually has just the opposite effect on the quality of health care. There have been some studies done to show that frivolous lawsuits do not improve the quality of health care. As a matter of fact, they impair it.

Under the Democrats' bill, and again, they have been unyielding and lack the ability, it seems, to be able to yield or to compromise at all on this issue. Even though we have opened up liability tremendously, making sure that we punish bad players, they are unwilling to compromise. What has that done? That has made us unable to get a bill passed here.

Now I would hope they would be able to compromise some, because I believe all of us truly want to get a bill signed by the President that can help patients in this country.

Why will we not support the bill that has unlimited frivolous lawsuits and has no provisions, substantial provisions, for access? Because we know it will increase the uninsured in this country. Some estimates say from 7 million up to 9 million people will lose their health insurance.

What effect does that have on a patient? Patients that do not have insurance have poorer health. Disease progresses further along before they are actually diagnosed of the disease. If they are hospitalized and they do not have insurance, they die at three times the rate of a patient that has insurance. So it is very troubling to me when I see the flagrant disregard for the uninsured that the Democrats have expressed in their unwillingness to compromise with us and reach a real solution for patients in this Nation.

When I talk to constituents, Mr. Speaker, the number one concern I hear about, and I have been through many factories and small businesses and talked to workers, I ask them, ''What are several of the things that are important to you?'' They talk about the education of their children. But when we get down do it, just as important to them is the health care of their children.

Under the Democrat bill on this Patients' Bill of Rights, they will be threatened with losing their health care through many small businesses, and maybe even large businesses, because of the added burden of liability.

I have letters that have come, a number of letters from small businesses that say, we are not going to be able to offer health care to our employees under the provisions of the Democrat bill because of the liability that exists there. That is not helping patients. That will result in people losing the health care they get through their job, and that is one of the most important aspects about many individuals' employment.

I can think of a young lady on the line of Toyota Manufacturing Company. She installs the bumpers on Avalons and Camrys. I asked her about the benefits she gets through Toyota. She

mentioned one of the major benefits she gets is the health care through her employers. Yet, that may be threatened under their plan. It would require that they look and ask, is it going to be possible to withstand the liability? Are they going to end up giving the money to this young woman, and having her have to go out and buy her own insurance?

Many companies will find out some way to make sure that does not happen, but inevitably, it will raise the premiums that that young lady is going to have to pay. That means there is less money for her to take care of those children she is so concerned about. That means there is less security that she is able to provide for her family. That means there is less peace of mind that she has as she is working to take care of those children.

Mr. Speaker, I want to cover a few more things about our health care bill. As we look at the guiding principles for our health care bill and this Patients' Bill of Rights, and again, this is a compromise that has been developed over a number of years, it is to improve the quality of health care. I spoke about that. It is making health care more accessible, more affordable, especially to the uninsured.

I mentioned that their bill does very little to do that. Actually, it will result in millions probably losing their health care. But we provide something called medical savings accounts. That means we can set aside money, much like an IRA, through our jobs, and we can use that money for health care. We can use it for routine health care that we all get to prevent diseases and to detect diseases early. We might use it for eyeglasses or other things that are important for health care and well-being.

This will allow more individuals to get insurance because in some of the pilot programs we have done with medical savings accounts, almost one-third of the people that get insurance through those did not previously have health insurance, so that certainly makes it more available to the uninsured, and helps us reduce the problem of 43 million Americans uninsured.

As we look at holding health plans accountable, we talked about if a health plan does not follow that external review, then they are held accountable, just as accountable as any physician. That is very important, and so we want to make sure that there is accountability.

When we look at the number of uninsured, just to kind of give you an idea of what the magnitude of the uninsured are in this country, look at these cities: Portland; Bakersfield; Phoenix; Denver; Dallas; Atlanta; Orlando; Lexington, and then that is my home city; Charlotte; Hartford; Syracuse; Cleveland; Chicago; Des Moines; Minneapolis; Salt Lake City.

If we added the population of all of those cities, that would equal the number of people in this country that have no health insurance. The last thing we want to do is to drive up the cost of health insurance.

Now, as we look at the provision, another provision I want to talk about, that is association health plans. We talked about MSAs, or medical savings accounts. But association health plans, what that does is allow small businesses to come together to self-insure and to offer a product nationally.

So, for example, my farmers are paying $800 or $900 a month for premiums to buy their health insurance on the individual markets. What this would allow is the American Farm Bureau Association to offer a national plan that is self-insured, much like the large companies do.

It is a fairness issue. Why can we not have small companies coming together and offering insurance products just like large companies do? If we do that, it is estimated that it will reduce the premiums by 10 percent to 30 percent. That will possibly allow us to insure as many as 9 million Americans.

If we look at that, it is equivalent to the people living in the following cities that are highlighted in black: Salt Lake City, Phoenix, Des Moines, and Atlanta. That is a number of people, an equivalent number of people of several cities in this Nation that would be able to get insurance through these association health plans.

Let me just close by saying there is a lot of. I think, demagoguery going on and criticism of the plan saying that we do not allow direct access, for example, to OB–GYN and pediatricians. In fact, that is just not true. We have the equivalency of 400,000 physicians in different organizations that endorse this bill because it does exactly what they know it needs to do to ensure that they can deliver the treatment they need to their patients.

It allows direct access to OB–GYN physicians. It makes sure that if a young lady is being cared for during her pregnancy, if the plan and the physician no longer have a contract together, that she can continue to get that care through that same physician: a physician whom she trusts, especially trusts for the delivery of a newborn child; and not only that, but postpartum care.

We also allow for clinical trials; that if there is a treatment that provides hope and it is approved by the FDA or by the National Institutes of Health or by the veterans' programs, that we can actually guarantee that the plan would cover that treatment.

It may be the only hope that that child has left, or that individual has left, ensuring that they get the treatment that would offer them a hope of health and well-being.

We also have been criticized, saying that we do not provide emergency care for neonatal care. This criticism is most laughable, and there is certainly a tremendous degree of demagoguery from the Democrats because of this reason.

We actually improve the provision they have, and say that not only a layperson's definition, but if even in the opinion the health professions, and even if the mother was not aware of the condition of the child, but if, under the opinion of a health care professional, the mother needed to bring that child in, that we guaranteed that that child would get treatment.

I can recall a child that needed treatment. The mother was in our practice and gave me a call. This happened to me on several occasions. I asked her to bring that child in. I can even recall one situation where the child was in very critical condition when that child arrived. Yet, young mothers sometimes do not know all of the precautionary signs, so it is very important to have this access provision.

We offer better access and better cover for neonates and those young infants, the newborns, than the other side does.

They are also talking about preemption of State laws. Yet our provisions make it easier for States that have equivalent patient protections to be able to use their laws, instead of having to use the Federal mandate. So we actually do less to supersede State law than the other side does, because about 33 States have passed patient protections at this time, and we think it is important that we allow that.

The bottom line, the Democrat plan is a bad plan for the most vulnerable in this Nation. Who are those? They are the low-income minorities, those right on the border. I know they speak a lot about this constituency, but when it comes down to the bottom line, they are putting politics before the most vulnerable in this society, because their plan will disproportionately affect low-income and minorities in this Nation and cause a disproportionate number of those to lose their insurance. It threatens the health care they get through their job.

Ours provides several plans to ensure that we can cover more individuals with health insurance, up to 9 million more. It has been estimated under their plan that several million will lose their health care, as we have shown.

So Mr. Speaker, I appreciate sharing this time on the Patients' Bill of Rights. I would hope that the Democrats, as we come back next week into session, that they would be willing to reach a compromise that is good for the American people; to stop this logjam and be able to pass a Patients' Bill of Rights that we can lay on the President's desk, because he has spoken very passionately about this issue, and wants very much a Patients' Bill of Rights for the American people.

I would hope they are willing to reach a compromise. We have compromised tremendously so we might get a patients' bill of rights passed.

PRESIDENT BUSH STANDS BY HIS CONVICTIONS ON MATTERS OF DEFENSE AND THE ENVIRONMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRABACHER) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I draw Members' attention to President Bush and the great job that he has been doing withstanding public pressure to go in the opposite direction of which he believes to be true.

□ 1545

We have a sense about what George W. is about; and I believe that George W. is proving himself to be a great president and that, as time goes on, we will find that this gentleman, who has been castigated by his opponents in some very vile characterizations, is actually a very thoughtful person, and a person of high character, and a person of strength.

President George W. Bush has been willing to say things straight, in a straightforward manner that has enraged his political opposition, but yet by standing strong and tall, like President Reagan before him, who was also attacked in very personal and vile terms, our new president is finding that if he stands strong, that people will go in his direction. Because the things that he believes in, many of the things that he believes in, are clearly true but not in line with the liberal ideology that has dominated the American government and dominated the news media and communications in this country and in Western Europe.

Our new president, for example, has stood firm on the idea and the concept of missile defense. Prior to going to Europe recently, the President was under severe attack by the leading Democrat in the Senate, Tom DASCHLE, and he was being told that by insisting that the United States move forward on missile defense that it would in some way bring about a renewal of the arms race. How many of us heard that?

Now, I believe the Democrats certainly have a right to attack a Republican president or vice versa. That is what democracy is all about. We all have the right to criticize. But let us point out that while some people seem to be upset that the President was being criticized overseas, I am just upset with the fact that the Democrats were so adamant in their opposition to missile defense and that, now what, they were wrong, not that they were criticizing the President.

Missile defense is something that now seems to be becoming more acceptable to our European allies. And in fact, instead of being this roadblock to any type of good relationship with the government in Russia, now we see President Putin in Russia edging towards President George W. Bush's position.

Let us note that President Ronald Reagan first stepped forward with the idea that if we are going to be spending billions of dollars in order to protect the people of the United States it is better for us to build a system that indeed protects our people rather than a system that is based on annihilating millions of other people living in less free societies when they become engaged in a conflict with the United States.

During the Cold War, it made every sense to have a situation where the Russians knew that if they attacked the United States with their missile force that hundreds of millions of Russians would lose their lives, like hundreds of millions of our citizens, and that was a deterrent. But during the post-Cold War world, such a deterrent makes no sense at all.

Right now, for example, if there is an adversary, if there are people who in some way might be willing to take the risk of attacking the United States, they are not people who care about losing the lives of their own citizens. If the Communist Chinese were to launch one of their missiles at the United States, they could care less if there would be retaliation. The regime in Communist China murders their own people, so why would they care if we killed 1 million, 10 million or even 50 million of their people in retaliation for a missile attack that killed a million Americans?

George W. Bush's position, as well as Ronald Reagan's position, makes all the sense in the world. Let us not put ourselves in a position of having to murder millions of people in another country because their dictators, their bosses, the gangsters that control their country have attacked the United States of America. Let us, instead, protect ourselves and use our technological genius to build a system that will protect us against some attack with one or two missiles from a rogue country, from North Korea or from China or Iran or Libya.

Now, the Democrats have done everything they can to prevent this type of technology from being developed. During the 8 years Bill Clinton was President of the United States, he spent those 8 years spending the money on missile defense and channeling it in a direction so that that technology would not succeed. He kept us engaged in a treaty with the former Soviet Union, even though the Soviet Union had ceased to exist. He kept us in compliance with this treaty that we signed with old Communist dictators, even though communism and the Soviet Union no longer existed in Russia. We could have gotten out of that treaty.

And this is one thing George W. Bush is pushing for, out of the treaty that prevents us from thoroughly developing our anti-missile system. We could have gotten out of that, and by now have developed a system so that if China would launch a missile towards the United States that we could knock it down and protect Los Angeles or southern California or northern California, or even parts of the United States as far as Chicago. We would be able to protect the United States from a missile attack. But Bill Clinton decided, as President of the United States, that he did not support missile defense. So the money that we spent on missile defense was frittered away, frittered away and wasted. Now we are vulnerable and we have George W. Bush standing firm against all those who try to pressure him and say back down.

Well, I think it was one of Ronald Reagan's great moments, when he went to meet with Gorbachev and Gorbachev told him he had to agree not to develop a weapon system that could protect rather than kill people, and if he did that, if he stopped or gave up this idea of missile defense, he could sign a big treaty and be the biggest hero in the world, that Ronald Reagan walked away from it. George W. Bush is proving himself to be that same type of strong leader who will bring about a more peaceful world.

Ronald Reagan had no idea when he turned that down that the people of the world would see him as a strong and a tough leader who they could trust to make a decision and that that in and of itself would have a dramatic impact for the promotion of freedom and peace on the planet.

By the time Ronald Reagan was done being president, even though he had been nitpicked to death by people on the other side of the aisle, the Cold War was over, the Berlin Wall was on its way down, and democracy and peace were given a better chance than ever in my lifetime and in the whole 20th Century, all because Ronald Reagan stood tough.

George W. Bush is making those same tough stands against the same type of nitpicking that went on during the Reagan administration. Every time we took a stand against communism, there were those on the other side of the aisle trying to find a mistake that we made in order to thwart our efforts, whether it was in Latin America or whether it was with the Mujahedin against the Russian expansion in Afghanistan or elsewhere, or in the development of missile defense.

Our President today, George W. Bush, has that same strength of character. And if he maintains his courage, as he has been doing and as we have seen, and for the first time the world is starting to lean in his direction already in terms of the things he has said on missile defense, George W. Bush, like Ronald Reagan before him, will be able to make an incredible contribution to the contribution of freedom and peace on this planet.

Now, one of the other areas that George W. has been standing firm on is his refusal to submit the American people to the dictates of a Kyoto global warming treaty. For this tough stand that he has taken, George W. has been under vicious attack. But those of us in the United States who are proud that our country has a high standard of living and that in our country ordinary

people can live decent lives, we applaud George W. Bush and his wisdom and his courage when it comes to the Kyoto Treaty.

Many people have heard congressman after congressman come to the floor of this body attacking George W. for not being part of the team when it comes to global warming and supporting the Kyoto Treaty. Time and time again we hear, ''America is doing nothing on this global warming.'' Well, maybe the American people should understand when these Members of Congress get up and start talking that way and condemning George W. Bush for doing nothing what it is they want him to do. What is it that the Kyoto Treaty is demanding of the American people that George W. Bush is saying, no, I do not think that we are going to do that? What we are talking about are severe restrictions on our standard of living.

They claim the United States should be ashamed that we put more CO_2 into the air than any other country. That is the way they judge it. The United States puts more CO_2 into the air. Well, what does that mean? Well, that may mean that we have the highest standard of living of any other country of the world. And, yes, there is some CO_2 we put into the air. But in terms of the standard of living, if we put per $1,000 of GNP, we actually put less CO_2 in the air than anybody else.

So if we just judge it by how much we are putting in, of course that is a mandate for what? For lowering the GNP, for lowering the standard of living of regular people. That is what they are trying to force George W. to agree to, lowering the standard of living of ordinary Americans. Is that what we want?

By the way, these same fanatics who are trying to convince us about this ''global warming problem,'' do not take into consideration that America, through its agriculture, has had a vast tree planting over the last 100 years. And by the way, we have many more trees in America today than we had 100 years ago. Because at the turn of the century there was a replanting of trees across America. Up in the Northeast, up in Maine, and up in New Hampshire and Vermont and those areas that were treeless by the turn of the century, or the 1800s, those were replanted. Go up there today and there are vast forests there. Those trees take the CO_2 out of the air. We actually take more CO_2 out of the air than any other country in the world.

The fanatics that want us to get involved in the Kyoto Treaty do not take that into consideration. Instead, they would have us, for example, pay $5 a gallon for every gallon of gas that we buy. Now, what is that going to do for the price of goods that are sent by truck? What will that do for the standard of living of average Americans, that $5 a gallon for gasoline? It will dramatically reduce the well-being of our people.

When we see people up here attacking George W. Bush on the Kyoto Treaty, that we are doing nothing, they will say what they want us to do is be engaged in a treaty that will lower the standard of living of ordinary people in this country, that will suck money right out of our pockets that could go to better food, better health care, better education. Instead, they are going to put it into higher prices for gasoline and other types of fuel.

It is vital that the public know what is going on in this attack against George Bush. Global warming, first and foremost, is not a scientific imperative. Let us talk about global warming for a minute. It is a politically driven theory. The people who are pushing global warming are not, by and large, being pushed by some scientific motivation but instead have a political agenda. Those people who are in the scientific community that have signed on have done so realizing that they are kowtowing to political powers and not to scientific knowledge.

□ 1600

Those exposing global warming, those scientists who are brave enough to step forward, do so knowing that they might be retaliated against. Our young people, for example, are being lied to about the environment in general, and they are being lied to especially about global warming. I see this every time a group of young people from my congressional district comes to Washington, D.C.

As a member of Congress, I represent Huntington Beach, California, Southern California, I went to high school in Southern California and now that I am a Member of Congress, every student group that comes from my congressional district here to Washington, D.C., I take the time and effort to talk to them and to get to know what they are thinking and try to find out as much about them as they are finding out about me and about government.

I ask them the same question, every single time, every group. How many of them believe, these are students from Southern California, believe that the air quality today in Southern California is cleaner or is worse than it was when I went to high school 35 years ago in Southern California? Ninety-five percent always say the same thing, almost every group says the same thing. They believe, 95 percent of them believe that the air quality in Southern California today is so much worse than when I went to high school 35 years ago. I was so lucky, they say, to have lived in a time and went to school in a time when the air was so clean. Of course, they are surprised when I tell them that they are absolutely wrong, that the real answer is 180 degrees in the other direction.

In fact, the air in Southern California has never been cleaner in my lifetime and they enjoy some of the best clean air ever in Southern California. These young people have been systematically lied to and been told that the environment is killing them. They are being told that the water is so much worse than it ever was.

The fact is that water quality in the United States has been vastly improved in these last 4 decades. Forty years ago if you tried to put your finger in the Potomac River they would come out and say, What the heck are you doing put your finger in the Potomac for? Do you want to get the acid burn on your finger?

Today you go out and people are swimming in the Potomac. People are fishing in the Potomac. What happened? I will have to admit that many regulations, many are regulations that the Democratic party pushed. Let me make no beans about it, the Democrats were in the front of the reform effort. That over the years tough measures were put in and there has been an enormous amount of environmental clean up that has taken place.

Unfortunately, the information about that cleanup has not made it to the American people and especially to our young people. They are being told the water is getting a lot worse. They are being told that the land is much more foul. Over the years of our country's history there were toxic waste dumps all over the place. There was no hope of cleaning them up. The land was spoiled. This was a horrible situation.

Guess what? With the technology we have developed today, we can clean up those sites. In fact, in my own district I worked with a company called Simple Green Company that has developed a way that in 60 to 90 days can take a contaminated soil and turn it into clean soil so it can be used for homes or schools or whatever.

We tried a demonstration project in my district. We took 10 acres of soil that used to be an old oil sludge dump, and sure enough, in about 90 days Simple Green, this company in my district, was able to turn that into a usable piece of property again. Mark my words, when people find out about this process, we will have toxic waste sites being cleaned up all over the country because it will be profitable to do so and we have the technology to do so.

But our young people are not being told that. Our young people are being told it is technology, the machines and the industrialization that has caused the problems. The fact is people are living longer today than they ever have. Although, yes, there are the diseases we face, other generations faced many of these same diseases long before there was this industrialization. Not to say that there is not some collateral impact, and we should be aware of that and study that.

This President has not only full funded but doubled the budget of the National Institute of Health so that we can scientifically look at the health patterns to see if we can help to cure some of those problems.

But in terms of the overall environment, it is so much better. For example, in 1966 a Mustang that my father

owned, if you take the pollution coming out of that tail pipe and you examine the new Mustangs today and examine how much pollution is coming out of that tail pipe, 96 percent of the air pollution has been captured. The engines are that much more effective. They have cured 96 percent of that problem.

In Southern California, what that has meant is we have doubled or maybe even tripled our population. Yet the air quality is much much better.

Now, some people say, so what if they are lying to these kids? So what if the public is not getting the story. I can tell you so what. What is happening then is there are a group of people using these lies and the fear that our young people live in and that our other people live in to try to push their own political agenda which is a centralizing of power in Washington, D.C., and that is frightening enough, but their agenda as well is to empower global government through the United Nations and other institutions, to have the power to control our lives, our economic lives, in the name of stopping this horrible pollution.

This threat of global warming that is supposedly going to destroy people's lives and the whole planet, I am sorry but I am not about to give up my freedom to a bunch of unelected officials from other countries. By the way, the people that would be running these international bodies that will oversee the environment and, thus, oversee our economic lives and, thus, oversee every decision which we make as people, these bodies will not be manned and not be controlled by individuals who are elected. No.

They will be controlled by people who are not elected even in their home countries, much less by the people of the United States. Those people who run roughshod over their own countries in the Third World will end up with seats on the United Nations or on these global commissions or authority boards. They will be the ones making the decisions that we must run our lives by. I am afraid not. If that is what you are going to do to clean up the environment, count me out. Because within 10 years all of these bodies will be run by corrupt Third World people who are probably going to be bribed by Communist China, et cetera.

By the way, let us note that in the Kyoto Treaty which the President has been, and we can be grateful for this, has been standing steadfastly against, the Kyoto Treaty that these Democrats are trying to push on us and force down our throats, exempts from its regulations and its Draconian controls, exempts Communist China. Surprise, surprise, surprise.

What do you think that is going to do if we have all kinds of controls on America and in the United States? To open up a factory in the United States, it is going to cost so much more and that if you are going to create any jobs in the United States there is going to be all sorts of hoops people have to jump through and it will cost more money and more controls. But none of those controls and none of those extra costs exist in China. Where do you think people are going to set up their factories? They are going to set their factories up in China.

Let me note, we have some controls in the United States, environmental controls that are exemplary compared to China, compared to these Third World countries that are all exempt. So we have our businesses going to these places to set up factories where they can pollute even more. So the irony of it is the global warming treaty will create more pollution, not less, because it exempts the countries that permit the dirtiest of industrialization. No. You can count me out on that one.

Let us talk a little bit about global warming. What is it? People should understand what is being talked about. Global warming, supposedly, is carbon fuel, coal, oil and gas, et cetera, that is being put into the atmosphere in the form of carbon dioxide, that is CO_2, and supposedly CO_2 will raise the temperature of the planet and that will cause drastic changes in our weather. The ice flows. Supposedly the ice caps are already melting, and animal and plant life are being really threatened by global warming. Every time there is a hot day you can hear some global warming guy get up and say, oh, well, this is all caused by global warming.

Well, that is just so much global bologna. First and foremost, all of the recent scientific reports agree that there may or may not have been a minor change in this planet's temperature, its average temperature over the last 100 years. That there is, get this, no conclusive evidence that man has caused it. Now, that is what the facts are.

But if you listen to Dan Rather or you listen to our friends trying to push their political agenda here in the House, or if you pay attention to the news media besides Dan Rather and the rest of them, you are being told that you have all of these reports and the reports are confirming that the world is getting hotter and man is the cause.

In fact, it was not too long ago I saw a report on TV about one of these commissions and their study and it said the study has found out that it is getting warmer. This is Dan Rather in the beginning. That the Earth is getting warmer and man is at fault. By the end of that report where his own reporter in Washington said, of course, they have not indicated and they cannot prove whether or not man has had anything to do with this. A direct contradiction to this headline that Dan Rather lead into his own report. That is not something that is an odd situation.

If you take a look at all of the media reports on global warming, you will find when you look into the details, by the time you get to the end of the story you will find quotes from the report that they are supposedly pushing or talking about, and there are weasel words throughout the whole report because the scientists that are conducting these studies are not sure and, thus, they want to put into the report words that they can point to and say, well, we did not really say this. We said maybe. We said could lead to the conclusion that or possibly.

Look at these reports. Do not believe when you read something in the newspaper or hear it on television that some scientific body has conclusively decided this, do not believe it because it is not true. Not only is that not true, it is about as true as the fact that those poor kids in my district are being told that air pollution in Southern California is worse than it has ever been and they are scared to death that it is hurting their life.

Climate science, by the way, had become really a new entry into this whole idea of scientific study. Prior to 1980, there were only a handful of climatologists. Now they are everywhere. Why is that? How come there are so many climatologists all of the sudden?

The fact is that it is easy now to get a government grant if you are going to prove that global warming exists and it is very difficult to get a grant if you are trying to have a scientific study that will or will not prove that global warming exists.

Eight years ago when President Clinton took over the Executive Branch, he saw to it that there would be no scientific research grants going from the government to scientists who did not support the idea that we were under attack from some global warming trends. Unless they furthered the global warming theory, they were not going to get a government grant.

We were tipped off to this when the lead scientist, the Director of Energy and Research for the Department of Energy, a guy named Dr. Will Happer, immediately when Clinton was elected and took office, they could not move fast enough to fire this guy from his position because he did not agree with the global warming theory.

Dr. Happer, by the way, now is a professor of physics at Princeton University. But his removal back in Clinton's first few weeks in office sent a message to the scientific community.

□ 1615

There does not appear to have been much information about global warming prior to the mid 1980s. But what we have been able to find out is that that information that was available before the 1980s indicated that there was going to be a new ice age. Back in the 1980s, some of the same scientists who are now warning us against global warming were warning us that there was going to be a new ice age and that global cooling was really the problem. This Member of Congress sat through hearings in which the advocates of global warming would appear and after a few questions they would admit, well, it could be global cooling, yes, it could be global cooling.

What is that all about? Why are we spending billions of dollars? Why are we giving up our freedom? Why are we permitting the standard of living of our people to go down based on that type of scientific logic? I think not. The fact is that in a span of 20 years, climate models have gone from predicting that we would all freeze to death in the new ice age to now we are all going to have to worry about being baked to death in a global furnace.

Some of the leading proponents, as I say, of global warming went from freezing to burning to death. Historically speaking, we know, by the way, let us just take a look at it, everybody should understand it a little bit, that the global climate changes. Global climate changes. There have been ice ages in the earth's past and there have been tropical ages. Both of those came about off and on throughout the hundreds of millions of years of the earth's life without any interference of man.

Now, the global warming theory, by the way, is that it is getting hotter because mankind is putting CO_2 into the air. Mankind is putting CO_2 into the air. Well, what about all those climate changes before humankind, before there were any railroads or industry or cars? Why did that happen? There is no real explanation for that. Well, there is an explanation. What the proponents of global warming will not tell you is that all of this CO_2 that they claim is causing global warming, all of that CO_2 that mankind puts into the atmosphere is only 5 percent of the CO_2 that goes into the atmosphere every year from all sources. Mother nature is putting 19 times more CO_2 into the air than human beings. But human beings are being blamed totally because we want to have a little higher standard of living.

By the way, when there is a volcano that erupts violently, all of a sudden there is dramatically more CO_2 in the atmosphere. One volcano like Krakatau or something can put as much CO_2 into the air as all of our industrialization. So it makes sense for us not to have good jobs? It makes sense for us not to have cars? Give me a break. The fact is that of all the reforms that global warming people want us to go through and restrictions and the Kyoto treaty, it would knock a little CO_2 out of the air but that is just mankind's contribution to that CO_2. If there is a volcano that erupts, that is taken care of right away and that does not even count anymore.

I had a Member of this Congress grab me by the arm the last time I spoke about this and said, ''You know, DANA, you're wrong. The volcanoes do not put CO_2 into the air.'' And he cited all of these scientists.

I went back to my office, I got on my Internet, looked up the scientific basis and by the time I had to come down to the floor to vote the next time, I had the report right in front of me and, sure enough, volcanoes do put CO_2 into the air. Three percent every year of all CO_2 going into the air comes from volcanoes. Only 5 percent is coming from human activity. So if we have a large number of volcanoes or one big eruption, that means they just totally cancel out anything that we would do as humankind.

By the way, one other factor is, all of these people are talking about, ''Oh, this horrible global warming, you can see its impact starting now.'' What is the global warming? What are these people telling us about our weather? Our weather supposedly is 1 degree warmer than it was 100 years ago. Let us look at this. One degree over 100 years and they are saying that that is a trend that is really frightening. These people cannot tell us what the weather is going to be like next week but they are afraid because they think that the weather is 1 degree warmer now than it was 100 years ago.

I heard about this meeting President Clinton had of climatologists and weather reporters from around the United States into the Oval Office, into the White House, about 5 or 6 years ago. He was going to have all these weathermen there, they were going to talk about global warming and this 100 years and the trend that is set up and, oh, my gosh, 100 years from now how bad it is going to be, when they all got to the White House and they had their meeting and during that meeting at the White House, a storm came across Washington, D.C. and there was a deluge of rain, it was raining horribly, but of those hundreds of weathermen and climatologists who knew all about weather so much, they could predict weather for 100 years, only three of them had brought their umbrellas to that meeting. What does that tell you? You cannot predict what the weather is going to be like 2 weeks from now. And if it is just 1 degree over 100 years, they are telling us that we are going to be so frightened out of our wits by that that we are going to submit to a global treaty that would give powers over our economy and bring down our standard of living, exempt Communist China and let them get all the development? No way. One degree over 100 years is this thing that they are fearful about. And at the same time, let us go back to that basic fact that we were just discussing. There have been changes in the earth's temperature many, many times. Even if that 1 degree over 100 years was right and, by the way, we do not know how they took the temperatures 100 years ago. We do not know who was taking the temperature down in some Pacific Ocean place. Was it a sailor who was reading the thermometer right or what about the guys out west or out in the jungles or something? Who was taking these temperatures 100 years ago? How do we know that it was 1 degree cooler 100 years ago? I would doubt that it is 1 degree warmer, it might be, but if it was and even if we were in a period of our earth's history where there was a slight bit of warming, that is the way it is sometimes. That is no excuse to change the standard of living of the American people.

Earlier in this millennium, we know, for example, or in the last millennium, I should say, Leif Ericson established a colony in Greenland. Greenland at that time was free from snow about half the year. Half the year it did not have any snow in Greenland. Yet less than 100 years after that, the colony had to be abandoned because the climate was growing colder. They had a mini ice age. Certainly we know that throughout our history, we have seen situations where the glaciers came down and then the glaciers receded. Is it possible now that maybe we are in a period where the glaciers are receding a little bit and then they will come down a couple of hundred years from now or a thousand years or a hundred thousand years from now? That is possible. Maybe we are in a period of the earth's history in which, as I say, those glaciers that came down and dug out the Great Lakes and now they have receded, maybe they still are receding. I know one thing, there was a report from the Canadian government that debunked the idea that the ice cap is melting. How many people have heard that? Again, it is like the kids being told in my area that the air pollution is so bad, now they are being told, the ice caps are melting, catastrophe is about ready to happen. The Canadian government just put out a report about 3 months ago, I happened to see it, no, the ice caps are not melting. The ice caps are not melting. They are not receding. There is just as much ice cap as there ever was. This is all baloney. It is called global baloney. Give up your freedom because we are going to try to scare you.

I do not think so. I do not think the American people will buy that. I think that George W. Bush deserves a medal for standing strong against these fearmongers who are trying to scare us into again centralizing power in Washington, D.C. and trying to scare us into centralizing power globally.

Let me just say a few things about George W. Bush overseas, the Kyoto Protocol and the media that has been really down on him. Ronald Reagan went through the same thing. I saw this personally. I worked in the White House with Ronald Reagan. He went through the same personal attacks. You had scientists, you had these liberal science groups that would get up and make the same claims about Ronald Reagan's theories, especially about his defense theories, and they all were proven wrong by the end of his administration. But let me just say, when you hear these reports by the scientific community, especially, for example, there was a report by the National Academy of Sciences, this is the one that Dan Rather was reporting on that I mentioned, and that National Academy of Sciences report which we were told proved conclusively that global warming was happening and that mankind was at fault, when you look at

that, when you look at that report, it is so filled with caveats and weasel words that the scientific community was not putting itself on the line to support global warming, it was just drawing attention to the debate about the issue.

I have some documents that I will make part of the record considering this. Again, we have to take a look at what is being said and why it is being said and look very closely at this issue when people are talking about it. I am not suggesting that we should take anyone's word, either people who are anti-global warming or pro-global warming and take them just on face value. We need to make sure that we are very skeptical when people are trying to tell us that something dramatic is happening, whether it is to our weather or to anything else and be very careful before we make such awesome decisions that would change the standard of living and bring down the standard of living of our people.

One thing that people might want to note is that some people are telling us that the global warming phenomenon if there is a 1-degree increase in the earth's temperature, that there could be other explanations for it other than that mankind is using cars to get around in or that CO_2 is being put into the air by machines. For example, the earth's orbit around the sun is elliptical. What does that mean? That means at some time, the earth is closer to the sun and sometimes it is further away from the sun. That happens in 100-year cycles. We are finding now that maybe we might be a little bit closer in that curve and maybe that would account for the fact that things were 1 degree warmer over 100 years. Ancient Mayans and Aztecs observed that cycle, that solar cycle of 208 years. They have suggested that there is a 104-year decline in temperatures and a 104-year increase in temperatures just by the fact of how far you are from the sun.

By the way, also something that we might explain this is the fact that there are sun spots and there are solar storms. The sun itself may be the cause of global warming which of course has nothing to do with industrialization or automobiles or us putting CO_2 in the air. We also have to remember that water, water comprises so much of the volume of this planet. I think it is three-quarters of the planet is water. Yet there are no adequate global ocean temperature readings. All the readings have been done on land, have not been done of the water or of the air. So we have not tested the water temperature nor have we tested the atmospheric temperature. In fact, a renowned scientist just prior to me coming up here was with me coming here and said, there is absolutely no evidence that there has been any temperature change, not even that 1 degree over 100 years, no temperature change above the atmosphere.

If there has been no change there and no change in the water, how are these people able to come forward and be so fanatical about what they are trying to railroad us into?

□ 1640

So, none of the readings include any deep water, and if there is any water temperatures, it is only very shallow water readings. So we have zero understanding of the deep waters that cover this planet, and no change, we see no change in the upper atmosphere. So how can we then try to think that with that type of data, not knowing how the other data has been collected, how can we possibly make decisions like the ones for the Kyoto Treaty that will so dramatically affect the standing of living of our people?

Let me go on to say one other thing about global warming. About 7 or 8 years ago, during the height of the Clinton Administration, this Member of Congress was visited by a high ranking scientist in the U.S. Government, and he made me swear never to tell who he was, but he said, Dana, these readings that they are using to back up their theory that we are going through global warming, they do not take into consideration cloud cover.

Get that. Not only do they not take water temperature or the sun or any of these other things, but cloud cover. They have not taken into consideration even if the clouds were covering that day, much less do they take into consideration that at one time, maybe 100 years ago, there was a lot of open space where they were taking the readings, and now that space is covered with concrete because it might be a city.

Now, what does that have to do with that one degree of increase in temperature there has been? These things make a lot of difference, and yet those people who are trying to tell us that global warming is a problem have not taken any of these things into account.

So, anyway, what can we determine by all of this? That global temperature records are flawed. We know they did not take into account what was going on with the sun, whether or not the areas that were being recorded were urban or rural over these last 100 years. They have not even taken into consideration the humidity factor in terms of the Earth's temperature.

Finally, let us look at the Earth's orbit itself. They do not take into account the Earth's orbit. They do not take into account the sun's situation. They do not take into account the clouds. They do not take into account their own long-term readings. They do not take into account the humidity. What they do take into account is a theoretical calculation that man-made CO_2s have something to do with global warming, and they have lots of hypothetical data about how human beings are polluting the world.

Okay, human beings are polluting the world, and that is certainly a fact, and we have to work to make sure that we correct pollution by better technology all the time. It does not mean that we have a global warming problem. It does not mean that we have to make drastic changes in our life or increase taxes or centralize power.

Most of the sources of CO_2, and that is the pollutant they are looking at, these greenhouse gasses, methane and CO_2, most of them are coming into the atmosphere naturally and are not manmade. Now, certainly we contribute a little bit. As I mentioned earlier, you have volcanic activity that creates CO_2. Three percent of all of the CO_2 in the world every year comes from volcanic activity. If a huge volcano goes off, it goes much more.

But how about these other sources? That is about the same level as mankind. The volcanoes put out about the same thing mankind puts out every year, unless there is a big volcano that goes off.

What about some of the other sources? The other sources of methane and CO_2 are what? How about insects and termites, and how about rotting wood? Do you know that insects and termites and rotting wood contribute much more to the CO_2 and methane that goes into the environment than human beings? All of our industrialization does not put into the environment as much CO_2 and methane that termites and insects and rotting wood do.

So if our main concern about pollutants is to bring those CO_2 levels of methane down, because we are so afraid of global warming, what would we do? What would be consistent with that? Well, they say you want to limit human beings' right to have their own automobiles, make it so expensive people cannot own a car, $5, $6 a gallon gasoline. We want to make sure there are controls on all the factories so we do not have good jobs, ordinary people lose their jobs. That is what they say. That would only get to maybe 1 or 2 percent of the CO_2 that is being put into the atmosphere.

If you are really consistent with what these fanatics, the global warming fanatics, would have you do, what we would do is bulldoze, are you listening to this, bulldoze all of the rain forests and all of the old growth trees, because, according to the global warming theory, the CO_2 and the methane that comes in, that is what is causing global warming, and rotting wood in rain forests and the insects eating that rotting wood and the old growth trees we have here in the United States and elsewhere are the major source of that pollutant. So what we need to do is bulldoze all those rain forests.

Now, do you think you are ever going to hear some global warming fanatic come down here and admit that? No way. But if you ask them, you keep pointing questions, they always try to dodge this question. In a hearing you keep on them, and you will get them to admit that yes, this is a much greater source for global warming gasses, you know, they call them greenhouse gasses, than industrialization.

Now. Well, I do not happen to think we should, and, by the way, I am not advocating that we bulldoze all the forests and all of the rain forests. By the way, what you would do then is plant young trees. It is young trees and plants that are young that soak in the carbon dioxide and give out oxygen. That is what you want for a better balance of CO_2 and oxygen in the planet. But I would not advocate that. But I do not believe in the global warming theory.

Interestingly enough, many global warming people also oppose nuclear power. Making sure we put the power of the atom to work in producing electricity would have a tremendous impact in lowering CO_2. Are you going to find them out here advocating that? No way. Instead, what they are advocating are stricter controls on the amount of money that is invested in businesses in this country, the amount of money that is invested in manufacturing facilities, and restricting the kind of activity that we can do industrially in this country. And who does that hurt? It hurts ordinary working people who want to have working class jobs. That is who it hurts. They are willing to do that. Their own theory would suggest they said bulldoze down all of the forests and all of the swamps and rain forests we have.

Do not hold your breath looking for those people to be consistent. Instead, what you can do is watch them come to the well day after day condemning George W. Bush for not going along with the global warming treaty, and being very nebulous about exactly what that means. He supposedly is doing nothing.

George Bush was 100 percent right in rejecting the Kyoto Protocol and demanding further scientific research before any drastic government policies are put into place. The most frightening element of the global warming debate is that intelligent people backed up by so-called experts are willing to give up the American way of life, and, yes, put into place regulations and taxes that would lower our standing of living.

Global warming advocates would have us give authority to unelected international officials. And all of this to me, I do not care if they call them international environmental bureaucrats or just international officials, if they have not been elected, I do not want them making decisions over my life. If these global warming fanatics have their way, Americans are going to be targeted as the bad guys.

If you ever listen to these arguments, whether it is Daschle or other global warming advocates, it is always the American people that put more pollutants into the air. No, that argument does not hold. In fact, what every person in the world puts into the air is only a minor, a minor, contribution to what global warming is all about. But, yet, the American people are trying to be stampeded by this campaign.

Now, I have seen campaigns like this before. I have seen people trying to scare people on various issues since I was a little kid. How many people remember when cranberries were supposedly going to cause cancer, and then all of a sudden the cranberry business for 2 years went to hell. People went bankrupt because our people were frightened into believing cranberries caused cancer. That is when I was a little kid.

Guess what? People are drinking cranberry juice. There are so many cranberries being consumed in our county, I cannot believe it.

Then there were cyclamates in soda. That was going to cause cancer. It cost our soda pop industry billions of dollars that evaporated. They put the cyclamates in, it was something to keep people from gaining weight.

Canada never took the cyclamates out. Then 10 years ago, after billions of dollars of cost they mandated in our business, that means there are fewer people employed, that comes right out of the general welfare of our people, that we do not have that wealth to make our lives better, guess what? The FDA said, guess what? We are sorry, the cyclamates do not cause cancer after all.

We also remember a very well-known movie star that convinced us only a few years ago that alar in apples caused cancer. Well, I am sorry, after about a year that actress was found to be wrong. But what happened in that year? Apple farmers suffered tremendous losses. Many families lost their whole life savings. They went out of business.

When we buy on total theories that are haywire and unscientific theories, there is an effect to this. There is a cause and effect. We buy on to things that are not scientifically proven, they are trying to scare us. Just like they are trying to scare the kids in my Congressional District about dirty air. That is the cleanest air we have had in decades, but if we buy on to those theories and get frightened, it will impact in a negative way.

Now, with the cranberries and the cyclamates and the alar, it just hurt various farmers. But if we buy on to the global warming theory, it is going to hurt all of us. It is going to bring down our standard of living.

Thank God we have a President of the United States that is willing to say this does not hold water; we need a lot more scientific research before we make such decisions; I am not going to go along with this global warming Kyoto Protocol. I commend him for that, and I would hope that the American people understand his wisdom and his courage and that he is standing there to protect us and to protect our standard of living.

With that, I would ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing that George W. Bush is doing this kind of job and that he is a good man, and wish him well.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KIRK). The Chair will remind all Members that in order to preserve comity between the two chambers, Members will refrain from making personal references to Senators.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. FROST (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for after 12:30 p.m. today on account of official business.

Mr. HANSEN (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. KELLER (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for after 1:00 p.m. today on account of family reasons.

Mr. MCINNIS (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of family reasons.

Mr. MCNULTY (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for Thursday, July 26, before 3:00 p.m. on account of attending a family funeral.

Ms. SLAUGHTER (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. WATT of North Carolina (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of a death in the family.

Mr. SUNUNU (at the request of Mr. ARMEY) for today on account of attending a memorial service for his uncle.

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. INSLEE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. SKELTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CARSON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. INSLEE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LAMPSON, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STEARNS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBERSTAR, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 43 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Monday, July 30, 2001, at 12:30 p.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

3134. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas [Docket No. 01–063–1] received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3135. 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. 00–016–3] received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3136. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Export Certification; Canadian Solid Wood Packing Materials Exported From the United States to China [Docket No. 99–100–3] received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3137. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Pine Shoot Beetle; Addition to Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 01–048–1] received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3138. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Accreditation Standards for Laboratory Seed Health Testing and Seed Crop Phytosanitary Inspection [Docket No. 99–030–2] received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

3139. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Arthur K. Cebrowski, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of Vice Admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

3140. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer Alternate, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Assessments and Fees [No. 2001–44] (RIN: 1550–AB47) received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3141. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer Alternate, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Liquidity [No. 2001–51] (RIN: 1550–AB42) received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3142. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer Alternate, Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Conversion from Stock Form Depository Institution to Federal Stock Association [No. 2001–52] (RIN: 1550–AB46) received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

3143. A letter from the Director, Corporate Policy and Research Department, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits—received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

3144. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor 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 (Wallace, Idaho and Bigfork, Montana) [MM Docket No. 98–159; RM–9290] received July 24, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3145. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor 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 (Kingman and Dolan Springs, Arizona) [MM Docket No. 01–63; RM–10075] received July 24, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3146. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor 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 (West Hurley, Rosendale and Rhinebeck, New York, and North Cannan and Sharon, Connecticut) [MM Docket No. 97–178; RM–8329; RM–8739; RM–10099] received July 24, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

3147. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3148. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3149. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3150. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3151. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3152. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

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3157. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3158. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3159. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3160. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3161. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3162. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3163. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3164. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3165. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3166. A letter from the Assistant Director for Executive and Political Personnel, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3167. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3168. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3169. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3170. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of Education, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3171. A letter from the Office of Headquarters and Executive Personnel Services, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

3172. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Ocean Perch in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 010112013–1013–01; I.D. 071201A] received July 25, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

3173. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans' Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule— End of the Service Members Occupational Conversion and Training Program (RIN: 2900–AK45) received July 24, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

3174. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit, or abatement; determination of correct tax liability [Rev. Proc. 2001–41] received July 24, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3175. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Estate tax return; Form 706, Extension to File [TD 8957] (RIN: 1545–AX98) received July 24, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3176. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Exxon v. Commissioner, 113 T.C. 338 (1999) (Docket No. 23331–95, 16692–97) received July 24, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3177. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Reduction in Certain Deductions of Mutual Life Insurance Companies [Rev. Rul. 2001–33] received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

3178. A letter from the Regulations Officer, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Collection of Supplemental Security Income (SSI) Overpayments from Social Security Benefits (RIN: 0960–AF13) received July 20, 2001, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2505. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit human cloning; with amendments (Rept. 107–170). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. TAUZIN (for himself, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. HANSEN, and Mr. OXLEY):

H.R. 4. A bill to enhance energy conservation, research and development and to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Ways and Means, Resources, Education and the Workforce, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Budget, 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. BRADY of Pennsylvania (for himself and Ms. VELAZQUEZ):

H.R. 2666. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to direct the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a vocational and technical entrepreneurship development program; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BUYER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. KIRK):

H.R. 2667. A bill to provide for a joint Department of Defense and Department of Veterans Affairs demonstration project to identify benefits of integrated management of health care resources of those departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. HASTINGS of Florida:

H.R. 2668. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit the disposition of a firearm to, and the possession of a firearm by, non-permanent resident aliens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MORAN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BISHOP, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. HUTCHINSON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. CONDIT, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. HAYES, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. KIND, and Mr. JOHN):

H.R. 2669. A bill to improve access to telecommunications and Internet services in rural areas; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and 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 Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (for herself, Mrs. MALONEY of New York, Mr. STARK, Mrs. THURMAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. FROST, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. MINK of Hawaii, Ms. LEE, Mr. SANDLIN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BONIOR, Mr. NADLER, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. HONDA, Mr. FRANK, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. RUSH, Mr. DEFAZIO, Ms. WATERS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. LAMPSON, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. HALL of Texas, Mr. FORD, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. REYES, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. SANCHEZ, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BACA, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. LAFALCE, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MATSUI, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. BERKLEY, Ms. BROWN of Florida, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. RIVERS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WU, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Ms. KILPATRICK, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. EVANS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. MOORE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, Mr. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. SCOTT):

H.R. 2670. A bill to promote the economic security and safety of victims of domestic and sexual violence, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and Energy and 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. STRICKLAND (for himself and Mr. NEY):

H.R. 2671. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to suspend for five years the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to increase the copayment amount in effect for medication furnished by the Secretary on an outpatient basis for the treatment of service-connected disabilities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FOLEY:

H.J. Res. 59. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide that no person born in the United States will be a United States citizen unless a parent is a United States citizen, is lawfully in the United States, or has a lawful immigration status at the time of the birth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. WEINER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, and Mr. PLATTS):

H. Con. Res. 202. Concurrent resolution condemning the Palestinian Authority and various Palestinian organizations for using children as soldiers and inciting children to acts of violence and war; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Financial 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. SCHAFFER (for himself and Ms. KAPTUR):

H. Con. Res. 203. Concurrent resolution congratulating Ukraine on the tenth anniversary of re-establishment of its independence; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. COX, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GILMAN, Mr. WU, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. PITTS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. NADLER, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HOYER, and Mr. RUSH):

H. Res. 212. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the World Conference Against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia, and Related Intolerance presents a unique opportunity to address global discrimination; to the Committee on International Relations.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 17: Mr. BOEHLERT.
H.R. 103: Mr. SKEEN and Mr. LARGENT.
H.R. 116: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
H.R. 218: Mr. SCARBOROUGH and Mrs. MALONEY of New York.
H.R. 292: Mr. CROWLEY AND MR. RANGEL.
H.R. 321: Mr. ABERCROMBLE.
H.R. 335: Mr. NETHERCUTT.
H.R. 448: Mr. UDALL of Colorado and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 758: Mr. BALDWIN.
H.R. 877: Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.
H.R. 914: Mr. WICKER.
H.R. 936: Mr. REHBERG.
H.R. 951: Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BASS, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 959: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 1038: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
H.R. 1070: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1073: Mr. JOHN.
H.R. 1086: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon.
H.R. 1089: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
H.R. 1108: Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1143: Mr. TIERNEY and Mrs. MEEK of Florida.
H.R. 1170: Mr. LEVIN.
H.R. 1198: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1201: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
H.R. 1238: Mr. MCNULTY and Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 1243: Mr. SHOWS.
H.R. 1290: Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
H.R. 1305: Mr. HORN.
H.R. 1307: Mr. BORSKI.
H.R. 1323: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1330: Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 1377: Mr. RADANOVICH.
H.R. 1450: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 1509: Mr. SANDERS and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1522: Mr. HOEFFEL and Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 1584: Mr. NORWOOD.
H.R. 1598: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1609: Mr. BOYD.
H.R. 1611: Mr. PASCRELL.
H.R. 1644: Mr. GUTKNECHT.
H.R. 1645: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. BENTSEN.
H.R. 1681: Mr. PICKERING, Ms. HART, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. KINGSTON.
H.R. 1700: Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 1701: Mrs. KELLY.
H.R. 1703: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1701: Mr. BACA.
H.R. 1718: Mr. WEINER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, and Mr. SHOWS.
H.R. 1731: Mr. SCHAFFER, Mr. ARMEY, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. FOLEY, and Mr. GILLMOR.
H.R. 1773: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1775: Mr. CONDIT, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.
H.R. 1784: Mr. REYES, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, and Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 1798: Mr. HORN.
H.R. 1815: Ms. PELOSI and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1830: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. BRADY of Pennsyulvania, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. CARDIN, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. FARR of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FORD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MOORE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. PHELPS, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WU, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 1893: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 1897: Mr. CROWLEY and Mr. KING.
H.R. 1918: Mr. WELLER.
H.R. 1931: Mr. DEUTSCH and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 1935: Mr. UDALL of Colorado and Mr. FERGUSON.
H.R. 1961: Mrs. DAVIS of California and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1975: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. BAKER, and Mr. BASS.
H.R. 1986: Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. VITTER.
H.R. 1997: Mr. ENGLISH.
H.R. 2023: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. BAKER.
H.R. 2047: Mr. SMITH of Texas.
H.R. 2074: Mr. FARR of California and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
H.R. 2121: Mr. PAYNE and Ms. LEE.
H.R. 2166: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
H.R. 2173: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. EVANS, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2188: Mr. BORSKI, Mr. LANTOS, and Ms. HART.
H.R. 2200: Mr. SOUDER and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 2212: Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. SCHROCK.
H.R. 2235: Mr. COLLINS.
H.R. 2244: Mr. SMITH of Michigan.
H.R. 2291: Ms. HART.
H.R. 2294: Mr. EVANS.
H.R. 2316: Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. BAKER, Ms. DUNN, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, and Mr. SUNUNU.
H.R. 2329: Mr. BASS and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2339: Mr. PASCRELL and Ms. HART.
H.R. 2341: Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GOODE, and Mr. KELLER.
H.R. 2362: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. FRANK, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. FROST.
H.R. 2364: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. HOEFFEL, and Mr. FRANK.
H.R. 2379: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 2380: Mr. STRICKLAND and Mr. CRANE.
H.R. 2390: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 2398: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas and Ms. HART.
H.R. 2405: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OLVER, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 2442: Mr. GEKAS.
H.R. 2454: Ms. PELOSI, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. HARMAN, Mrs. BONO, Mr. CALVERT, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 2457: Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. BURR of North Carolina, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. HERGER, and Mrs. EMERSON.
H.R. 2498: Mr. BARRETT.
H.R. 2550: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2559: Ms. NORTON.
H.R. 2592: Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 2598: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mr. CONDIT.
H.R. 2605: Mrs. THURMAN and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 2608: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 2614: Mr. LANTOS, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 2663: Mr. FILNER.
H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. SWEENEY and Mr. CROWLEY.
H. Con. Res. 116: Mr. FRANK.
H. Con. Res. 131: Mr. FROST, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. PORTMAN, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, and Mr. GALLEGLY.
H. Con. Res. 181: Mr. RUSH, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. CROWLEY.
H. Con. Res. 188: Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. Watson, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SABO, Mr. KUCINICH, and Ms. PRYCE of Ohio.
H. Res. 132: Ms. WATSON and Mr. MCHUGH.
H. Res. 200: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GILMAN, and Mr. BEREUTER.
H. Res. 202: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. ISRAEL.
H. Res. 211: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. MEEK of Florida, Ms. LEE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. HILLIARD, Mrs. CLAYTON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. WYNN, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SCOTT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. BROWN of Florida, and Ms. WATSON.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 770: Mr. BISHOP.
H.R. 1745: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2620

OFFERED BY: MRS. WILSON

AMENDMENT NO. 47: Page 61, line 25, after the dollar figure, insert ''(reduced by $15,000,000)''.

Page 64, lines 5 and 9, after the dollar figures, insert ''(increased by $15,000,000)''.