

immediate and long-term investment in securing our seaports. According to the United States Coast Guard, implementing these regulations that directly address our Seaport security needs will cost \$1.1 billion in the first year and \$5.5 billion over 10 years.

To date, security funding to our seaports has been woefully underfunded. Last year, the administration requested \$46 million for Port Security funding. We can and we must do better, Mr. Speaker.

Given our Nation's economic dependence on our seaports and our ongoing national security concerns, seaport security funding and the need for Federal support for our Nation's security should be ongoing.

Given the enormity of these seaport capital infrastructure projects, my legislation seeks to do the following: Establish a multi-year seaport grant program that resembles the Letter of Intent measures established in the aviation security program; call for multi-year grants and \$800 million per year for Port Security Grant Funding. The program would be authorized for 5 years.

This legislation is much needed. We should recognize the continuing security and economic needs that face our Nation and our seaports, and implementing the U.S. Seaport Multiyear Security Enhancement Act is an important step in doing so. I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

#### ELECTION DAY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago, amidst intimidation and threats and actual violence, the people of Iraq spoke out against the past oppression of Saddam Hussein and his dynasty of tyrants and spoke loudly for democracy. And I was there, privileged to be there, to witness this birth of a new era in this Nation of Iraq. I saw how the Iraqi people boldly, with the courage of a free people, said no to the outlaw desperadoes that plague their land almost daily, with the terror of abuse, ambush, and assassination. A people yearning to be free cannot be deterred by the acts of cowardly villains who harm the innocent and the unarmed.

Even on this day, January 30, Iraq's Election Day, a day of promise, there were still 212 reported acts of violence against these people, 44 of whom died, one being an 8-year-old mentally challenged boy. Yet 60 percent of these proud Iraqis walked to 30,000 polling stations with watchful Iraqi security police on rooftops of schools armed with M-16 rifles.

Yet they ventured out with their families. They stood in lines, received historic ballots with 111 selections from which to choose. They entered a cardboard voting booth, and they made

their free choice. They all cast a vote for Iraq.

I talked to these people, the young and the elderly, who were all defiant of the violence and proud to be voters in this first free and fair election that carries the hope of democracy. I even saw husbands taking photographs of their wives while their wives were voting.

The atmosphere of democracy unfolding was almost carnival in nature. After voting, each Iraqi dipped their right forefinger in an inkwell to record the fact that they voted. Some even left the polling place singing as they held their finger up high, a symbol that has come to be termed a badge of courage. They wanted all to know they had participated in this day. One young girl told me that she got there very early that morning so she could be the first person in her community to vote.

This election was planned and conducted by Iraqis. The security force of 100,000 officers were all Iraqis. The votes will be counted by Iraqis, and the 275 members of this new parliament will all be Iraqis.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the United States made a sound decision in helping start this democracy. Similar to the events following World War II when America launched democracies in the nations of our enemies, Japan and Germany, the skeptics and critics said it could not be done, and those skeptics and critics are still around today. But today Japan and Germany are not only thriving democracies but they are also world economic powers and they are our allies.

So this, too, will be our hope and desire for Iraq and for Afghanistan. These two nations will become democracies in spite of the hardships and detractors here at home and abroad. Those people who utter words of gloom, doom, and despair, history will prove those people wrong. History corroborates that freedom can grow in the desert of oppression.

Our efforts have not gone without appreciation by the Iraqi people. The individuals I spoke to on that Sunday morning and afternoon said they love Americans, especially our military. They are truly grateful.

As Election Day drew to a close on Sunday afternoon, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and I spoke with the president of Iraq. And in an almost emotional tone, he told us that the Iraqi people recognize that America has sacrificed their young men and women for Iraq, for this day to come.

We should be happy for the Iraqi people and proud that we have sown the seed of freedom in this land far, far away. And we must remember the words 40 years ago of a young man from Massachusetts, President John Kennedy, when he stated our commitment then and our commitment today. He said, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend,

oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty."

We are doing that in Iraq, Mr. Speaker.

#### REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION CONCERNING MYRON KUROPAS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I sent a letter to the Secretary of State requesting an investigation into how an individual, a professor at Northern Illinois University who is known for anti-Jewish comments, was selected to participate in an official U.S. delegation to the inaugural ceremonies of Ukrainian president, Viktor Yuschenko.

For those who might not be aware of this story, last week the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun Times reported that Myron Kuropas, an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University, accompanied former Secretary of State Colin Powell on a presidential delegation to the Ukrainian inauguration.

At first glance, the professor's selection as a member of the delegation seems perfectly normal. He is of Ukrainian decent and a well-known expert in the region. Furthermore, the professor is a former Ford administration official and had served on the staff of a Senator. Yet Professor Kuropas also has a disturbing history of anti-Jewish remarks.

In 1998, he said, "Let the Jews go on the defensive for a change. The crimes of their people cannot be explained away easily."

In 2000, he said, "Big money drives the Holocaust industry. To survive, the Holocaust industry is always searching for its next mark. Ukraine's turn is just around the corner."

He also accused the Jewish people of being "instrumental in the rise of Soviet Communism and the horrors of Stalinism," which is an interesting take for a professor of history.

It is pretty clear where Professor Kuropas stands. He is entitled to his views, but it is disturbing that an individual whose views are not only inconsistent with those of most Americans but also dangerous would be selected to represent the United States on a presidential delegation to the Ukrainian inauguration.

Inexplicably, when asked whether or not he renounced his previous statements, the professor stood by his previous comments. What is more, it is unclear to this date who selected the professor to go on the delegation, which was the basis of the letter I sent to the Secretary of State.

The State Department, when asked, said, "I think that's really a White House question. It was a White House delegation."

When the White House was asked, they said that they had no idea how he was selected.