

unit commanders to limit the dissemination of information likely to be contained in news reports.

Perhaps more important than the embed plan itself is the extent to which journalists not embedded with U.S. troops will be allowed to move and gather news freely. To date, U.S. officials have offered no convincing guarantees that "unilateral" reporting, or reports by nonembedded journalists, will be allowed to proceed without interference. Pentagon officials have stated that they anticipate the presence of unilateral reporters in a potential military theater, and military units that encounter journalists will treat them "like any other civilian person found on the battlefield." Officials, however, have never provided details or assurances about the kind of access unilateral reporters would experience on or around the battlefield but instead have warned journalists about the dangers associated with not embedding.

Lastly, CPJ is concerned for the safety of the significant number of journalists who will likely be working in Baghdad should conflict erupt. While we are worried about possible threats from Iraqi authorities, who detailed and imprisoned several international correspondents during the 1991 Gulf War, we also fear that foreign reporters working in Baghdad could be endangered by U.S. air strikes. We note with concern that U.S. and NATO forces have targeted local broadcast facilities in previous conflicts, including the 1999 strike on the offices of the Yugoslav state broadcaster RTS television. Furthermore, your office has failed to assuage the concerns highlighted in our January 31, 2002, letter requesting clarification on the November 2001 U.S. military strike that destroyed the offices of the Arabic language broadcaster Al-Jazeera in Kabul, Afghanistan. We remind you that statements made by Pentagon officials to U.S. media representatives on February 28, 2003, warning of the potential dangers to unilateral reporters operating in Iraq do not absolve U.S. forces of their responsibility to avoid endangering media operating in known locations.

Today, hundreds of journalists are preparing to cover what could be a potentially hazardous assignment in Iraq and the Persian Gulf should the U.S. decide to attack Iraq. Despite these inherent dangers, journalists have an obligation to report the news, especially in times of war, when public information is crucial. Any U.S. military action must take into account the safety of working journalists and their ability to work freely. As an independent organization of journalists dedicated to defending press freedom worldwide, we urge you to take the following actions to make certain that journalists covering a possible war with Iraq can do so freely and safely: Ensure that journalists operating within the embed system be allowed the maximum possible freedom to report; provide public assurance to journalists who will be reporting outside the embed system that the U.S. military will not interfere in their work and will impose only those restrictions absolutely necessary to ensure the safety of U.S. military personnel and operations; refrain from targeting broadcast and other media operating in Baghdad; and ensure that maximum precaution is taken to avoid harm to journalists operating in known locations in potential military theaters.

Thank you for your attention to these important matters. We await your response.

Sincerely,

JOEL SIMON,
Acting Director.

CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, surely he came to save that which was lost.

As the father of two beautiful daughters, I was elated last night to see a little girl by the name of Elizabeth Smart lost 9 months ago to her family and her community restored to hearth and home. It was an awesome sight and a reunion that is difficult to imagine in its joy this side of eternity.

As a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and as the author of legislation protecting children from Internet pornographers, Madam Speaker, I am delighted to report this week against the backdrop of that awesome news Congress was caught doing something. It is truly astonishing.

In the midst of the disappearance of Elizabeth Smart and far too many others, last year Congress passed the Child Abduction Prevention Act, taking strong action to prevent child kidnappings in the future. It included a national Amber alert. But sadly, the Senate failed to act on that important legislation. Undeterred, the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENBRENNER), was already moving this bill last week when public vigilance restored Elizabeth Smart to her family.

Different from action in the other body earlier today, that creates a national coordinator that already exists within the Justice Department and a voluntary national Amber alert. The Child Abduction Prevention Act that was already marked up last week and scheduled for consideration in the Committee on the Judiciary this coming week creates a national Amber alert communication network. It gives the judicial branch the ability to impose life sentences for child sex offenders, creates a mandatory life sentence for two strike offenders. It eliminates the statute of limitation for child abduction and it doubles Federal funds to the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children.

There is real substance in the Child Abduction Prevention Act. This is a time against the backdrop of this extraordinarily joyous news that we in Washington need legislation, not symbolism and photo ops. To the family of Elizabeth Smart and her brave and courageous parents, may the Lord bless your reunion. But to my colleagues, let us seize this historic occasion of joy to pass meaningful legislation. Let us move the Child Abduction Prevention Act among my colleagues on the Committee on the Judiciary, and as swiftly as is possible, let us move it to the floor of the House of Representatives and to the President's desk. Our children, including Elizabeth Smart, deserve no less.

PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, 108TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(2) of Rule XI, I hereby submit for the RECORD the Committee on House Administration's Rules for the 108th Congress. The Committee Rules were adopted by the Committee on House Administration on February 5, 2003.

RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION

RULE NO. 1: GENERAL PROVISIONS

(a) The Rules of the House are the rules of the Committee so far as applicable, except that a motion to recess from day to day is a privileged motion in the Committee.

(b) The Committee is authorized at any time to conduct such investigations and studies as it may consider necessary or appropriate in the exercise of its responsibilities under House Rule X and, subject to the adoption of expense resolutions as required by House Rule X, clause 6, to incur expenses (including travel expenses) in connection therewith.

(c) The Committee is authorized to have printed and bound testimony and other data presented at hearings held by the Committee, and to distribute such information by electronic means. All costs of stenographic services and transcripts in connection with any meeting or hearing of the Committee shall be paid from the appropriate House account.

(d) The Committee shall submit to the House, not later than January 2 of each odd-numbered year, a report on the activities of the Committee under House Rules X and XI during the Congress ending at noon on January 3 of such year.

(e) The Committee's rules shall be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD not later than 30 days after the Committee is elected in each odd-numbered year.

RULE NO. 2: REGULAR AND SPECIAL MEETINGS

(a) The regular meeting date of the Committee on House Administration shall be the second Wednesday of every month when the House is in session in accordance with Clause 2(b) of House Rule XI. Additional meetings may be called by the Chairman of the Committee (hereinafter in these rules referred to as the "Chairman") as he may deem necessary or at the request of a majority of the members of the Committee in accordance with Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. The determination of the business to be considered at each meeting shall be made by the Chairman subject to Clause 2(c) of House Rule XI. A regularly scheduled meeting may be dispensed with if, in the judgment of the Chairman, there is no need for the meeting.

(b) If the Chairman is not present at any meeting of the Committee, or at the discretion of the Chairman, the Vice Chairman of the Committee shall preside at the meeting. If the Chairman and Vice Chairman of the Committee are not present at any meeting of the Committee, the ranking member of the majority party who is present shall preside at the meeting.

RULE NO. 3: OPEN MEETINGS

As required by Clause 2(g), of House Rule XI, each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, of the Committee, shall be open to the public except when the Committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that all or part of the remainder of the meeting on that day shall be closed to

the public because disclosure of matters to be considered would endanger national security, would compromise sensitive law enforcement information, or would tend to defame, degrade or incriminate any person, or otherwise would violate any law or rule of the House: Provided, however, that no person other than members of the Committee, and such congressional staff and such departmental representatives as they may authorize, shall be present in any business or markup session which has been closed to the public.

RULE NO. 4: RECORDS AND ROLL CALLS

(a) The result of each record vote in any meeting of the Committee shall be transmitted for publication in the Congressional Record as soon as possible, but in no case later than two legislative days following such record vote, and shall be made available for inspection by the public at reasonable times at the Committee offices, including a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition; the name of each member voting for and against; and the members present but not voting.

(b)(1) Subject to subparagraph (2), the Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time.

(2) In exercising postponement authority under subparagraph (1), the Chairman shall take all reasonable steps necessary to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

(3) When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(c) All Committee hearings, records, data, charts, and files shall be kept separate and distinct from the congressional office records of the member serving as Chairman; and such records shall be the property of the House and all members of the House shall have access thereto.

(d) House records of the Committee which are at the National Archives shall be made available pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chairman shall notify the ranking minority party member of any decision to withhold a record pursuant to the rule, and shall present the matter to the Committee upon written request of any Committee member.

(e) To the maximum extent feasible, the Committee shall make its publications available in electronic form.

(f) All Committee resolutions and Committee motions (other than procedural motions) adopted by the Committee during a Congress shall be numbered consecutively.

RULE NO. 5: PROXIES

No vote by any member in the Committee may be cast by proxy.

RULE NO. 6: POWER TO SIT AND ACT; SUBPOENA POWER

(a) For the purpose of carrying out any of its functions and duties under House Rules X and XI, the Committee, is authorized (subject to subparagraph (b)(1) of this paragraph)—

(1) to sit and act at such times and places within the United States, whether the House is in session, has recessed, or has adjourned, and to hold such hearings; and

(2) to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents; as it deems necessary. The Chairman, or any member designated by

the Chairman, may administer others to any witness.

(b)(1) A subpoena may be authorized and issued by the Committee in the conduct of any investigation or series of investigations or activities, only when authorized by a majority of the members voting, a majority being present. The power to authorize and issue subpoenas under subparagraph (a)(2) may be delegated to the Chairman pursuant to such rules and under such limitations as the Committee may prescribe. Authorized subpoenas shall be signed by the Chairman or by any member designated by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman or such member.

(2) Compliance with any subpoena issued by the Committee may be enforced only as authorized or directed by the House.

RULE NO. 7: QUORUMS

No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present. For the purposes of taking any action other than reporting any measure, issuance of a subpoena, closing meetings, promulgating Committee orders, or changing the rules of the Committee, one-third of the members of the Committee shall constitute a quorum. For purposes of taking testimony and receiving evidence, two members shall constitute a quorum.

RULE NO. 8: AMENDMENTS

Any amendment offered to any pending legislation before the Committee must be made available in written form when requested by any member of the Committee. If such amendment is not available in written form when requested, the Chair will allow an appropriate period of time for the provision thereof.

RULE NO. 9: HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) The Chairman, in the case of hearings to be conducted by the Committee, shall make public announcement of the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing to be conducted on any measure or matter at least one (1) week before the commencement of that hearing. If the Chairman, with the concurrence of the ranking minority member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote, a quorum being present for the transaction of business, the Chairman shall make the announcement at the earliest possible date. The clerk of the Committee shall promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record as soon as possible after such public announcement is made.

(b) Unless excused by the Chairman, each witness who is to appear before the Committee shall file with the clerk of the Committee, at least 48 hours in advance of his or her appearance, a written statement of his or her proposed testimony and shall limit his or her oral presentation to a summary of his or her statement.

(c) When any hearing is conducted by the Committee upon any measure or matter, the minority party members on the Committee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those minority members before the completion of such hearing, to call witnesses selected by the minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(d) Committee members may question a witness only when they have been recognized by the Chairman for that purpose, and only for a 5-minute period until all members present have had an opportunity to question a witness. The 5-minute period for questioning a witness by any one member can be extended as provided by House Rules. The

questioning of a witness in Committee hearings shall be initiated by the Chairman, followed by the ranking minority party member and all other members alternating between the majority and minority. In recognizing members to question witnesses in this fashion, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the majority to minority members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage the members of the majority. The Chairman may accomplish this by recognizing two majority members for each minority member recognized.

(e) The following additional rules shall apply to hearings:

(1) The Chairman at a hearing shall announce in an opening statement the subject of the investigation.

(2) A copy of the Committee rules and this clause shall be made available to each witness.

(3) Witnesses at hearings may be accompanied by their own counsel for the purpose of advising them concerning their constitutional rights.

(4) The Chairman may punish breaches of order and decorum, and of professional ethics on the part of counsel, by censure and exclusion from the hearings; and the Committee may cite the offender to the House for contempt.

(5) If the Committee determines that evidence or testimony at a hearing may tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person, it shall—

(A) afford such person an opportunity voluntarily to appear as a witness;

(B) receive such evidence or testimony in executive session; and

(C) receive and dispose of requests from such person to subpoena additional witnesses.

(6) Except as provided in subparagraph (e)(5), the Chairman shall receive and the Committee shall dispose of requests to subpoena additional witnesses.

(7) No evidence or testimony taken in executive session may be released or used in public sessions without the consent of the Committee.

(8) In the discretion of the Committee, witnesses may submit brief and pertinent sworn statements in writing for inclusion in the record. The Committee is the sole judge of the pertinency of testimony and evidence adduced at its hearing.

(9) A witness may obtain a transcript copy of his testimony given at a public session or, if given at an executive session, when authorized by the Committee.

RULE NO. 10: PROCEDURES FOR REPORTING MEASURES OR MATTERS

(a)(1) It shall be the duty of the Chairman to report or cause to be reported promptly to the House any measure approved by the Committee and to take or cause to be taken necessary steps to bring the matter to a vote.

(2) In any event, the report of the Committee on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within 7 calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the clerk of the Committee a written request, signed by a majority of the members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing of any such request, the clerk of the Committee shall transmit immediately to the Chairman notice of the filing of that request.

(b)(1) No measure or recommendation shall be reported to the House unless a majority of the Committee is actually present.

(2) With respect to each record vote on a motion to report any measure or matter of a

public character, and on any amendment offered to the measure or matter, the total number of votes cast for and against, and the names of those members voting for and against, shall be included in the Committee report on the measure or matter.

(c) The report of the Committee on a measure or matter which has been approved by the Committee shall include the matters required by Clause 3(c) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(d) Each report of the Committee on each bill or joint resolution of a public character reported by the Committee shall include a statement citing the specific powers granted to the Congress in the Constitution to enact the law proposed by the bill or joint resolution.

(e) If, at the time of approval of any measure or matter by the Committee, any member of the Committee gives notice of intention to file supplemental, minority, or additional views, that members shall be entitled to not less than two additional calendar days after the day of such notice, commencing on the day on which the measure or matter(s) was approved, excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays, in which to file such views, in writing and signed by that member, with the clerk of the Committee. All such views so filed by one or more members of the Committee shall be included within, and shall be a part of, the report filed by the Committee with respect to that measure or matter. The report of the Committee upon that measure or matter shall be printed in a single volume which—

(1) shall include all supplemental, minority, or additional views which have been submitted by the time of the filing of the report, and

(2) shall bear upon its cover a recital that any such supplemental, minority, or additional views (and any material submitted under subparagraph (c) are included as part of the report. This subparagraph does not preclude—

(A) the immediate filing or printing of the Committee report unless timely request for the opportunity to file supplemental, minority, or additional views has been made as provided by paragraph (c); or

(B) the filing of any supplemental report upon any measure or matter which may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee upon that measure or matter.

(3) shall, when appropriate, contain the documents required by Clause 3(e) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House.

(f) If hearings have been held on any such measure or matter so reported, the Committee shall make every reasonable effort to have such hearings published and available to the members of the House prior to the consideration of such measure or matter in the House.

(g) The Chairman may designate any member of the Committee to act as "floor manager" of a bill or resolution during its consideration in the House.

RULE NO. 11: COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT

The Committee shall conduct oversight of matters within the jurisdiction of the Committee in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2 and clause 4. Not later than February 15 of the first session of a Congress, the Committee shall, in a meeting that is open to the public and with a quorum present, adopt its oversight plans for that Congress in accordance with House Rule X, clause 2(d).

RULE NO. 12: REVIEW OF CONTINUING PROGRAMS: BUDGET ACT PROVISIONS

(a) The Committee shall, in its consideration of all bills and joint resolutions of a public character within its jurisdiction, en-

sure that appropriation for continuing programs and activities of the Federal Government and the District of Columbia government will be made annually to the maximum extent feasible and consistent with the nature, requirement, and objectives of the programs and activities involved. For the purposes of this paragraph a Government agency includes the organizational units of government listed in Clause 4(e) of Rule X of House Rules.

(b) The Committee shall review, from time to time, each continuing program within its jurisdictions for which appropriations are not made annually in order to ascertain whether such program could be modified so that appropriations therefore would be made annually.

(c) The Committee shall, on or before February 25 of each year, submit to the Committee on the Budget (1) its views and estimates with respect to all matters to be set forth in the concurrent resolution on the budget for the ensuing fiscal year which are within its jurisdiction or functions, and (2) an estimate of the total amounts of new budget authority, and budget outlays resulting therefrom, to be provided or authorized in all bills and resolutions within its jurisdiction which it intends to be effective during that fiscal year.

(d) As soon as practicable after a concurrent resolution on the budget for any fiscal year is agreed to, the Committee (after consulting with the appropriate committee or committees of the Senate) shall subdivide any allocation made to it, the joint explanatory statement accompany the conference report on such resolution, and promptly report such subdivisions to the House, in the manner provided by section 302 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

(e) Whenever the Committee is directed in a concurrent resolution on the budget to determine and recommend changes in laws, bills, or resolutions under the reconciliation process it shall promptly make such determination and recommendations, and report a reconciliation bill or resolution (or both) to the House or submit such recommendations to the Committee on the Budget, in accordance with the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

RULE NO. 13: BROADCASTING OF COMMITTEE HEARINGS AND MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, those proceedings shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography, as provided in Clause 4 of House Rule XI, subject to the limitations therein. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and non-partisan and in accordance with Clause 4(b) of rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

RULE NO. 14: COMMITTEE STAFF

The staff of the Committee on House Administration shall be appointed as follows:

A. The Committee staff shall be appointed, except as provided in paragraph (B), and may be removed by the Chairman and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman;

B. All staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member;

C. The Chairman shall fix the compensation of all staff of the Committee, after consultation with the ranking minority member regarding any minority party staff, within the budget approved for such purposes for the Committee.

RULE NO. 15: TRAVEL OF MEMBERS AND STAFF

(a) Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolutions as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern travel of Committee members and staff. Travel for any member or any staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any member and any staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee and meetings, conferences, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter under the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following:

(1) The purpose of the travel;

(2) The dates during which the travel will occur;

(3) The locations to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each;

(4) The names of members and staff seeking authorization.

(b)(1) In the case of travel outside the United States of members and staff of the Committee for the purpose of conducting hearings, investigations, studies, or attending meetings and conferences involving activities or subject matter under the legislative assignment of the committee, prior authorization must be obtained from the Chairman. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chairman, in writing, a request for such authorization. Each request, which shall be filed in a manner that allows for a reasonable period of time for review before such travel is scheduled to begin, shall include the following:

(A) the purpose of the travel;

(B) the dates during which the travel will occur;

(C) the names of the countries to be visited and the length of time to be spent in each;

(D) an agenda of anticipated activities for each country for which travel is authorized together with a description of the purpose to be served and the areas of committee jurisdiction involved; and

(E) the names of members and staff for whom authorization is sought.

(2) At the conclusion of any hearing, investigation, study, meeting or conference for which travel outside the United States has been authorized pursuant to this rule, members and staff attending meetings or conferences shall submit a written report to the Chairman covering the activities and other pertinent observations or information gained as a result of such travel.

(c) Members and staff of the Committee performing authorized travel on official business shall be governed by applicable laws, resolutions, or regulations of the House and of the Committee on House Administration pertaining to such travel.

RULE NO. 16: POWERS AND DUTIES OF SUBUNITS OF THE COMMITTEE

The Chairman is authorized to establish appropriately named subunits, such as task forces, composed of members of the Committee, for any purpose, measure or matter; one member of each subunit shall be designated chairman of the subunit by the Chairman. All such subunits shall be considered ad hoc subcommittees of the Committee. The rules of the Committee shall be the rules of any subunit of the Committee, so far as applicable, or as otherwise directed by the Chairman. Each subunit of the Committee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence, and to require, by subpoena or otherwise, the attendance and testimony of such witnesses and the production of such books, records, correspondence, memorandums, papers, and documents, as it deems

necessary, and to report to the full Committee on all measures or matters for which it was created. Chairmen of subunits of the Committee shall set meeting dates with the approval of the Chairman of the full Committee, with a view toward avoiding simultaneous scheduling of Committee and subunit meetings or hearings wherever possible. It shall be the practice of the Committee that meetings of subunits not be scheduled to occur simultaneously with meetings of the full Committee. In order to ensure orderly and fair assignment of hearing and meeting rooms, hearings and meetings should be arranged in advance with the Chairman through the clerk of the Committee.

RULE NO. 17: OTHER PROCEDURES AND REGULATIONS

The Chairman may establish such other procedures and take such actions as may be necessary to carry out the foregoing rules or to facilitate the effective operation of the committee.

RULE NO. 18: DESIGNATION OF CLERK OF THE COMMITTEE

For the purposes of these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, the staff director of the Committee shall act as the clerk of the Committee.

HONORING ERNIE BARKA

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a dedicated New Hampshire resident who has devoted over 30 years of his life to public service, Mr. Ernie Barka.

Ernie passed away Monday, March 10, at the age of 80. He was a true civic leader in his community, devoting his life to others and improving the quality of life for residents, not only in his hometown but all over southern New Hampshire. He worked tirelessly to help those less fortunate and was a champion for the elderly and for children.

The son of Lebanese immigrants, Ernie learned strong family values and the importance of respect for others while working in his parents' grocery store. The strong work ethic instilled by his parents during his childhood carried over to all aspects of his adult life, particularly in his community and civic involvement.

Ernie served most recently as Rockingham County Commissioner and was a former State representative and former school board member in the town of Derry.

Ernie is credited with launching the Meals on Wheels program in Rockingham County. Leaders like Ernie exemplify the true spirit of civic responsibility and he will be truly missed. His efforts to make New Hampshire a better place to live have made a lasting impact on the people of New Hampshire that both knew him and knew of him. I am happy to have called Ernie my friend.

FINANCIAL CHALLENGES FACING THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Madam Speaker, with this early session today it seemed like an appropriate time to talk about what I think are maybe three of the greatest problems that we are facing in the United States Congress in America outside of our economic security and our physical security with the wars going on in Iraq, with the challenge from the terrorists around the world. However, the financial problems that we are facing in Congress are also very serious, and I think we must reverse the rapid descent that we have been taking into extra deficits and overspending. So today I will talk about three areas: One, spending; two, the resulting debt; and, three, some of the financial challenges that face this Nation in the future.

The first chart I have is the a chart representing the last 10 years of spending; and discretionary spending has increased an average of 6.3 percent, 6.3 percent each year since 1996, and 7.7 percent each year since 1999. So it is somewhat flat. It starts going up in 1996 and then it really takes off from 1998, 1999 averaging 7.7 percent a year. That is two, three, depending on the year, sometimes almost four times the rate of inflation. So you can imagine if you project that on in this kind of growths of costs, government is going to be eating up more of our income, more of our gross domestic product in the years ahead.

□ 1645

Why is this? How can we control ourselves from the overzealousness and the attractiveness to spend more money? Of course, politicians in this Chamber get elected every 2 years. The politicians in the other Chamber get elected every 6 years, and the tendency has been when a Member of Congress takes home more pork barrel projects, when they are doing something to solve some of the problems that we face in this country, then they get on television. They get on the front page of the paper. They become popular, especially with those people that need those services, and there is a greater propensity that they are going to get reelected.

So the tendency has been to spend more and more money, and we have changed our income tax system so that most of the people in the United States do not pay much of any income tax. It is the top 14 percent of taxpayers that pay something like 90 percent of the total income tax, and the bottom 50 percent of income taxpayers only pay about 1 percent of the income tax. So it is easy to understand that that bottom 50 percent is not outraged by increased

taxes and increased spending and increased borrowing, and this is the next issue I wanted to talk about is borrowing.

Three years ago, in the year 2000, we had a budget surplus of \$236 billion. This year we are approaching a \$500 billion deficit. So over \$700 billion changed from surplus to deficit in a total Federal spending budget that we are looking at this year of \$2.1 to \$2.2 trillion. Huge points, and again, that is because of the overzealousness to spend.

Let us look at what has happened as a result of that spending, and I think it is good to remind ourselves of the definitions. When we say "deficit" that means a year in which we are spending more money than the Federal Government has in revenues coming into the Federal Government, and "debt" is the accumulation of that annual overspending. So what does government do? We borrow more money.

As a safeguard to try to hold the line on borrowing, what we did many, many years ago is said, look, we cannot borrow, in fact, the Constitution prescribes it, we cannot borrow any extra indebtedness for this country unless it is a law passed by the Senate, the House and signed by the President, to try to put some restraints on the temptation to simply borrow more and more money and spend more and more of that money, and of course, this chart is an explanation, as best as we could portray it, in a blue line, a green line and a purple line, if you will, on the gross Federal debt and its components.

As we look at the bottom purple line, this is the debt held by government accounts. It is the money that we ask workers in this country to pay into the FICA tax, into the Social Security tax, designed in 1934, to be a forced saving so that while we are working, some of that money is taken out. FDR, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, said instead of having to go over the hill to the poor house, we are going to have mandatory savings during those years when a person is working, and then when they retire they will have more security, more Social Security. They will not have to go over the hill to the poor house.

So we came up with a Social Security system, and when we started, it was a situation where current workers paid in their taxes to pay for the benefit of current retirees. That is the same today.

Also, the extra money that is paid in by all Federal workers for their retirement programs, the money for the pensions of the military, our armed service members who pay in part of their wages for their retirement, that is all accounts held by the government, and what we assume in this Chamber, in the Senate and the White House, is that it is okay simply to write out an IOU and spend that money for other government services, but it technically is part of the debt, and as we see over the years, this debt held by government services continues to go up, at