Therefore, it is no secret that a threat still looms on our home front, so we must not forget that this war is not just being fought abroad.

Therefore, it is essential that the supplemental spending bill include necessary funding to meet the needs of the Nation's homeland security. In my district the Anaheim Police Department is presently spending an extra $21,000 per day to maintain Level Orange threat. If our Nation goes to Level Red, this number will double to $40,000 per day.

Also, joint terrorism task forces have been set up in a number of cities to coordinate the dissemination of information and strategies dealing with potential terrorism. These task forces give local law enforcement the unique opportunity to train, coordinate, and work closely with Federal agencies like the FBI, the INS, the marshals, Customs, and the Secret Service to share information and develop a coordinated process for combating terror threats, but there is no funding, no resources to adequately implement this.

While we continue to fight for additional resources for our first responders, we must not forget that the main thing we need to do is prevent any future terrorist attacks.

This week the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States received testimony from experts on the state of our Nation's homeland security. The testimony was not pretty. Our Nation's ports were referred to as porous, our civil aviation facilities called unprepared, and our immigration check points deficient. Our ports of entry are some of the most vulnerable threat risks to this Nation, and we need to provide the means and the resources for adequate security.

Every year more than 6 million cargo containers pass through our ports; 4 million of those, accounting for 35 percent of all international trade to the U.S. pass just 20 miles away from my home through Long Beach and L.A. ports, yet only 4 percent of these are screened. But the President responded to these requests with only $22 million, just a third of what we need.

But the President responded to these requests with only $22 million, a third of what the Customs Service deemed necessary.

Additionally, the U.S. Coast Guard requested nearly $1 billion in Port Security Grant money to address gaps in the physical security of the ports it patrols. To date, only 40 percent of that needed funding has been granted.

While the President says in speech after speech that he is taking port security seriously, neither his FY04 budget request nor his supplemental funding request contained money for Port Security. Our ports are still extremely vulnerable, and full funding of Port Security Grants and the Container Security Initiative are imperative.

IMMIGRATION

Of course, our Nation's security risks do not lie exclusively at our ports. We need funding to make sure that border and airport security are adequately staffed to screen entry into our country.

Presently, the government watch list used to screen for suspected terrorists entering the U.S. has 13 million names, including 40 percent more records of suspected terrorists than last year. These numbers are unrealistic, and we need to hire the personnel and develop the accounting systems to make us smarter about keeping track of threats while still allowing legitimate visitors in.

Right now, our universities are facing a crisis because visa backlogs and the government's new foreign student tracking system are slowing the ability for good, qualified students to participate in our university system.

We cannot develop new immigration systems at the expense of undermining the diversity that makes our nation great.

CONCLUSION

As the war goes on in Iraq, we face a great challenge here at home. Our homeland security needs are great, and many of them are not met. We need to work hard, we need to work efficiently, and we need to work intelligently to ensure we are doing everything possible to protect our communities.

FUNDING HOMELAND SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, let me acknowledge the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER) for the excellent Special Order that preceded me, and I would ask that my remarks be placed in the RECORD alongside that Special Order.

Madam Speaker, let me just suggest that we have an enormous challenge before us, and the responsibility that America is entrusting us with is a very difficult one, a very challenging one, but a very important one, and that is, of course, to secure the homeland. I like to think to secure the home front, the home city, to secure the counties and rural and urban communities, to secure the elderly, the disabled, the economically disadvantaged, people of all walks of life, individuals that do not speak English in our country, these are the responsibilities that we have.

Madam Speaker, I am here to suggest that we have challenges. We have challenges at the northern border, and we have challenges at the southern border. I was just in the Committee on Rules and heard the discussion about funding needs for the southern border and the northern border.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Immigration and Claims, I suggest we also have work to deal with this Nation of laws and immigrants. We are a Nation of immigration, and we should realize it does not equate to terrorism.

Madam Speaker, in the emergency appropriations, I am going to ask for additional monies to help us with the student tracking program because we heard from the inspector general today that we need more resources to train the INS or the new agency that deals with this. We need more funds to train them how to do the student tracking program. As well, we need more funds for the implementation of the student tracking program. Our universities are suffering to a certain extent, and a lot of our research work is suffering.

In addition, I think it is important that we look at the entry/exit system which is not designed to prevent individuals from entering or leaving the United States, it simply makes a record of their entry and exit. It is doubtful that it has much utility in enforcing our immigration laws. It can provide the INS with a daily list of nonimmigrant visitors who have overstayed their authorized visit, but it will not provide information where they are. We must focus on finding where these individuals are. That is how we secure the safety of America.

So I also want to comment on the special registration program and suggest that we might look again at that to see whether or not that really does help us in terms of securing this Nation. What we need to do is ensure that we find the overstays, and that the overstayers are not here to do harm. We need to find the terrorist cells in this country and monitor them, and we need to provide the resources to the first responders.

I have added an amendment in the emergency supplemental to ensure that we give an extra $2 million to our first responders, and an additional $3 million to our emergency hazardous materials units and in our respective fire departments throughout the Nation.

Madam Speaker, I believe we have a lot of work to do, and we can do it together. I believe homeland security should be this Nation's first priority. We support the troops, the POWs, and their families. As they secure our freedom, we need to secure the homeland.

As the ranking member of the Judiciary Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims, I want to emphasize that immigration law enforcement and immigration benefits are interrelated and both merit serious attention, support, and funding. The transition from the former Immigration and Naturalization Service into the new department should be undertaken so as to ensure the full provision of services and effective and fair enforcement, while minimizing disruptions and delays.

With the Department of Homeland Security's authority to establish and administer rules governing the granting of visas, it is vitally important that visas be granted to the people who come to build America and denied to those who mean to do us harm. We must balance our national security and economic security needs by recognizing that the United States is tied to the rest of the world economically, socially, and politically.

Enforcement and adjudications come together at our ports of entry. Our national security and economic security depend on the efficient movement of cross-border travel and trade at these ports. The Bureau of Customs and Border Protections must coordinate with the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services to ensure that there are no unnecessary obstacles to cross-border travel. One good way of doing this is to examine ways to expand the use of preinspection stations and authorize pre-clearances for low-risk travelers.

We need to take the time to ensure that our entry exit system works well. This may require billions of dollars to purchase real estate for new inspection lanes, to upgrade our inspection facilities generally, to develop our infrastructure and technological capabilities, and to hire additional inspectors. We must determine if the level of security the system would provide is worth the cost of the program. We also should consider whether the same level of security could be obtained through increased intelligence and database security checks that are performed outside the country.

I want to emphasize that the entry exit system is not designed to prevent individuals from entering or leaving the United States. It simply makes a record of their entry and exit. It is doubtful that it has much utility in enforcing our immigration laws. It can provide the immigration service with a daily list of nonimmigrant visitors who have overstayed their authorized visits, but it will not provide information on where they are. The system will not tell us where they are until they appear at a border to leave the United States. I see little value in placing them in removal proceedings when they are trying to leave on their own volition.

Special registration is a program under which people from certain, specified countries who fall within a specified age range are called in to be interviewed by immigration officers. The program targets groups of people through the use of national origin, race, and religious profiling, not information gathered by intelligence. The special registration program does not enhance our security. Rather, it alienates the very communities here in the United States and abroad that are necessary allies in our fight against terrorism.

We need to do a better job of providing information to our immigration inspectors at the points of entry into our country. We need to obtain information from government agencies that collect criminal and intelligence data that may apply to some of the aliens who seek admission to the United States. A complete and accurate database should have a mechanism for correcting database errors. Having incorrect information only serves to hinder the inspection process and discredit the reliability of the security checks.

The Department of Homeland Security has the responsibility of implementing the President's commitment to admit 70,000 refugees by the end of fiscal year 2003. Among other things, this requires security checks which are causing substantial delays in moving people from refugee camps to the United States. In addition to the delays, there is reason for concern about the effectiveness of the security checks. The current system relies on name checks, and, according to the information my counsel received at a meeting with the State Department, the information from these name checks has not resulted in denial of refugee admission in a single case yet.

THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, I think it is time to tell the American people, ''steady on.'' This operation in Iraq is proceeding according to plan. Our troops are well equipped, well trained, well led. Don Rumsfeld, our Secretary of Defense, is doing a great job. General Tommy Franks, who is the CINC commander and in charge of the operation, is doing a great job.

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This plan was well thought out, and it is being well executed. And as I looked at the map and looked at the bridges which we overran so quickly with a fast armor attack in which the defenders, the Iraqi defenders, did not have a chance to blow, I look at the oil wells that they did not have a chance to fire up, to put aflame as they did in 1991 when we came into an Iraq that was literally carpeted with fires because the Iraqi defenders had a chance to ignite their oil fields, when I look at the other key infrastructure that has not been destroyed and was not laid down in the wake of the retreating Iraqis as a barrier to the American forces, one thing comes to mind, a lightning armor strike as fast as we moved it up those narrow causeways coming up through the center of Iraq has paid off.

And if we had waited, if we had held back, if we had choked those roads with more men and material and we had given them time to blow key bridges, we would have had engineers working in an exposed manner, being subjected to sniping, to potshotting; and we would have taken, in my judgment, Madam Speaker, more casualties. This operation is being conducted very effectively right now, and the Iraqi military is feeling that effectiveness.

Beyond that as we are ringing now the Baghdad area and hammering the remaining Iraqi divisions with heavy air power, it is very clear that even if we had heavy units ringing Baghdad, if we had another two, three, four, five divisions, we still would not have gone in until we attrited or brought down the strength of the Iraqi divisions with air power. So the number of heavy divisions that we had in that staging area at this time would not have been relevant. So once again in reflecting on that and going through the many hearings and briefings that we have had on the facts as they emerge on a day-by-day basis, Madam Speaker, I once again am impressed with the great leadership of our Secretary of Defense, Don Rumsfeld; the leadership of the President of the United States, George Bush; and the great operational leadership in theater of General Tommy Franks.

Madam Speaker, it is clear now that there is another war being fought, and that is the war for hearts and minds; and incidentally I am proud that the gentlewoman of New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), a member of the Committee on Armed Services and a veteran of the U.S. Armed Forces, has put together this Special Order because this is kind of a time to talk about that other effort that is being undertaken, and that is what I would call the ambassadorial effort, the effort that is undertaken by all men and women who wear the uniform of the United States, and those people are proving to Iraqis who may have been subjected to lots of propaganda coming from Baghdad about how Americans were going to rough them up and be mean to them and ill treat them and they now have American GIs doing what American GIs have always done, and that is hand out candy to kids, be kinder than usual, giving away their rations and doing all those other things that young Americans are taught to do because of their moms and their dads and the communities that they are brought up in.

And, Madam Speaker, I think this is a historic time. I think it is a little bit like the days right after the close of World War II when all of Japan lay prostrate before the American military machine; and Japan's military leaders, because they were brutal and because they were cruel and because they were inhumane and especially looking at the things that they did to Chinese civilians when they took Nanking and looking to the beheadings and the mutilations that they undertook against American forces and the executions, they told their people to expect the same thing from the Americans.

And yet when those GIs walked down the streets of Tokyo, completely unopposed, in total power, they handed out candy bars to the kids; and we had almost no incidents, Madam Speaker, of brutality, of GIs acting out bad behavior. They were good ambassadors for this country and for our values. And they are doing the same thing right now, those grandchildren of those great GIs who persevered and won us our freedom in World War II. They are doing the same thing in Iraq because they are great people, and we are seeing now incident after incident of Americans proving that they have great values and that this thing that we call democracy over here is a good way to foster those values and maybe, when we get this country stitched back together, a good thing for the Iraqis to emulate.

I yield now to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), my great colleague on the Committee on Armed Services, who has some very good evidence of those good ambassadors; and I yield to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for yielding, and I also thank him for his leadership in the Committee on Armed Services at a time like this. I found his leadership to be refreshingly direct and full of good humor and also making sure that every Member of this body on both sides of the aisle have access to information, the kind of information that we need to make decisions.

I came to this whole thing very much a skeptic. I know about these things. I