at the King Street Youth Center in Burlington. She currently organizes the Holiday Program at that Center.

She represents the needs and interests of the whole community, not just of children. Ms. Ely has also been a member of the Chittenden Emergency Services Board of Directors for the past 14 years. She is currently a low-income representative on the Champlain Valley OEO Board of Directors, and is at the present moment serving in her second term. She does all of these things as a dedicated, spirited advocate.

Bev Priest is another dedicated advocate for low-income people. A resident of Jay, Vermont for over 25 years, she served as a low-income representative on the Northeast Kingdom Community Action Board of Directors for 10 years. During that time, she regularly attended the Low-Income Association meetings, Physically Disabled Association meetings, and other meetings in the state capital of Montpelier: at all of them she unstintingly shared with everyone her knowledge of what she learned.

Bev Priest opened a food shelf and clothing center in the Jay Town Clerk’s building and provided many holiday baskets to the local families. During the Christmas season she often played Santa at the low-income children’s Christmas parties; she herself acquired many of the gifts that were distributed. She has been an outstanding advocate for people in crisis; she has assisted in any way she could in helping people in crisis locate the resources they needed. Bev would many times call the NEKCA office stating, “If I had transportation I would be on your desk right now!” As one Vermont in her community stated, “Bev promoted the continual awareness of others of the struggles that low-income families face by ‘pointing out the squeaks in the wheel’.”

Theresa Emmons has been involved with the Central Vermont Community Action Council for over 20 years. It is safe to say that without her influence, CVCA would not have accomplished as much as it has. Theresa served on the Board of Directors as a representative of the town of Washington in Orange County. She also has the distinction of having the longest tenure on the CVCAC Board, which has served over 200000 people. Theresa Emmons has been involved with the Central Vermont Community Action Council for over 20 years. It is safe to say that without her influence, CVCA would not have accomplished as much as it has. Theresa served on the Board of Directors as a representative of the town of Washington in Orange County. She also has the distinction of having the longest tenure on the CVCAC Board, which has served over 200000 people. Theresa Emmons has been involved with the Central Vermont Community Action Council for over 20 years. It is safe to say that without her influence, CVCA would not have accomplished as much as it has. Theresa served on the Board of Directors as a representative of the town of Washington in Orange County. She also has the distinction of having the longest tenure on the CVCAC Board, which has served over 200000 people.

As if this weren’t enough, she has also served on the Head Start Policy Council and has been a leader in the Vermont Head Start Parent’s Association. She has been a long time volunteer for the USDA Commodity food distribution program and local food shelves; she was also involved in the conception and growth of the Vermont Food Bank. As far as Theresa is concerned, if people are in need they are everyone’s business. If there is a cause that will help someone in need, that cause deserves to be supported—and Theresa is always first in line to volunteer and to recruit others to volunteer.

Christina Crawford of Springfield, Vermont has been an outstanding example of persevering in the face of difficulties, and of triumphing over many of them.

It was seven years ago that Chris took driving lessons and eventually got her driver’s license and a vehicle for the first time in her life. She then went to the Employment & Training agency in search of part-time, entry level work in the clerical field. She was offered an opportunity to enroll in an on-the-job training program and was placed at Southeastern Vermont Community Action. Chris is now employed at SEVCA for nearly four years now as receptionist.

Three years ago, one of Chris’s children was diagnosed as having an autistic disorder. She has since spent much of her time researching her daughter’s disability and working tirelessly to put the needed supports in place for her daughter to be able to attend school. Chris is now in the process of trying to form a local support group for parents of special needs children.

Mr. Kuhn has been a leader in the Vermont Head Start community. As if this weren’t enough, she has also served on the Head Start Policy Council and has been a leader in the Vermont Head Start Parent’s Association. She has been a long time volunteer for the USDA Commodity food distribution program and local food shelves; she was also involved in the conception and growth of the Vermont Food Bank. As far as Theresa is concerned, if people are in need they are everyone’s business. If there is a cause that will help someone in need, that cause deserves to be supported—and Theresa is always first in line to volunteer and to recruit others to volunteer.

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Chris currently represents SEVCA and the southeastern part of Vermont on the Vermont Low Income Advocacy Council. She attended her first meeting in September and looks forward to attending as many as she can to use the opportunity to speak out about the struggles she has overcome and the struggles she has yet to face. She hopes to inspire other low-income people to speak out and create change.

In spite of the heavy load Chris continues to carry, she hopes that one day she will be able to go to college and obtain a degree in Human Services.

**PERSONAL EXPLANATION**

**SPEECH OF HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II**

**IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Friday, October 17, 2003

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the bill making emergency supplemental appropriations for defense and for the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2004, and for other purposes:

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Chairman, when Mr. Bush told the American people he was against nation building, no one, including me, thought he was talking about America. Let me at the outset make clear my support for our valiant soldiers who are pursuing our enemies in Afghanistan, and who are securing the peace in Iraq. But the bill before us today, just as it ignites the Iraqi economy and keeps Iraqi kids out of more debt—it costs America’s great grandchildren more long term debt, while America herself crumbles.

Mr. Chairman, let us look at this bill’s prior—prior and all of the unanswered questions it raises. There is plenty of money in here for Iraqi health care, but not one dime of the $1.8 billion American Veterans need for their health care, which the majorities in this Congress seem hell bent on ignoring. Why is that? The White House won’t fund the No Child Left Behind education initiative supposed to pay Iraqi teachers’ salaries. Why is that? President Bush says he needs more than $4 billion for water infrastructure when there are
people throughout rural America who lack public water service. Why is that? The President wants $856 million to upgrade three Iraqi airports, a seaport and rail lines, while Amtrak is starved for funds and our ports remain vulnerable to attack. Why is that? The White House has a paltry underfunded proposal for road-building at home but wants to spend millions building roads and bridges elsewhere. Why is that? The President wiped out the COPS program at home, and now he wants to pay more than $3 billion for Iraqi law enforcement. Why is that? The President is seeking $5.7 billion to expand that program. Why? Because the U.S. electric grid just as millions of Americans are regaining power lost to Hurricane Isabel, and Congress is grappling with the causes of August’s blackout in the Northeast. Why is that? The President needed the coalfields of West Virginia last election, but today his priorities lie in the oilfields of Iraq. If we can help Iraq burn coal, we sure ought to help America burn coal.

To those who would suggest we should rebuild Iraq at a time when we cannot rebuild America because it’s costing us so much money, costs us tax revenues in lost production, and costs American workers jobs as our infrastructure crumbles. The surest way not to be able to help Iraq, if that is the President’s goal, is to further hurt America. To shortchange America. Meanwhile, by voting to approve the Bush amendment to allow the war to go on, we will win the support and aid of the world community, the task of rebuilding Iraq became America’s responsibility alone.

And, who pays for these government contracts in Iraq? They are being paid for, by the working people of West Virginia and throughout our Nation. Is that fair? President Bush’s friends are getting a double-dip giveaway. First, they get huge tax giveaways, putting more of the tax burden on middle and low-income families like many of my constituents in West Virginia. Is that fair? Then, the President’s friends and campaign supporters, such as Halliburton and Bechtel, strike it rich with no-bid contracts. Is that fair? There are, according to the Washington Post, currently more contractors in Iraq than there are soldiers in Iraq, fighting for our allies. Is that fair? And where, oh where, have all our allies gone? Can this Administration not swallow its pride, can it not make a more conciliatory effort to enlist the World in the rebuilding of Iraq? Mr. Chairman, if we have to pay $87 billion for Iraq, why don’t we do the wise thing and roll back the colossal tax giveaway to America’s richest 1%, those making over $337,000? If we defer that giveaway to those making over $337,000, we could pay for the entire $87 billion. We have far too many unaffordable needs right here at home.

Several weeks ago, the American Society of Civil Engineers (ASCE) identified real shortcomings on a nationwide basis. The ASCE report said we are failing to maintain even the substandard conditions of our transportation infrastructure. It described our national roads system as good and our national bridges and transit systems as "mediocre." The ASCE report also identified needs in my home state of West Virginia regarding roads, bridges, water infrastructure, schools, and education.

Right in my own district of Southern West Virginia and throughout our neighbors in Kentucky and Tennessee, roads, bridges, and water infrastructure are needed. Greenbrier Valley Airport in Lewisburg is 35 years old, and in need of a new terminal. The upgrade is expected to cost $15 million. Where is the federal grant for Greenbrier Valley Airport? Greenbrier Valley Airport’s parking apron, used, for housing aircrafts, also needs a $10 million upgrade. Due to lack of funding availability, this project has already been broken into six phases in the hope of completing it. But where are the federal grants for these phases?

In Raleigh County, just one of our waste-water projects is going to cost $6.8 million to serve 3,300 citizens in Glen White and Lester. This is a matter of public health, of bringing in new jobs, of fueling the economy. Where is the federal grant for that project? In Nicholas County, $7.3 million is needed for a water project to serve 562 customers who presently have no water service at all. Where is the federal grant for them? West Virginians are told by this President and this Congress that we can’t afford federal grants!

Nationwide unemployment levels remain unsteady. We have 42 million uninsured Americans and rising health costs for those individuals who actually are insured. State budgets are in disarray. Attempts to buy homeland security on the cheap while we incur record level deficits. Meanwhile, the Bush administration tells us that we can’t afford health care for all of our needs at home. Not when we’re investing in other countries, rather than our own. Well, Mr. President, this land is your land, but you should know this land is also our land.

We have an economic stimulus package that we could pass right now to provide much needed jobs and get us out of this so-called “jobless recovery,” which is no recovery at all. I’m talking about authorizing the Transportation Equity Act of the 21st century, and fully funding it at the $375 billion that the Bush administration’s Department of Transportation says is needed to maintain our economy. The Federal Highway Administration estimates that every billion dollars that we invest in our infrastructure provides 47,500 good-paying construction jobs. However, the Bush administration proposes that we spend almost $130 billion less over the next six years than what President Bush’s own Department of Transportation identified as infrastructure problems.

Mr. Chairman, we’re fighting two wars at the moment. Like most Americans, I supported our effort in Afghanistan, and I voted in favor of it. I still support it. But, President Bush lost interest in our enemy in Afghanistan because he had this other war that he wanted to fight in Iraq. Now, we’re faced with a resurgent Taliban in Afghanistan along with a bill for Iraq. And, mark my words, this will not be the last time the administration comes calling for cash for Iraq. Estimates are that it will cost us more than $400 billion.

With that amount of money we could afford to provide seniors with a meaningful prescription drug benefit under Medicare. But, Mr. Speaker, we won’t be able to afford it because of the lack of priorities. Not when priorities are to finance Mr. Bush’s war, and his rich friends’ profit-making ventures. As I said at the outset, Mr. Chairman, I have total support for our troops. It is my hope that in the following hours and days we can fix this bill. Fix its priorities, putting the American soldier first, and getting the American taxpayer some relief. Mr. Speaker, we can’t afford to pay for all of our needs at home, but today his priorities lie in the Army’s field artillery operation in September 1940. He received his commission as a second lieutenant in this unit during December 1942. General McLain fought in the Second World War’s European Theater, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and in the relief of Bastogne as a member of General George Patton’s Third Army. While he left active duty with the rank of captain in 1945, he volunteered for service in the Korean War as soon as the conflict began. General McLain served as a senior advisor to a Korean field artillery battalion until the 1953 armistice.

When he returned to the Reserves, General McLain became Chief of Staff of the Army Reserve Command (ARCOM) in Oakdale, Pennsylvania, was assigned to the Second War’s European Theater, participating in the Battle of the Bulge and in the relief of Bastogne as a member of General George Patton’s Third Army. While he left active duty with the rank of captain in 1945, he volunteered for service in the Korean War as soon as the conflict began. General McLain served as a senior advisor to a Korean field artillery battalion until the 1953 armistice.

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