

(Mr. McCOTTER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my special order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the gentleman from Ohio? There was no objection.

IN SUPPORT OF THE AMERICAN PARITY ACT

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

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the American Parity Act sponsored by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL), and I would like to thank him for his leadership on this particular piece of legislation and also thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) for articulating such a fine point that none of us here believe that we should somehow rob the Iraqi people from the taste of democracy or from the taste of a free society. But the argument that we are trying to make tonight is that we want this to happen. We want healthcare for the Iraqi people. We want infrastructure. We want schools. We want them to read and experience all the best that the democracies have to offer around the world. But we cannot do this, we should not do this, and forget along the way the priorities of the United States of America and the citizens that we have here.

I want to share with the American people here tonight a study that was recently done by Goldman Sachs, not exactly a liberal think tank. They said, and this is their forecast, if the President's proposed new tax cuts are enacted, a Medicare prescription drug benefit approved, the alternative minimum tax adjusted, and appropriations grow modestly, the deficits over the next 10 years will total \$4.2 trillion. And that is if the Social Security surplus is included. If it is not included, the deficit would be \$6.7 trillion.

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL) suggested maybe we offer this tax cut to the people of Iraq and allow them to grow their economy, but the problem with the tax cuts and having normal priorities is that the burdens with the baby boom generation needing support in their later years, the children and grandchildren of the citizens of this country's payroll tax will be 33 percent, 33 percent payroll taxes for their children and grandchildren, long-term deficits. We will not be investing in alternative energy sources. We are going to raise the interest rates. We are going to raise the interest payments. We are going to tie our hands with the international problems that we need to be committed to. We are not fully funding IDEA where

the disabled children in this country are not getting the full 40 percent that was promised, and worse yet, we are cutting veterans' benefits by \$28 billion. So we are sending our soldiers out, asking them to achieve these goals, and when they come back, they are going to have \$28 billion less in services and healthcare benefits that will be a smaller and more diminished American dream for our soldiers when they return back to this country.

Mr. Speaker, this is a question of priorities. This is the wealthiest country on the planet.

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This is the freest society on the planet. If we want to create democracy in Iraq, we will. If we want the young school children to have 12,500 more schools, enroll 4 million more children, rebuild or renovate 3,000 schools, we will, because we have the power and the ingenuity and the spirit to make it happen. But we should not do it at the expense of the people and the children of this country, the veterans of this country, the seniors of this country, the disabled children in this country.

This is eerily similar to the administration of 1990 and 1991, where we have completely taken our eye off the domestic ball and we keep it on foreign policy at the expense of the American people. And we are over there because we believe in the Iraqi people. We believe that when the sweet taste of democracy touches their lips, that they will respond in kind.

But let me just say this in closing, Mr. Speaker, that maybe if we were making the investments in this country and gave the faith and the devotion to the people of this country, like we have for the citizens of Iraq, maybe one day the citizens of the United States of America will be up cheering in the streets, saying yes, our government is responding to the needs of the people of this country.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BURGESS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. JONES of North Carolina addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REMEMBERING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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. Mr. Speaker, April 24 will mark the 88th anniversary of the beginning of the Armenian Genocide. On April 24, 1915, 250 Armenian intellectuals and political leaders were arrested and later executed as the rulers of the Ottoman Empire implemented their plan to eradicate their Armenian

subjects. This action against the Armenian community's elite marked the beginning of one of the most horrendous events in the history of humankind.

Two weeks from now, Armenians will gather worldwide to remember their martyrs and survivors and to seek universal affirmation of this crime against humanity. Because we are out of session this year on April 24, I would like to comment on the Armenian Genocide tonight. I do so to honor the memory of those innocent victims killed for only one reason, because they were Armenian.

One and a half million men and women, young and old, able-bodied or not, were driven from their ancestral homeland and brutally massacred.

Mr. Speaker, this week over 160 Members of the House of Representatives, including myself, will send a letter to President Bush asking that he fulfill his campaign promise and use the word "genocide" in his annual April 24th address. He fell short of that promise last year, but with this strong showing of Congressional support it is my hope that he will do the memory of the victims of the Armenian Genocide justice in this year's address.

In addition, Mr. Speaker, tomorrow, more than 60 of my colleagues will join the gentleman from California (Mr. RADANOVICH), the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG) and myself in introducing a resolution on the issue of genocide. This resolution reaffirms the support of the ratification of the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide and anticipating the 15th anniversary of the enactment of the Genocide Convention Implementation Act of 1987.

This resolution is an extremely important and timely measure, in my opinion. It not only speaks to the immeasurable wrongs done to the Armenian people, but also to the Jewish people during the Holocaust and the genocides in Rwanda and Cambodia. In the last two years, we have all seen example after example of the disregard for human life. This resolution would reaffirm that Congress recognizes the horrors of the last century, and strives to prevent further genocides through vigilant education.

Mr. Speaker, the message of the broad, bipartisan support of the letter to the President and the legislation is clear: Turkey must recognize the genocide of its past and accept that Armenia is an integral and necessary sovereign neighbor. It must drop the illegal blockade against Armenia and establish full and normal diplomatic and economic relations. Reconciliation with its past and normalization of relations with Armenia is the only way for Turkey to step out of the dark shadows of its history of genocide. The entire western world, which Turkey so desires to be part of, demands it.

Mr. Speaker, let me say in conclusion, as we embark on a new century,