

support a bill for \$375 billion that will ensure America being, as it is today, the leader in the world in transportation.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Ranking Member LIPINSKI for his leadership and for organizing this time for a special order this evening.

The need for infrastructure investment is greater than ever.

The U.S. economy desperately needs a shot in the arm.

Our economy is in dismal shape. Unemployment numbers are the highest ever in the last decade.

With this Bush Recession, family incomes are falling across the board, and falling most rapidly among lower-income workers.

The increase in unemployment of the last two and a half years has had a disproportionate effect on people of color.

The rate of unemployment for African Americans is 10.9 percent—more than twice the rate for whites.

We need to put people back to work in this country, and we need to get this economy going again.

Transportation infrastructure investment will do just that.

According to the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT), every \$1 billion invested in infrastructure generates 47,500 jobs and \$6.1 billion in related economic activity.

The 375 billion dollar surface transportation bill that the bipartisan membership of the Transportation Committee supports reflects the needs expressed in the Department of Transportation's own needs assessments!

The legislation would potentially create over 1.3 million new good-paying jobs. This bill would put people back to work, and this is just what the American economy needs.

We face rising costs—in congestion, in wasted fuel, in frustration, and in air quality.

I support an increase in the gas user fee because we can not afford to allow infrastructure to continue to crumble.

We cannot afford to bare the increasing cost of congestion (which was 67.5 billion dollars in 2000).

We cannot afford the healthcare costs we will face as a result of breathing polluted air.

Unfortunately, the Bush Administration and the House and Senate Republican leaderships now obstruct our efforts to pass a 6 year bill that adequately funds transportation infrastructure.

But the need to invest in public infrastructure is genuine, and moving forward requires additional funding.

Investment in infrastructure will improve mobility, productivity, and our quality of life.

President Bush's tax cuts have only further harmed our economy.

The Transportation Committee's legislation will provide REAL stimulus to our economy, and it will finally put people back to work.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

□ 2100

#### THE PRESIDENT'S SPEECH BEFORE THE UNITED NATIONS

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a deep sense of gratitude as an American in the wake of the courageous and determined address that the President of the United States made before the United Nations yesterday. The temptation for the President, Mr. Speaker, was clear. It was to respond to weeks and months of withering criticisms about our historic allies and to go into the chamber of the United Nations with a tone of apology, a tone of conciliation. But that is precisely not what President George W. Bush did.

Yesterday, the President of the United States strode into that chamber and with our allies and even some of our antagonists represented in the audience, even including in the war on Iraq, the leaders of nations that opposed our coalition, President Gerhard Schroeder of Germany and President Chirac of France were in the audience and listening, but the President did not mumble; he did not apologize. He came and explained the challenges that we face in Iraq. He embraced the nations, some 32 in number, who joined together in a coalition for nothing less than the advancement of freedom for the people of Iraq.

It was, in sum total, Mr. Speaker, one of the finest addresses I believe that the President has made since taking office in January of 2001.

And I was here on the floor of the Congress when the President came in the immediate aftermath of 9/11 and spoke those courageous words. But yesterday speaking to the world, the President of the United States struck the right tone. It was that we are not here in any way to gloat, but neither are we here to apologize for doing the necessary work of freedom in the world, for taking the 16 separate pronouncements of the United Nations seriously, and leading a coalition to enforce them against a tyrannical dictatorship in Baghdad.

The United States had nothing to apologize for, and the President was right, in words and in tone, not to apologize. But let me also say that the President was right to go to the United Nations and challenge that body and its membership to come alongside those of us that advance freedom and human rights in Iraq, saying that for the members of the United Nations there was, "a role to play in humanitarian assistance, in the establishment of a transition to a free and democratic government."

I also commend the President for identifying that proper role for the

United Nations to play. And so it seems to me all together, Mr. Speaker, that President George W. Bush, struck exactly the right balance. He spoke glowingly of our role in advancing freedom for the people of Iraq, in standing up for the rule of law and human rights in the world as Americans have done for other peoples throughout our history.

The President also said there is a role for allies now, to let bygones be bygones, to come alongside and to be a positive force as an international community for change for the people of Iraq that will be stable, that will be permanent, and that could literally change the landscape of that torn region of the world for generations to come.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the President of the United States for being a man of principle, a man of freedom, and a true leader on the world stage.

#### OUR NATION'S IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about an issue that often compels me to come to this floor and express to my colleagues my concerns about, I think, one of the most pressing public policy issues that we face as this Nation, and certainly as the Congress of the United States, and that is the issue of massive immigration, legal and illegal, into the country and what that means for us as a Nation.

And I say that, Mr. Speaker, because I believe with all my heart that there are massive, to use the word again, massive, implications of massive immigration, both legal and illegal.

And some may be very good, some may have value, and some may be very, very bad. And it behooves us, it seems to me, as the body that is charged with the responsibility for being, perhaps, the foremost marketplace of ideas in the country, it behooves us to at least talk about these issues.

And I suggest that we talk about it because I know, Mr. Speaker, that America is talking about it, America around the water cooler, America around the unemployment line, America across neighborhood fences, America is talking about this, and America is worried about this issue.

They are worried about many things, and they are accepting of many things. They, I think for the most part, look at immigration as certainly I do, as being something that has been beneficial to the Nation, that has provided for us a diverse population and culture that certainly is the envy of the world in many respects and has been immensely rewarding to us as a Nation. It is a rich environment in which we all can exist and prosper.