

on threats posed by Iraq, and make recommendations to Congress and the President regarding steps to enhance the accuracy of intelligence and representations regarding intelligence. The Commission would have the ability to recommend that its findings be made public.

Unlike with congressional committees examining intelligence on Iraq, no political party would have an advantage on the Iraq Commission. Based on the model of the 9/11 Commission which was thoroughly vetted by Congress, the Commission on Intelligence about Iraq would be composed of five members appointed by Republicans and five appointed by Democrats.

Some have tried to deflect efforts to explore questions about the handling of intelligence on Iraq as "revisionist history" or equated such efforts with questioning the war in Iraq. This is misdirected criticism. The purpose of the Commission is simple: to understand the truth.

The Commission's effort should proceed regardless of whether one agrees or disagrees with the ultimate decision to wage war in Iraq, and regardless of whether biological or chemical weapons ultimately are found there. The credibility of our government will remain in jeopardy if we do not resolve doubts regarding the handling of classified information on Iraq.

COMMENDING THE SAN MATEO
POLICE DEPARTMENT

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to applaud the San Mateo Police Department, whose creative and effective policing strategies over the past decade merit recognition and praise by this body.

Law enforcement is one of the principal functions of responsible government, and the duties of a police department are as vital as they are numerous. I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the enormous strains police departments nationwide are currently experiencing, with their budgets shrinking even as their responsibilities multiply. New antiterrorism duties have been met in many cases not, Mr. Speaker, by additional funds, but by service and pay cuts, as the present Administration and Congressional leadership undermine our nation's Finest with their irresponsible theology of tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in thanking the police departments of America for their selfless and courageous service in this most trying time for our nation, and in offering our sympathy as they work hard to make America safe.

The San Mateo Police Department stands out among police departments nationally as a paragon of public service and public sensitivity, and has worked creatively to forge partnerships with the community.

Mr. Speaker, the SMPD has made tremendous strides in recent years. During the period from 1997 to 2002, the overall crime rate in San Mateo plummeted 8 percent and there was not a single murder in the city of nearly 100,000 people. The SMPD's hard work has clearly paid off, and in addition to lower crime rates, it has yielded dividends that cannot be quantified.

Ten years ago, Mr. Speaker, the SMPD launched a Community Oriented Policing program, with the ambitious goal of improving the quality of life for every single person who lives and works in the City of San Mateo. The Department sought to accomplish this task by engaging the individuals, businesses, and local service organizations of San Mateo, as well as appropriate outside governmental agencies, and their approach has been enormously successful.

Indeed, Mr. Speaker, the San Mateo Police Department has been incredibly innovative in its efforts to reach out to the community. Among the more creative initiatives launched by the SMPD in recent years is the Citizen-Police Ride-Along Program, in which San Mateo residents accompany an officer in a police cruiser in order to get a sense of what a police patrol is like. In addition, Mr. Speaker, the SMPD has teamed up with San Mateo Parks & Recreation to form the Police Activities League (PAL), an organization with support from the State of California that helps promote trust and understanding between cops and kids. Six years into the program, the verdict is in and it is unambiguous: PAL has been an unqualified success and has contributed to a marked improvement in relations between youth and law enforcement.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to single out San Mateo Chief of Police Susan E. Manheimer for her leadership and her commitment to the principles of equality, professionalism, justice, and the highest standards of ethics. I have the utmost confidence that her commitment to a focused approach of Problem Oriented Policing will further reduce crime in the City of San Mateo and contribute generally to a better quality of life in the area, and I congratulate her on the Department's accomplishments under her stewardship.

And finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to offer my sincerest and most heartfelt congratulations to police officers Bob Szelenyi and Fred Haney on their promotion to the rank of Sergeant in the San Mateo Police Department. I have known Bob personally since his infancy, and consider him a man of great character, industry, and integrity. In his decade and a half on the force, Mr. Speaker, Bob has established himself as a leader in mediation and negotiation, and is held in the highest regard for his involvement with San Mateo youth.

Officer Szelenyi has been awarded multiple public service awards for his work with kids, Mr. Speaker, and has earned the respect of his colleagues and many others in my district and the entire Bay Area for his successful negotiation of a gang truce several years ago. That truce prevented countless acts of violence and untold suffering, and we are all eternally indebted to him for his hard work on behalf of the lives and safety of the people of San Mateo.

While I did not have the privilege of watching Mr. Haney take his first steps, Mr. Speaker, I am familiar with his work because his remarkable contributions to the community of San Mateo are so well-known. I am proud that he is one of the top officers defending my community, and I believe his work in preventing gang violence, both as an individual officer and as a member of a special gang task force, contributed to the drop in crime my community has enjoyed over the past five years. Furthermore, Mr. Speaker, I would like to commend Mr. Haney on his work at the

frontier of digital evidence and high-tech crimes. He is a model public servant, and I salute him.

Mr. Speaker, I offer my warmest congratulations to the San Mateo Police Department, Police Chief Manheimer, and Sergeants Szelenyi and Haney, and my unending thanks to them for their service to the people of San Mateo. I wish them Godspeed.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ALCEE L. HASTINGS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 24, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the state-of-the-Union had under consideration the bill (H.R. 2555) making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Department of Homeland Security Appropriations bill. This is the first appropriations bill for the new Department and there are few legislative issues that will have as great an impact on our nation.

As many of my colleagues are aware, I have continually expressed concern over inadequate funding available for first responders. I introduced legislation in both this, and the 107th Congress to remedy this funding shortfall. So, when I first reviewed this legislation, I was pleased to note that it provides \$888 million more to first responders than the President requested. However, the CBO estimates that with price increases in the current fiscal year, this legislation, in real dollar terms, is about \$150 million below current levels. The proposed legislation is clearly inadequate to provide the homeland security we need.

This is especially alarming given the fact that the states are suffering their worst fiscal crisis since World War II. The National Governors' Association reports that 46 states have significant revenue shortfalls, and that several have shortfalls in excess of \$1 billion. Homeland Security is one of our most critical national priorities, and yet this Administration is determined to offer \$350 billion in new tax breaks.

A number of critical security shortfalls are not addressed in this legislation. For instance, the U.S. Coast Guard estimates that to adequately secure our ports with cameras and other security measures will cost approximately \$4.4 billion, yet this bill provides only \$100 million for this initiative. In addition, there are no funds in this bill to improve methods of inspecting people and cargo entering this country through our ports. Nor are their any funds to increase the number of containers inspected. According to nearly every expert in the field of security, these areas have been severely neglected since 9/11.

With the budget deficit projected at more than \$400 billion this year, a few billion more for homeland security won't matter very much. I urge my colleagues to carefully consider what a "yes" vote will mean for a number of Amendments that will be introduced later

today. True, they will increase the cost of this legislation, but more importantly, they will increase our national security, which is what this bill is fundamentally supposed to accomplish.

H.R. 2035, THE IDENTITY THEFT
AND FINANCIAL PRIVACY ACT

HON. MAX SANDLIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. SANDLIN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to add my name as a cosponsor of H.R. 2035, the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

As Congress begins the process of reauthorizing various provisions of the Fair Credit Reporting Act FCRA, I hope that my colleagues will join me in supporting measures that help protect people from the growing problem of identity theft. Consumers' private financial information should be carefully guarded, and Congress must act promptly to ensure that credit bureaus provide individuals with updated, accurate information about their credit reports.

H.R. 2035 is an important first step in Congress's efforts to prevent identity theft. By requiring consumer reporting agencies to provide free credit reports annually upon the request of a consumer, this legislation will allow individuals to detect identity theft at an early stage, before their credit reports are permanently damaged. Such reports can be the determining factor behind financial institutions' decisions to extend credit for the purchase of homes and durable goods such as cars and home appliances. Credit reports damaged by stolen identity and fraud can prevent hard working individuals and families from building better lives and attaining the desirable goals of home ownership and financial security.

To that end, I am pleased that H.R. 2035 includes a provision that would require credit card issuers to confirm change of address requests if such a request is received within 30 days of a request for an additional card, and would amend the FCRA to require consumer reporting agencies to notify requesters of potential fraud when the request includes an address for the consumer that is substantially different from the most recent address on file with the consumer reporting agency.

Finally, by requiring the truncation of credit card numbers on printed receipts, H.R. 2035 will curtail a common method by which identity theft so often occurs. In many instances, criminals have easy access to individuals' credit card numbers simply by viewing those numbers on printed receipts. In 2001, 73 percent of American households had at least one credit card, making a large segment of the country vulnerable to having their financial information stolen. This legislation will thwart a significant number of would-be identity thieves by blocking most of the numbers in a person's credit card account, thereby preserving and protecting sensitive, private financial information for the vast majority of the public.

Congress has a responsibility to help the American people, and our national economy, prosper. Strengthening financial privacy laws and preventing identity theft will help to achieve these goals, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting the Identity Theft and Financial Privacy Act.

RECENT RUSSIAN PURCHASE OF
AMERICAN MINE REPRESENTS
FREE MARKET SUCCESS BENE-
FITTING BOTH COUNTRIES

HON. TOM LANTOS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, after the fall of the infamous Berlin Wall and break up of the Soviet Union, I advocated a Marshall Plan for Russia and the former Soviet Republics to demonstrate that democracy and a market economy is the better way for our former adversary.

It is one thing to win the Cold War but quite another to vastly improve the lives of ordinary citizens who have never known freedom. Regrettably, our government did not seize the opportunity then and instead opted for smaller and fragmented programs to encourage private sector investment.

Although we could and should have done more, a new generation of Russian entrepreneurs is boldly moving that country to a vibrant market economy, contributing to Russia's unlikely status as the world's leading growth economy of 2003.

One of the most impressive examples is the Russian oil company, YUKOS, which under the able leadership of Mikhail Khodorkovsky, has become one of the largest and best operated energy companies in the world. This is good news for Americans, in that future oil imports from Russia will significantly reduce our energy dependence on the volatile Middle East.

Mr. Speaker, another striking example of positive change in Russia today can be found in corporate governance. Business leaders, such as Mr. Khodorkovsky and Mr. Vladimir Potanin, head of INTERROS, Russia's largest private investment company, are pressing the issue of corporate responsibility and working to set standards to insure reform and good governance to help pave the way for Russia's membership in the WTO.

The clearest sign of Russia's emergence as a player in the world economy is the recent acquisition by the Russian mining giant, Norilsk Nickel, of the Stillwater Mining Company in Montana, the largest acquisition by a Russian company in the United States.

Norilsk Nickel brings experience and a first-rate management team to complement the Montana plant's operation and competitive position. This new synergy will bring benefits to both companies, the Stillwater shareholders and workers, and the consumers—the U.S. auto industry, who depend on both plants for the palladium it uses in catalytic converters.

The transaction passed muster with two Federal agencies. The Administration's inter-agency group that looks at security-related issues on all foreign acquisitions in the U.S., and the Federal Trade Commission that scrutinizes impact of such transactions on consumers. The Stillwater shareholders also voted overwhelmingly in favor of the purchase.

Only a few years ago, it would have been all but impossible to imagine the U.S. government approving the sale of an American mining company that holds claims on the only significant sources of platinum and palladium outside of South Africa and Russia. These two precious metals are the key ingredients in the

automotive catalytic converters used to scrub pollution from exhaust emissions. They also are vital components in a wide-range of electronics and, of course, in fine jewelry as well.

Commercial transactions, such as the Norilsk Nickel-Stillwater acquisition are important to Russia. Operating on a global scale and in tune with accepted rules of Commerce and good corporate governance and also demonstrates that major East-West investments is opening the doors to opportunity for both sides.

Mr. Speaker, we need to encourage this kind of economic collaboration and rally the forces of a free market that make it possible. We should applaud the vision and dynamic leadership of Russia's new entrepreneurs and the implicit support accorded by our respective governments to encourage these bold initiatives.

TRIBUTE TO JOHNSON COUNTY,
KANSAS, CHRISTMAS BUREAU

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to thank and congratulate the Johnson County Christmas Bureau for their great work in helping the needy in our community. The Johnson County Christmas Bureau is a nonprofit organization that has been bringing Christmas joy and holiday assistance to thousands in the Kansas City area for nearly forty years.

Working out of a donated office with donated storage space, every year the Bureau puts together a "Christmas shop" for the disadvantaged, where each eligible family member can get a gift, a new item of clothing, personal items, used coats and a wide array of groceries. Each individual can choose his or her items, preserving the dignity of the family while bringing joy to those in need. The Bureau has received most of its funding through individuals, schools and church organizations—they strive to keep their overhead low so that more money may be used to provide a Merry Christmas to the needy.

I want to recognize the great contribution that the Johnson County Christmas Bureau has made to the Kansas City community and to the many lives which they have brightened. Last year, the Bureau helped over eight thousand families and this year they expect to serve many more. The many people who volunteer numerous hours from their busy lives for the Christmas Bureau, just to see the joy on the faces of others, remind us how fulfilling charity can be. It is my pleasure, Mr. Speaker, to place in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD this tribute to the good works of the Johnson County Christmas Bureau.

IN HONOR OF VIRGINIA FRANCO

HON. BOB FILNER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, June 26, 2003

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today to recognize and honor Virginia Franco on her retirement after 23 years as an