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No. 12

## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m.

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Lord God, strong to save, on Super Bowl Sunday as Americans settled in to watch the annual spectacle of a football game, the face of the Nation was mirrored on our television screens and projected across the world just as it began.

Was America the Beautiful ever rendered more beautiful than when a host of blind students was witnessed singing and signing for a deaf world?

Our national anthem followed, sung by a combined choir formed of the various branches of America's military forces held in high-range restraint. Here, Lord, was vulnerability and strength. Here honesty, bravery, and grace were brought together in harmony. Justice and mercy embraced before the silent millions and You, our God, were glorified in our humanity.

May the strains of America's moving song penetrate this Chamber, guide this session of Congress, and bring into focus the voice of the future and invite the participation of all in the work of democracy. For You are our hope and salvation, now and forever.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. SOLIS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Repub-

lic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### BORDER SECURITY IS HOMELAND SECURITY

(Mr. DELAY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, border security is homeland security. It is odd we even need reminding about that fact especially after 9/11. But just as homeland security is national security, so border security is homeland security. It is really simple, Mr. Speaker. There are violent men who wish to commit atrocities against innocent Americans; and most of them, not all, but most of them come from outside the United States. The 19 men who hijacked commercial passenger planes on September 11, 2001, to fly them into American buildings to perpetrate mass murder exploited our porous borders and ultimately succeeded in their mission of evil.

Since that time, we have made numerous reforms to numerous programs and agencies and systems to prevent such exploitation and such treachery from ever again bloodying our soil.

But, Mr. Speaker, the job is not done. The job is not near done. The holes that remain in our border security systems are not small; they are gaping. And they are glaring to our terrorist enemies. They are coming for us, Mr. Speaker, and politics will not stop them. What will?

Last year, Congress asked the bipartisan 9/11 Commission that very question, and here is what they said in their report: "The Federal Government," the report reads, on page 390, "should set standards for the issuances of birth certificates and sources of identification such as driver's licenses."

Fraud in identification documents is no longer just a problem of theft. The

Federal Government should restrict terrorists' freedom of movement because without it, we learn on page 65, "terrorists cannot plan, conduct surveillance, hold meetings, train for their mission, or execute an attack."

"Today more than 9 million people are in the United States outside the legal immigration system," we read on page 390.

"Once in the United States," the commission says on page 49, "terrorists tried to get legal immigration status that would permit them to stay here, primarily by committing serial, or repeated, immigration fraud by claiming political asylum. Immigration cases against suspected terrorists are often mired for years in bureaucratic struggles over alien rights and the adequacy of evidence."

"There is also evidence," we learn on page 64, "that terrorists used human smugglers to sneak across borders."

In other words, Mr. Speaker, there are gaping holes in our border security system that, 3 years after 9/11, still remain untouched by any reform. This week, the House will finally consider the kind of reforms our border security system desperately needs, reforms called for in the 9/11 Commission's report, reforms American families demand and deserve.

Border security is homeland security, and this week we will begin the process of saying so in the law.

### VETERANS AFFAIRS BUDGET

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise concerning the budget cuts President Bush has proposed on the Department of Veterans Affairs. It is nothing more than a smoke screen to make the overall budget numbers look better while veterans are going to have to shoulder

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H355

most of those costs. The budget makes veterans pay \$250 to enroll in health services and doubles their copayments for prescription drugs, changes which will affect more than 2 million veterans. It makes veterans wait longer for claims to be processed, delaying very vital medical services. It provides a dismal 1.7 percent increase in funding, far from the 14 percent the Veterans Affairs Department really needs to sustain its current services.

President Bush's budget also forgets about the new veterans serving abroad. Over 1,400 have been killed, 11,000 injured, and 10 in my district alone have been killed. These military families are struggling right now. They lack mental health care and other needed services such as bilingual services. They also lack burial funds. Let us keep our commitment and not cut back the budget.

#### NEVER GIVE UP

(Mr. COBLE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, last week in Ashland, Virginia, Randolph Macon College hosted Guilford College for a collegiate basketball game. With the game tied in overtime and six-tenths of a second remaining, a Randolph Macon player was awarded two free throws. He converted his first one and intentionally missed the second, concluding that time did not permit Guilford to make a play.

Normally, that would have been sound strategy, but Guilford's Jordan Snipes grabbed the rebound and desperately heaved the ball the length of the court. Nothing but net and Guilford won on the shot seen around the world.

The moral of the story: whether in athletics or in life, even with the odds overwhelmingly stacked against you, do not quit. Do not give up, there is always a chance, even though remote, to prevail.

#### 2006 BUDGET IS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I commend President Bush for proposing a fiscally responsible budget that will rein in Federal spending and protect our top priorities, such as national defense, homeland security, and job creation.

While we may have some differences of opinion on a few of the details, I believe the President's budget is a good first step in the right direction. I am encouraged that he wants to hold Federal programs to a firm test of accountability and eliminate programs that no longer serve their intended purpose or perform a vital function. This action alone will save over \$20 billion in 2006.

The President's proposed budget will also save an additional \$137 billion in spending during the next 10 years. I look forward to working with the President and Congress to craft a budget that will cut our Federal budget in half by 2009 and improve our economy.

#### PELL GRANTS

(Mr. KELLER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of a part of President Bush's budget that receives no fanfare or publicity, and that is Pell grants.

Pell grants are dollars we give to children from low- and moderate-income families to help them go to college. I personally would not have been able to go to college without Pell grants, and I serve as chairman of the Congressional Pell Grant Caucus.

When I was elected to Congress in 2000, I made increasing Pell grant funding my top priority, and with this budget, President Bush has done his part, too.

Looking at this chart, let us compare the funding situation in 2000 to the new budget proposal. Overall funding has increased 137 percent. Maximum Pell grant awards are up from \$3,300 to \$4,150, and an additional 1.6 million students are now able to go to college.

Mr. Speaker, Pell grants are truly the passport out of poverty for so many worthy young people, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on this budget.

#### HELPING THE IRAQI PEOPLE

(Mr. WILSON of South Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, tomorrow the International Relations Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigation is scheduled to review the Volcker Interim Report on the United Nations Oil-For-Food Program. I would like to thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER), the subcommittee chairman, for their leadership on this important issue.

While the United States prides itself as being "the premier vehicle for furthering development in poorer countries," its Oil-For-Food Program allegedly furthered Saddam Hussein's dictatorship over the Iraqi people. During my travels to Iraq, I have seen the numerous palaces of Saddam Hussein and the devastation his rule left on the people of Iraq.

I am outraged to think a U.N.-sponsored program designed to help the Iraqi people was so easily corrupted and manipulated to serve the dictatorship's interests. The diverted funds should be recovered for the people of Iraq.

I strongly support the legislation offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE) entitled United Nations Oil-for-Food Accountability Act. This legislation would require the United States to withhold a portion of its U.N. contributions until the U.N. fully cooperates with the Oil-for-Food investigation. American taxpayer dollars should not support programs or people who obstruct our efforts to promote democracy and spread freedom throughout the world.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 7, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, I have the honor to transmit a sealed envelope received from the White House on February 7, 2005 at 1 p.m. and said to contain a message from the President whereby he transmits the Budget of the United States Government for Fiscal Year 2006 (copy enclosed).

With best wishes, I am  
Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,  
Clerk of the House.

Attachment.

#### FISCAL YEAR 2006 BUDGET OF THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109-2)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered printed: THE BUDGET MESSAGE OF THE PRESIDENT

Over the previous four years, we have acted to restore economic growth, win the War on Terror, protect the homeland, improve our schools, rally the armies of compassion, and promote ownership. The 2006 Budget will help America continue to meet these goals. In order to sustain our economic expansion, we must continue pro-growth policies and enforce even greater spending restraint across the Federal Government. By holding Federal programs to a firm test of accountability and focusing our resources on top priorities, we are taking the steps necessary to achieve our deficit reduction goals.

Our Nation's most critical challenge since September 11, 2001, has been to protect the American people by fighting and winning the War on Terror.

Overseas and at home, our troops and homeland security officials are receiving the funding needed to protect our homeland, bring terrorists to justice, eliminate terrorist safe havens and training camps, and shut down their financing.

In Afghanistan and Iraq, we are helping establish democratic institutions. Together with our coalition partners, we are helping the Afghan and Iraqi people build schools, establish the rule of law, create functioning economies, and protect basic human rights. And while the work is dangerous and difficult, America's efforts are helping promote societies that will serve as beacons of freedom in the Middle East. Free nations are peaceful nations and are far less likely to produce the kind of terrorism that reached our shores just over three years ago.

To ensure our security at home, the 2006 Budget increases funding for anti-terrorism investigations; border security; airport and seaport security; nuclear and radiological detection systems and countermeasures; and improved security for our food supply and drinking water.

This Budget also promotes economic growth and opportunity. We must ensure that America remains the best place in the world to do business by keeping taxes low, promoting new trade agreements with other nations, and protecting American businesses from litigation abuse and overregulation. To make sure the entrepreneurial spirit remains strong, the Budget includes important initiatives to help American businesses and families cope with the rising cost of health care. This Budget funds important reforms in our schools, and promotes homeownership in our communities. In addition, the 2006 Budget supports the development of technology and innovation throughout our economy.

The 2006 Budget also affirms the values of our caring society. It promotes programs that are effectively providing assistance to the most vulnerable among us. We are launching innovative programs such as Cover the Kids, which will expand health insurance coverage for needy children. We are funding global initiatives with unprecedented resources to fight the HIV/AIDS pandemic, respond to natural disasters, and provide humanitarian relief to those in need. The 2006 Budget continues to support domestic programs and policies that fight drug addiction and homelessness and promote strong families and lives of independence. And in all our efforts, we will continue to build working relationships with community organizations, including faith-based organizations, which are doing so much to bring hope to Americans.

In every program, and in every agency, we are measuring success not by good intentions, or by dollars spent, but rather by results achieved. This Budget takes a hard look at programs that have not succeeded or shown progress despite multiple opportunities

to do so. My Administration is pressing for reforms so that every program will achieve its intended results. And where circumstances warrant, the 2006 Budget recommends significant spending reductions or outright elimination of programs that are falling short.

This Budget builds on the spending restraint we have achieved, and will improve the process by which the Congress and the Administration work together to produce a budget that remains within sensible spending limits. In every year of my Administration, we have brought down the growth in non-security related discretionary spending. This year, I propose to go further and reduce this category of spending by about one percent, and to hold the growth in overall discretionary spending including defense and homeland security spending, to less than the rate of inflation. I look forward to working closely with the Congress to achieve these reductions and reforms. By doing so, we will remain on track to meet our goal to cut the deficit in half by 2009.

Our greatest fiscal challenges are created by the long-term unfunded promises of our entitlement programs. I will be working with the Congress to develop a Social Security reform plan that strengthens Social Security for future generations, protects the benefits of today's retirees and near-retirees, and provides ownership, choice, and the opportunity for today's young workers to build a nest egg for their retirement.

In the past four years, America has faced many challenges, both overseas and at home. We have overcome these challenges not simply with our financial resources, but with the qualities that have always made America great: creativity, resolve, and a caring spirit. America has vast resources, but no resource is as abundant as the strength of the American people. It is this strength that will help us to continue to prosper and meet any challenge that lies before us.

GEORGE W. BUSH,  
February 7, 2005.

□ 1415

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

#### SUPPORTING NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 46) supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 46

Whereas mentors serve as role models, advocates, friends, and advisors to youth in need;

Whereas mentoring is a proven, effective strategy that matches a caring, responsible adult with a child to provide guidance and build confidence, stability, and direction for that child;

Whereas research has shown that mentoring has a definitive impact on young people by increasing attendance at school, improving rates of high-school graduation and college attendance, and decreasing involvement with drugs, alcohol, and violent behaviors;

Whereas there are over 17.6 million children in this country who need or want a mentor, yet just 2.5 million young people are in mentoring relationships, leaving a "mentoring gap" of 15.1 million young people;

Whereas the establishment of a National Mentoring Month would emphasize the importance of mentoring and recognize with praise and gratitude the many Americans already involved in mentoring;

Whereas a month-long celebration of mentoring would encourage more organizations—such as schools, businesses, faith communities—and individuals to get involved in mentoring; and

Whereas the celebration of said month would, above all, encourage more individuals to volunteer as mentors, helping close our Nation's mentoring gap: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month;

(2) praises the millions of caring adults who have already committed their time and energy to mentor a child; and

(3) supports efforts to recruit more mentors in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 46.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the recent elections that we had here in the United States indicate that many people were concerned about "values" in this kind of a loose term, and it seems like much of this concern is directed at a perceived erosion of our culture. A good amount of the data that we have uncovered would indicate that this concern certainly has merit.

For example, nearly one half of our young people are growing up without both biological parents today. So roughly one-half of our young people have experienced some significant trauma in their lives because losing a biological parent is difficult for anyone.

More than 20 million children are fatherless in our country, and usually when they have no father, whether they are a young man or woman, they try to fill this void with activities which oftentimes are harmful, maybe gangs, drugs, promiscuity, whatever.

A significant number of our children are involved in alcohol and drug abuse. Roughly 3 million young people in their teenage years currently are addicted to alcohol. That is 3 million. And hundreds of thousands, of course, are addicted to other substance abuse.

Promiscuity, teen pregnancy, and sexually transmitted diseases have become a major problem. The out-of-wedlock birthrate has increased from 5 percent in 1960 to 33 percent today. I observed a great deal of this growing dysfunction during my 36 years as a coach where I worked with young people, and I guess it is my premise that this unraveling of the culture may pose a greater long-term threat to our Nation than terrorism.

That sounds like an overblown statement, but I believe it to be true because if we think about some of the great nations of the world throughout history, whether it be Rome, the British Empire, the Soviet Union, many of those great empires simply disappeared without a shot being fired.

So what can we do? We certainly cannot legislate strong families, but we can promote mentoring. Mentoring works. Research shows many of the following to be true: Number one, mentoring improves academic performance. Children in good mentoring relationships have better attendance in school. The mentoring program that I am involved with personally has shown an 80 percent decrease in absenteeism from school, better graduation rates, fewer disciplinary referrals. Again, the mentoring program that I am involved with has shown a 70 percent reduction in referrals for discipline. Better grades, 40 percent better grades.

Secondly, mentoring reduces high-risk behavior, reduces smoking, drug and alcohol abuse, in some cases by as much as 50 percent. Promiscuous behavior is reduced, and violent and criminal behavior also begin to be diminished.

Mentoring enhances a number of social factors. It improves self-esteem. Relationships with peers and parents improve. Personal hygiene also is improved.

So a mentor is, I guess, three things to me: Number one, a mentor is someone who cares. I talked to a mentor not long ago who showed up in school and was going to mentor this young guy, and he came to class and there was one student sitting there, his mentee, and the teacher. And he asked the young guy what was going on, and he said there was a field trip that day and they were going to a bowling alley and this young guy stayed because he knew his mentor was coming, and that mentor was probably the only adult in his life who really connected with him and

cared about him. So a mentor is someone who cares.

Secondly, a mentor is someone who affirms. And I noticed that it was so important in coaching if one told a player that they believed in him, if they affirmed his behavior, they said they thought he had a future, oftentimes he would grow into that which he did not even know himself that he could become. So affirmation is something that nobody can live without for any length of time.

And then, thirdly, mentoring provides a vision. So many young people have never seen an adult in their family who gets up and goes to work every day, or maybe someone in their family who keeps their word and has a good work ethic. So a role model, a vision, is important.

Roughly 17 million children in the United States at the present time either need or want a mentor. We have roughly 2.5 million mentors that are provided. So we are about 15 million short. So we spend billions of dollars on prisons and drugs and alcohol abuse. Roughly \$50 billion a year is spent on underage drinking and its dysfunction. We spend money on foster care and crime, but little on prevention. Usually about 2 to 3 percent of the State and Federal budget is spent on prevention such as mentoring.

Mentoring works. There is a great mentoring program here in the House called Horton's Kids. Four members of my staff are mentors, and we appreciate that very much.

So I urge support of H. Res. 46, which recognizes and encourages mentoring.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Nebraska for his leadership in bringing this resolution, recognizing National Mentoring Month, to the floor today; and also want to commend the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California), ranking member, for their leadership roles in making this legislation possible to be heard.

Since coming to Congress, the gentleman from Nebraska has worked to make youth issues a national priority, and this resolution is another example of his dedication to this effort.

Without a doubt, Mr. Speaker, mentoring is a proven strategy that can change the lives of children and youth, and I might add, add value to the lives of those who provide the mentoring service.

When a young person is matched with a caring, responsible individual, this relationship often makes a positive difference in the quality of life for that young person. For too long we have focused on providing remedies to problems that only address negative behavior, rather than looking at ways to promote the positive and healthy de-

velopment of our young people. This resolution directs us to focus on what children need in order to grow into healthy, safe, and well-educated adults, making sure that children have access to a caring and responsible adult relationship.

□ 1430

A recent report from the Greater West Town Community Development Project showed that nearly 18 percent of Chicago public school students drop out. Another report from the Annie E. Casey Foundation showed that more than 200 Chicago-area children are living in severely distressed neighborhoods. These are among the tens of thousands of Chicago area youth who could dramatically benefit from having a mentor, since without one, some would never be exposed to healthy, productive lifestyles and the development of real-life skills. Research shows that young people who are mentored had a stronger attachment to school, have higher graduation rates, and decreased involvement with drugs and violence.

Mentoring opens young people's eyes to a brighter future, and every young person deserves that opportunity. But right now there are simply not enough mentors to go around. Only about 1,000 of the more than 1 million school-age children in the Chicago area are fortunate enough to have a mentor. A mentor, of course, is an adult, who along with parents, provides young people with support counsel, friendship, and a constructive example. The average mentor spends 8 to 10 hours a month with his or her mentee on activities such as doing homework, going to the library, playing in the park, and playing sports.

This resolution brings much-needed attention to the value of mentoring and encourages communities to focus their efforts on recruiting more mentors so that we can fill the gap that currently exists. I am proud of the many mentoring programs that are already in place in the Chicagoland area, such as Mercy Home's Friends First Program and Sinai Mentoring Program, which links Mount Sinai Hospital professionals with youth from North and South Lawndale High Schools.

I also congratulate Big Brothers and Big Sisters of Metropolitan Chicago, which is spearheading a number of local events to mark National Mentoring Month. It has partnered with organizations, including Boys and Girls Clubs of Chicago, Chicago Public Schools, Community Resource Network, Cook County Juvenile Court Mentoring Network, Horizons For Youth, the Jewish Children's Bureau, Lifelink Latino Special Services Program, Mercy Home For Boys and Girls, and Uhlich Children's Advantage Network and Working in Schools.

I also want to commend the Chicago public school system, the board of education, for the development of a program called Cradle to the Classroom,

where they had mentors who worked individually with young parents and students who had become pregnant and who had children and yet have been able to finish their high school education and graduate with the help of a mentor.

In Chicago and across the country, it is clear that the framework is in place. Now we just need more people to volunteer their time and help change the life of a child.

I am very pleased to be associated with many groups and organizations like the Alpha Phi Alpha fraternity, which has a great national mentoring program, and especially my local chapter, Mu Mu Lambda. I am also pleased to be associated with the 100 Black Men of America, who have mentoring programs and chapters throughout the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, once again I want to commend the gentleman from Nebraska for his insight, dedication, and continuous work with the development of the young people, as expressed in this resolution. I urge strong support for it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for his kind words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, a strong supporter of mentoring.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, let me thank my colleague from Nebraska for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 46, which celebrates mentors who are positively impacting the lives of young people and highlights the need for additional mentors that we need around the country.

I want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), who never lets a day go by without pushing this project of his to increase the number of mentors that we have around the country. He has clearly been the leader in the House on this issue, and without his efforts we would not have this resolution on the floor today, nor would the Federal Government be nearly as involved in mentoring as it is.

We all know that mentors give their time and energy to improve the lives of American young people, and they are doing it in many different ways. I am involved in a group here in Washington called Everybody Wins that is a reading mentoring program that many staffers here on the Hill participate in, and, frankly, a number of Members participate in. While I help them with their organizational efforts, I have often felt somewhat guilty that I did not take the time every week to go over to Tyler Elementary School and actually sit down and read, as many of my staff have over the years.

In Ohio, we have a reading program sponsored by Governor Taft called Ohio

Reads, and it has involved tens of thousands of adults around the State going into schools and helping children better learn to read and providing a positive role model for those children.

I want to just take a moment to thank all of those who are mentoring around the country today and encourage others to take a more active role. The gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) pointed out the effects of mentoring, the less likelihood of the use of alcohol and the less likelihood of violent behavior. We know that far too many young people in today's society are growing up without adult role models close to them in their lives. Here is something where mentors can help fill that gap and help improve the lives and the outcomes for many children around our country.

Mr. Speaker, I want to applaud these efforts today and applaud my colleagues for bringing this resolution to the floor. I urge Americans who want to take a more active role in their community to think about mentoring.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), my colleague on the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, as one of the co-chairs of the Mentoring Caucus, I rise today in support of House Resolution 46, to express the sense of Congress and the House of Representatives regarding the many benefits of mentoring.

Mentoring programs, as we are talking about them here today, link children with caring, responsible adults to provide opportunities for young people to develop strong character and new capabilities. Mentoring opportunities are a proven method, as has been pointed out, to help children who may be struggling in school or at home or just in life. We need to take advantage of mentoring opportunities to allow every child to become self-sufficient, have better self-esteem, and feel that they too can achieve the American Dream.

In my own State of Minnesota, there are over 350 mentoring programs. They connect youth with positive role models. In Minnesota, in the St. Paul-Minneapolis area, we have Big Brothers and Big Sisters. In that two-city area alone, 2,000 children benefit from mentoring programs; and in 2005, Big Brothers and Big Sisters in St. Paul-Minneapolis hope to reach 5,000 children.

There is a St. Paul police officer, and she in her spare time mentors youth. She does so because she has the help of a local church in which to meet. I cannot tell you how proud I am when I go to graduation day and each and every one of those children receives a certificate, but she always remembers to give a certificate to the adults who mentor.

Mentors make a difference, for a mentor can be a friend, a listener, a coach, a tutor, or just a confidante. A

mentor is simply a person who cares enough to be a good listener at times and to offer the opportunity to open new doors and new worlds by offering encouragement and support along the way.

I encourage all of my colleagues to support this resolution, and I look for opportunities for Members to be mentors themselves. As the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) pointed out, many of our staff are mentors. J.D. Burton, who recently left my staff, was a mentor for Thorton's Kids. He tutored for 3 years, and we worked at times our schedule around his mentoring schedule. I have many others in my office who are also mentors, and each and every one of them says that they get more out of the opportunity of mentoring than they could ever imagine.

I would also like to thank the sponsor of this bill, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), for, you see, his family comes from a mentoring background. His cousin, the Honorable Kathleen Vellenga, took time to be a mentor of mine when I was in the Minnesota House of Representatives mentoring. You never know where it might lead you.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and I also say a member of the Davis Caucus.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my colleague, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE), and others once again to co-sponsor this resolution supporting National Mentoring Month.

We share the experience and appreciate the value of spending time as an adult to mentor young people. It was my pleasure as the executive director of the Aaron Price Fellows Program in San Diego to organize civic experiences for a diverse group of young people and students with the potential to become strong leaders.

The students that I had an opportunity to mentor learned about their local government. I took them to Sacramento to meet State government leaders, and brought them at that time to see D.C. and to see Congress in action. So you can imagine that it was one of my great pleasures now as a Member of Congress to welcome this group of students here every year as they encounter our national issues.

I will never forget one of these very special young people. Her name is Arzo Mansury. She is an Afghan-American girl who, after graduation from UCSD, chose to work settling refugees from her birth country. She was really uniquely prepared to work with the Afghanistan embassy in the post-war reconstruction of her country. I have

spoken to her on many occasions, and she believes that there is no way she could have done this without the kind of preparation, without the kind of mentoring that she received in this program.

A delegation from the San Diego YMCA's Youth and Family Services Program came to my office today, and they described their new program called Y Friends. It is a mentoring program for children whose parents are in prison, children who are seven to eight times more likely to be incarcerated themselves. One young woman who has been through the Y's Transitional Living Skills Program is now a resident in Turning Point. This is a housing and counseling program for youth who have spent years in foster homes, but have passed the age of 18. Victoria, who had been in foster homes since she was 10, said, "The key to a successful life for me is mentorship."

Finally, I want to mention that I have been privileged to meet with military spouses who have formed a mentoring program for other spouses who are dealing with the now frequent and lengthy deployment of their loved ones, and that program is making a great deal of difference for them.

Mr. Speaker, I would ask Members to please join us in honoring the goals of these mentoring programs.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I simply would want to thank all of those who have spoken on behalf of this resolution. Again, I commend the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for his leadership, and would urge all adults who want to be helpful to become mentors.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my thanks to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) and also the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) for their kind words and their support of this resolution.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 46, supporting the goals and ideals of National Mentoring Month.

All children have the potential to succeed in life and contribute to society. However, not all children get the support they need to thrive. Mentoring is the presence of caring individuals who, along with parents or guardians, provide young people with support, advice, friendship, reinforcement and constructive examples. Mentoring can and does help young people succeed, no matter what their circumstances!

A mentor is a caring adult friend who devotes time to a young person. Mentors can fill any number of different roles. Yet all mentors have one thing in common: they care about helping young people achieve their potential and discover their strengths.

Mentors understand they are not meant to replace the role of a parent, guardian or teacher. A mentor is not a disciplinarian or decision maker for a child. Instead, a mentor

echoes the positive values and cultural heritage parents and guardians are teaching. A mentor is part of a team of caring adults.

A mentor's main purpose is to help a young person define and achieve their own goals. And those goals will vary, depending on the young person's age. Since the expectations of each child will vary, it is the mentor's job to encourage the development of a flexible relationship that responds to the mentor's skills and interests and the young person's needs.

Recent Research Brief published by Child Trends and titled, "Mentoring: A Promising Strategy for Youth Development," found that youth who participate in mentoring relationships experience a number of positive benefits. In terms of educational achievement, mentored youth have better attendance; a better chance of going on to higher education; and better attitudes towards school. In terms of health and safety, mentoring appears to help prevent substance abuse and reduce some negative youth behaviors. On the social and emotional development front, taking part in mentoring promotes positive social attitudes and relationships. Mentored youth tend to trust their parents more and communicate better with them. They also feel they get more emotional support from their friends than do youth who are not mentored.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to reiterate my support for H. Res. 46. By sharing fun activities and exposing a youth to new experiences, a mentor encourages positive choices, promotes high self-esteem, supports academic achievement and introduces the child to new ideas.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 46.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

□ 1445

JOHN MILTON BRYAN SIMPSON  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 315) to designate the United States Courthouse at 300 North Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Florida, as the "John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 315

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.**

The United States courthouse at 300 North Hogan Street, Jacksonville, Florida, shall be

known and designated as the "John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse".

**SEC. 2. REFERENCES.**

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 315, introduced by my colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN), will designate the United States courthouse located at 300 North Hogan Street in Jacksonville as the "John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse."

Born in Kissimmee, Florida, John Simpson progressed through what would be called by any reasonable person a long, distinguished, and publicly oriented career. After receiving his law degree from the University of Florida, and 7 years of private practice, John Simpson would begin what would result in a career in public service spanning 54 years. He began as an Assistant State's Attorney, served 2 years in the United States Army during World War II, and was a State judge for 9 years before being nominated to the Federal bench in 1950.

On the Federal bench, Judge Simpson was not content to just serve out his time. He served as Chief Judge for three different courts, the Southern and Middle District Courts of Florida, and the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals. He served on the Conference of Chief Judges for 3 years and was willingly reassigned twice, first from the Southern to Middle District Courts of Florida, and again from the Fifth to Eleventh Circuit Court of Appeals, each time to fit the needs of the judiciary.

During his tenure on the bench, he was also instrumental in moving towards desegregation in Northern Florida during the late 1950s and early 1960s. His record of service and dedication to the judiciary are both commendable and make him worthy of this honor.

I support the legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW), the Florida delegation, the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and everyone who served on the Courthouse Committee in Jacksonville for helping me to bring this bill to the Floor today. Judge Simpson

was the overwhelming choice for the people of Jacksonville, and it is easy to understand when one learns about his impact on civil rights in the State of Florida and in the entire South.

H.R. 315 is a bill to designate the courthouse at 300 North Hogan Street in Jacksonville, Florida as the "John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse." Judge Simpson was a native of Florida, born in Kissimmee, Florida on May 30 of 1903. He attended local high school and the University of Florida, and in 1926 graduated from law school at the University of Florida.

After law school, he settled in Jacksonville, practicing law in addition to becoming an Assistant State's Attorney from 1933 until 1939. He then ran for and was elected as a State Judge serving from 1939 until 1943. In 1950, he was nominated by President Truman for the United States District Court, Southern Florida; and in 1966, was nominated by President Johnson and joined the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Judge Simpson was an active participant in the struggle for civil rights and was instrumental in desegregating Duval, Orlando, and Daytona Counties in Florida, all in my district. He became an agent for change in the Jim Crowe south. His judicial orders desegregated the schools, city pools, city golf courses, and the city zoo. For his personal courage, he was the subject of numerous death threats and cross burnings.

It is well known that Martin Luther King himself appeared before Judge Simpson and argued for a reversal on a ban on nighttime civil rights marching in St. Augustine. Within a week, Judge Simpson issued an order in support of King's appeal.

Judge Simpson was known as the giant of the legal system in Jacksonville. He was a man of great courage and fairness. It is most fitting that the new courthouse in Jacksonville is named in his honor.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill which honors a judge of great distinction and character.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. CRENSHAW).

Mr. CRENSHAW. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. I join my colleague as an original cosponsor of this resolution in urging my colleagues to support this.

It is fitting that this new Federal courthouse, which stands 15 stories tall in my hometown of Jacksonville, Florida, and casts such a shadow over our city, it is fitting that it is going to be named after Judge Bryan Simpson who, while he served for 50 years in our community, was a giant of a man who cast his own shadow all across our community.

My colleagues have heard a little bit about his background and some of his

professional career, but I had the good fortune of knowing Judge Simpson. I had the good fortune of being a friend of his son, Bryan Simpson, Jr. My dad and Judge Simpson practiced law together as young lawyers in Jacksonville, and the one thing about Judge Simpson is that as the father of Bryan Simpson, Jr., and he had five stepchildren, Joe, Tim, John, Eve, and Franklin, above all, he had this underlying belief in the dignity of every human being, and he lived out that belief in everything that he did.

Maybe that came from the life experiences that he had growing up in a little town in central Florida. His mother was the U.S. Postmistress of the U.S. Post Office there in Kissimmee. He went to Osceola High School and then went north to school to Gainesville, Florida, about 50 miles up the road. Often he would hitchhike, catch a ride up to Gainesville, and he would stop in a little town called Orlando and have lunch because there was a park there where people would kind of gather, and he would always find a friend there and share lunch together.

He finished school in 6 years. He got an undergraduate degree and a law degree. It usually takes 7 years, but Judge Simpson was part of a special program. He finished in 6 years, which was good for him, because he worked his way through law school, and it only took 6 instead of 7 years. He often waited tables at a little place called the Primrose Grill.

Then he moved to Jacksonville, Florida, to start his law practice. He worked in a firm where my dad also worked as a young lawyer, and he always was a man of great humor. As a young lawyer, my dad used to tell me that he made about \$40 a month. Judge Simpson was a little older, so he might have made \$45 a month, but on one of his applications, it said, List your hobbies and your interests. And Judge Simpson wrote, Polo and international yacht racing. So when one of his senior partners came in and was a little upset and said, What is all this; what does this mean? Judge Simpson said, I am interested in polo and international yacht racing, but on my present salary, I am not really able to participate in those activities.

But be that as it may, he continued his career. He wanted to be a judge, so he ran for judge. In those days you could be a State judge by running for office. He had two uncles that had served in the United States Senate. He knew a little bit about politics, so he ran for office and became a State judge.

Then, World War II came along, so he went to Europe to serve his country. His job there was to go around after the battles took place, his job was to go into communities and try to rebuild the government. And he used to kid people that his limited French was learned in World War II. He could say, "Ou est la maire?" which meant, "Where is the mayor?" Because that is

the first thing he would do when he got to the community, find out who the old mayor was and try to build this new government.

He came back from the war, back to Jacksonville, continued his work as a State judge and then, as has been pointed out, was appointed to the Federal bench by then-President Harry Truman. Fifteen years later, then-President Lyndon Johnson appointed him to the appeals court, which is one step down from the United States Supreme Court, and he served as the Chief Judge on the Fifth and the Eleventh Circuit.

So he had kind of a broad-ranging career, up until the time he went to Federal court. And as has been pointed out, he was a real leader in stepping forward, being fair, being compassionate in a difficult time in our Nation's history when not all of the judges, particularly in the South, were fair and compassionate. In fact, it was kind of the way, in those days, for Federal judges who did not believe in what was going on in the civil rights movement to simply delay their decisions and just delay and delay and delay.

Judge Simpson was known not only as a man of courage and conviction, but someone who made his rulings firmly and decisively and quickly. So I think it is fitting that we honor him today.

As I said, he lived his life in a way that brought dignity to all the people in his courtroom. I think he certainly deserves this kind of recognition, and I am proud to support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do so as well.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I just want to say I appreciate the gentleman's remarks on Judge Simpson. He personalized it and once again pointed out that only in America could somebody come from such humble beginnings and rise through the ranks of the American judiciary, and today we are naming a Federal courthouse after him.

So I have no further speakers. I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.R. 315.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 315, a bill to designate the United States Courthouse located at 300 North Hogan St., Jacksonville, Florida, as the "John Milton Bryan Simpson United States Courthouse". I commend the bill's sponsor, the gentlelady from Florida, for her diligence and hard work in pursuit of honoring such an eminent jurist.

Judge Simpson was chosen for this distinction from among 20 nominees of prominent civic leaders and jurists who have played an outstanding role in the history of the middle district of Florida.

Judge Simpson was a native Floridian. He was born in 1903 in Kissimmee and attended local public schools. In 1926 he graduated from the University of Florida Law School. In

1950, after a long career in private practice and as a judge in Florida state court, President Truman appointed Judge Simpson to the U.S. District Court for the Southern District of Florida. In 1966, President Johnson appointed him to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Simpson also later served on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eleventh Circuit.

Judge Simpson was known for his extraordinary personal courage and insistence on racial equality. Judge Simpson issued landmark decisions on desegregation, including ordering the desegregation of public schools in Orlando and Daytona Beach and ordering the desegregation of Jacksonville city pools and golf courses. With these decisions, he established a model for all such future decisions. Judge Simpson was also a devoted father and husband. His family, friends and colleagues enjoyed his companionship and his love of life.

It is fitting to honor the career of Judge Simpson and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 315.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 315.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### TONY HALL FEDERAL BUILDING AND UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 548) to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 548

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

#### SECTION 1. DESIGNATION.

The Federal building and United States courthouse located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, shall be known and designated as the "Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

#### SEC. 2. REFERENCES.

Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Federal building and United States courthouse referred to in section 1 shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the

gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER).

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to bring before the House H.R. 548, introduced by my colleague, the gentleman from Springfield, Ohio (Mr. HOBSON), which designates the Federal building and United States courthouse at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Tony Hall's record of service to the United States and the world is well documented. He has served as a teacher of English in Southeast Asia, a member of the Ohio State legislature, a member of the House of Representatives and, now, as an official with the United Nations.

During each of these endeavors, Tony Hall worked to make life better for those less fortunate, whether it was educating a single child who may not otherwise have attended school, or as an administrator of an international organization bringing food to the hungry worldwide.

This is an appropriate honor that has the support of the entire Ohio delegation. Unfortunately, this is the third time that this matter has come to the Floor. During the 107th and 108th Congresses, my predecessor, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE), brought this matter before the House and each time it passed by voice vote, but was never considered by the Senate.

As a new subcommittee chairman, it is my pleasure to continue his efforts to get this bill enacted into law. I hope the results of our consideration this year will be more positive.

I support this legislation and encourage my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. H.R. 548 is a bill to designate the Federal building and courthouse in Dayton, Ohio, as the Tony Hall Federal building and United States courthouse in honor of our former colleague from Ohio, Tony Hall. This bill has strong bipartisan support.

Tony Hall is a true son of Ohio. He was born in Dayton in 1942. After attending local schools, he graduated from Denison University in 1964. He was accepted into the Peace Corps and served as a volunteer in Thailand from 1966 until 1968. Upon his return, he was elected to the Ohio house of representatives and in 1972 was elected to the Ohio senate. In 1978 he was elected to the House of Representatives where he served for 11 terms.

Tony Hall currently serves as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

Tony Hall was founder and cochair of the Congressional Hunger Center, a nonprofit organization created to bring awareness to the growing and persistent problems of world hunger. He also served as chairman of the House Select Committee on hunger from 1989 until 1993. Congressman HALL sponsored legislation to help immunize the world's children against major diseases and to increase U.S. funding for distribution of vitamins A and C.

His passion for protecting and ensuring human rights and combating hunger brought Congressman HALL to such places as North Korea, Peru, Sudan, Haiti, just to name a few. In 1994 he helped nominate Bishop Carlos Belo for the Nobel Peace Prize for the bishop's role in protecting civilians during armed conflict.

Congressman HALL was an exemplar for his unswerving commitment and sustaining contribution to promoting humanity and peace in a world stricken with poverty and torn by war. This designation is a fitting tribute to his exceptional public service, and I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 548.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON).

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, the legislation now under consideration by the House would permanently name the Dayton Ohio Federal building in honor of our good friend and former colleague, Tony Hall. This legislation which, as I introduced, as you have heard, has been cosponsored by every member on both sides of the aisle of the Ohio delegation. For nearly 24 years Tony Hall represented Ohio's Third Congressional District with honor and distinction. And he currently serves as United States ambassador to the United Nations food and agriculture agencies in Rome. There he has been a tireless advocate on behalf of those who face the hardships of hunger around the world.

In Congress, Tony was always guided by his faith and family. He spent 21 years on the House Rules Committee, was a founding member of the select committee on hunger, and a founder and chairman of the congressional hunger center.

As colleagues, Tony and I worked together in a partnership for the benefit of citizens of the Miami Valley on numerous projects and initiatives, including those involving Wright Patterson Air Force Base and the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historic Park, which is the first bill that I passed in this legislature.

A leading humanitarian, Tony has been nominated three times for the Nobel Peace Prize for his work with hunger, relief aid programs, and improving international human rights conditions.

Tony was a football star, a little All American at Denison, a Peace Corps volunteer, a noted world traveler, and

a devoted husband and father and a dedicated public servant.

We are all better people today because Tony Hall was in Congress. The example he set in working to improve the lives of others is something that all of us can learn from.

This legislation is a lasting way to pay tribute to Tony's efforts over the years, and I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill. And I hope we will meet with better success this year in the other body than we did in the two previous years. And I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Chicago, Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Florida for yielding time. I was thinking last Thursday as I listened to Tony Hall as the keynote speaker for the national prayer breakfast, and as I was rooted to my seat, that I had never heard a more eloquent rendition of a speech. I had never heard a more passionate speech. I had never heard a more meaningful speech. So I simply rise in support of the naming of this courthouse.

Tony Hall is one of the most distinguished and nonpartisan Members this body has ever experienced: protecting human rights, working on behalf of the poor, seeking peace. All of those have been his trademarks.

All of us who have had the opportunity to know and work with him; our individual as well as collective lives have been enriched. And so I urge strong support of the naming of this courthouse for Tony Hall and could think of no better name that it could have.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

(Mr. BACHUS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time. I associate myself with the remarks of the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

The gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) mentioned that Tony Hall was a friend to every Democrat and every Republican in this body. He and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) reached across the aisle united in a goal to alleviate hunger throughout the world, to be a friend to those who were sick and in need of hope. He is not only our friend but every sick child in every poor country of the world has a friend in Tony Hall. Anyone who goes to bed hungry in those countries tonight has an advocate in Tony Hall. And those that do not have a job in these poor countries that only wish to work and help bring up their children

and educate them, they all have a tireless supporter in Tony Hall.

If anyone has done what we might say is the work of the Lord or of our God throughout this world it is Tony Hall.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) last year on the floor of this House described our colleague, former colleague, as the "real deal," and he is the real deal. He was the same back in his district and here in Washington as when he goes to emerging third world countries. Back in his district, where he served for 24 years, the longest-serving Member from Dayton, Ohio, in the history of this Congress, he organized programs to take surplus and leftover food down to the shelters in his district, homeless shelters. And through those programs today on the streets of Dayton and other cities in Ohio, people will go to bed tonight with food in their stomachs because of his efforts in their own hometown.

When he was in Washington, he was a tireless advocate. You may recall in 1993 as chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger that that committee was abolished. Tony Hall went on a hunger strike not for one day, not for 5 days, not for 10 days, but for 22 days. He fasted and went without food. Now that is commitment. That is a ministry.

Now today he is doing the same thing as our ambassador to the U.N. agency in Rome. He is not riding a desk. He is not sitting back and have others report to him. He is going out. And his average day is not spent in Rome, but it is spent traveling throughout the world, seeing firsthand, witnessing these different programs, finding out those that work and improving them, finding out those that do not work and are failing. And even today, he is doing what he did here. Poor children, those that are sick, those that are without hope, Tony Hall today in his travels throughout the world is making a better life for them and for us.

Let me close by simply discussing two things. One is a 3-page résumé, but it is really a witness to a life well served, a life of commitment and devotion, a ministry and a passion that Tony Hall has to the poor and the hungry and the hopeless of this world. UNICEF awards, Oxfam awards, Bread for the World Award, numbers of awards. But Tony Hall would say, Do not recognize me for that. Recognize me for the hope that I have brought to the world, to the poor and the sick and the hopeless.

I also would like to introduce this 3-page document, a life well lived, a life really which ought to be honored, and a courthouse is the least thing we should do for him, but also a tribute that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) gave to this great American, this great individual, Tony Hall. And to him and his wife, Janet, I give my sincere and utmost thanks for everything they have done to make this a better world for all of us.

AMBASSADOR TONY P. HALL

Three times nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize, Ambassador Tony P. Hall is a leading advocate for hunger relief programs and improving human rights conditions in the world. In February 2002, President George W. Bush asked him to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. He was confirmed by the U.S. Senate and was sworn in by Secretary of State Colin Powell in September 2002.

Prior to entering the diplomatic corps the Dayton, Ohio native represented the Third District of Ohio in the U.S. House of Representatives for almost twenty-four years, their longest serving representative in history. During his tenure, he was chairman of the House Select Committee on Hunger and the Democratic Caucus Task Force on Hunger. He founded and was one of two House members on the steering committee of the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors. He authored legislation that supported food aid, child survival, basic education, primary health care, micro-enterprise, and development assistance in the world's poorest countries. Ambassador Hall also founded and chaired the Congressional Hunger Center, a non-governmental organization committed to ending hunger through training and educational programs for emerging leaders.

A founding member of the Select Committee on Hunger, Mr. Hall served as its chairman from 1989 to 1993. During this time, he initiated legislation enacted into law to fight hunger-related diseases in developing nations. He sponsored a successful 1990 emergency measure to assist state-run Women, Infants and Children (WIC) programs. Mr. Hall helped to establish a clearinghouse that provided food through gleaning, a process of gathering grains and produce left on the ground after harvesting. Mr. Hall has worked to promote micro-enterprise to reduce joblessness. In response to the abolishment of the Hunger Committee in April 1993, he fasted for 22 days to draw attention to the needs of hungry people in the United States and around the world.

In his efforts to witness the plight of the poor and hungry first-hand, he has visited poverty-stricken and war-torn regions in more than 100 countries. He was the first Member of Congress to visit Ethiopia during the great famine of 1984-5. He has visited North Korea six times since 1995, and was one of the first Western officials to see the famine outside of the capital, Pyongyang. In 2000, he became the first Member of Congress to visit Iraq to investigate the humanitarian situation. During his second week as Ambassador, he traveled to Zimbabwe and Malawi to see the food deficit crisis in southern Africa.

Mr. Hall has worked actively to improve human rights conditions around the world, especially in the Philippines, East Timor, Paraguay, South Korea, Romania, and the former Soviet Union. In 2000, he introduced legislation to end the importation of conflict diamonds mined in regions of Sierra Leone, Angola and the Democratic Republic of Congo. In 1983 he founded the Congressional Friends of Human Rights Monitors. In 1999, he was a leader in Congress calling for the United States to pay its back dues to the United Nations. In 1997 and 2000, Mr. Hall introduced legislation calling on Congress to apologize for slavery. He also has worked at promoting reconciliation among diverse peoples through a number of private initiatives.

In 1964 Mr. Hall graduated from Denison University in Granville, Ohio where he was a Little All-American football player. During 1966 and 1967, Mr. Hall taught English in

Thailand as a Peace Corps Volunteer. He returned to Dayton to work as a realtor and he was a small businessman for several years. Mr. Hall and his wife Janet raised two children.

Mr. Hall served in the Ohio House of Representatives from 1969 to 1972, and in the Ohio Senate from 1973 to 1978. On November 7, 1978, Mr. Hall was selected to the 96th Congress. He served on the Foreign Affairs and Small Business Committees before being appointed to the Rules Committee at the beginning of the 97th Congress.

Ambassador Hall was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 1998, 1999 and 2001 for his humanitarian and hunger-related work. For his hunger legislation and for his proposal for a Humanitarian Summit in the Horn of Africa, Mr. Hall and the Hunger Committee received the 1992 Silver World Food Day Medal from the UN Food and Agriculture Organization. Mr. Hall is a recipient of the United States Committee for UNICEF 1995 Children's Legislative Advocate Award, U.S. AID Presidential End Hunger Award, 1992 Oxfam America Partners Award, Bread for the World Distinguished Service Against Hunger Award, and NCAA Silver Anniversary Award. He received honorary Doctor of Laws degrees from Asbury College, Antioch College and Eastern College and a Doctor of Humane Letters degree from Loyola College in Baltimore. In 1994, President Clinton nominated Mr. Hall for the position of UNICEF Executive Director.

Mr. HOBSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my fellow Ohioan and good friend, Tony Hall.

For years, Tony and I have worked together for the benefit of the citizens of the Miami Valley on numerous projects and initiatives. I am very happy that he has this new opportunity to work directly on hunger issues at the United Nations, but it is still very said to see him leave the House of Representatives.

Tony is now at the end of a nearly 24-year career representing the people of Montgomery County on Capitol Hill and is taking his crusade against hunger to a global stage.

The youngest son of one of Dayton's most beloved mayors, Tony has been a football star, a Peace Corps volunteer, a noted world traveler, a devoted husband and father, and a dedicated public servant. Tony has become the area's longest-serving Congressman and a three-time Nobel nominee known worldwide for his work against hunger.

In Congress, Hall has been guided by faith and family and never chosen Capitol Hill events over the importance of being home with his wife and children. He has spent 21 years on the House Rules Committee, and I have been pleased to work with Tony on numerous local projects for the Miami Valley: from supporting the National Composites Center, to saving the Air Force Institute of Technology.

Ten years ago, Tony and I worked to establish the Dayton Aviation Heritage National Historical Park and we just recently embarked upon a new effort to create the National Aviation Heritage area to preserve Ohio's aviation heritage for the future.

When I first came to Congress, Tony was one of the first Members of Congress to reach out to me, and show me the ropes. He didn't have to do that, and I have always appreciated his willingness to make me feel comfortable in this new environment.

Nobody goes around Capitol Hill grumbling about Tony Hall. He is the genuine article, he works hard for his constituents and he is a man of principle, and of his world.

Tony has managed to be a positive force, despite the difficult challenges he has faced in his personal life. We are all better people because Tony Hall has been here.

As Ohio's Seventh District Representative to the Congress of the United States, I take this opportunity to join with members of the Ohio delegation to honor the efforts and the many outstanding achievements of Rep. Tony Hall. His many contributions as a member of the House of Representatives and leadership will be remembered.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER).

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) for bringing this resolution to the floor once again. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) and I and Tony Hall all worked in the Miami Valley area, Greater Dayton area together. And when you think about Tony Hall, there is only one word that comes to mind and that is humanitarian.

When you read the description of humanitarian in the dictionary, it ought to just have Tony Hall's name there. Of all the people I have worked with in the Congress during what is now 15 years, I am not sure that I have worked with someone so dedicated and so focused on trying to help the poor and the needy, not only in his district and around the country but around the world. He is a tireless advocate on behalf of those who are hungry.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) had a CODEL group of us over in Rome. We met with Tony Hall. Tony took us to the U.N. Food Program, and we had long conversations about the needs in various places around the world. And if it was not in Rome, it used to be right here in the back of the Chamber when Tony would stop any one of us to help describe the problems that people were having around the world and here in our country and the need for better nutrition programs and better food distribution programs. So I cannot think of anyone who we should honor in naming this courthouse in Dayton, Ohio, but my good friend and our former colleague, Tony Hall.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF).

(Mr. WOLF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) for doing this. It is a tremendous symbol of bipartisanship, Republicans and Democrats coming together, nothing to gain. Mr. HALL is gone. And yet the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. HOBSON) does this. I want to thank him.

Also it is interesting that we have Members from both sides, Republican and Democrat, who have come together to agree on the impact that Congressman HALL has had not only on this institution, but also the poor and the hungry of the world.

Tony has said many times that when you give to the poor, and it is from Proverbs, you really lend to God. And no one that I know has taken their faith into the world and into the community, if you will, and had a greater impact on the lives of the poor and the hungry and the naked. His life was almost a kind of symbol of the Matthew 25 where Jesus talks about the poor, the hungry, the naked, and those in prison. Tony has taken that.

He has also had an impact on the lives of a lot of Members in this body. There is a statement by Francis of Assisi that, I would rather see a sermon than hear a sermon. And by watching Tony Hall, and not listening but watching it, we have seen the sermon whereby he has taken his life, as the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) has said.

Mr. Speaker, I want to congratulate Tony and his wife, Janet, and their daughter Jill for the life here, but the life is just kind of beginning.

□ 1515

Tony has now left this institution and is in Rome and doing as much there, and we are going to hear a lot more about Tony Hall. This is not like we get some bills whereby somebody has come to the end and is moving back to their district, they are buying a retirement home down in wherever they are. This guy is just kind of moving out. He is a young man, just beginning, and we will see a lot from Tony.

Lastly, I want to personally thank Tony Hall. He asked me to go to Ethiopia in 1984 and took me to Romania in 1985, which literally changed the direction of my life in this institution. So on behalf of all the Members on both sides of the aisle, we thank Tony for the impact he has had on this institution and on our lives, and particularly for taking care of the poor and hungry around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 548, to designate the Federal Building and United States courthouse at West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the "Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse."

Our former colleague Tony Hall, the representative of the 3rd District of Ohio for nearly 24 years, continues to serve as the United States Ambassador to the United Nations food and agriculture agencies located in Rome, Italy, since his appointment by President Bush in 2002. As you may recall, Tony resigned his House seat to take up the ambassadorial post in Rome, where he is continuing his passionate work as a leading advocate for ending hunger and promoting food security around the world.

I want to thank Congressman DAVID HOBSON of Ohio for introducing H.R. 548 to honor Tony in his hometown of Dayton by attaching his name to the Federal building and courthouse there. It is an appropriate recognition

for the nearly 24 years of service in the House and the 10 years of service in the Ohio General Assembly that Tony Hall provided to the people of Dayton and surrounding areas.

I miss my dear friend Tony very much as our colleague in the House, but I know that he is absolutely the right person to be serving as the United States Representative to the World Food Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization, and International Fund for Agricultural Development, all agencies of the United Nations which assist international hunger-relief efforts.

Tony Hall's name is synonymous with the cause of alleviating hunger both domestically and worldwide. He believes that food is the most basic of human needs, the most basic of human rights.

He passionately worked to convince others that the cause of hunger, which often gets lost in the legislative shuffle and pushed aside by more visible issues, deserved a prominent share of attention and resources to assist people who are the most at risk and too often the least defended.

He also worked as a tireless advocate for the cause of human rights around the world and focused his attention on the illicit diamond trade in Sierra Leone. He convinced me to travel with him to Sierra Leone in late 1999 to see how the machete-wielding rebels there intimidated men, women and children by hacking off arms, legs, and ears. He led the effort in bringing to the attention of Congress the conflict diamond trade and authoring legislation to certify that the diamonds Americans buy are not tainted with the blood of the people of Sierra Leone and other African nations.

We also traveled together in January 2002 to Afghanistan with Congressman JOE PITTS as the first congressional delegation to that country after the launch of the war on terrorism. We visited hospitals, an orphanage, schools, and refugee camps. We met with U.S. diplomats and soldiers; with local leaders and officials with direct responsibility for humanitarian problems and refugees; with representatives of the United Nations and private relief organizations; and in Pakistan with refugees and members of religious minority groups.

Tony is never deterred in his effort to help make a positive difference in the lives of suffering people. In his years in Congress, he traveled to wherever the need arose and met with whomever he could to effect change, taking risks few would take, with his own comfort and safety never entering his mind.

I believe Tony's life destiny is to be a servant. During 1966 and 1967, he taught English in Thailand as a Peace Corps volunteer.

He returned to Dayton to work as a realtor and small businessman for several years, but before long, he was elected to the Ohio House of Representatives where he served from 1969 to 1972, and then to the Ohio Senate, serving from 1973 to 1978. On November 7, 1978, Tony was elected to the House of Representatives from the 3rd District of Ohio and served with distinction for over two decades.

Tony Hall is an inspiration to everyone fortunate enough to know him. He has a wonderful combination of compassion and passion filled with spiritual purpose—compassion to see the suffering in the less fortunate in the world and the passion to work to do something about it.

I urge a unanimous vote in support of H.R. 548, to recognize the dedicated public service

of Tony Hall by naming the Federal building and courthouse in Dayton, OH, in his honor.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. REGULA).

(Mr. REGULA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. REGULA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

A United States courthouse and Federal building is a symbol of liberty and justice for all. Tony Hall's career has been marked with a lifetime of working for the goals of justice and liberty for all people. A courthouse named after Tony Hall is a fitting tribute to a life well lived. All of us in Ohio take special pride in the accomplishments of our friend and colleague, Tony Hall.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution to name the Federal building in Dayton, Ohio after my friend and former colleague, Tony Hall.

Tony Hall took great pride in representing his hometown of Dayton in Congress for nearly 24 years. His father had served as Mayor of Dayton, and the strong values he learned growing up in that community were reflected in everything that he did. Tony fought hard for the people of Dayton.

But Tony Hall is also a citizen of the world. His first job out of college was as Peace Corps volunteer, teaching English in Thailand from 1966 to 1968. He has visited more than 100 countries in his effort to see, understand, and improve the lives of the world's least fortunate. He has fought to end the importation of conflict-diamonds from Africa. And he was a leader in Congress in asking that the U.S. pay its dues to the United Nations.

Perhaps the issue we most associate with Tony Hall is his heroic and tireless work to end hunger. Tony understands that it is by virtue of our humanity—not our citizenship in one country or another—that we have certain inalienable rights. And Tony knows in his heart that it is wrong, in this age of abundance, to let anyone go hungry—whether they live across town in Dayton or across the world in North Korea. In 1993, when the Select Committee on Hunger, which he chaired, was eliminated, Tony fasted for 22 days in protest.

I was honored to work with Tony Hall on a number of human rights issues in Congress, particularly on issues involving the repressive regime in China. He brought to these causes a seriousness of purpose and a generosity of spirit that were a constant source of inspiration, on issues where inspiration is in short supply.

Since he left the Congress, we have followed his work with pride as he has served with distinction as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture.

Throughout his career, Tony has never shied away from suffering, but he has refused to accept it as inevitable. As Tony says over and over: "Hunger has a cure." As a member of Congress, and now as an Ambassador, Tony Hall has always been part of that cure.

I urge my colleagues to support this fitting tribute to a good and great man who has lifted

the lives of so many here and around the world.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 548, a bill to honor our former colleague Tony Hall by designating the federal building located at 200 West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio as the "Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse." The House introduced and passed two similar bills with strong bipartisan support in the 107th and 108th Congresses. Unfortunately, the other body did not vote on either bill. We reintroduced this legislation early in this session and are considering it today to ensure that Congress has the opportunity to complete action on it in the 109th Congress.

Tony Hall was elected to his first term in Congress in 1978. He went on to serve 11 consecutive terms. Congressman Hall spent 21 years on the House Rules Committee and was chairman of the House Democratic Caucus Task Force on Hunger. Congressman Hall's long career in public service is distinguished by his unwavering commitment to humanitarian causes, in particular to combating hunger issues not only in this country, but also among the world population. His early commitment to helping others and serving this Nation began in the Peace Corps, which he joined in 1966 after graduating from Denison University in Ohio.

I witnessed this commitment first hand in 1983 when I traveled with Congressman Hall and two other colleagues to Kansas City. At a time of high unemployment in our country, the Federal Government was storing surplus milk, butter and cheese in Kansas City. Congressman Hall was determined to focus national attention on this issue and press for the release of this surplus food into general distribution. He even personally went on a hunger strike to compel the government to release the stored food. As a result of these efforts, the stored food was eventually distributed to homeless shelters and the general public.

Throughout his career, Congressman Hall focused on helping those in need. He promoted economic development that created jobs, championed efforts to ease food-stamp reductions, and in 1997, spearheaded the "Hunger Has A Cure" campaign.

In the international arena, Congressman Hall visited numerous countries around the world in an effort to focus attention on the problems of world hunger and to promote international aid. He took part in one of the first Congressional delegation trips to Ethiopia in the 99th Congress, and he traveled to Bangladesh to observe disaster relief programs in the 100th Congress. Congressman Hall also helped create the Select Committee on Hunger, which focused on the problem of hunger both domestically and internationally. He served as Chairman of that Select Committee from 1988 until its elimination in 1993. He was also founder and co-chair of the Congressional Hunger Center, a nonprofit organization created to bring awareness to world hunger concerns. Tony Hall made numerous other trips across the world to serve as an advocate for human rights, including a trip to draw attention to the illicit diamond trade in Sierra Leone.

Congressman Hall continues to work to banish world hunger and promote developmental assistance. In 2002, President Bush appointed him Ambassador to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture. He was once

aply described by former colleague Eva Clayton as “the moral conscience of Congress on issues of hunger and poverty.” This bill to designate the “Tony Hall Federal Building and U.S. Courthouse” is a fitting tribute to the compassion and humanity with which Ambassador Hall conducts his public service.

I urge all of my colleagues to honor Tony Hall and to support H.R. 548.

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 548, to designate the Federal Building and United States courthouse at West 2nd Street in Dayton, Ohio, as the “Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Our former colleague Tony Hall, the representative of the 3rd District of Ohio for nearly 24 years, continues to serve as the United States ambassador to the United Nations food and agriculture agencies located in Rome, Italy, since his appointment by President Bush in 2002. As you may recall, Tony resigned his House seat to take up the ambassadorial post in Rome, where he is continuing his passionate work as a leading advocate for ending hunger and promoting food security around the world.

I want to thank Congressman DAVID HOBSON of Ohio for introducing H.R. 548 to honor Tony in his hometown of Dayton by attaching his name to the Federal building and courthouse there. It is an appropriate recognition for the nearly 24 years of service in the House and the 10 years of service in the Ohio General Assembly that Tony Hall provided to the people of Dayton and surrounding areas.

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resentatives of United Nations and private relief organizations; and in Pakistan with refugees and members of religious minority groups.

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Tony Hall is an inspiration to everyone fortunate enough to know him. He has a wonderful combination of compassion and passion filled with spiritual purpose—compassion to see the suffering in the less fortunate in the world and the passion to work to do something about it.

I urge a unanimous vote in support of H.R. 548, to recognize the dedicated public service of Tony Hall by naming the Federal building and courthouse in Dayton, Ohio, in his honor.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4232 to designate the United States courthouse at 200 West 2nd Street, Dayton, Ohio, as the “Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse.”

Ambassador Tony Hall served in Congress for 26 years before accepting an appointment to the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture in Rome, Italy, where he oversees the World Food Program, the Food and Agriculture Organization and the International Fund for Agricultural Development.

During his time as Member of Congress, in his pursuit to eliminate hunger worldwide, Ambassador Hall chaired the House Select Committee on Hunger and founded the Congressional Hunger Center. Ambassador Hall has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize three times for his humanitarian efforts and his work to prevent hunger worldwide. Today we honor the compassion, faith, and commitment of the man who once raised public awareness and attention on hunger issues by fasting for over three weeks.

I came to know of Ambassador Hall’s work through my role as Chair of the Ethiopian Caucus. He was the first Member of Congress to visit Ethiopia during the great famine of 1984. Since then his commitment to Ethiopia has remained steadfast and he has succeeded in directing international aid and awareness to the dire hunger situation that the region faces. Much of the Caucus’ work is predicated on the foundation that he built and Ethiopians and the Ethiopian Caucus are indebted to him for his contributions to the region.

Ambassador Hall possesses conviction and compassion befitting a public servant and we are fortunate that he represents the United States abroad.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I’m proud to join my colleagues from Ohio in cosponsoring H.R. 548, which will designate the Tony Hall Federal Building and United States Courthouse in

his hometown of Dayton. I thank the gentleman from Springfield, Mr. HOBSON, for introducing this legislation to honor our exemplary former colleague.

Tony Hall continues to be a tireless advocate for human rights around the world. His dedication to combating world hunger and helping the poor and needy made him the ideal choice to oversee the United Nations Agencies for Food and Agriculture, a job for which he was tapped in 2002. While we miss his leadership and friendship here in the House, we know that President Bush could not have picked a greater humanitarian or man of faith for this vital role.

I was honored to serve with Tony for more than two decades, and was grateful for the leading role he played and the stellar example he provided to all of us. In 2000, when Ohio’s official State motto—“With God All things Are Possible”—was struck down by the courts, I was proud to join with Tony in a House resolution supporting our State’s expression of optimism and faith.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution is a fitting tribute to a true public servant and Nobel Peace Prize nominee who has committed his life’s work to helping those in need. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill to honor our good friend and former colleague whose service to others is an example for us all.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, we have no more speakers at this time. Again, Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to support H.R. 548 in honor of Tony Hall and for what he has done for this Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 548.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair’s prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

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#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 548 and H.R. 315, the measures just considered by the House.

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

There was no objection.

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#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair

declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 18 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on the motions to suspend the rules previously postponed. Votes will be taken in the following order:

- H. Res. 46, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 315, by the yeas and nays;
- H.R. 548, by the yeas and nays.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF NATIONAL MENTORING MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 46.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 46, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 0, nays 0, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 20]  
YEAS—414

Abercrombie	Boehner	Cardoza
Aderholt	Bonilla	Carnahan
Akin	Bonner	Carson
Alexander	Bono	Carter
Allen	Boozman	Case
Andrews	Boren	Castle
Baca	Boswell	Chabot
Bachus	Boucher	Chandler
Baker	Boustany	Chocola
Baldwin	Boyd	Clay
Barrett (SC)	Bradley (NH)	Cleaver
Barrow	Brady (PA)	Clyburn
Bartlett (MD)	Brady (TX)	Coble
Barton (TX)	Brown (OH)	Cole (OK)
Bass	Brown (SC)	Conaway
Bean	Brown, Corrine	Conyers
Beauprez	Brown-Waite,	Cooper
Becerra	Ginny	Costa
Berkley	Burgess	Costello
Berman	Burton (IN)	Cox
Berry	Butterfield	Cramer
Biggert	Buyer	Crenshaw
Bilirakis	Calvert	Crowley
Bishop (GA)	Camp	Cubin
Bishop (NY)	Cannon	Cuellar
Bishop (UT)	Cantor	Culberson
Blackburn	Capito	Cummings
Blumenauer	Capps	Cunningham
Blunt	Capuano	Davis (AL)
Boehler	Cardin	Davis (CA)

Davis (IL)	Johnson (CT)	Osborne
Davis (KY)	Johnson (IL)	Otter
Davis (TN)	Johnson, E. B.	Owens
Davis, Jo Ann	Johnson, Sam	Oxley
Davis, Tom	Jones (NC)	Pallone
Deal (GA)	Jones (OH)	Pascrell
DeFazio	Kanjorski	Pastor
Delahunt	Kaptur	Paul
DeLauro	Keller	Pearce
DeLay	Kelly	Pelosi
Dent	Kennedy (MN)	Pence
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kennedy (RI)	Peterson (MN)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Kildee	Peterson (PA)
Dicks	Kilpatrick (MI)	Petri
Dingell	Kind	Pickering
Doggett	King (IA)	Pitts
Doolittle	King (NY)	Platts
Doyle	Kingston	Poe
Drake	Kirk	Pombo
Dreier	Kline	Pomeroy
Duncan	Knollenberg	Porter
Edwards	Kolbe	Portman
Ehlers	Kucinich	Price (GA)
Emanuel	Kuhl (NY)	Price (NC)
Engel	LaHood	Pryce (OH)
English (PA)	Langevin	Putnam
Evans	Lantos	Radanovich
Everett	Larsen (WA)	Rahall
Farr	Larson (CT)	Ramstad
Fattah	Latham	Rangel
Ferguson	LaTourette	Regula
Filner	Leach	Rehberg
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lee	Reichert
Flake	Levin	Renzi
Foley	Lewis (CA)	Reyes
Forbes	Lewis (GA)	Reynolds
Ford	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (AL)
Fortenberry	Linder	Rogers (KY)
Fossella	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)
Fox	Lofgren, Zoe	Rohrabacher
Frank (MA)	Lowey	Ros-Lehtinen
Franks (AZ)	Lucas	Ross
Frelinghuysen	Lungren, Daniel	Rothman
Galleghy	E.	Roybal-Allard
Garrett (NJ)	Mack	Royce
Gerlach	Maloney	Ruppersberger
Gibbons	Manzullo	Rush
Gilchrest	Marchant	Ryan (OH)
Gillmor	Markey	Ryan (WI)
Gingrey	Marshall	Ryun (KS)
Gohmert	Matheson	Salazar
Gonzalez	McCarthy	Sanchez, Linda
Goode	McCaul (TX)	T.
Goodlatte	McCollum (MN)	Sanchez, Loretta
Gordon	McCotter	Sanders
Granger	McCrery	Saxton
Graves	McDermott	Schakowsky
Green (WI)	McGovern	Schiff
Green, Al	McHenry	Schwartz (PA)
Green, Gene	McHugh	Schwartz (MI)
Grijalva	McIntyre	Scott (GA)
Gutknecht	McKeon	Scott (VA)
Hall	McKinney	Sensenbrenner
Harman	McMorris	Serrano
Harris	McNulty	Sessions
Hart	Meehan	Shadegg
Hastert	Meeke (FL)	Shaw
Hastings (FL)	Meeke (NY)	Shays
Hastings (WA)	Melancon	Sherman
Hayes	Menendez	Sherwood
Hayworth	Mica	Shimkus
Hefley	Michaud	Shuster
Hensarling	Millender-	Simmons
Hergert	McDonald	Simpson
Hereth	Miller (FL)	Skelton
Higgins	Miller (MI)	Slaughter
Hinojosa	Miller (NC)	Smith (NJ)
Hobson	Miller, Gary	Smith (TX)
Hoekstra	Miller, George	Smith (WA)
Holden	Mollohan	Smollett
Holt	Moore (KS)	Solis
Honda	Moore (WI)	Souder
Hooley	Moran (KS)	Spratt
Hostettler	Moran (VA)	Stark
Hoyer	Murphy	Stearns
Hulshof	Murtha	Strickland
Hunter	Musgrave	Sullivan
Hyde	Myrick	Sweeney
Inglis (SC)	Nadler	Tancredo
Inslee	Napolitano	Tanner
Israel	Neal (MA)	Tauscher
Issa	Northup	Taylor (MS)
Istook	Norwood	Taylor (NC)
Jackson (IL)	Nunes	Terry
Jackson-Lee	Nussle	Thomas
(TX)	Oberstar	Thompson (CA)
Jefferson	Obey	Thompson (MS)
Jenkins	Olver	Thornberry
Jindal	Ortiz	Tiahrt

Tiberi	Walsh	Westmoreland
Tierney	Wamp	Whitfield
Towns	Wasserman	Wicker
Turner	Schultz	Wilson (NM)
Udall (CO)	Waters	Wilson (SC)
Udall (NM)	Watt	Wolf
Upton	Waxman	Woolsey
Van Hollen	Weiner	Wu
Velázquez	Weldon (FL)	Wynn
Visclosky	Weldon (PA)	Young (AK)
Walden (OR)	Weller	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—20

Ackerman	Feeney	Payne
Baird	Gutierrez	Sabo
Davis (FL)	Hinchee	Snyder
DeGette	LoBiondo	Stupak
Emerson	Lynch	Watson
Eshoo	Neugebauer	Wexler
Etheridge	Ney	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1856

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

JOHN MILTON BRYAN SIMPSON  
UNITED STATES COURTHOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 315.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 315, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 21]  
YEAS—412

Abercrombie	Bono	Chabot
Aderholt	Boozman	Chandler
Akin	Boren	Chocola
Alexander	Boswell	Clay
Allen	Boucher	Cleaver
Andrews	Boustany	Clyburn
Baca	Boyd	Coble
Bachus	Bradley (NH)	Cole (OK)
Baker	Brady (PA)	Conaway
Baldwin	Brady (TX)	Conyers
Barrett (SC)	Brown (OH)	Cooper
Barrow	Brown (SC)	Costa
Bartlett (MD)	Brown, Corrine	Costello
Barton (TX)	Brown-Waite,	Cox
Bass	Ginny	Cramer
Bean	Burgess	Crenshaw
Beauprez	Burton (IN)	Crowley
Becerra	Butterfield	Cubin
Berkley	Buyer	Cuellar
Berman	Calvert	Culberson
Berry	Camp	Cummings
Biggert	Cannon	Cunningham
Bilirakis	Cantor	Davis (AL)
Bishop (GA)	Capito	Davis (CA)
Bishop (NY)	Capps	Davis (FL)
Bishop (UT)	Capuano	Davis (IL)
Blackburn	Cardin	Davis (KY)
Blumenauer	Cardoza	Davis (TN)
Blunt	Carnahan	Davis, Jo Ann
Boehler	Carson	Davis, Tom
Bonilla	Carter	Deal (GA)
Bonner	Case	DeFazio
	Castle	Delahunt

DeLauro	Kennedy (RI)	Peterson (MN)	Walsh	Weldon (FL)	Wolf	Dreier	LaHood	Putnam
DeLay	Kildee	Peterson (PA)	Wamp	Weldon (PA)	Woolsey	Duncan	Langevin	Radanovich
Dent	Kilpatrick (MI)	Petri	Wasserman	Weller	Wu	Edwards	Lantos	Rahall
Diaz-Balart, L.	Kind	Pickering	Schultz	Westmoreland	Wynn	Ehlers	Larsen (WA)	Ramstad
Diaz-Balart, M.	King (IA)	Pitts	Waters	Whitfield	Young (AK)	Emanuel	Larsen (CT)	Rangel
Dicks	King (NY)	Platts	Watt	Wicker	Young (FL)	Engel	Latham	Regula
Dingell	Kingston	Poe	Waxman	Wilson (NM)		English (PA)	LaTourette	Rehberg
Doggett	Kirk	Pombo	Weiner	Wilson (SC)		Evans	Leach	Reichert
Doolittle	Kline	Pomeroy				Everett	Lee	Renzi
Doyle	Knollenberg	Porter				Farr	Levin	Reyes
Drake	Kolbe	Portman	Ackerman	Gerlach	Ney	Fattah	Lewis (CA)	Reynolds
Dreier	Kucinich	Price (GA)	Baird	Gutierrez	Payne	Ferguson	Lewis (GA)	Rogers (AL)
Duncan	Kuhl (NY)	Price (NC)	DeGette	Hinchev	Sabo	Filner	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (KY)
Edwards	LaHood	Pryce (OH)	Emerson	Holt	Snyder	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Linder	Rogers (MI)
Ehlers	Langevin	Putnam	Eshoo	LoBiondo	Stupak	Flake	Lipinski	Rohrabacher
Emanuel	Lantos	Radanovich	Etheridge	Lynch	Watson	Foley	Lofgren, Zoe	Ros-Lehtinen
Engel	Larsen (WA)	Rahall	Feeney	Neugebauer	Wexler	Forbes	Lowe	Ross
English (PA)	Larson (CT)	Ramstad				Ford	Lucas	Rothman
Evans	Latham	Rangel				Fortenberry	Lungren, Daniel	Royal-Allard
Everett	LaTourette	Regula				Fossella	E.	Royce
Farr	Leach	Rehberg				Fox	Mack	Ruppersberger
Fattah	Lee	Reichert				Frank (MA)	Maloney	Rush
Ferguson	Levin	Renzi				Franks (AZ)	Manzullo	Ryan (OH)
Filner	Lewis (CA)	Reyes				Franks (AZ)	Marchant	Ryan (OH)
Fitzpatrick (PA)	Lewis (GA)	Reynolds				Frelinghuysen	Gallegly	Ryan (WI)
Flake	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (AL)				Gallegly	Markey	Ryun (KS)
Foley	Linder	Rogers (KY)				Garrett (NJ)	Marshall	Salazar
Forbes	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)				Gibbons	Matheson	Sanchez, Linda
Ford	Lofgren, Zoe	Rohrabacher				Gilchrest	McCarthy	T.
Fortenberry	Lowe	Ros-Lehtinen				Gillmor	McCaul (TX)	Sanchez, Loretta
Fossella	Lucas	Ross				Gingrey	McCollum (MN)	Sanders
Fox	Lungren, Daniel	Rothman				Gohmert	McCotter	Saxton
Frank (MA)	E.	Royal-Allard				Gonzalez	McCrary	Schakowsky
Franks (AZ)	Mack	Royce				Goode	McDermott	Schiff
Frelinghuysen	Maloney	Ruppersberger				Goodlatte	McGovern	Schwartz (PA)
Gallegly	Manzullo	Rush				Gordon	McHenry	Schwarz (MI)
Garrett (NJ)	Marchant	Ryan (OH)				Graves	McHugh	Scott (GA)
Gibbons	Markey	Ryan (WI)				Green (WI)	McIntyre	Scott (VA)
Gilchrest	Marshall	Ryun (KS)				Green, Al	McKeon	Sensenbrenner
Gillmor	Matheson	Salazar				Green, Gene	McKinney	Serrano
Gingrey	McCarthy	Sanchez, Linda				Grijalva	McMorris	Sessions
Gohmert	McCaul (TX)	T.				Gutknecht	McNulty	Shadegg
Gonzalez	McCollum (MN)	Sanchez, Loretta				Hall	Meehan	Shaw
Goode	McCotter	Sanders				Harman	Meek (FL)	Shays
Goodlatte	McCrary	Saxton				Harris	Meeks (NY)	Sherman
Gordon	McDermott	Schakowsky				Hart	Melancon	Sherwood
Granger	McGovern	Schiff				Hastings (FL)	Menendez	Shimkus
Graves	McHenry	Schwartz (PA)				Hastings (WA)	Mica	Shuster
Green (WI)	McHugh	Schwarz (MI)				Hayes	Michaud	Simmons
Green, Al	McIntyre	Scott (GA)				Hayworth	Millender-	Simpson
Green, Gene	McKeon	Scott (VA)				Hefley	McDonald	Skelton
Grijalva	McKinney	Sensenbrenner				Hensarling	Miller (FL)	Slaughter
Gutknecht	McMorris	Serrano				Herger	Miller (MI)	Smith (NJ)
Hall	McNulty	Sessions				Herseth	Miller (NC)	Smith (TX)
Harman	Meehan	Shadegg				Higgins	Miller, Gary	Smith (WA)
Harris	Meek (FL)	Shaw				Hinojosa	Miller, George	Sodrel
Hart	Meeks (NY)	Shays				Hobson	Mollohan	Solis
Hastings (FL)	Melancon	Sherman				Hoekstra	Moore (KS)	Souder
Hastings (WA)	Menendez	Sherwood				Holden	Moore (WI)	Spratt
Hayes	Mica	Shimkus				Honda	Moran (KS)	Stark
Hayworth	Michaud	Shuster				Hooley	Moran (VA)	Strickland
Hefley	Millender-	Simmons				Hostettler	Murphy	Sullivan
Hensarling	McDonald	Simpson				Hoyer	Murtha	Sweeney
Herger	Miller (FL)	Skelton				Hulshof	Musgrave	Tancred
Herseth	Miller (MI)	Slaughter				Hunter	Myrick	Tanner
Higgins	Miller (NC)	Smith (NJ)				Hyde	Nadler	Tauscher
Hinojosa	Miller, Gary	Smith (TX)				Inglis (SC)	Neal (MA)	Taylor (MS)
Hobson	Miller, George	Smith (WA)				Israel	Northup	Terry
Hoekstra	Mollohan	Sodrel				Issa	Norwood	Thomas
Holden	Moore (KS)	Solis				Istook	Nunes	Thompson (CA)
Honda	Moore (WI)	Souder				Jackson (IL)	Nussle	Thompson (MS)
Hooley	Moran (KS)	Spratt				Jackson-Lee	Oberstar	Thornberry
Hostettler	Moran (VA)	Stark				(TX)	Obey	Tiahrt
Hoyer	Murphy	Stearns				(TX)	Olver	Tiberi
Hulshof	Murtha	Strickland				Jefferson	Ortiz	Tierney
Hunter	Musgrave	Sullivan				Jenkins	Osborne	Towns
Hyde	Myrick	Sweeney				Jindal	Otter	Turner
Inglis (SC)	Nadler	Tancred				Johnson (CT)	Owens	Udall (CO)
Inslee	Napolitano	Tanner				Johnson (IL)	Oxley	Udall (NM)
Israel	Neal (MA)	Tauscher				Johnson, E. B.	Pallone	Upton
Issa	Northup	Taylor (MS)				Johnson, Sam	Pascarell	Pastor
Istook	Norwood	Taylor (NC)				Jones (NC)	Pastor	Van Hollen
Jackson (IL)	Nunes	Terry				Jones (OH)	Paul	Velazquez
Jackson-Lee	Nussle	Thomas				Kanjorski	Pearce	Visclosky
(TX)	Oberstar	Thompson (CA)				Kaptur	Pelosi	Walden (OR)
Jefferson	Obey	Thompson (MS)				Keller	Pence	Walsh
Jenkins	Olver	Thornberry				Kelly	Peterson (MN)	Wamp
Jindal	Ortiz	Tiahrt				Kennedy (MN)	Peterson (PA)	Wasserman
Johnson (CT)	Osborne	Tiberi				Kennedy (RI)	Petri	Schultz
Johnson (IL)	Otter	Tierney				Kildee	Pickering	Waters
Johnson, E. B.	Owens	Towns				Pitts	Kilpatrick (MI)	Watt
Johnson, Sam	Oxley	Turner				Platts	Kind	Waxman
Jones (NC)	Pallone	Udall (CO)				Platts	King (IA)	Weiner
Jones (OH)	Pascarell	Udall (NM)				Pombo	King (NY)	Weldon (FL)
Kanjorski	Pastor	Upton				Pomeroy	Kingston	Weldon (PA)
Kaptur	Paul	Van Hollen				Porter	Kline	Weller
Keller	Pearce	Velazquez				Portman	Knollenberg	Westmoreland
Kelly	Pelosi	Visclosky				Price (GA)	Kolbe	Whitfield
Kennedy (MN)	Pence	Walden (OR)				Pryce (NC)	Kucinich	Wicker
						Pryce (OH)	Kuhl (NY)	Wilson (NM)

## NOT VOTING—21

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE  
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are reminded there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1907

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TONY HALL FEDERAL BUILDING  
AND UNITED STATES COURT-  
HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 548.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 548, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 29, as follows:

[Roll No. 22]

YEAS—404

Abercrombie	Boswell	Conaway
Aderholt	Boucher	Conyers
Akin	Boustany	Cooper
Alexander	Boyd	Costa
Allen	Bradley (NH)	Costello
Andrews	Brady (PA)	Cox
Baca	Brady (TX)	Cramer
Bachus	Brown (OH)	Crenshaw
Baker	Brown (SC)	Crowley
Baldwin	Brown, Corrine	Cubin
Barrett (SC)	Brown-Waite,	Cuellar
Barrow	Ginny	Culberson
Bartlett (MD)	Burgess	Cummings
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Cunningham
Bass	Butterfield	Davis (AL)
Bean	Buyer	Davis (CA)
Beauprez	Calvert	Davis (FL)
Becerra	Camp	Davis (IL)
Berkley	Cannon	Davis (KY)
Berman	Cantor	Davis (TN)
Berry	Capito	Davis, Jo Ann
Biggert	Capps	Davis, Tom
Bilirakis	Capuano	Deal (GA)
Bishop (GA)	Cardin	DeFazio
Bishop (NY)	Carahan	Delahunt
Bishop (UT)	Carson	DeLauro
Blackburn	Carter	Dent
Blumenauer	Case	Diaz-Balart, L.
Blunt	Castle	Diaz-Balart, M.
Boehlert	Chabot	Dicks
Boehner	Chandler	Dingell
Bonilla	Chocola	Doggett
Bonner	Clay	Doolittle
Bono	Cleaver	Doyle
Boozman	Coble	Drake
Boren	Cole (OK)	

Wolf	Wu	Young (AK)
Woolsey	Wynn	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—29

Ackerman	Granger	Payne
Baird	Gutierrez	Sabo
Cardoza	Hinchee	Snyder
Clyburn	Holt	Stearns
DeGette	Kirk	Stupak
Emerson	LoBiondo	Taylor (NC)
Eshoo	Lynch	Watson
Etheridge	Napolitano	Wexler
Feeney	Neugebauer	Wilson (SC)
Gerlach	Ney	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1924

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent today from this Chamber. I would like the RECORD to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 20, 21 and 22.

ELECTION OF MEMBER TO COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

Mr. BOUSTANY. Madam Speaker, I offer a resolution (H.R. 68), and I ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 68

*Resolved*, That the following Member be and is hereby elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives:

Committee on the Budget: Mr. Simpson to rank after Mr. Ryan of Wisconsin.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MCCARTHY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. MCCARTHY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman 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.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

PELL GRANT FUNDING

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak in favor of a part of President Bush's budget that receives no fanfare or publicity, and that is Pell grants. Pell grants are dollars that we give to children from low- and moderate-income families to help them go to college. I personally would not have been able to go to college without Pell grants, and I serve as chairman of the Congressional Pell Grant Caucus.

When I was elected to Congress in 2000, I made increasing Pell grant funding my top priority, and with this budget, President Bush has done his part, too.

Now, I have heard some people complain that maybe the President and Congress are not doing enough to increase Pell grants, so I am here today to provide a little straight talk regarding Pell grant funding.

Let us begin by comparing funding situations in 2000 with the President's current budget proposal. As Members can see, we have increased Pell grant funding overall by 137 percent since the year 2000 from \$7.6 billion to \$18 billion. We have also increased the individual awards from \$3,300 to \$4,150 with an extra \$1,000 for those smart kids who qualify under the Pell Grant Plus Program by taking rigorous courses. And we also have an additional 1.6 million students who are now eligible for Pell grants, an increase of 41 percent.

Some say that maybe we should be doing even more than this. Well, let us compare the history. Over the past 20 years, we have had Pell grants, demonstrated here based on the Democratic-controlled Congress in yellow from 1986 to 1995, and the Republican Congress afterwards. As Members can see before Republican control of Congress, the Pell grant level remained flat at or around \$2,300, and increased dramatically up to \$4,150 today, with an extra \$1,000 for those who qualify for the Pell Grant Plus Program.

Some say, why just a \$100 increase for students, why not more? Well, for every \$100, it costs the taxpayers \$400 billion to pay for it. We also have the especially large challenge of having the

largest number of high school graduates in history, and it is going up and up and up until the year 2008, and then it will decline.

The third challenge is we face a Pell grant deficit of \$4.3 billion that made these increases hard. President Bush's budget pays that Pell grant deficit off.

The final chart I would like to show is showing the overall Pell grant funding for the past 10 years. As Members can see, in 1996 Pell grants were funded at \$4.9 billion. Under this budget just announced by the President, Pell grants are funded at almost \$18 billion. In other words, we have more than tripled funding for Pell grants over the past 10 years.

Members will also note that the amount we spent last year, \$12.4 billion, has been increased 45 percent to \$18 billion, the largest increase in any domestic program.

As we look to the future, the President's budget indicates that we are going to raise Pell grants by \$500 over a 5-year period, and an additional \$1,000 will be funded through the Pell Grant Plus Act, legislation I filed, and which President Bush's budget fully funds.

Mr. Speaker, Pell grants are truly the passport out of poverty for so many worthy young people. Not only is increasing Pell grants the right thing to do for young people, to help low-income college kids fulfill their American Dream; it is the right thing to do for the Treasury. By investing \$13 billion in Pell grants, it helps generate over \$85 billion a year in additional revenue because the average college graduate makes 75 percent more than the average high school graduate.

Mr. Speaker, I hope our colleagues on both sides of the aisle will understand and appreciate our efforts to increase funding for Pell grants and will vote "yes" on this budget.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

REVERSE ROBIN HOOD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this budget is another example of reverse Robin Hood, robbing

from the veterans, the homeless, public education, public transportation, the poor and the elderly, to give away huge tax breaks to those who contributed to President Bush's reelection campaign.

□ 1930

Let me be clear. This budget is another clear example of reverse Robin Hood: robbing from the veterans, the homeless, public education, public transportation, the poor and the elderly, to give away huge tax breaks to those who contributed to President Bush's reelection campaign.

This administration is cutting the programs that our Nation and its citizens need most, while dissolving the safety nets created to protect the elderly and less fortunate in this wealthy Nation. This budget cuts \$500 million in job training at a time when outsourcing has left many Americans without work; slashes hundreds of millions in funding for police and firefighters used to protect local communities from terrorists.

And let me add that since this administration has been in place, we have not funded the COPS program at all.

It doubles drug copayments for veterans as they struggle to get the health care they need. Let me repeat, doubles drug copayments for veterans as they struggle to get the health care that they need. It cuts funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention while we are under the threat of a bioterrorist attack. I do not understand it. Cuts funding to the Low-Income Energy Assistance Program as fuel prices soar.

Now this is a real gimmick here: It zeroes out funding for Amtrak, zeroes out funding for Amtrak, which is the Nation's only mass transportation system. And it totally destroys the Medicaid program, which protects the poor and elderly.

Veterans continue to get the short end of the stick when it comes to this administration. And let me point out, today's veterans are yesterday's soldiers. Those are the people who are fighting to protect this country. They are the ones who are getting the short end of the stick.

The budget raises health care costs for hundreds of thousands of veterans, imposing new copayments on prescription drugs and enrollment fees that will cost veterans hundreds of millions of dollars. As America prepares to welcome a new generation of veterans home from Iraq, it is short-changing health care programs, providing about \$2 billion less than veterans' service organizations believe is needed.

And the budget once again fails to repeal the disabled veterans tax, which forces disabled military retirees to give up \$1 of their pension for every \$1 of disability pay they receive. We owe it to the soldiers, airmen, sailors, and Marines who have served as a source of pride in our Nation to begin enrolling Priority 8 veterans into the VA health care system. However, charging each of

them an annual \$250 fee and doubling the copayment on prescription drugs for the privilege is unacceptable. These men and women have already paid their deduction in their service protecting this country's freedom. Most of the "increase" this administration claims for veterans' medical needs come from these fees.

This budget is completely unrealistic because it leaves out countless items. Once administration initiatives like additional costs for military operations in Iraq; Social Security privatization, which is unacceptable; and permanent tax cuts for the wealthy are included, the Nation's deficit, which is the highest in the history of this country, will spiral even higher. This is an administration that not only does not have a plan to erase the deficit, but by proposing to make their tax cuts permanent, they will push the current deficits to sky-high levels.

This is a terrible budget for the American people. The President's budget is the people's budget, and I will fight to ensure that my constituents' priorities are reflected in this budget.

The current issues concerning Amtrak brings up a fundamental question of where this Nation stands on public transportation. We have an opportunity to improve a system that serves our need for passenger rail service, or we can let it fall apart, and leave this country's travelers and businesses with absolutely no alternative form of public transportation.

Without the funding Amtrak needs to keep operating, we will soon see people that rely on Amtrak to get them to work each day, waiting for a train that isn't coming.

We continue to subsidize highways and aviation, but when it comes to our passenger rail system, we refuse to provide the money Amtrak needs to survive.

This issue is so much bigger than just transportation. This is about safety and national security. Not only should we be giving Amtrak the money it needs to continue providing service, we should be providing security money to upgrade their tracks and improve safety and security measures in the entire rail system.

Once again we see the Bush Administrations paying for its failed policies by cutting funds to vital public services and jeopardizing more American jobs. This Administration sees nothing wrong with taking money from the hard working Amtrak employees who work day and night to provide top quality service to their passengers. These folks are trying to make a living for their families, and they don't deserve this shabby treatment from the President.

It's time for this Administration to step up to the plate and make a decision about Amtrak based on what's best for the traveling public, not what's best for the right wing of the Republican party and the bean counters at OMB.

I represent Central Florida, which depends on tourism for its economy, and we need people to be able to get to the state to enjoy it. Ever since September 11th, more and more people are turning from the airlines to Amtrak, and they deserve safe and dependable service.

Some people think that the solution to the problem is to privatize the system. If we privatize, we will see the same thing we saw

when we deregulated the airline industry. Only the lucrative routes would be maintained, and routes to Rural locations will be expensive and few.

I was in New York shortly after September 11th when the plane leaving JFK airport crash into the Bronx. I, along with many of my colleagues in both the House and Senate took AMTRAK back to Washington. I realized once again just how important AMTRAK is to the American people, and how important it is for this Nation to have alternative modes of Transportation.

This isn't about fiscal policy, this is about providing a safe and reliable public transportation system that the citizens of this Nation need and deserve.

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS, 109TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. THOMAS. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, I respectfully submit the rules of the Committee on Ways and Means for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On February 2, 2005, the Committee on Ways and Means adopted by voice vote, a quorum being present, the following committee rules.

#### PART I

##### RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS FOR THE 109TH CONGRESS

Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives, provides in part:

\* \* \* 1.(a)(1)(A) The Rules of the House are the rules of its committees and subcommittees so far as applicable.

(B) Each subcommittee is a part of its committee and is subject to the authority and direction of that committee and to its rules, so far as applicable.

(2)(A) In a committee or subcommittee—

(i) a motion to recess from day to day, or to recess subject to the call of the Chair (within 24 hours), shall be privileged; and

(ii) a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution shall be privileged if printed copies are available.

(B) A motion accorded privilege under this subparagraph shall be decided without debate. \* \* \*

\* \* \* 2.(a)(1) Each standing committee shall adopt written rules governing its procedure.

Such rules—

(A) Shall be adopted in a meeting that is open to the public unless the committee, in open session and with a quorum present, determines by record vote that all or part of the meeting on that day shall be closed to the public;

(B) may not be inconsistent with the Rules of the House or with those provisions of law having the force and effect of Rules of the House \* \* \*.

In accordance with the foregoing, the Committee on Ways and Means, on February 2, 2005, adopted the following as the Rules of the Committee for the 109th Congress.

#### A. GENERAL

##### Rule 1. Application of Rules

Except where the terms "full Committee" and "Subcommittee" are specifically referred to, the following rules shall apply to the Committee on Ways and Means and its Subcommittees as well as to the respective Chairmen.

*Rule 2. Meeting Date and Quorums*

The regular meeting day of the Committee on Ways and Means shall be on the second Wednesday of each month while the House is in session. However, the Committee shall not meet on the regularly scheduled meeting day if there is no business to be considered.

A majority of the Committee constitutes a quorum for business; provided however, that two Members shall constitute a quorum at any regularly scheduled hearing called for the purpose of taking testimony and receiving evidence. In establishing a quorum for purposes of public hearing, every effort shall be made to secure the presence of at least one Member each from the majority and the minority.

The Chairman of the Committee may call and convene, as he considers necessary, additional meetings of the Committee for the consideration of any bill or resolution ending before the Committee or for the conduct of other Committee business. The Committee shall meet pursuant to the call of the Chair.

*Rule 3. Committee Budget*

For each Congress, the Chairman, in consultation with the Majority Members of the Committee, shall prepare a preliminary budget. Such budget shall include necessary amounts for staff personnel, travel, investigation, and other expenses of the Committee. After consultation with the Minority Members, the Chairman shall include an amount budgeted by Minority Members. Thereafter, the Chairman shall combine such proposals into a consolidated Committee budget, and shall present the same to the Committee for its approval or other action. The Chairman shall take whatever action is necessary to have the budget as finally approved by the Committee duly authorized by the House. After said budget shall have been adopted, no substantial change shall be made in such budget unless approved by the Committee.

*Rule 4. Publication of Committee Documents*

Any Committee or Subcommittee print, document, or similar material prepared for public distribution shall either be approved by the Committee or Subcommittee prior to distribution and opportunity afforded for the inclusion of supplemental, minority or additional views, or such document shall contain on its cover the following disclaimer:

Prepared for the use of Members of the Committee on Ways and Means by members of its staff. This document has not been officially approved by the Committee and may not reflect the views of its Members.

Any such print, document, or other material not officially approved by the Committee or Subcommittee shall not include the names of its Members, other than the name of the full Committee Chairman or Subcommittee Chairman under whose authority the document is released. Any such document shall be made available to the full Committee Chairman and Ranking Minority Member not less than 3 calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays) prior to its public release.

The requirements of this rule shall apply only to the publication of policy-oriented, analytical documents, and not to the publication of public hearings, legislative documents, documents which are administrative in nature or reports which are required to be submitted to the Committee under public law. The appropriate characterization of a document subject to this rule shall be determined after consultation with the Minority.

*Rule 5. Official Travel*

Consistent with the primary expense resolution and such additional expense resolution as may have been approved, the provisions of this rule shall govern official travel

of Committee Members and Committee staff. Official travel to be reimbursed from funds set aside for the full Committee for any Member or any committee staff member shall be paid only upon the prior authorization of the Chairman. Official travel may be authorized by the Chairman for any Member and any committee staff member in connection with the attendance of hearings conducted by the Committee, its Subcommittees, or any other Committee or Subcommittee of the Congress on matters relevant to the general jurisdiction of the Committee, and meetings, conferences, facility inspections, and investigations which involve activities or subject matter relevant to the general jurisdiction of the Committee. Before such authorization is given, there shall be submitted to the Chairman in writing the following:

- (1) The purpose of the official travel;
- (2) The dates during which the official travel is to be made and the date or dates of the event for which the official travel is being made;
- (3) The location of the event for which the official travel is to be made; and
- (4) The names of Members and Committee staff seeking authorization.

In the case of official travel of Members and staff of a Subcommittee to hearings, meetings, conferences, facility inspections and investigations involving activities or subject matter under the jurisdiction of such Subcommittee prior authorization must be obtained from the Subcommittee Chairman and the full Committee Chairman. Such prior authorization shall be given by the Chairman only upon the representation by the applicable Subcommittee Chairman in writing setting forth those items enumerated above.

Within 60 days of the conclusion of any official travel authorized under this rule, there shall be submitted to the full Committee Chairman a written report covering the information gained as a result of the hearing, meeting, conference, facility inspection or investigation attended pursuant to such official travel.

*Rule 6. Availability of Committee Records and Publications*

The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with Rule VII of the Rules of the House of Representatives. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of Rule VII, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination on the written request of any Member of the Committee. The Committee shall, to the maximum extent feasible, make its publications available in electronic form.

*Rule 7. Websites*

The minority shall be entitled to a separate website that is linked to and accessible only from the full Committee's website. For any website created under this policy, the Ranking Minority Member is responsible for its content and must be identified on the introductory page.

All Committee websites must comply with House Regulations.

The content of a committee website may not:

- (1) Include personal, political, or campaign information.
- (2) Be directly linked or refer to websites created or operated by campaign or any campaign related entity, including political parties and campaign committees.
- (3) Include grassroots lobbying or solicit support for a Member's position.
- (4) Generate, circulate, solicit or encourage signing petitions.

(5) Include any advertisement for any private individual, firm, or corporation, or imply in any manner that the Government endorses or favors any specific commercial product, commodity, or service.

## B. SUBCOMMITTEES

*Rule 8. Subcommittee Ratios and Jurisdiction*

All matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means involving revenue measures, except those revenue measures referred to Subcommittees under paragraphs 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, or 6 shall be considered by the full Committee and not in Subcommittee. There shall be six standing Subcommittees as follows: a Subcommittee on Trade; a Subcommittee on Oversight; a Subcommittee on Health; a Subcommittee on Social Security; a Subcommittee on Human Resources; and a Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures. The ratio of Republicans to Democrats on any Subcommittee of the Committee shall be consistent with the ratio of Republicans to Democrats on the full Committee.

1. The Subcommittee on Trade shall consist of 15 Members, 9 of whom shall be Republicans and 6 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Trade shall include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to customs and customs administration including tariff and import fee structure, classification, valuation of and special rules applying to imports, and special tariff provisions and procedures which relate to customs operation affecting exports and imports; import trade matters, including import impact, industry relief from injurious imports, adjustment assistance and programs to encourage competitive responses to imports, unfair import practices including antidumping and countervailing duty provisions, and import policy which relates to dependence on foreign sources of supply; commodity agreements and reciprocal trade agreements including multilateral and bilateral trade negotiations and implementation of agreements involving tariff and nontariff trade barriers to and distortions of international trade; international rules, organizations and institutional aspects of international trade agreements; budget authorizations for the customs revenue functions of the Department of Homeland Security, the U.S. International Trade Commission, and the U.S. Trade Representative; and special trade-related problems involving market access, competitive conditions of specific industries, export policy and promotion, access to materials in short supply, bilateral trade relations including trade with developing countries, operations of multinational corporations, and trade with nonmarket economies.

2. The Subcommittee on Oversight shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Oversight shall include all matters within the scope of the full Committee's jurisdiction but shall be limited to existing law. Said oversight jurisdiction shall not be exclusive but shall be concurrent with that of the other Subcommittees. With respect to matters involving the Internal Revenue Code and other revenue issues, said concurrent jurisdiction shall be shared with the full Committee. Before undertaking any investigation or hearing, the Chairman of the Subcommittee on Oversight shall confer with the Chairman of the full Committee and the Chairman of any other Subcommittee having jurisdiction.

3. The Subcommittee on Health shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Health shall include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

that relate to programs providing payments (from any source) for health care, health delivery systems, or health research. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Health shall include bills and matters that relate to the health care programs of the Social Security Act (including titles V, XI (Part B), XVIII, and XIX thereof) and, concurrent with the full Committee, tax credit and deduction provisions of the Internal Revenue Code dealing with health insurance Premiums and health care costs.

4. The Subcommittee on Social Security shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Social Security shall include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to the Federal Old-Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance System, the Railroad Retirement System, and employment taxes and trust fund operations relating to those systems. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Social Security shall include bills and matters involving title II of the Social Security Act and Chapter 22 of the Internal Revenue Code (the Railroad Retirement Tax Act), as well as provisions in title VII and title XI of the Act relating to procedure and administration involving the Old-Age, Survivors' and Disability Insurance System.

5. The Subcommittee on Human Resources shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Human Resources shall include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to the public assistance provisions of the Social Security Act including temporary assistance for needy families, child care, child and family services, child support, foster care, adoption supplemental security income social services, eligibility of welfare recipients for food stamps, and low-income energy assistance. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Human Resources shall include bills and matters relating to titles I, IV, VI, X, XIV, XVI, XVII, XX and related provisions of titles VII and XI of the Social Security Act.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Human Resources shall also include bills and matters referred to the Committee on Ways and Means that relate to the Federal-State system of unemployment compensation, and the financing thereof, including the programs for extended and emergency benefits. More specifically, the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Human Resources shall also include all bills and matters pertaining to the programs of unemployment compensation under titles III, IX and XII of the Social Security Act, Chapters 23 and 23A of the Internal Revenue Code, and the Federal-State Extended Unemployment Compensation Act of 1970, and provisions relating thereto.

6. The Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures shall consist of 13 Members, 8 of whom shall be Republicans and 5 of whom shall be Democrats.

The jurisdiction of the Subcommittee on Select Revenue Measures shall consist of those revenue measures that, from time to time, shall be referred to it specifically by the Chairman of the full Committee.

#### *Rule 9. Ex-Officio Members of Subcommittees*

The Chairman of the full Committee and the Ranking Minority Member may sit as ex-officio Members of all Subcommittees. They may be counted for purposes of assisting in the establishment of a quorum for a Subcommittee. However, their absence shall not count against the establishment of a quorum

by the regular Members of the Subcommittee. Ex-officio Members shall neither vote in the Subcommittee nor be taken into consideration for purposes of determining the ratio of the Subcommittee.

#### *Rule 10. Subcommittee Meetings*

Insofar as practicable, meetings of the full Committee and its Subcommittees shall not conflict. Subcommittee Chairmen shall set meeting dates after consultation with the Chairman of the full Committee and other Subcommittee Chairmen with a view toward avoiding, wherever possible, simultaneous scheduling of full Committee and Subcommittee meetings or hearings.

#### *Rule 11. Reference of Legislation and Subcommittee Reports*

Except for bills or measures retained by the Chairman of the full Committee for full Committee consideration, every bill or other measure referred to the Committee shall be referred by the Chairman of the full Committee to the appropriate Subcommittee in a timely manner. A Subcommittee shall, within 3 legislative days of the referral, acknowledge same to the full Committee.

After a measure has been pending in a Subcommittee for a reasonable period of time, the Chairman of the full Committee may make a request in writing to the Subcommittee that the Subcommittee forthwith report the measure to the full Committee with its recommendations. If within 7 legislative days after the Chairman's written request, the Subcommittee has not so reported the measure, then there shall be in order in the full Committee a motion to discharge the Subcommittee from further consideration of the measure. If such motion is approved by a majority vote of the full Committee, the measure may thereafter be considered only by the full Committee.

No measure reported by a Subcommittee shall be considered by the full Committee unless it has been presented to all Members of the full Committee at least 2 legislative days prior to the full Committee's meeting, together with a comparison with present law, a section-by-section analysis of the proposed change, a section-by-section justification, and a draft statement of the budget effects of the measure that is consistent with the requirements for reported measures under clause 3(d)(2) of Rule XIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### *Rule 12. Recommendation for Appointment of Conferees*

Whenever in the legislative process it becomes necessary to appoint conferees, the Chairman of the full Committee shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees the names of those Committee Members as the Chairman may designate. In making recommendations of Minority Members as conferees, the Chairman shall consult with the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee.

### C. HEARINGS

#### *Rule 13. Witnesses*

In order to assure the most productive use of the limited time available to question hearing witnesses, a witness who is scheduled to appear before the full Committee or a Subcommittee shall file with the Clerk of the Committee at least 48 hours in advance of his appearance a written statement of his proposed testimony. In addition, all witnesses shall comply with formatting requirements as specified by the Committee and the Rules of the House. Failure to comply with the 48-hour rule may result in a witness being denied the opportunity to testify in person. Failure to comply with the formatting requirements may result in a witness' statement being rejected for inclusion

in the published hearing record. In addition to the requirements of clause 2(g)(4) of Rule XI, of the Rules of the House, regarding information required of public witnesses, a witness shall limit his oral presentation to a summary of his position and shall provide sufficient copies of his written statement to the Clerk for distribution to Members, staff and news media.

A witness appearing at a public hearing, or submitting a statement for the record of a public hearing, or submitting written comments in response to a published request for comments by the Committee must include on his statement or submission a list of all clients, persons, or organizations on whose behalf the witness appears. Oral testimony and statements for the record, or written comments in response to a request for comments by the Committee, will be accepted only from citizens of the United States or corporations or associations organized under the laws of one of the 50 States of the United States or the District of Columbia, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman of the full Committee or Subcommittee involved. Written statements from non-citizens may be considered for acceptance in the record if transmitted to the Committee in writing by Members of Congress.

#### *Rule 14. Questioning of Witnesses*

Committee Members may question witnesses only when recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. All Members shall be limited to 5 minutes on the initial round of questioning. In questioning witnesses under the 5-minute rule, the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member shall be recognized first after which Members who are in attendance at the beginning of a hearing will be recognized in the order of their seniority on the Committee. Other Members shall be recognized in the order of their appearance at the hearing. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chairman may take into consideration the ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members and the number of Majority and Minority Members present and shall apportion the recognition for questioning in such a manner as not to disadvantage Members of the majority.

#### *Rule 15. Subpoena Power*

The power to authorize and issue subpoenas is delegated to the Chairman of the full Committee, as provided for under clause 2(m)(3)(A)(i) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### *Rule 16. Records of Hearings*

An accurate stenographic record shall be kept of all testimony taken at a public hearing. The staff shall transmit to a witness the transcript of his testimony for correction and immediate return to the Committee offices. Only changes in the interest of clarity, accuracy and corrections in transcribing errors will be permitted. Changes that substantially alter the actual testimony will not be permitted. Members shall correct their own testimony and return transcripts as soon as possible after receipt thereof. The Chairman of the full Committee may order the printing of a hearing without the corrections of a witness or Member if he determines that a reasonable time has been afforded to make corrections and that further delay would impede the consideration of the legislation or other measure that is the subject of the hearing.

#### *Rule 17. Broadcasting of Hearings*

The provisions of clause 4(f) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House of Representatives are specifically made a part of these rules by reference. In addition, the following policy shall apply to media coverage of any meeting of the full Committee or a Subcommittee:

(1) An appropriate area of the Committee's hearing room will be designated for members of the media and their equipment.

(2) No interviews will be allowed in the Committee room while the Committee is in session. Individual interviews must take place before the gavel falls for the convening of a meeting or after the gavel falls for adjournment.

(3) Day-to-day notification of the next day's electronic coverage shall be provided by the media to the Chairman of the full Committee through an appropriate designee.

(4) Still photography during a Committee meeting will not be permitted to disrupt the proceedings or block the vision of Committee Members or witnesses.

(5) Further conditions may be specified by the Chairman.

#### D. MARKUPS

##### *Rule 18. Reconsideration of Previous Vote*

When an amendment or other matter has been disposed of, it shall be in order for any Member of the prevailing side, on the same or next day on which a quorum of the Committee is present, to move the reconsideration thereof, and such motion shall take precedence over all other questions except the consideration of a motion to adjourn.

##### *Rule 19. Previous Question*

The Chairman shall not recognize a Member for the purpose of moving the previous question unless the Member has first advised the Chair and the Committee that this is the purpose for which recognition is being sought.

##### *Rule 20. Postponement of Proceedings*

The Chairman may postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment.

The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time. In exercising postponement authority the Chairman shall take reasonable steps to notify members on the resumption of proceedings on any postponed record vote.

When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

##### *Rule 21. Motion to go to Conference*

The Chairman is authorized to offer a motion under clause 1 of rule XXII of the Rules of the House of Representatives whenever the chairman considers it appropriate.

##### *Rule 22. Official Transcripts of Markups and Other Committee Meetings*

An official stenographic transcript shall be kept accurately reflecting all markups and other meetings of the full Committee and the Subcommittees, whether they be open or closed to the public. This official transcript, marked as "uncorrected," shall be available for inspection by the public (except for meetings closed pursuant to clause 2(g)(1) of Rule XI of the Rules of the House), by Members of the House, or by Members of the Committee together with their staffs, during normal business hours in the full Committee or Subcommittee office under such controls as the Chairman of the full Committee deems necessary. Official transcripts shall not be removed from the Committee or Subcommittee office. If, however, (1) in the drafting of a Committee or Subcommittee decision, the Office of the House Legislative Counsel or (2) in the preparation of a Committee report, the Chief of Staff of the Joint Committee on Taxation determines (in consultation with appropriate majority and minority committee staff) that it is necessary to review the official transcript of a markup, such transcript may be released upon the signature and to the custody of an appropriate committee staff person. Such tran-

script shall be returned immediately after its review in the drafting session.

The official transcript of a markup or Committee meeting other than a public hearing shall not be published or distributed to the public in any way except by a majority vote of the Committee. Before any public release of the uncorrected transcript, Members must be given a reasonable opportunity to correct their remarks. In instances in which a stenographic transcript is kept of a conference committee proceeding, all of the requirements of this rule shall likewise be observed.

##### *Rule 23. Publication of Decisions and Legislative Language*

A press release describing any tentative or final decision made by the full Committee or a Subcommittee on legislation under consideration shall be made available to each Member of the Committee as soon as possible, but no later than the next day. However, the legislative draft of any tentative or final decision of the full Committee or a Subcommittee shall not be publicly released until such draft is made available to each Member of the Committee.

#### E. STAFF

##### *Rule 24. Supervision of Committee Staff*

The staff of the Committee shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman of the full Committee except as provided in clause 9 of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives concerning Committee expenses and staff.

Pursuant to clause 6(d) of Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the full Committee, from the funds made available for the appointment of Committee staff pursuant to primary and additional expense resolutions, shall ensure that each Subcommittee receives sufficient staff to carry out its responsibilities under the rules of the Committee, and that the minority party is fairly treated in the appointment of such staff.

##### *Rule 25. Staff Honoraria, Speaking Engagements, and Unofficial Travel*

This rule shall apply to all majority and minority staff of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

a. Honoraria.—Under no circumstances shall a staff person accept the offer of an honorarium. This prohibition includes the direction of an honorarium to a charity.

b. Speaking engagements and unofficial travel.—

(1) Advance approval required.— In the case of all speaking engagements, fact-finding trips, and other unofficial travel, a staff person must receive approval by the full Committee Chairman (or, in the case of the minority staff, from the Ranking Minority Member) at least 7 calendar days prior to the event.

(2) Request for approval.—A request for approval must be submitted in writing to the full Committee Chairman (or, where appropriate, the Ranking Minority Member) in connection with each speaking engagement, fact-finding trip, or other unofficial travel. Such request must contain the following information:

(a) the name of the sponsoring organization and a general description of such organization (nonprofit organization, trade association, etc.);

(b) the nature of the event, including any relevant information regarding attendees at such event;

(c) in the case of a speaking engagement, the subject of the speech and duration of staff travel, if any; and

(d) in the case of a fact-finding trip or international travel, a description of the proposed itinerary and proposed agenda of sub-

stantive issues to be discussed, as well as a justification of the relevance and importance of the fact-finding trip or international travel to the staff member's official duties.

(3) Reasonable travel and lodging expenses.—After receipt of the advance approval in (1) above, a staff person may accept reimbursement by an appropriate sponsoring organization of reasonable travel and lodging expenses associated with a speaking engagement, fact-finding trip, or international travel related to official duties, provided such reimbursement is consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives. (In lieu of reimbursement after the event, expenses may be paid directly by an appropriate sponsoring organization.) The reasonable travel and lodging expenses of a spouse (but not children) may be reimbursed (or directly paid) by an appropriate sponsoring organization consistent with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(4) Trip summary and report.—In the case of any reimbursement or direct payment associated with a fact-finding trip or international travel, a staff person must submit, within 60 days after such trip, a report summarizing the trip and listing all expenses reimbursed or directly paid by the sponsoring organization. This information shall be submitted to the Chairman (or, in the case of the minority staff, to the Ranking Minority Member).

c. Waiver.—The Chairman (or, where appropriate, the Ranking Minority Member) may waive the application of section (b) of this rule upon a showing of good cause.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

#### THE REAL ID ACT

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

Mr. FLAKE. Mr. Speaker, the House is scheduled tomorrow to take up the REAL ID Act which, among other things, will prevent illegal immigrants from obtaining driver's licenses. It will require States to issue driver's licenses to foreign nationals that expire no later than their visas expire, and it will expedite the completion of a fence along the U.S.-Mexico border along California.

Last year the bill's author, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER), took a lot of grief for holding up passage on the intelligence reform bill over many of these provisions. The press and others lambasted the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) for holding up an important piece of legislation over what they called "unrelated immigration provisions." I want to commend the chairman for hanging tough.

This debate has, unfortunately, been cast as one that pits those who support the President's temporary worker plan with those who support the provisions in the REAL ID Act. Nothing could be further from the truth.

There is no greater supporter of President Bush's proposals to reform our immigration laws in this body than I am. I believe that a comprehensive temporary worker plan is the best way to enhance national security at the border. Support for a temporary worker plan is consistent with support for the gentleman from Wisconsin's (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) bill. In fact, I voted against the intelligence reform bill last year precisely because the gentleman from Wisconsin's (Chairman SENSENBRENNER) provisions were not included. Further, the provision on driver's licenses in the Sensenbrenner bill largely mirror provisions that I introduced in a bill in 2002.

Critics of the President's immigration reform bill use words like "unsafe," "insecure," and "dangerous" when talking about a temporary worker plan. But those of us who advocate such a program are no less concerned about national security than our counterparts. In fact, national security is probably the best case that can be made for a meaningful temporary worker program.

Right now we have somewhere between 8 and 15 million illegal immigrants in this country. The vast majority of these people came here simply to work, but we can be sure that a small number are here with more sinister intentions. But given the number of illegal immigrants who are here in the country, trying to find the terrorists, the drug smugglers, the human traffickers amounts to trying to find a needle in a haystack. But if we can offer a framework under which workers can register to legally come to this country and work, we can drastically reduce the size of that haystack and focus our resources on finding the needles.

Some will say that rather than implementing a temporary worker program, we simply need to enforce the laws against illegal immigration that are on the books. That is all well and good, Mr. Speaker, but enforcing the current law would require that we round up everyone who is here illegally and ship them home. Remember, there are as many as 10 million illegal workers here right now. I have not heard one of my colleague seriously recommend that we round all of them up and send them home, yet that is what enforcing the law means.

That said, it seems to me that we have just two choices. We can put in place a temporary worker program and register those who are working here illegally, or we can continue to pretend they do not exist, thus forcing them to work in the shadows, as they have been doing for years now. The latter course is obviously not in the best interest of our Nation's security.

This brings me back to the debate on tomorrow's REAL ID Act. I suspect that in the debate tomorrow on this House floor, there will be talk about how these measures cut down and crack down on illegal immigration. As important as this legislation is, it will

do little to deal with the problem of illegal immigration. These provisions will help red-flag those who are currently in the country illegally, we all remember that many of the hijackers were issued valid driver's licenses that expired long after their visas did, but they will not do much to keep more illegal aliens from coming here and working in the shadows.

There is much more we need to do, Mr. Speaker, and it must start with an honest discussion about how we deal with this country's labor needs as well as our national security needs. I look forward to beginning that discussion as soon as we pass this legislation.

#### BUDGET PRIORITIES AND MORAL VALUES

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, yesterday President Bush delivered to this Congress his proposed Federal budget. In the coming months, Democrats and Republicans in Congress will debate budget proposals largely based on divergent cardinal moral values. We will debate budget cuts that represent more than just program additions or scale-backs.

The President's proposed cuts to vital government programs are reflective of differences in moral core philosophies on the role of our government in serving our people. Budgets are moral documents that reveal fundamental priorities of a person, of a household, of a community, of a business, of a government.

There is no better example of where Democratic and Republican values diverge than on Medicaid. The President claims he only wants to cut programs that are either not getting results or that duplicate current efforts or that do not fulfill essential priorities.

As Democrats, we could not agree more on the need for efficient government. That was how we balanced the budget in the 1990s. But which of those three criteria does the President mean when he talks about Medicaid?

There is no question Medicaid gets results. In spite of what my friends on the other side of the aisle like to demagogue, it operates at a lower cost than private health insurance. Private health insurance has in the last few years grown at 12.7 percent; Medicare has grown at 7.1 percent.

Medicaid costs have grown at only 4.5 percent a year. There is no duplication in Medicaid. It is the only program of its kind. It fulfills an essential priority. It is the sole source of nursing home care for 5 million senior citizens in our country who are living in poverty.

The President knows Medicaid is already running on fumes, but he made a choice. He chose to give more tax cuts to the most affluent 1 percent of Americans rather than provide subsistence

care for senior citizens. That is the choice he made, different priorities reflecting a different set of moral values.

Medicaid provides health coverage to 52 million Americans, 1.7 million in my State of Ohio alone. It is the only source of coverage for one out of four Ohio children. It provides 70 percent of nursing home funding in my State of Ohio.

Think about divergent moral values, what we stand for, in our government, in our homes and our families and in our communities. The Bush proposal cuts \$60 billion, billion with a "b", \$60 billion out of Medicaid over the next 10 years. Ask hospitals, ask health care experts, ask senior groups, these cuts will mean kicking seniors out of nursing homes. We have a moral obligation to prevent that from happening.

The President's plan shifts tens of millions of dollars of costs to States, like Ohio, already facing severe financial shortfalls.

The President cannot eliminate basic needs by ignoring them. He cannot eliminate the nursing home care for seniors by ignoring nursing home care or by shifting responsibility to the States which simply cannot afford it. In the short run, his budget cuts will create victims. In the long run, it will force the State to spend more.

And how will that happen? How will the States be able to take care of this? Students will have to pay higher tuition. Homeowners will have to pay higher property tax. Consumers will have to pay higher sales tax. Workers will have to pay higher income tax to make up for the cuts in Medicaid and to make up for the President's huge tax cuts for the wealthiest, most privileged 1 percent.

Medicaid is a partnership between the Federal and State government. Cutting the Federal share hurts our families, hurts our schools, hurts our communities, hurts our States.

We can give up, Mr. Speaker, many things in the name of shared sacrifice, as we should, but common sense should not be one of those things we give up. The President's every-man-for-himself budget neglects our communities and betrays our moral values as a nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

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

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

#### EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF).

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

There was no objection.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, Social Security should remain a guarantee of one's earnings, not a gamble, and surely not a gamble by well-connected investors who might have some political connections.

President Bush and his Republican Party are proposing radical and reckless changes to Social Security. Nothing they have attempted to date, even shifting major portions of the tax burden to the middle class from the most wealthy in our country, are as brazen and audacious as this misguided plan to undermine our Nation's most successful insurance program for retirement and disability, affecting millions and millions of our people who have earned these benefits.

Social Security is security for the majority of the American people. Social Security represents the best, the best, in the American Union. Like the preamble says, "We the people," not I alone withdrawing from the Union.

□ 1945

The Democratic Party has long championed we, the people, surely, to collect those earnings that people need in their retirement years, and one out of six families need in the event of unexpected disability. The system does not work if we make it every man and woman for himself or herself, something the President and his party, unfortunately, now are advocating. It is our patriotic duty as Democrats to oppose this privatization scheme.

The President claims that the country will save money because of privatization. Again, I say he needs a better set of accountants in the White House. What he does not mention is that his plan requires trillions of dollars of borrowing, and I might say, from foreign countries now, because we are not saving as a society, leading to higher taxes in the future and interest that we pay them, not ourselves.

Yes, he is borrowing for a savings plan. What kind of sense does that make? Well, you would really think maybe he never had to think too hard about handling his own finances by the cavalier manner in which he is trying

to affect the earnings of the vast majority of the American people. Borrowing \$2 trillion to finance so-called private accounts will further increase America's escalating debt. President Bush has already increased the national debt to the point that the currency's value is dropping internationally, and a family of four's share of that debt has increased by thousands of dollars.

In addition, his plan actually cuts benefits in the future, and really those earnings should be the source of any true savings for the Social Security program. This is because he creates an offset, almost like a new downward notch in Social Security, that would cut guaranteed Social Security benefits over the next 75 years by \$3.6 trillion. The cut would apply to all beneficiaries, whether or not they have chosen a private account.

And this chart actually shows what happens. The blue represents the benefits that you would get based on your earnings. The red represents what his plan would do. In essence, down the road, every succeeding decade you would actually receive less than in the current Social Security program. These private accounts he is proposing will not even make up for the 46 percent cut in benefits that Republicans have proposed. For example, a 20-year-old who enters the workforce this year, if they can get a good job, would lose \$152,000 in Social Security benefits under the Republican plan. A private account is unlikely to make up for this benefit cut because the plan would also take back 80 cents of every dollar in the private account. It is like an offset. It really is not your money. In fact, it appears no one will get back the money that they would put in these private accounts. They would only get back some share of the interest those accounts earn. So you do not get your principal back.

We should not sacrifice the retirement and old age and disability security of our families at the altar of short-term political gains. And surely we should honor our father and our mothers. We should value our children, and we should prepare through an insurance program for the unexpected.

We must keep Social Security strong so it is there for years to come. Believe me, we need to fight to save a program that truly is sacred. It represents the best values that are in us as a people, and it must continue to be a guarantee and not a gamble.

When I first came to Congress during the 1980s, Claude Pepper, a beautiful Member from Florida, stated some of the following words when we re-financed Social Security in the spring of 1983. He said, "This is the people's program, intended by President Roosevelt and those who were authors of the measures in those early days as some measure of assurance that those who retired would have a decent sustenance upon which to live, that those who died would have a measure of protection to

transmit to their widows and their children, that those who became disabled under another phase of the system would have some support."

We need to rise to that original vision.

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

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

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

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

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

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

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE, 109TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. HOEKSTRA. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with Clause 2 of Rule XI of the Rules of the House, I am submitting the Rules of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. On January 26, 2005, the committee adopted these rules by non-record vote with a quorum present.

#### RULES OF PROCEDURE FOR THE PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

##### 1. MEETING DAY

(a) Regular Meeting Day for the Full Committee.

Generally, The regular meeting day of the Committee for the transaction of Committee business shall be the first Wednesday of each month, unless otherwise directed by the Chairman.

##### 2. NOTICE FOR MEETINGS

(a) Generally. In the case of any meeting of the Committee, the Chief Clerk of the Committee shall provide reasonable notice to every Member of the Committee. Such notice shall provide the time and place of the meeting.

(b) Definition. For purposes of this rule, "reasonable notice" means:

(1) written notification;

(2) delivered by facsimile transmission or regular mail, which is

(A) delivered no less than 24 hours prior to the event for which notice is being given, if the event is to be held in Washington, D.C.; or

(B) delivered no less than 48 hours prior to the event for which notice is being given, if the event is to be held outside Washington, D.C.

(c) Exception. In extraordinary circumstances only, the Chairman may, after consulting with the Ranking Minority Member, call a meeting of the Committee without providing notice, as defined in subparagraph (b), to Members of the Committee.

### 3. PREPARATIONS FOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

(a) Generally. Designated Committee Staff, as directed by the Chairman, shall brief Members of the Committee at a time sufficiently prior to any Committee meeting in order to:

(1) assist Committee Members in preparation for such meeting; and

(2) determine which matters Members wish considered during any meeting.

(b) Briefing Materials.

(1) Such a briefing shall, at the request of a Member, include a list of all pertinent papers, and such other materials, that have been obtained by the Committee that bear on matters to be considered at the meeting; and

(2) The staff director shall also recommend to the Chairman any testimony, papers, or other materials to be presented to the Committee at the meeting of the Committee.

### 4. OPEN MEETINGS

(a) Generally.

Pursuant to Rule XI of the House, but subject to the limitations of subsections (b) and (c), Committee meetings held for the transaction of business and Committee hearings shall be open to the public.

(b) Meetings

Any meetings or portion thereof, for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or any hearing or portion thereof, shall be closed to the public, if the Committee determines by record vote in open session with a majority of the Committee present, that disclosure of the matters to be discussed may:

(1) endanger national security;

(2) compromise sensitive law enforcement information;

(3) tend to defame, degrade, or incriminate any person; or

(4) otherwise violate any law or Rule of the House.

(c) Hearings

The Committee may vote to close a Committee hearing pursuant to House Rule X clause 11(d)(2), regardless of whether a majority is present, so long as at least two Members of the Committee are present, one of whom is a member of the Minority and votes upon the motion.

(d) Briefings

The Committee briefings shall be closed to the public.

### 5. QUORUM

(a) Hearings. For purposes of taking testimony, or receiving evidence, a quorum shall consist of two Committee Members.

(b) Other Committee Proceedings. For purposes of the transaction of all other Committee business, other than the consideration of a motion to close a hearing as described in rule 4(c), a quorum shall consist of a majority of Members.

### 6. PROCEDURES FOR AMENDMENTS AND VOTES

(a) Amendments

When a bill or resolution is being considered by the Committee, members shall provide the Chief Clerk in a timely manner with a sufficient number of written copies of any amendment offered, so as to enable each member present to receive a copy thereof prior to taking action. A point of order may be made against any amendment not reduced to writing. A copy of each such amendment shall be maintained in the public records of the Committee.

(b) Reporting Recorded Votes

Whenever the Committee reports any measure or matter by record vote, the report

of the Committee upon such measure or matter shall include a tabulation of the votes cast in favor of, and the votes cast in opposition to, such measure or matter.

(c) Postponement of Further Proceedings. In accordance with clause 2(h) of House Rule XI, the Chairman is authorized to postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving a measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman may resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice. When proceedings resume on a postponed question, notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

### 7. SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Generally.

(1) Creation of subcommittees shall be by majority vote of the Committee.

(2) Subcommittees shall deal with such legislation and oversight of programs and policies as the Committee may direct.

(3) Subcommittees shall be governed by these rules.

For purposes of these rules, any reference herein to the "Committee" shall be interpreted to include subcommittees, unless otherwise specifically provided.

(b) Establishment of Subcommittees. The Committee establishes the following subcommittees:

(1) Subcommittee on Terrorism, Human Intelligence, Analysis, and Counterintelligence;

(2) Subcommittee on Technical and Tactical Intelligence;

(3) Subcommittee on Oversight; and,

(4) Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy.

For purposes of these rules, any reference herein to the "Committee" shall be interpreted to include subcommittees, unless otherwise specifically provided.

(c) Subcommittee Membership.

(1) Generally. Each Member of the Committee may be assigned to at least one of the four subcommittees.

(2) Ex Officio Membership. In the event that the Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the full Committee do not choose to sit as regular voting members of one or more of the subcommittees, each is authorized to sit as an ex officio Member of the subcommittees and participate in the work of the subcommittees. When sitting ex officio, however, they—

(A) shall not have a vote in the subcommittee; and

(B) shall not be counted for purposes of determining a quorum.

(d) Regular Meeting Day for Subcommittees

There is no regular meeting day for subcommittees.

### 8. PROCEDURES FOR TAKING TESTIMONY OR RECEIVING EVIDENCE

#### RECEIVING EVIDENCE

(1) Notice. Adequate notice shall be given to all witnesses appearing before the Committee.

(b) Oath or Affirmation. The Chairman may require testimony of witnesses to be given under oath or affirmation.

(c) Administration of Oath or Affirmation. Upon the determination that a witness shall testify under oath or affirmation, any Member of the Committee designated by the Chairman may administer the oath or affirmation.

(d) Questioning of Witnesses.

(1) Generally. Questioning of witnesses before the Committee shall be conducted by Members of the Committee.

(2) Exceptions.

(A) The Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may deter-

mine that Committee Staff will be authorized to question witnesses at a hearing in accordance with clause (2)(j) of House Rule XI.

(B) The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member are each authorized to designate Committee Staff to conduct such questioning.

(e) Counsel for the Witness.

(1) Generally. Witnesses before the Committee may be accompanied by counsel, subject to the requirements of paragraph (2).

(2) Counsel Clearances Required. In the event that a meeting of the Committee has been closed because the subject to be discussed deals with classified information, counsel accompanying a witness before the Committee must possess the requisite security clearance and provide proof of such clearance to the Committee at least 24 hours prior to the meeting at which the counsel intends to be present.

(3) Failure to Obtain Counsel. Any witness who is unable to obtain counsel should notify the Committee. If such notification occurs at least 24 hours prior to the witness' appearance before the Committee, the Committee shall then endeavor to obtain voluntary counsel for the witness. Failure to obtain counsel, however, will not excuse the witness from appearing and testifying.

(4) Conduct of Counsel for Witnesses. Counsel for witnesses appearing before the Committee shall conduct themselves ethically and professionally at all times in their dealings with the Committee.

(A) A majority of Members of the Committee may, should circumstances warrant, find that counsel for a witness before the Committee failed to conduct himself or herself in an ethical or professional manner.

(B) Upon such finding, counsel may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action.

(5) Temporary Removal of Counsel. The Chairman may remove counsel during any proceeding before the Committee for failure to act in an ethical and professional manner.

(6) Committee Reversal. A majority of the Members of the Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chairman to remove counsel for a witness.

(7) Role of Counsel for Witness.

(A) Counsel for a witness:

(i) shall not be allowed to examine witnesses before the Committee, either directly or through cross-examination; but

(ii) may submit questions in writing to the Committee that counsel wishes propounded to a witness; or

(iii) may suggest, in writing to the Committee, the presentation of other evidence or the calling of other witnesses.

(B) The Committee may make such use of any such questions, or suggestions, as the Committee deems appropriate.

(f) Statements by Witnesses.

(1) Generally. A witness may make a statement, which shall be brief and relevant, at the beginning and at the conclusion of the witness' testimony.

(2) Length. Each such statements shall not exceed five minutes in length, unless otherwise determined by the Chairman.

(3) Submission to the Committee. Any witness desiring to submit a written statement for the record of the proceeding shall submit a copy of the statement to the Chief Clerk of the Committee.

(A) Such statements shall ordinarily be submitted no less than 48 hours in advance of the witness' appearance before the Committee and shall be submitted in written and electronic format.

(B) In the event that the hearing was called with less than 24 hours notice, written statements should be submitted as soon as practicable prior to the hearing.

(g) Objections and Ruling.

(1) Generally. Any objection raised by a witness, or counsel for the witness, shall be

ruled upon by the Chairman, and such ruling shall be the ruling of the Committee.

(2) Committee Action. A ruling by the Chairman may be overturned upon a majority vote of the Committee.

(h) Transcripts.

(1) Transcript Required. A transcript shall be made of the testimony of each witness appearing before the Committee during any hearing of the Committee.

(2) Opportunity to Inspect. Any witness testifying before the Committee shall be given a reasonable opportunity to inspect the transcript of the hearing, and may be accompanied by counsel to determine whether such testimony was correctly transcribed. Such counsel:

(A) shall have the appropriate clearance necessary to review any classified aspect of the transcript; and

(B) should, to the extent possible, be the same counsel that was present for such classified testimony.

(3) Corrections.

(A) Pursuant to Rule XI of the House Rules, any corrections the witness desires to make in a transcript shall be limited to technical, grammatical, and typographical corrections.

(B) Corrections may not be made to change the substance of the Testimony.

(C) Such corrections shall be submitted in writing to the Committee within 7 days after the transcript is made available to the witnesses.

(D) Any questions arising with respect to such corrections shall be decided by the Chairman.

(4) Copy for the Witness. At the request of the witness, any portion of the witness' testimony given in executive session shall be made available to that witness if that testimony is subsequently quote or intended to be made part of a public record. Such testimony shall be made available to the witness at the witness' expense.

(i) Requests to Testify.

(1) Generally. The Committee will consider requests to testify on any matter or measure pending before the Committee.

(2) Recommendations for Additional Evidence. Any person who believes that testimony, other evidence, or commentary, presented at a public hearing may tend to affect adversely that person's reputation may submit to the Committee, in writing:

(A) a request to appear personally before the Committee;

(B) A sworn statement of facts relevant to the testimony, evidence, or commentary; or

(C) proposed questions for the cross-examination of other witnesses.

(3) Committees Discretion. The Committee may take those actions it deems appropriate with respect to such requests.

(j) Contempt Procedures. Citations for contempt of Congress shall be forwarded to the House only if:

(1) reasonable notice is provided to all Members of the Committee of a meeting to be held to consider any such contempt recommendations;

(2) the Committee has met and considered the contempt allegations;

(3) The subject of the allegations was afforded an opportunity to state either in writing or in person, why he or she should not be held in contempt; and

(4) the Committee agreed by majority vote to forward the citation recommendations to the House.

(k) Release of Name of Witness.

(1) Generally. At the request of a witness scheduled to be heard by the Committee, the name of that witness shall not be released publicly prior to, or after, the witness' appearance before the Committee.

(2) Exceptions. Notwithstanding paragraph (1), the chairman may authorize the release

to the public of the name of any witness scheduled to appear before the Committee.

#### 9. INVESTIGATIONS

(a) Commencing Investigations.

The Committee shall conduct investigations only if approved by the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member.

(b) Conducting Investigation.

An authorized investigation may be conducted by Members of the Committee or Committee Staff members designated by the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, to undertake any such investigation.

#### 10. SUBPOENAS

(a) Generally. All subpoenas shall be authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, upon consultation with the Ranking Minority member, or by vote of the Committee.

(b) Subpoena Contents. Any subpoena authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, or the Committee, may compel:

(1) the attendance of witnesses and testimony before the Committee, or

(2) the production of memoranda, documents, records, or any other tangible item.

(c) Signing of Subpoena. A subpoena authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, or the Committee, may be signed by the Chairman, or by any Member of the Committee designated to do so by the Committee.

(d) Subpoena Service. A subpoena authorized by the Chairman of the full Committee, or the Committee, may be served by any person designated to do so by the Chairman.

(e) Other Requirements. Each subpoena shall have attached thereto a copy of these rules.

#### 11. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) Definition.

For the purpose of these rules, "Committee Staff" or "staff of the Committee" means:

1) employees of the Committee;

2) consultants to the Committee;

3) employees of other Government agencies detailed to the Committee; or

4) any other person engaged by contract, or otherwise, to perform services for, or at the request of, the Committee.

(b) Appointment of Committee Staff and Security Requirements.

(1) Chairman's Authority—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the Committee staff shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the Chairman and shall work under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman.

(2) Staff Assistance to Minority Membership—Except as provided in paragraphs (3) and (4) and except as otherwise provided by Committee Rules, the Committee staff provided to the minority party members of the Committee shall be appointed, and may be removed, by the ranking minority member of the Committee, and shall work under the general supervision and direction of such member.

(3) Security Clearance Required—All offers of employment for prospective Committee Staff positions shall be contingent upon:

a. the results of a background investigation; and

b. a determination by the Chairman that requirements for the appropriate security clearances have been met.

(4) Security Requirements—Notwithstanding paragraph (2), the Chairman shall supervise and direct the Committee staff with respect to the security and nondisclosure of classified information. Committee Staff shall comply with requirements necessary to ensure the security and nondisclosure of classified information as determined

by the Chairman in consultation with the ranking minority member.

#### 12. LIMIT ON DISCUSSION OF CLASSIFIED WORK OF THE COMMITTEE

(a) Prohibition.

(1) Generally. Except as otherwise provided by these rules and the Rules of the House of Representatives, Members and Committee staff shall not at any time, either during that person's tenure as a Member of the Committee or as Committee Staff, or any time thereafter, discuss or disclose, or cause to be discussed or disclosed:

(A) the classified substance of the work of the Committee;

(B) any information received by the Committee in executive session;

(C) any classified information received by the Committee from any source; or

(D) the substance of any hearing that was closed to the public pursuant to these rules or the Rules of the House.

(2) Non-Disclosure in Proceedings.

(A) Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff shall not discuss either the substance or procedure of the work of the Committee with any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff in connection with any proceeding, judicial or otherwise, either during the person's tenure as a Member of the Committee, or of the Committee Staff, or at any time thereafter, except as directed by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(B) In the event of the termination of the Committee, Members and Committee Staff shall be governed in these matters in a manner determined by the House concerning discussions of the classified work of the Committee.

(3) Exceptions.

(A) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss and disclose those matters described in subsection (a)(1) with—

(i) Members and staff of the Senate Select Committee on Intelligence designated by the chairman of that committee;

(ii) the chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Committees on Appropriations and staff of those committees designated by the chairmen of those committees; and

(iii) the chairman and ranking minority member of the Subcommittee on Defense of the House Committee on Appropriations and staff of that subcommittee as designated by the chairman of that subcommittee.

(B) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), Members of the Committee and the Committee Staff may discuss and disclose only that budget-related information necessary to facilitate the enactment of the annual defense authorization bill with the chairmen and ranking minority members of the House and Senate Committees on Armed Services and the staff of those committees designated by the chairmen of those committees.

(C) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1), Members of the Committee and the Committee staff may discuss with and disclose to the chairman and ranking minority member of a subcommittee of the House Appropriations Committee with jurisdiction over an agency or program within the National Foreign Intelligence Program (NFIP), and staff of that subcommittee as designated by the chairman of that subcommittee, only that budget-related information necessary to facilitate the enactment of an appropriations bill within which is included an appropriation for an agency or program within the NFIP.

(D) The Chairman may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, upon

the written request to the Chairman from the Inspector General of an element of the Intelligence Community, grant access to Committee transcripts or documents that are relevant to an investigation of an allegation of possible false testimony or other inappropriate conduct before the Committee, or that are otherwise relevant to the Inspector General's investigation.

(E) Upon the written request of the head of an Intelligence Community element, the Chairman may, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, make available Committee briefing or hearing transcripts to that element for review by that element if a representative of that element testified, presented information to the Committee, or was present at the briefing or hearing the transcript of which is requested for review.

(F) Members and Committee Staff may discuss and disclose such matters as otherwise directed by the Committee.

(b) Non-Disclosure Agreement.

(1) Generally. All Committee Staff must, before joining the Committee, agree in writing, as a condition of employment, not to divulge or cause to be divulged any classified information which comes into such person's possession while a member of the Committee Staff, to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(2) Other Requirements. In the event of the termination of the Committee, Members and Committee Staff must follow any determination by the House of Representatives with respect to the protection of classified information received while a Member of the Committee or as Committee Staff.

(3) Requests for Testimony of Staff.

(A) All Committee Staff must, as a condition of employment agree in writing to notify the Committee immediately of any request for testimony received while a member of the Committee Staff, or at any time thereafter, concerning any classified information received by such person while a member of the Committee Staff.

(B) Committee Staff shall not disclose, in response to any such request for testimony, any such classified information, except as authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(C) In the event of the termination of the Committee, Committee Staff will be subject to any determination made by the House of Representatives with respect to any requests for testimony involving classified information received while a member of the Committee Staff.

### 13. CLASSIFIED MATERIAL

(a) Receipt of Classified Information.

(1) Generally. In the case of any information that has been classified under established security procedures and submitted to the Committee by any source, the Committee shall receive such classified information as executive session material.

(2) Staff Receipt of Classified Materials. For purposes of receiving classified information, the Committee Staff is authorized to accept information on behalf of the Committee.

(b) Non-Disclosure of Classified Information.

Generally. Any classified information received by the Committee, from any source, shall not be disclosed to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, or otherwise released, except as authorized by the Committee in accord with the Rules of the House and these rules.

### 14. PROCEDURES RELATED TO HANDLING OF CLASSIFIED INFORMATION

(a) Security Measures.

(1) Strict Security. The Committee's offices shall operate under strict security procedures administered by the Director of Security and Registry of the Committee under the direct supervision of the staff director.

(2) U.S. Capitol Police Presence Required. At least one U.S. Capitol Police officer shall be on duty at all times outside the entrance to Committee offices to control entry of all persons to such offices.

(3) Identification Required. Before entering the Committee's offices all persons shall identify themselves to the U.S. Capitol Police officer described in paragraph (2) and to a Member of the Committee or Committee Staff.

(4) Maintenance of Classified Materials. Classified documents shall be segregated and maintained in approved security storage locations.

(5) Examination of Classified Materials. Classified documents in the Committee's possession shall be examined in an appropriately secure manner.

(6) Prohibition on Removal of Classified Materials. Removal of any classified document from the Committee's offices is strictly prohibited, except as provided by these rules.

(7) Exception. Notwithstanding the prohibition set forth in paragraph (6), a classified document, or copy thereof, may be removed from the Committee's offices in furtherance of official Committee business. Appropriate security procedures shall govern the handling of any classified documents removed from the Committee's offices.

(b) Access to Classified Information by Member. All Members of the Committee shall at all times have access to all classified papers and other material received by the Committee from any source.

(c) Need-to-know.

(1) Generally. Committee Staff shall have access to any classified information provided to the Committee on a strict "need-to-know" basis, as determined by the Committee, and under the Committee's direction by the staff director.

(2) Appropriate Clearances Required. Committee Staff must have the appropriate clearances prior to any access to compartmented information.

(d) Oath.

(1) Requirement. Before any Member of the Committee, or the Committee Staff, shall have access to classified information, the following oath shall be executed:

"I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will not disclose or cause to be disclosed any classified information received in the course of my service on the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, except when authorized to do so by the Committee or the House of Representatives."

(2) Copy. A copy of such executed oath shall be retained in the files of the Committee.

(e) Registry.

(1) Generally. The Committee shall maintain a registry that:

(A) provides a brief description of the content of all classified documents provided to the Committee by the executive branch that remain in the possession of the Committee; and

(B) lists by number all such documents.

(2) Designation by the Staff Director. The staff director shall designate a member of the Committee Staff to be responsible for the organization and daily maintenance of such registry.

(3) Availability. Such registry shall be available to all Members of the Committee and Committee Staff.

(f) Requests by Members of Other Committees. Pursuant to the Rules of the House, Members who are not Members of the Com-

mittee may be granted access to such classified transcripts, records, data, charts, or files of the Committee, and be admitted on a non-participatory basis to classified hearings of the Committee involving discussions of classified material in the following manner:

(1) Written Notification Required. Members who desire to examine classified materials in the possession of the Committee, or to attend Committee hearings or briefings on a non-participatory basis, must notify the Chief Clerk of the Committee in writing.

(2) Committee Consideration. The Committee shall consider each such request by non-Committee Members at the earliest practicable opportunity. The Committee shall determine, by roll call vote, what action it deems appropriate in light of all of the circumstances of each request. In its determination, the Committee shall consider:

(A) the sensitivity to the national defense or the confidential conduct of the foreign relations of the United States of the information sought;

(B) the likelihood of its being directly or indirectly disclosed;

(C) the jurisdictional interest of the Member making the request; and

(D) such other concerns, constitutional or otherwise, as may affect the public interest of the United States.

(3) Committee Action. After consideration of the Member's request, the Committee may take any action it may deem appropriate under the circumstances, including but not limited to:

(A) approving the request, in whole or part;

(B) denying the request; or

(C) providing the requested information or material in a different form than that sought by the Member.

(4) Requirements for Access by Non-Committee Members. Prior to a non-Committee Member being given access to classified information pursuant to this subsection, the requesting Member shall—

(A) provide the Committee a copy of the oath executed by such Member pursuant to House Rule XXIII, clause 13; and

(B) agree in writing not to divulge any classified information provided to the Member pursuant to this subsection to any person not a Member of the Committee or the Committee Staff, except as otherwise authorized by the Committee in accordance with the Rules of the House and these rules.

(5) Consultation Authorized. When considering a Member's request, the Committee may consult the Director of National Intelligence and such other officials it considers necessary.

(6) Finality of Committee Decision.

(A) Should the Member making such a request disagree with the Committee's determination with respect to that request, or any part thereof, that Member must notify the Committee in writing of such disagreement.

(B) The Committee shall subsequently consider the matter and decide, by record vote, what further action or recommendation, if any, the Committee will take.

(g) Advising the House or Other Committees. Pursuant to Section 501 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 413), and to the Rules of the House, the Committee shall call to the attention of the House, or to any other appropriate committee of the House, those matters requiring the attention of the House, or such other committee, on the basis of the following provisions:

(1) By Request of Committee Member. At the request of any Member of the Committee to call to the attention of the House, or any other committee, executive session material in the Committee's possession, the Committee shall meet at the earliest practicable opportunity to consider that request.

(2) Committee Consideration of Request. The Committee shall consider the following factors, among any others it deems appropriate:

(A) the effect of the matter in question on the national defense or the foreign relations of the United States;

(B) whether the matter in question involves sensitive intelligence sources and methods;

(C) whether the matter in question otherwise raises questions affecting the national interest; and

(D) whether the matter in question affects matters within the jurisdiction of another Committee of the House.

(3) Views of Other Committees. In examining such factors, the Committee may seek the opinion of Members of the Committee appointed from standing committees of the House with jurisdiction over the matter in question, or submissions from such other committees.

(4) Other Advice. The Committee may, during its deliberations on such requests, seek the advice of any executive branch official.

(h) Reasonable Opportunity to Examine Materials. Before the Committee makes any decision regarding any request for access to any classified information in its possession, or a proposal to bring any matter to the attention of the House or another committee, Members of the Committee shall have a reasonable opportunity to examine all pertinent testimony, documents, or other materials in the Committee's possession that may inform their decision on the question.

(i) Notification to the House. The Committee may bring a matter to the attention of the House when, after consideration of the factors set forth in this rule, it considers the matter in question so grave that it requires the attention of all Members of the House, and time is of the essence, or for any reason the Committee finds compelling.

(j) Method of Disclosure to the House.

(1) Should the Committee decide by roll call vote that a matter requires the attention of the House as described in subsection (i), it shall make arrangements to notify the House promptly.

(2) In such cases, the Committee shall consider whether:

(A) to request an immediate secret session of the House (with time equally divided between the Majority and the Minority); or

(B) to publicly disclose the matter in question pursuant to clause 11(g) of House Rule X.

(k) Requirement to Protect Sources and Methods. In bringing a matter to the attention of the House, or another committee, the Committee, with due regard for the protection of intelligence sources and methods, shall take all necessary steps to safeguard materials or information relating to the matter in question.

(l) Availability of Information to Other Committees. The Committee, having determined that a matter shall be brought to the attention of another committee, shall ensure that such matter, including all classified information related to that matter, is promptly made available to the chairman and ranking minority member of such other committee.

(m) Provision of Materials. The Director of Security and Registry for the Committee shall provide a copy of these rules, and the applicable portions of the Rules of the House of Representatives governing the handling of classified information, along with those materials determined by the Committee to be made available to such other committee of the House or Member (not a Member of the Committee).

(n) Ensuring Clearances and Secure Storage. The Director of Security and Registry

shall ensure that such other committee or Member (not a Member of the Committee) receiving such classified materials may properly store classified materials in a manner consistent with all governing rules, regulations, policies, procedures, and statutes.

(o) Log. The Director of Security and Registry for the Committee shall maintain a written record identifying the particular classified document or material provided to such other committee or Member (not a Member of the Committee), the reasons agreed upon by the Committee for approving such transmission, and the name of the committee or Member (not a Member of the Committee) receiving such document or material.

(p) Miscellaneous Requirements.

(1) Staff Director's Additional Authority. The staff director is further empowered to provide for such additional measures, which he or she deems necessary, to protect such classified information authorized by the Committee to be provided to such other committee or Member (not a Member of the Committee).

(2) Notice to Originating Agency. In the event that the Committee authorizes the disclosure of classified information provided to the Committee by an agency of the executive branch to a Member (not a Member of the Committee) or to another committee, the Chairman may notify the providing agency of the Committee's action prior to the transmission of such classified information.

#### 15. LEGISLATIVE CALENDAR

(a) Generally. The Chief Clerk, under the direction of the staff director, shall maintain a printed calendar that lists:

(1) the legislative measures introduced and referred to the Committee;

(2) the status of such measures; and

(3) such other matters that the Committee may require.

(b) Revisions to the Calendar. The calendar shall be revised from time to time to show pertinent changes.

(c) Availability. A copy of each such revision shall be furnished to each Member, upon request.

(d) Consultation with Appropriate Government Entities. Unless otherwise directed by the Committee, legislative measures referred to the Committee may be referred by the Chief Clerk to the appropriate department or agency of the Government for reports thereon.

#### 16. MOTIONS TO GO TO CONFERENCE

In accordance with clause 2(a) of House Rule XI, the Chairman is authorized and directed to offer a privileged motion to go to conference under clause 1 of House Rule XXII whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

#### 17. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

(a) Authority. The Chairman may authorize Members and Committee Staff to travel on Committee business.

(b) Requests.

(1) Member Requests. Members requesting authorization for such travel shall state the purpose and length of the trip, and shall submit such request directly to the Chairman.

(2) Committee Staff Requests. Committee Staff requesting authorization for such travel shall state the purpose and length of the trip, and shall submit such request through their supervisors to the staff director and the Chairman.

(c) Notification to Members.

(1) Generally. Members shall be notified of all foreign travel of Committee Staff not accompanying a Member.

(2) Content. All Members are to be advised, prior to the commencement of such travel, of its length, nature, and purpose.

(d) Trip Reports.

(1) Generally. A full report of all issues discussed during any travel shall be submitted to the Chief Clerk of the Committee within a reasonable period of time following the completion of such trip.

(2) Availability of Reports. Such report shall be:

(A) available for the review of any Member or Committee Staff; and

(B) considered executive session material for purposes of these rules.

(e) Limitations on Travel.

(1) Generally. The Chairman is not authorized to permit travel on Committee business of Committee Staff who have not satisfied the requirements of subsection (d) of this rule.

(2) Exception. The Chairman may authorize Committee Staff to travel on Committee business, notwithstanding the requirements of subsections (d) and (e) of this rule—

(A) at the specific request of a Member of the Committee; or

(B) in the event there are circumstances beyond the control of the Committee Staff hindering compliance with such requirements.

(f) Definitions. For purposes of this rule the term "reasonable period of time" means:

(1) no later than 60 days after returning from a foreign trip; and

(2) no later than 30 days after returning from a domestic trip.

#### 18. DISCIPLINARY ACTIONS

(a) Generally. The Committee shall immediately consider whether disciplinary action shall be taken in the case of any member of the Committee Staff alleged to have failed to conform to any rule of the House of Representatives or to these rules.

(b) Exception. In the event the House of Representatives is:

(1) in a recess period in excess of 3 days; or

(2) has adjourned sine die; the Chairman of the full Committee, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, may take such immediate disciplinary actions deemed necessary.

(c) Available Actions. Such disciplinary action may include immediate dismissal from the Committee Staff.

(d) Notice to Members. All Members shall be notified as soon as practicable, either by facsimile transmission or regular mail, of any disciplinary action taken by the Chairman pursuant to subsection (b).

(e) Reconsideration of Chairman's Actions. A majority of the Members of the full Committee may vote to overturn the decision of the Chairman to take disciplinary action pursuant to subsection (b).

#### 19. BROADCASTING COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Whenever any hearing or meeting conducted by the Committee is open to the public, a majority of the Committee may permit that hearing or meeting to be covered, in whole or in part, by television broadcast, radio broadcast, and still photography, or by any of such methods of coverage, subject to the provisions and in accordance with the spirit of the purposes enumerated in the Rules of the House.

#### 20. COMMITTEE RECORDS TRANSFERRED TO THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES

(a) Generally. The records of the Committee at the National Archives and Records Administration shall be made available for public use in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(b) Notice of Withholding. The Chairman shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives, to withhold a record otherwise available, and the matter shall be presented to the full Committee for

a determination of the question of public availability on the written request of any Member of the Committee.

#### 21. CHANGES IN RULES

(a) Generally. These rules may be modified, amended, or repealed by vote of the full Committee.

(b) Notice of Proposed Changes. A notice, in writing, of the proposed change shall be given to each Member at least 48 hours prior to any meeting at which action on the proposed rule change is to be taken.

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

#### PUBLICATION OF THE RULES OF THE COMMITTEE ON RESOURCES, 109TH CONGRESS

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

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I request that the attached Committee Rules, adopted by the Committee on Resources, be submitted for the RECORD.

#### RULE 1. RULES OF THE HOUSE; VICE CHAIRMEN

(a) Applicability of House Rules.

(1) The Rules of the House of Representatives, so far as they are applicable, are the rules of the Committee and its Subcommittees.

(2) Each Subcommittee is part of the Committee and is subject to the authority, direction and rules of the Committee. References in these rules to "Committee" and "Chairman" shall apply to each Subcommittee and its Chairman wherever applicable.

(3) House Rule XI is incorporated and made a part of the rules of the Committee to the extent applicable.

(b) Vice Chairmen.—Unless inconsistent with other rules, the Chairman shall appoint a Vice Chairman of the Committee and the Subcommittee Chairmen will appoint Vice Chairmen of each of the Subcommittees. If the Chairman of the Committee or Subcommittee is not present at any meeting of the Committee or Subcommittee, as the case may be, the Vice Chairman shall preside. If the Vice Chairman is not present, the ranking Member of the Majority party on the Committee or Subcommittee who is present shall preside at that meeting.

#### RULE 2. MEETINGS IN GENERAL

(a) Scheduled Meetings.—The Committee shall meet at 10 a.m. every Wednesday when the House is in session, unless canceled by the Chairman. The Committee shall also meet at the call of the Chairman subject to advance notice to all Members of the Committee. Special meetings shall be called and convened by the Chairman as provided in clause 2(c)(I) of House Rule XI. Any Committee meeting or hearing that conflicts with a party caucus, conference, or similar party meeting shall be rescheduled at the discretion of the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member. The Committee may not sit during a joint session of the House and Senate or during a recess when a joint meeting of the House and Senate is in progress.

(b) Open Meetings.—Each meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, and each hearing of the

Committee or a Subcommittee shall be open to the public, except as provided by clause 2(g) and clause 2(k) of House Rule XI.

(c) Broadcasting.—Whenever a meeting for the transaction of business, including the markup of legislation, or a hearing is open to the public, that meeting or hearing shall be open to coverage by television, radio, and still photography in accordance with clause 4 of House Rule XI. The provisions of clause 4(f) of House Rule XI are specifically made part of these rules by reference. Operation and use of any Committee Internet broadcast system shall be fair and nonpartisan and in accordance with clause 4(b) of House Rule XI and all other applicable rules of the Committee and the House.

(d) Oversight Plan.—No later than February 15 of the first session of each Congress, the Committee shall adopt its oversight plans for that Congress in accordance with clause 2(d)(1) of House Rule X.

#### RULE 3. PROCEDURES IN GENERAL

(a) Agenda of Meetings; Information for Members.—An agenda of the business to be considered at meetings shall be delivered to the office of each Member of the Committee no later than 48 hours before the meeting. This requirement may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee at the time of the consideration of the measure or matter. To the extent practicable, a summary of the major provisions of any bill being considered by the Committee, including the need for the bill and its effect on current law, will be available for the Members of the Committee no later than 48 hours before the meeting.

(b) Meetings and Hearings to Begin Promptly.—Each meeting or hearing of the Committee shall begin promptly at the time stipulated in the public announcement of the meeting or hearing.

(c) Addressing the Committee.—A Committee Member may address the Committee or a Subcommittee on any bill, motion, or other matter under consideration or may question a witness at a hearing only when recognized by the Chairman for that purpose. The time a Member may address the Committee or Subcommittee for any purpose or to question a witness shall be limited to five minutes, except as provided in Committee rule 4(g). A Member shall limit his remarks to the subject matter under consideration. The Chairman shall enforce the preceding provision.

(d) Quorums.

(1) A majority of the Members shall constitute a quorum for the reporting of any measure or recommendation, the authorizing of a subpoena, the closing of any meeting or hearing to the public under clause 2(g)(1), clause 2(g)(2)(A) and clause 2(k)(5)(B) of House Rule XI, and the releasing of executive session materials under clause 2(k)(7) of House Rule X. Testimony and evidence may be received at any hearing at which there are at least two Members of the Committee present. For the purpose of transacting all other business of the Committee, one third of the Members shall constitute a quorum.

(2) When a call of the roll is required to ascertain the presence of a quorum, the offices of all Members shall be notified and the Members shall have not less than 15 minutes to prove their attendance. The Chairman shall have the discretion to waive this requirement when a quorum is actually present or whenever a quorum is secured and may direct the Chief Clerk to note the names of all Members present within the 15-minute period.

(e) Participation of Members in Committee and Subcommittees.—All Members of the Committee may sit with any Subcommittee during any hearing, and by unanimous consent of the Members of the Subcommittee

may participate in any meeting or hearing. However, a Member who is not a Member of the Subcommittee may not vote on any matter before the Subcommittee, be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum or raise points of order.

(f) Proxies.—No vote in the Committee or its Subcommittees may be cast by proxy.

(g) Record Votes.—Record votes shall be ordered on the demand of one-fifth of the Members present, or by any Member in the apparent absence of a quorum.

(h) Postponed Record Votes.

(1) Subject to paragraph (2), the Chairman may, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, postpone further proceedings when a record vote is ordered on the question of approving any measure or matter or adopting an amendment. The Chairman shall resume proceedings on a postponed request at any time after reasonable notice, but no later than the next meeting day.

(2) Notwithstanding any intervening order for the previous question, when proceedings resume on a postponed question under paragraph (1), an underlying proposition shall remain subject to further debate or amendment to the same extent as when the question was postponed.

(3) This rule shall apply to Subcommittee proceedings.

(i) Privileged Motions.—A motion to recess from day to day, a motion to recess subject to the call of the Chairman (within 24 hours), and a motion to dispense with the first reading (in full) of a bill or resolution if printed copies are available, are nondebatable motions of high privilege.

(j) Layover and Copy of Bill.—No measure or recommendation reported by a Subcommittee shall be considered by the Committee until two calendar days from the time of Subcommittee action. No bill shall be considered by the Committee unless a copy has been delivered to the office of each Member of the Committee requesting a copy. These requirements may be waived by a majority vote of the Committee at the time of consideration of the measure or recommendation.

(k) Access to Dais and Conference Room.—Access to the hearing rooms' daises [and to the conference rooms adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms] shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of the Committee during a meeting of the Committee, except that Committee Members' personal staff may be present on the daises if their employing Member is the author of a bill or amendment under consideration by the Committee, but only during the time that the bill or amendment is under active consideration by the Committee. Access to the conference rooms adjacent to the Committee hearing rooms shall be limited to Members of Congress and employees of Congress during a meeting of the Committee.

(l) Cellular Telephones.—The use of cellular telephones is prohibited on the Committee dais or in the Committee hearing rooms during a meeting of the Committee.

(m) Motion to go to Conference with the Senate. The Chairman may offer a motion under clause 1 of Rule XXII whenever the Chairman considers it appropriate.

#### RULE 4. HEARING PROCEDURES

(a) Announcement.—The Chairman shall publicly announce the date, place, and subject matter of any hearing at least one week before the hearing unless the Chairman, with the concurrence of the Ranking Minority Member, determines that there is good cause to begin the hearing sooner, or if the Committee so determines by majority vote. In these cases, the Chairman shall publicly announce the hearing at the earliest possible date. The Chief Clerk of the Committee shall

promptly notify the Daily Digest Clerk of the Congressional Record and shall promptly enter the appropriate information on the Committee's web site as soon as possible after the public announcement is made.

(b) Written Statement; Oral Testimony.—Each witness who is to appear before the Committee or a Subcommittee shall file with the Chief Clerk of the Committee or Subcommittee Clerk, at least two working days before the day of his or her appearance, a written statement of proposed testimony. Failure to comply with this requirement may result in the exclusion of the written testimony from the hearing record and/or the barring of an oral presentation of the testimony. Each witness shall limit his or her oral presentation to a five-minute summary of the written statement, unless the Chairman, in consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, extends this time period. In addition, all witnesses shall be required to submit with their testimony a resume or other statement describing their education, employment, professional affiliations and other background information pertinent to their testimony.

(c) Minority Witnesses.—When any hearing is conducted by the Committee or any Subcommittee upon any measure or matter, the Minority party Members on the Committee or Subcommittee shall be entitled, upon request to the Chairman by a majority of those Minority Members before the completion of the hearing, to call witnesses selected by the Minority to testify with respect to that measure or matter during at least one day of hearings thereon.

(d) Information for Members.—After announcement of a hearing, the Committee shall make available as soon as practicable to all Members of the Committee a tentative witness list and to the extent practicable a memorandum explaining the subject matter of the hearing (including relevant legislative reports and other necessary material). In addition, the Chairman shall make available to the Members of the Committee any official reports from departments and agencies on the subject matter as they are received.

(e) Subpoenas.—The Committee or a Subcommittee may authorize and issue a subpoena under clause 2(m) of House Rule XI if authorized by a majority of the Members voting. In addition, the Chairman of the Committee may authorize and issue subpoenas during any period of time in which the House of Representatives has adjourned for more than three days. Subpoenas shall be signed only by the Chairman of the Committee, or any Member of the Committee authorized by the Committee, and may be served by any person designated by the Chairman or Member.

(f) Oaths.—The Chairman of the Committee or any Member designated by the Chairman may administer oaths to any witness before the Committee. All witnesses appearing in hearings may be administered the following oath by the Chairman or his designee prior to receiving the testimony: "Do you solemnly swear or affirm that the testimony that you are about to give is the truth, the whole truth, and nothing but the truth, so help you God?"

(g) Opening Statements; Questioning of Witnesses.

(1) Opening statements by Members may not be presented orally, unless the Chairman or his designee makes a statement, in which case the Ranking Minority Member or his designee may also make a statement. If a witness scheduled to testify at any hearing of the Committee is a constituent of a Member of the Committee, that Member shall be entitled to introduce the witness at the hearing.

(2) The questioning of witnesses in Committee and Subcommittee hearings shall be

initiated by the Chairman, followed by the Ranking Minority Member and all other Members alternating between the Majority and Minority parties. In recognizing Members to question witnesses, the Chairman shall take into consideration the ratio of the Majority to Minority Members present and shall establish the order of recognition for questioning in a manner so as not to disadvantage the Members of the Majority or the Members of the Minority. A motion is in order to allow designated Majority and Minority party Members to question a witness for a specified period to be equally divided between the Majority and Minority parties. This period shall not exceed one hour in the aggregate.

(h) Materials for Hearing Record.—Any materials submitted specifically for inclusion in the hearing record must address the announced subject matter of the hearing and be submitted to the relevant Subcommittee Clerk or Chief Clerk no later than 10 business days following the last day of the hearing.

(i) Claims of Privilege.—Claims of common-law privileges made by witnesses in hearings, or by interviewees or deponents in investigations or inquiries, are applicable only at the discretion of the Chairman, subject to appeal to the Committee.

#### RULE 5. FILING OF COMMITTEE REPORTS

(a) Duty of Chairman.—Whenever the Committee authorizes the favorable reporting of a measure from the Committee, the Chairman or his designee shall report the same to the House of Representatives and shall take all steps necessary to secure its passage without any additional authority needed to be set forth in the motion to report each individual measure. In appropriate cases, the authority set forth in this rule shall extend to moving in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives that the House be resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the measure; and to moving in accordance with the Rules of the House of Representatives for the disposition of a Senate measure that is substantially the same as the House measure as reported.

(b) Filing.—A report on a measure which has been approved by the Committee shall be filed within seven calendar days (exclusive of days on which the House of Representatives is not in session) after the day on which there has been filed with the Committee Chief Clerk a written request, signed by a majority of the Members of the Committee, for the reporting of that measure. Upon the filing with the Committee Chief Clerk of this request, the Chief Clerk shall transmit immediately to the Chairman notice of the filing of that request.

(c) Supplemental, Additional or Minority Views.—Any Member may, if notice is given at the time a bill or resolution is approved by the Committee, file supplemental, additional, or minority views. These views must be in writing and signed by each Member joining therein and be filed with the Committee Chief Clerk not less than two additional calendar days (excluding Saturdays, Sundays and legal holidays except when the House is in session on those days) of the time the bill or resolution is approved by the Committee. This paragraph shall not preclude the filing of any supplemental report on any bill or resolution that may be required for the correction of any technical error in a previous report made by the Committee on that bill or resolution.

(d) Review by Members.—Each Member of the Committee shall be given an opportunity to review each proposed Committee report before it is filed with the Clerk of the House of Representatives. Nothing in this para-

graph extends the time allowed for filing supplemental, additional or minority views under paragraph (c).

(e) Disclaimer.—All Committee or Subcommittee reports printed and not approved by a majority vote of the Committee or Subcommittee, as appropriate, shall contain the following disclaimer on the cover of the report: "This report has not been officially adopted by the {Committee on Resources} {Subcommittee} and may not therefore necessarily reflect the views of its Members."

#### RULE 6. ESTABLISHMENT OF SUBCOMMITTEES; FULL COMMITTEE JURISDICTION; BILL REFERRALS

(a) Subcommittees.—There shall be five standing Subcommittees of the Committee:

(1) Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources;

(2) Subcommittee on Fisheries and Oceans;

(3) Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health;

(4) Subcommittee on National Parks; and

(5) Subcommittee on Water and Power.

(b) Full Committee.—The Full Committee shall have the following jurisdiction and responsibilities:

(1) Environmental and habitat measures and matters of general applicability.

(2) Measures relating to the welfare of Native Americans, including management of Indian lands in general and special measures relating to claims which are paid out of Indian funds.

(3) All matters regarding the relations of the United States with Native Americans and Native American tribes, including special oversight functions under Rule X of the Rules of the House of Representatives.

(4) All matters regarding Native Alaskans and Native Hawaiians.

(5) All matters related to the Federal trust responsibility to Native Americans and the sovereignty of Native Americans.

(6) All matters regarding insular areas of the United States.

(7) All measures or matters regarding the Freely Associated States and Antarctica.

(8) Cooperative efforts to encourage, enhance and improve international programs for the protection of the environment and the conservation of natural resources otherwise within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee under this paragraph.

(9) All measures and matters retained by the Full Committee under Committee rule 6(e).

(10) General and continuing oversight and investigative authority over activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Committee under House Rule X.

(c) Ex-officio Members.—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio Members of each standing Subcommittee to which the Chairman or the Ranking Minority Member have not been assigned. Ex-officio Members shall have the right to fully participate in Subcommittee activities but may not vote and may not be counted in establishing a quorum.

(d) Powers and Duties of Subcommittees.—Each Subcommittee is authorized to meet, hold hearings, receive evidence and report to the Committee on all matters within its jurisdiction. Each Subcommittee shall review and study, on a continuing basis, the application, administration, execution and effectiveness of those statutes, or parts of statutes, the subject matter of which is within that Subcommittee's jurisdiction; and the organization, operation, and regulations of any Federal agency or entity having responsibilities in or for the administration of such statutes, to determine whether these statutes are being implemented and carried out in accordance with the intent of Congress.

Each Subcommittee shall review and study any conditions or circumstances indicating the need of enacting new or supplemental legislation within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee. Each Subcommittee shall have general and continuing oversight and investigative authority over activities, policies and programs within the jurisdiction of the Subcommittee.

(e) Referral to Subcommittees; Recall.

(1) Except as provided in paragraph (2) and for those matters within the jurisdiction of the Full Committee, every legislative measure or other matter referred to the Committee shall be referred to the Subcommittee of jurisdiction within two weeks of the date of its referral to the Committee. If any measure or matter is within or affects the jurisdiction of one or more Subcommittees, the Chairman may refer that measure or matter simultaneously to two or more Subcommittees for concurrent consideration or for consideration in sequence subject to appropriate time limits, or divide the matter into two or more parts and refer each part to a Subcommittee.

(2) The Chairman, with the approval of a majority of the Majority Members of the Committee, may refer a legislative measure or other matter to a select or special Subcommittee. A legislative measure or other matter referred by the Chairman to a Subcommittee may be recalled from the Subcommittee for direct consideration by the Full Committee, or for referral to another Subcommittee, provided Members of the Committee receive one week written notice of the recall and a majority of the Members of the Committee do not object. In addition, a legislative measure or other matter referred by the Chairman to a Subcommittee may be recalled from the Subcommittee at any time by majority vote of the Committee for direct consideration by the Full Committee or for referral to another Subcommittee.

(f) Consultation.—Each Subcommittee Chairman shall consult with the Chairman of the Full Committee prior to setting dates for Subcommittee meetings with a view towards avoiding whenever possible conflicting Committee and Subcommittee meetings.

(g) Vacancy.—A vacancy in the membership of a Subcommittee shall not affect the power of the remaining Members to execute the functions of the Subcommittee.

#### RULE 7. TASK FORCES, SPECIAL OR SELECT SUBCOMMITTEES

(a) Appointment.—The Chairman of the Committee is authorized, after consultation with the Ranking Minority Member, to appoint Task Forces, or special or select Subcommittees, to carry out the duties and functions of the Committee.

(b) Ex-Officio Members.—The Chairman and Ranking Minority Member of the Committee may serve as ex-officio Members of each Task Force, or special or select Subcommittee if they are not otherwise members. Ex-officio Members shall have the right to fully participate in activities but may not vote and may not be counted in establishing a quorum.

(c) Party Ratios.—The ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members, excluding ex-officio Members, on each Task Force, special or select Subcommittee shall be as close as practicable to the ratio on the Full Committee.

(d) Temporary Resignation.—A Member can temporarily resign his or her position on a Subcommittee to serve on a Task Force, special or select Subcommittee without prejudice to the Member's seniority on the Subcommittee.

(e) Chairman and Ranking Minority Member.—The Chairman of any Task Force, or

special or select Subcommittee shall be appointed by the Chairman of the Committee. The Ranking Minority Members shall select a Ranking Minority Member for each Task Force, or standing, special or select Subcommittee.

#### RULE 8. RECOMMENDATION OF CONFEREES

Whenever it becomes necessary to appoint conferees on a particular measure, the Chairman shall recommend to the Speaker as conferees those Majority Members, as well as those Minority Members recommended to the Chairman by the Ranking Minority Member, primarily responsible for the measure. The ratio of Majority Members to Minority Members recommended for conferences shall be no greater than the ratio on the Committee.

#### RULE 9. COMMITTEE RECORDS

(a) Segregation of Records.—All Committee records shall be kept separate and distinct from the office records of individual Committee Members serving as Chairmen or Ranking Minority Members. These records shall be the property of the House and all Members shall have access to them in accordance with clause 2(e)(2) of House Rule XI.

(b) Availability.—The Committee shall make available to the public for review at reasonable times in the Committee office the following records:

(1) transcripts of public meetings and hearings, except those that are unrevised or unedited and intended solely for the use of the Committee; and

(2) the result of each rollcall vote taken in the Committee, including a description of the amendment, motion, order or other proposition voted on, the name of each Committee Member voting for or against a proposition, and the name of each Member present but not voting.

(c) Archived Records.—Records of the Committee which are deposited with the National Archives shall be made available for public use pursuant to House Rule VII. The Chairman of the Committee shall notify the Ranking Minority Member of any decision, pursuant to clause 3(b)(3) or clause 4(b) of House Rule VII, to withhold, or to provide a time, schedule or condition for availability of any record otherwise available. At the written request of any Member of the Committee, the matter shall be presented to the Committee for a determination and shall be subject to the same notice and quorum requirements for the conduct of business under Committee Rule 3.

(d) Records of Closed Meetings.—Notwithstanding the other provisions of this rule, no records of Committee meetings or hearings which were closed to the public pursuant to the Rules of the House of Representatives shall be released to the public unless the Committee votes to release those records in accordance with the procedure used to close the Committee meeting.

(e) Classified Materials.—All classified materials shall be maintained in an appropriately secured location and shall be released only to authorized persons for review, who shall not remove the material from the Committee offices without the written permission of the Chairman.

#### RULE 10. COMMITTEE BUDGET AND EXPENSES

(a) Budget.—At the beginning of each Congress, after consultation with the Chairman of each Subcommittee and the Ranking Minority Member, the Chairman shall present to the Committee for its approval a budget covering the funding required for staff, travel, and miscellaneous expenses.

(b) Expense Resolution.—Upon approval by the Committee of each budget, the Chairman, acting pursuant to clause 6 of House

Rule X, shall prepare and introduce in the House a supporting expense resolution, and take all action necessary to bring about its approval by the Committee on House Administration and by the House of Representatives.

(c) Amendments.—The Chairman shall report to the Committee any amendments to each expense resolution and any related changes in the budget.

(d) Additional Expenses.—Authorization for the payment of additional or unforeseen Committee expenses may be procured by one or more additional expense resolutions processed in the same manner as set out under this rule.

(e) Monthly Reports.—Copies of each monthly report, prepared by the Chairman for the Committee on House Administration, which shows expenditures made during the reporting period and cumulative for the year, anticipated expenditures for the projected Committee program, and detailed information on travel, shall be available to each Member.

#### RULE 11. COMMITTEE STAFF

(a) Rules and Policies.—Committee staff members are subject to the provisions of clause 9 of House Rule X, as well as any written personnel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt.

(b) Majority and Nonpartisan Staff.—The Chairman shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative employees of the Committee not assigned to the Minority. The legislative and administrative staff of the Committee not assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Chairman, who shall establish and assign the duties and responsibilities of these staff members and delegate any authority he determines appropriate.

(c) Minority Staff.—The Ranking Minority Member of the Committee shall appoint, determine the remuneration of, and may remove, the legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority within the budget approved for those purposes. The legislative and administrative staff assigned to the Minority shall be under the general supervision and direction of the Ranking Minority Member of the Committee who may delegate any authority he determines appropriate.

(d) Availability.—The skills and services of all Committee staff shall be available to all Members of the Committee.

#### RULE 12. COMMITTEE TRAVEL

In addition to any written travel policies the Committee may from time to time adopt, all travel of Members and staff of the Committee or its Subcommittees, to hearings, meetings, conferences and investigations, including all foreign travel, must be authorized by the Full Committee Chairman prior to any public notice of the travel and prior to the actual travel. In the case of Minority staff, all travel shall first be approved by the Ranking Minority Member. Funds authorized for the Committee under clauses 6 and 7 of House Rule X are for expenses incurred in the Committee's activities within the United States.

#### RULE 13. CHANGES TO COMMITTEE RULES

The rules of the Committee may be modified, amended, or repealed, by a majority vote of the Committee, provided that 48 hours written notice of the proposed change has been provided each Member of the Committee prior to the meeting date on which the changes are to be discussed and voted on. A change to the rules of the Committee shall be published in the Congressional Record no later than 30 days after its approval.

#### RULE 14. OTHER PROCEDURES

The Chairman may establish procedures and take actions as may be necessary to

carry out the rules of the Committee or to facilitate the effective administration of the Committee, in accordance with the rules of the Committee and the Rules of the House of Representatives.

#### THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

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

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have several problems with the President's budget. First, the Draconian cuts and discretionary spending do not reduce the deficit. In fact, the deficit continues as far as the eye can see. This budget is not honest and omits many important priorities, thus negating the President's promise to cut the deficit in half by 2009. And further, this budget has the audacity to raise taxes on our veterans.

And as Shakespeare's Julius Caesar said to Brutus, "Et tu Brutus, yours is the meanest cut of all." This is the meanest cut of all in this budget: to cut our veterans, to raise taxes on our veterans. We need to be doing more for our veterans, not less. And certainly not raising taxes on our veterans as this budget does.

And this budget also hurts our farmers, cutting badly needed programs. The budget is not balanced. In fact, this budget creates a new record for a deficit \$427 billion for fiscal year 2006.

This administration's budget continues a record of deficits and raising debt over the last 4 years. For the third year in a row, the administration's budget creates a new record deficit, while offering no plan to restore the budget to balance. The \$5.6 trillion 10-year surplus inherited by this administration from the Clinton administration, which should have been used to strengthen Social Security, instead has been squandered and replaced by a deficit of \$4 trillion over the same time period from 2002 to 2011.

Our goal of the deficit reduction accomplished during the Clinton administration was to save for the retirement of the baby boomers. Instead, this administration has run up mountains of new debt, which just passes the bill for today's policy choices on to our children and our grandchildren.

Under the administration's policies, the annual burden of the Federal debt on the typical American family will more than double over the next 10 years, with each family's share of the Federal interest payments on the debt rising from just over \$2,000 per year to around \$5,000 per year. This is not the kind of legacy we should be leaving to our future, to our children and grandchildren. This debt transfer is essentially a birth tax.

Another thing, this budget is not honest. Several of the President's top priorities are omitted from this budget. What surprises me is these projects that he is omitting from his budget this week were signature points in his

State of the Union address last week. These omitted policies include debt service, and add \$2 trillion to the deficit.

Not included in the budget are transition costs of privatizing Social Security. By delaying the start of the President's new Social Security plan until 2009 and then passing it on over 3 years, this budget manages to avoid showing most of the costs, but they are to be substantial. The Social Security actuaries have estimated the cost could be about \$750 billion, and these are the President's people, over the 2009 to 2015 period alone, and between \$4 trillion and \$5 trillion over the first 20 years of full implementation.

Also not included in this budget are funds for appropriations and operations in Iraq and Afghanistan. Just think: the additional \$81 billion being asked for this year for our soldiers for their safety, for their hardware, for their armor and the military, is not even in this budget. Is that responsible? According to a scenario developed by the Congressional Budget Office, costs for operations in Iraq and Afghanistan could run as much as \$400 billion more than what this budget includes.

The budget also includes no funding to repair the Alternative Minimum Tax, which protects middle-income taxpayers, which is another \$64 billion not accounted for in the budget.

The budget also imposes a \$250 annual enrollment fee for veterans without service-connected disabilities who also have incomes above VA means-tested levels. What this means is even before some of our veterans can even get into the hospital, they are being taxed \$250. The budget also increases pharmacy copayments for our veterans from \$7 to \$15. Both of these veterans taxes were proposed in the last two budgets, and we rejected both of them in Congress.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, this Federal budget should be an honest blueprint for the spending priorities of this government. However, this budget is not honest. It is passing our obligations, responsibilities, and challenges to our children and grandchildren; and that is immoral. Let us stand up for the honesty and goodness of our Nation and reject this budget.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AN IMMORAL BUDGET PROPOSAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the President has presented his budget to the Congress. We have begun a process which is the most moral process our government undertakes each year.

The budget of the United States is a moral statement. The President begins that budget process by making his own moral statement. The process goes forward with the Congress deliberating; and when we come out at the end of the year with the appropriations based on this budget, we are making a statement to the Nation and to the world of what our moral values are, stating what are our moral values.

This budget shows our moral values are really in serious trouble, because I think this is a budget of war against peace. You could call this a war-against-peace budget. It is not exaggerating to say it is kind of a barbarity-against-civilization budget. Because what we are doing is saving money. We are going to save money in all the areas which would carry forward our civilization and benefit peace and benefit a productive society; we are going to save that money in order to put it into the military. That is what this budget is all about.

It is a very dishonest budget to begin with, because the largest items of expenditure for this coming year are not even put in the budget. We are going to be asked in a few weeks to vote on a budget which includes \$80 billion for the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is not included in this budget. We ought to be honest about that.

We ought to be honest about the fact that Social Security proposals are being made which will require tremendous amounts of money to be drained from the budget also. So it is not an honest budget to begin with. It is not a moral budget, or it is a moral budget is that reflects bad morals.

The morality that we must undertake here is understanding what the Congressional Black Caucus always has understood, which is that this is the most important item on the agenda of the Congress; and we must deal with items like education, like health care, housing, et cetera. We have disparities which exist and impact upon the black community, and those disparities really impact on the total working-family community, and the majority of Americans are impacted.

□ 2000

So as we pursue the closing of the gap between those disparities, we are also pursuing that for the rest of America, as well as for the African American community.

The chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus will elaborate on that more in a few minutes. I just want to say that this omission that we are dealing with here tonight is the beginning of the process. We are going to have debates, negotiation, and legislation. I hope that those of us who debate and discuss and negotiate will show greater moral fiber than has been displayed so far, and that at the end of

this process in the fall, when we begin to vote on the appropriations bills, there will be a different moral manifesto of the Nation emerging, unlike the one in the statement made by this budget.

The way a nation spends its money, as I said before, provides the whole world with indisputable evidence of what its real moral values are. Our true beliefs are reflected in the way we allocate our resources; and here I will just give one example. They have cut \$4 billion worth of education programs. The President and the White House propose to cut \$4 billion worth of education programs. At the same time, we have a program called the Missile Defense Systems program, and it is adding, it is increasing that budget. It will now be \$8 billion. Twice as much as is being cut for education is going to be spent this coming year on the Missile Defense program, which does not work. And they say that they are cutting the education programs because they do not work.

This defense program has been around for some time. It used to be called Star Wars. All kinds of different labels have been placed upon it, but we read occasionally about them testing it and rockets going off in the sky and misfiring; and every time that happens it is \$75 million or \$100 million. The failed test costs us millions of dollars, yet we go on, we continue. It does not work, it costs millions of dollars, but we do not eliminate it.

Security, they say, is the number one issue, and I agree, security is the number one issue. The definition of security is what we have to discuss. Security is not throwing dollars at the military. Security is not throwing dollars at missile systems that do not work and missile systems which are almost irrelevant at this point. That is not security. Security means more than just guns, missiles, bombers.

I do want to applaud the President for increasing slightly the Millennium Fund, which is supposed to help nations across the world improve their own governments and deliver better education and health care to their own people. Education, in particular, is a concern of the Millennium Fund. The Millennium Fund got started as a result of an analysis. The Millennium Fund understood what happened with Osama bin Laden and the gathering of forces in Afghanistan. They came out of the madrassas, Pakistan primarily. Large numbers came out.

What is a madrassa? A madrassa is a name for a school, a religious school, and they were teaching there reading, writing, and the military, how to shoot, and how to hate. They recognized that there was an unlimited supply of such youth. They cannot get a decent meal at home; their parents are happy to have them go off to the madrassa and give them over to the madrassa for whatever they want them to do, including military training, which later leads to them being a part

of al Qaeda. The analysts understood this, so they began to be concerned about fighting terror by improving the conditions of the people abroad, starting with the funding for education.

Education at home, however, is going to be neglected. Education at home is as much a matter of national security as education anywhere in the world. Education is the least expensive way for us to guarantee our security. We can guarantee our security far cheaper with education being spread, beginning at home, than we can by throwing more money at the military and starving health care programs, housing programs, and education programs here at home in order to improve the military.

Among the programs that are being eliminated is a program that relates to foreign languages. If ever it was clear that foreign languages are important, it is right now when our own ability to fight the terrorists has been shown to be inadequate because we cannot translate the language, we cannot understand enough. There are not enough people around who can translate Arabic, let alone the more difficult languages of Urdu and Pashtu, and the languages that have seldom been before studied in our schools. We should be appropriating billions of dollars in order to train more young people in languages.

I can go on and on, and I intend later to come back and discuss in great detail some of these programs, especially in education, that are being eliminated and what their impact is on our society as a whole.

We have a steady increase in the population of our prisons, a steady increase of African American males in our population of the prisons. There is a relationship between the tremendous number of cuts over the last 10 years in social programs and the steady increase of African American males in our prisons. They cost much more to maintain in our prisons, of course, than the cost is to provide a decent education, either in elementary and secondary education, or in college.

But I will pause here and call upon the President of the Congressional Black Caucus to enunciate the Caucus's emphasis and position as we go into this process of deliberating on this budget to make this budget a more moral document, reflecting a more civilized approach to guarantee the security of the American people and people all over the world.

I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT).

(Mr. WATT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WATT. Mr. Speaker, I want to start by thanking the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) for reserving the 1 hour of time this evening for the Congressional Black Caucus to make preliminary comments on the President's proposed budget.

When the Congressional Black Caucus met with President Bush on Janu-

ary 26, we presented a CBC agenda that would close disparities and create opportunity. We outlined six areas in which significant barriers exist that prevent African Americans from enjoying the same quality of life as white Americans. We requested the President's support and asked him to demonstrate it both verbally and substantively. Unfortunately, the budget that the President sent to Congress yesterday falls far short of the substantive goals that we hoped the President would have set forth to eliminate disparities.

The first area we presented to the President was in the area of closing the achievement and opportunity gaps in education. In his budget, the President proposes eliminating the Perkins loan program, which provides low-interest loans to low- and middle-income college students. This proposal would have disastrous effects on African American college students, many of whom rely heavily on Federal financial aid programs to offset the cost of obtaining higher education. As it is, African Americans attend college at a lower rate than white Americans. If the President succeeds in his plan to eliminate the Perkins loan program, a college education would simply be unaffordable and unattainable for many African American college students.

African American college enrollment rates are 10 percent lower than white college enrollment rates. College graduation rates are even worse for African American students. Only 46 percent of African American freshmen ever graduate from college, compared to 67 percent of white freshmen. According to the Education Trust, the typical American college or university has a graduation rate gap between white and African American students of over 10 percentage points. A quarter of institutions have a gap of 20 percentage points or more.

In a recent study by the Luna Foundation For Education, the Foundation found that the single most important financial variable influencing whether or not a student will attend college is the amount of need-based financial aid being provided. In spite of these disparities, the President seeks to not only eliminate the Perkins loan program, but he is proposing to eliminate the Gear Up and the TRIO programs as well.

The sole purpose of the Gear Up program, which our Congressional Black Caucus colleague, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) introduced, and the TRIO program, both of those programs are designed to prepare low-income and disadvantaged students for college. In other words, the President, through his budget, wants to eliminate the very programs that would help close the achievement and opportunity gaps in education. In fact, one out of every three programs that the President proposes to cut or eliminate in his budget is in the Department of Education. So the President has not been

responsive at all to the CBC agenda in that area.

The second area we outlined to the President was in the area of health care, providing quality health care for every American. The President's proposed budget slashes at least \$45 billion from the Medicaid program, which provides health coverage to 50 million low-income children, working families, seniors, and others who would otherwise be uninsured. The President's proposed cuts to Medicaid would have devastating effects on the working poor and would have particularly devastating effects on African Americans.

According to Families USA, African Americans are generally less likely to receive employer-based health care because African Americans are more likely than whites to work in positions where health care benefits are not offered, work for companies, typically small companies, that cannot afford to pay for employee health insurance, and to be unable to afford health insurance premiums when coverage is offered.

The third area we asked the President to respond to was in the area of economic security, building wealth, and business employment. The African American unemployment rate is consistently more than double the average national average. In inner cities, that number is even larger. Yet, the President proposes cutting the budget for the Department of Labor by 4.4 percent, including Workforce Investment Act State grants. Further, while the African American homeownership rate is over 20 percentage points behind that of white Americans, the President proposes cutting funding for the Department of Housing and Urban Development by almost \$3.7 billion.

We asked the President to address disparities in foreign policy, eradicating poverty, hunger, and armed conflicts around the world, especially in Africa and the Caribbean, which is a major component of the CBC's agenda. Unfortunately, the President's budget offered no solutions on how to strengthen the economic stability and self-sufficiency of countries in the African Diaspora.

The Caucus supports reducing the heavy burden that debt has on many countries and reengaging with the United Nations, regional organizations, and countries throughout the world to help promote civil society, global health, fair trade, and peace. While we applaud the President for his proposal to fund the global initiative to fight HIV/AIDS, we implore him to also provide financial assistance to end the fighting in African countries that are engaged in civil war and in genocide.

We asked the President to help address retirement security for African Americans and the disparities that exist there. During the last several weeks, President Bush has traveled the country, selling his Social Security reform proposal to the American people. Because African Americans rely heavily on the survivor disability and re-

tirement benefits provided by Social Security, the CBC is extremely interested in the details of this proposal. Contrary to the President's claims, African Americans receive a higher rate of return than whites, due to their heavier reliance on the full range of benefits offered by Social Security.

The CBC has made it clear to the President that we are against any proposal that would result in future benefit cuts or divert payroll taxes from the Social Security Trust Fund. African Americans are 8 percent of all retired beneficiaries, 13 percent of survivor beneficiaries, and 18 percent of all disability recipients. Social Security is the only source of retirement income for 40 percent of older Americans, and if those benefits were reduced, the poverty rate for older African Americans would double almost overnight.

Social Security is one of the most effective programs in the history of the United States and is essential to the livelihood of African Americans.

We asked the President to ensure justice for every American. The CBC supports criminal and juvenile justice reform that focuses greater emphasis on prevention and rehabilitation, reduces recidivism by successfully reintegrating former inmates into society, and ends arbitrary mandatory minimum sentences.

□ 2015

We also strongly support preserving affirmative action until all the effects of past and present discrimination have been eliminated.

While the President's budget does include \$75 million for a prisoner reentry initiative, much more rehabilitation needs to be done for prisoners while they are in prison.

In addition, we are disappointed to report that the President's fiscal year budget proposes to cut funding for the Justice Department's civil rights division even while we all know that more enforcement is necessary. And despite that fact our election system does not work properly, the President's budget proposes to eliminate grants to States for election reform.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, the budget that the President sent to Congress yesterday reflects priorities and values that are not in line with those held by the majority of American families or by the Congressional Black Caucus.

Today the President told reporters that his budget sets priorities. He went on to say, "Our priorities are winning the war on terror, protecting our homeland, and growing our economy." I would say to the President that while we fight the war on terror, America's families also want to fight the war on poverty. While we protect our homeland, we must also ensure that American families are able to buy affordable homes. While we must grow our economy, we must also provide retirement security for American families in times of economic downturn. These, Mr. President, are America's priorities.

I hope the President will work with the Congressional Black Caucus to turn these priorities into realities.

Mr. Speaker, the following is a summary of some of the draconian cuts that the President has proposed in his budget.

#### BUSH ADMINISTRATION FY 2006 HOUSING BUDGET—CONTINUING THE ASSAULT ON THE MOST VULNERABLE

The Bush Administration's FY 2006 Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) budget makes deep cuts to a wide range of housing programs that serve low-income families, the elderly, and disabled persons. Overall, the HUD budget is cut by 11.5 percent. Critical housing and community development programs (CDBG, Brownfields cleanup, and Empowerment Zones) are eliminated and are consolidated into a new program in the Commerce Department, with an overall funding cut of 35 percent. The biggest funding cuts are targeted at those programs that serve our most vulnerable citizens, as follows:

##### THE POOR

*CDBG:* Transfers CDBG flexible block grants to the Commerce Department, with a 35 percent cut. This proposal would result in \$1.16 billion less in funding for low-income housing than last year.

*Public Housing.* Eliminates HOPE VI public housing revitalization program, and rescinds the \$143 million funded in FY05. Also cuts ongoing funding for public housing by \$270 million. The overall request is 30 percent lower in real terms than when the Bush Administration took office.

*HOME Block Grants.* Cuts HOME block grants by \$66 million (a 4 percent cut).

*Section 8 vouchers.* Purports to fully fund voucher renewals. But, the budget promises that legislation will be introduced later to renew the Administration block grant proposal—to gut the targeting of funds to the poorest families and the maintenance of affordable voucher rent levels.

*AIDS Housing (HOPWA).* Cuts HOPWA funding by \$14 million (a 5 percent cut).

*Lead Paint Abatement.* Cuts funding for lead paint abatement by \$48 million (a 29 percent cut).

##### THE DISABLED

Cuts 50 percent from the Section 811 disabled housing program (from \$238 m. to \$119 m). Also eliminates the Federal role in funding construction of new housing for the disabled.

##### MINORITIES

*Fair Housing:* Cuts the Fair Housing budget by 16 percent.

*Minority Higher Education Institutions.* Cuts Section 107 grants by 16 percent. Section 107 grants fund Historically Black Colleges and Universities, Hispanic Serving Institutions, Community Development Work Study, and other related programs.

*La Raza.* Eliminates funding for the National Council of La Raza for affordable housing activities and technical assistance (funded at \$4.8 million in FY 2005).

##### RURAL HOUSING

*Rural Housing Service.* Cuts funding by 73 percent for Section 515, the core RHS affordable housing program. Also eliminates the Section 515 program's authority to fund new construction.

*HUD Rural Housing an Economic Development Program.* Eliminates this \$24 million program, consolidating it with 17 other programs in the Commerce Dept.

##### NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING

Cuts funding for Native American housing block grants by \$110 million, a 16 percent cut.

Eliminates funding for the National American Indian Housing Council (\$2.4 m. in FY 05).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Mr. Speaker, the following is a statement by the CBC chairman on the Bush budget and the Congressional Black Caucus' core agenda.

**CBC CHAIR CALLS BUSH BUDGET PROPOSAL  
EXTREMELY DISAPPOINTING**

**Bush Budget Blueprint Offers No Solutions to End Disparities that Exist in Our Society**

Today, Congressman Mel Watt (D-NC), Chairman of the Congressional Black Caucus (CBC), issued the following statement in response to President George Bush's fiscal year 2006 budget proposal:

"On first review of President Bush's budget proposal, I find it extremely disappointing. Mr. Bush's proposal recommends severe cuts in education, food and nutrition programs, and literacy initiatives for youth and young adults.

"The proposed budget neglects suggestions offered by the Congressional Black Caucus for ending disparities that exist between African Americans and White Americans in every aspect of life. The CBC gave the President three distinct opportunities to respond favorably to our Agenda: (1) during a meeting with the President on January 26th when the CBC delivered our Agenda which outlined these disparities and offered ways to eliminate the gap; (2) during the State of the Union address; and (3) in his budget proposal. Unfortunately, the President missed all three opportunities. This budget appears to offer no real solutions for change and falls short of what the CBC hoped would be included in the document.

"In summary, Members of the CBC are extremely disappointed with the President's budget proposal and will work with our colleagues on the Hill for a budget that reflects the values and concerns of all Americans: education, health care, economic opportunity, justice for all, retirement security and foreign policy."

The CBC advocates Closing the Achievement and Opportunity Gaps in Education as the most critical path to achieving our objectives in all areas of our Agenda. To do so, the CBC supports devoting more attention and, where necessary, more resources to:

1. Early childhood nutrition, Head Start and movement toward universal pre-school;
2. For children in school, student nutrition, identifying and providing education and assistance appropriate to the needs of each individual student to fulfill the promise of No Child Left Behind, dropout prevention, after-school programs, school modernization and infrastructure and equipment enhancement;
3. Pell Grants, scholarships, loan assistance and other specialized programs to enable and provide incentives to more African-American students to obtain college, graduate or professional degrees or otherwise receive training and retraining to meet changing job needs; and
4. Preserving and improving Historically Black Colleges and Universities.

The following are some of the dramatic disparities that the CBC believes would be reduced by the above priorities: In 2003, 39 percent of African American 4th grade students could read at or above a basic reading level compared to 74 percent of White 4th grade students and 39 percent of African American 8th grade students performed at or above a basic math level compared to 79 percent of White 8th grade students; High

school completion rates—83.7 percent African-Americans, 91.8 percent Whites; Bachelor Degree recipients—16.4 percent African-Americans, 31.7 percent Whites; Digital Divide—41.3 percent of African Americans are capable of accessing the Internet, 61.5 percent of Whites.

The CBC advocates Assuring Quality Health Care for Every American. To do so, the CBC believes that health care must emphasize universal access, affordability and prevention and should provide meaningful coverage for prescription medications to every American. Among the dramatic disparities the CBC believes would be reduced by doing so include:

In December 2004, the American Journal of Public Health reported that 886,000 more African Americans died between 1991 and 2000 than would have died had equal health care been available; while African-Americans comprised 12 percent of the U.S. population in 2000, they represented 19.6 percent of the uninsured and this disparity has grown since then; Black men experience twice the average death rate from prostate cancer; in 2002, the African-American AIDS diagnosis rate was 11 times the White diagnosis rate (23 times more for women and 9 times more for men); African Americans are two times more likely to have diabetes than Whites and four times more likely to see their diabetes progress to end-stage renal disease and four times more likely to have a stroke.

The CBC advocates FOCUSING ON EMPLOYMENT AND ECONOMIC SECURITY, BUILDING WEALTH AND BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT. The CBC supports:

1. Eradicating employment discrimination and insuring the employment of a diverse workforce by employers in the private sector and in government (including staffs of Committees and Members of Congress);
2. Protecting the rights and working conditions of all employees;
3. A living wage for all employees;
4. The advancement of African Americans into management, executive and director positions;
5. Equal access to capital for individuals and businesses and the elimination of redlining and predatory lending practices;
6. Expanding affordable rental and ownership of housing; and
7. Aggressive minority business goals and participation in government and private contracting.

Among the dramatic disparities the CBC believes would be reduced by pursuing these policies are the following: Unemployment rates for African Americans are consistently almost double the rates for White Americans; the median weekly earnings of full-time African-American workers is consistently over \$130 less than White workers who are similarly educated and situated; the poverty rate for African Americans is almost double the national poverty rate (24 percent vs. 12.5 percent) and more than triple (33 percent vs. 9.8 percent) for children under the age of 18; home ownership for African Americans is 48 percent compared to 72 percent for White Americans and African Americans are more than two times more likely to be denied a mortgage and more than two times more likely to receive sub-prime loans; and minority-owned businesses receive only 57 cents of each dollar they would be expected to receive based on the percentage of "ready, willing and able" businesses that are minority owned.

The CBC advocates INSURING JUSTICE FOR ALL. To do so, the CBC supports:

1. Guaranteeing equal access to the vote, making sure that every vote is counted, extension of the expiring provisions of the Voting Rights Act and reinstatement of voting rights after criminal defendants have served their sentences;

2. Ending racial and ethnic profiling;
3. Criminal and Juvenile Justice Reform, including greater emphasis on prevention and rehabilitation and ending arbitrary mandatory minimum sentences;
4. Appointment of fair and impartial Judges; and
5. Preserving Affirmative Action until all the effects of past and present discrimination have been eliminated.

Among the dramatic disparities the CBC believes would be reduced by pursuing the above policies are the following: Practices of the kind documented in Florida in 2000 and in Ohio in 2004, the latter in a 100+ page Investigative Report issued by members of the House Judiciary Committee in January 2005; and African-American men are 44 percent of all male inmates in State and Federal prisons and jails (an estimated 12 percent of black males) and African-American females are five times more likely than White females to be incarcerated.

The CBC advocates RETIREMENT SECURITY FOR ALL AMERICANS. The CBC supports the following to each this objective:

1. Preserving Social Security as a safety net for older Americans and guaranteeing that Social Security benefits continue to be paid; and
2. Making it possible for people of all income levels to accumulate assets and save for retirement as means of supplementing their Social Security benefits.

Among the realities the CBC believes the above policies would help address are the following: Social Security benefits are the only source of retirement income for 40 percent of older African Americans and without these benefits the poverty rate for African-American seniors would more than double; and 28 percent of African Americans receive income from assets upon retirement compared to 62 percent of White Americans and 32 percent of African-American retirees receive income from private pension plans compared to 45 percent of White-American retirees.

The CBC advocates INCREASING EQUITY IN FOREIGN POLICY. To do so, the CBC supports:

1. Reaching the Millennium Goals for developing countries;
2. Eradicating poverty, hunger and armed conflicts in countries around the world, especially in Africa and the Caribbean;
3. Reducing the heavy burden that debt has on many countries; and
4. Reengaging with the United Nations, regional organizations and countries throughout the world to help promote civil society, global health, fair trade and peace and to help combat terrorism and increase security at home.

Among the realities the CBC believes the above policies would help address are the following: Nearly 1.3 billion people around the world live in poverty and do not have safe drinking water; More than one-third of the world's children are malnourished; Within the last 10 years, approximately two million children have been killed in armed conflicts, many after being forced to be child soldiers; Many poor countries spend 30 percent-40 percent of their annual budgets (often more than they spend on health and education combined); and Horrific conditions can lead individuals to become more disaffected and susceptible to recruitment by terrorist organizations.

OTHER PRIORITY AREAS: There are many areas in addition to the above in which disparities continue to exist and on which the CBC Action Agenda will also focus. Some of these areas include building stronger African-American families, improving the welfare of children, increasing African-American political representation, reducing inequities and improving opportunities for African Americans to advance in the military,

documenting and preserving African-American history by assuring that financing and construction of the African-American Museum moves forward and eliminating waste, fraud, abuse and disparities in every area of government.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), a former member of the Committee on the Budget.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I think we need to put the budget into perspective to see where we are with the budget as we discuss the priorities.

This chart just shows where we are starting with the first Bush administration ending with a \$290 billion deficit. The 8 years of the Clinton administration, each year better than the previous year, up to a \$236 billion surplus, with surpluses increasing as far as the eye could see.

The first year of the Bush administration we used up all of the surplus and ended up just with the Social Security and Medicare surplus, and each year worse than the year before. This year we expect a \$427 billion deficit. Last year we ended up with a \$412 billion deficit. When President Clinton left office, we had expected a surplus of \$400 billion, a swing of over \$800 billion.

That is significant, Mr. Speaker, because if you look at what we get from the individual income tax, everybody's individual income tax, it is less than \$800 billion. That was the swing just in 1 year.

Mr. OWENS. Would the gentleman mind explaining the fact that every penny of the deficit costs us additional money because we pay interest on what we borrow and that is another expenditure that is added to the budget?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. When President Clinton left office it looked as though we could pay off the national debt by 2008 or 2009, which meant we would be paying out zero interest on the national debt. We would be able to replace all the money in the trust funds by about 2012, 2014, somewhere in there so there would be zero interest on the national debt paid to the trust funds.

Right now, about 2009, interest national debt is projected, instead around zero, about \$300 billion a year. At \$30,000 apiece that is enough to hire 10 million Americans, more than the total number unemployed today.

Where are we going? This chart shows, this red line is President Bush's projection of cutting the deficit in half in 5 years. First of all, we just showed that we started off with a surplus. We ought to be replacing the surplus, not just cleaning up half the mess. So the discussion about whether or not you can cut the deficit in half in 5 years really is out of place.

This chart up here shows in 2002, after 2001 President Bush projected surpluses in the hundreds of billions of dollars, and now he is talking about cutting the deficit in half. This chart down here shows a more realistic projection because it includes actually the

war in Iraq and Social Security privatization, interest on all of that debt, extending the tax cuts and all of these policies would put us down on this line below.

Mr. OWENS. I want to congratulate the gentleman on his observation there, because I have thumbed through the budget documents, the introductions, and the administration is applauding itself for reducing the budget in half in 5 to 10 years.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. The budget deficit.

Mr. OWENS. The deficit in half. Great applause is being showered upon them when we should not have a deficit to begin with.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. We should have a surplus. And you will notice if we adopt these policies we will not even come close.

I mentioned Social Security. It is hard to take the Social Security plan seriously because this green line shows that we will be able to pay full benefits until 2042. If we adopt the President's plan to solve the problem, because after 2042 we will have a deficit, the President's plan goes bankrupt 11 years earlier. So if that is the solution to the problem, it is just very difficult to take that very seriously. Furthermore, there was not that much of a problem. In fact, the Social Security shortfall was about \$3.7 trillion. If we do not make the tax cuts permanent for the top 1 percent, that is enough to just about cover the entire shortfall. Making the tax cuts permanent, \$11.6 trillion, is much more than the Social Security shortfalls.

So when you talk about your priorities, there is a priority, tax cuts for the top 1 percent first. Worry about Social Security second. I think we should worry about Social Security first and then tax cuts second.

If you look at the other kinds of priorities, look at the criminal justice priorities. I serve on the Committee on the Judiciary, and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. WATT) mentioned some of the disparities in the criminal justice system.

There is a good part of the budget. There is more money in residential drug treatment and drug courts, but unfortunately it appears to be at the expense of other good programs in the substance abuse area. There is more money for offender reentry, \$5.6 million for a total of \$15 million; but we have hundreds of thousands of prisoners coming out of prison, so that is woefully inadequate. But, unfortunately, they are severe cuts, not only in education but in prevention programs, like Safe and Drug Free Schools, Weed and Seed and other prevention programs, the COPS program which will actually reduce crime.

There is more money for prisons, building two new prisons. Unfortunately, that only exacerbates the disparities there are now. For every 100,000 whites in America, 366 are in jail today. But for every 100,000 blacks,

2,209 are in jail today. We need to be putting more money into prevention and less money into prisons. And if we put it into prevention, we will not need the additional prisons.

Mr. OWENS. Do those figures apply to black males?

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. African generally.

If we put more money into prevention, we would not have to build those two new prisons as we have to today.

Mr. OWENS. I thank the gentleman for his excellent presentation.

Mr. Speaker, how much time remains?

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) has 31 minutes remaining.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS).

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman, my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President released his budget blueprint for the 2006 fiscal year. While many of us are still reviewing the document, one thing is evident. The President proposes Draconian cuts to scores of programs which millions of people depend on in order to protect the tax cuts which only benefit a few Americans.

The President's \$2.57 trillion budget calls for freezing or cutting the funding for nearly every domestic discretionary program except defense and homeland security in the hopes of reducing the budget deficit. However, this budget does virtually nothing to reduce the deficit this year or any other year. In fact, the President's budget is calling for a deficit of \$427 billion in 2005, a record high, and \$390 billion in 2006. And since the President fails to include the cost of many of his top priorities in this budget, which will cost at least \$2 trillion, the deficit will likely be either larger this year, next year and for many of the following years.

Mr. Speaker, as ranking Democratic member of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity of the House Committee on Financial Services, I am extremely alarmed about the President's decision to transfer community development programs from the Department of Housing and Urban Development, that is HUD, to the Department of Commerce.

Under the President's misguided plan, nearly all of the programs that comprise the Community Development Fund, including the Community Development Block Grant, will be moved out of the HUD program and combined with 17 other programs in the Commerce Department.

Brownfields, section 108 loan guarantees, and the Renewal Communities/Empowerment Zone Program are all slated to move to Commerce.

Once these programs are relocated to the Commerce Department, the President proposes to fund the 18 combined

programs at 35 percent less than they are receiving now. This will be devastating to my home city of Los Angeles and many other urban and rural areas which depend on Community Development Fund programs to improve their communities.

Mr. Speaker, cities, States, and community-based organizations throughout the country depend on Community Development Block Grant funds because they are extremely flexible. In fact, Community Development Block Grant funds can be used for housing rehabilitation; new housing construction; down payment assistance and other help for first-time home buyers; lead-based paint detection and removal; the purchase of land and buildings; the construction or rehabilitation of public facilities such as shelters for people experiencing homelessness or victims of domestic violence; making buildings accessible to the elderly and disabled; "public services" such as job training, transportation, health care, and child care, public services are capped at 15 percent of a jurisdiction's CDBG funds; capacity building for nonprofits; rehabilitating commercial or industrial buildings; and loans or grant to businesses.

Mr. Speaker, the Commerce Department has no experience in community development programs, and it is likely that programs like the Community Development Block Grant with targeting provisions to focus on people with low and moderate incomes would receive far less consideration from the Commerce Department than other parts of the consolidated program. Thus, while the overall cut in community development funds is about 35 percent, the cuts to the Community Development Block Grant would be even larger.

The public may not know or understand the details of how the Community Development Block Grant funds are allocated to local community, but every mayor, every county official, every community development professional knows the indispensable role of Community Development Block Grant funds in funding housing, neighborhood improvements, and public services.

□ 2030

The proposed cuts to the Community Development Block Grant program will leave a huge hole in the budgets of our local governments, a hole they cannot and will not be able to fill with their own resources.

The net effect of cuts to the Community Development Block Grant program will be a huge decrease in housing and economic revitalization at the local level. When the public sees the programs and services that will have to be eliminated if these cuts are enacted, they will be outraged, as they should be.

Mr. Speaker, we cannot shoehorn \$5.6 billion in programs into a \$3.71 billion program without many people being hurt. Unfortunately, as is usually the case with this administration, it is

low- and moderate-income Americans who will suffer.

These cuts would devastate local efforts in my city, in my county and in local communities throughout America to provide housing, neighborhood improvements and public services to youth, the disabled, battered and abused spouses and the elderly.

These proposals are designed to decimate the CDBG program, to end it as we know it, not to improve the program. They must be resisted.

May I close, Mr. Speaker, by saying, it is outrageous that this so-called conservative President has been spending like a drunken sailor, and he has created this situation that we are in with this huge deficit; and now, after having given cuts to the richest 1 percent in America, he would try to fool the American people by saying he is going to cut back on programs or services that are not needed. It is shameful and it is unconscionable that he would balance the budget on the backs of the most needy, on the backs of working families who are trying to get along.

This country must be organized to deal with this issue, and I intend to be very active in the effort to educate the public about what this President is doing.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her statement, and I might want to consider also, and all of us should consider, the fact that in this area of Community Development Block Grants, it is one of the areas where great promises are being made to faith-based organizations; and I wonder if the movement of this program from HUD into the Commerce Department is partially to facilitate a movement of grants into faith-based organizations, without scrutiny, without any peer review process and with the maximum amount of favoritism. It is something we should bear in mind.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS) for yielding to me and for his leadership. I look forward to working with him and our other colleagues to propose a fix for the wrongs that are in the President's budget with the budget that the Congressional Black Caucus will present a little later in this process.

I have heard a lot of descriptions, Mr. Speaker, of the President's budget, but the word that keeps coming to my mind is shameless.

It is a budget of misplaced priorities that will only serve to widen the disparities that the Congressional Black Caucus and many other good Members of this and the other body have been working tirelessly to close, gaps that belie the values on which this country was founded and undermine our Nation's promise.

First of all, the budget we have been sent is unfair. The burden of the deficit, the war and homeland security is

thrust on the poor and the middle class, while the wealthy would reap the benefit of tax cuts, which further take us down the slippery slope of debt and deficit.

It is based on more of the trickle-down economics that have never worked because the trickle always stops just short of those who need it most. Let us have some trickle-up economics for a change, so that there would be shared burden and shared benefits, if any.

Further, the President's budget does nothing to reduce the deficit. It keeps and deepens our debt to China and other countries and defers payments on what we do today to our children and grandchildren. They should not have their future crippled by debts we can and must avoid in our time.

Try though the White House might, they cannot seriously think they can justify it by budget shell games and turning attention to certain past increases the President signed only after having been made to do so, kicking and screaming all the way, by Democrats.

If left as it is, this budget would deal a serious blow to health. As in years past, no mention is made by the Secretary of the most serious issue facing us in health care today, the inequality and injustice of health care disparities, especially in racial and ethnic minority populations.

Medicaid, which has been faced with increased demands due to the failed economic policies of this administration, takes a near fatal hit in the President's budget. This is the bulwark of health care in this country, and it needs to be strengthened, not weakened.

Further, the Centers for Disease Control, on whom the protection of our health, the prevention of disease and the strength of our bioterrorism shield depends, would see a severe cut, as would programs that train doctors, nurses and other health providers. It cuts bioterrorism medical training and preparedness in hospitals, many of whom cannot adequately meet their everyday demands, not to mention surge in the case of an attack.

Rural health programs are slashed; newborn sickle cell screening and Indian health facilities construction grants are eliminated; and there are even cuts to CDC's HIV and AIDS, STD and TB budget at a time when our communities continue to be plagued by these diseases. Just today, I read of a TB outbreak, a tuberculosis outbreak, in northeastern South Carolina.

No ounce of prevention; with this budget we will have to pay the full pound of cure.

Today, I shared a program with former Speaker Newt Gingrich. I would suggest that the President and the House leadership and Senate leadership speak with him on this. He gets it.

Here I am not quoting him verbatim, but I am doing so accurately. He said that this country must raise the level of health care of everyone, no matter

where they live, of all races and ethnicities on a par with our white population and continue to raise that bar as well. He further went on to say that unless we do so and place more emphasis on prevention, we will never contain the dramatic increases in health care spending or improve the health of this Nation overall.

This is the message that we in the Congressional Black Caucus, together with our colleagues in the Hispanic Caucus, Native American Caucus and Asian Pacific Island Caucus, as well as the Progressive Caucus, have been trying to get across all along. I hope that hearing it from a Republican leader can finally have that message break through.

When the Congressional Black Caucus met with President Bush a few weeks ago, we tried to impress upon him the urgency of acting, not talking, but acting with budget and programs, to close the gaps in health care that weaken this country morally, economically and in terms of our national security. As we also told him, we tell our colleagues: Every year that we fail to live up to what is our moral obligation to do good, to heal, to feed and to clothe the least of these, as we have been called, we as a Congress, through our omission, are complicit in the premature, preventable deaths of close to 100,000 African Americans and other people of color every year.

The submission of the President's budget is only the beginning of a process. It began wrong, but we can and must make it right. All we are asking for is a budget that is fair, that is just and that finally brings about the equality for all that our country has promised.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for the time.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is sort of an expert in this area.

What does my colleague think of the fact that repeatedly the Republican message has begun to bang away at the fact they are going to provide more money for Community Health Centers? I have several good Community Health Centers in my district, but they are offered as a substitute for any of the real health care benefits financed by the Federal Government.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, with the level funding, from Maternal and Child Healthy Starts with cuts in many of the prevention programs, with the elimination of funding for training the physicians, the doctors and nurses and other health providers, from our communities who have the cultural sensitivity to deal with the diverse populations that use the Community Health Centers, there will be empty buildings.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, they are robbing Peter but not giving it all to Paul.

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Yes, exactly.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, first let me thank my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), for organizing, really, this opportunity to educate the public and the administration and, of course, Congress with regard to the most pressing issues confronting our country as it relates to this budget, especially as it relates to those who have not benefited from the huge tax cuts.

Mr. Speaker, few traditions are more significant in our democracy than the President's annual submission of the budget. It provides us really a window on the President's and the administration's values and their priorities for this term. It also sets the tone and the standard for us in Congress by marking the spending levels for this year.

Now, I quite frankly had to go back and reread the President's State of the Union speech, because I wanted to see how consistent this budget was in terms of what he presented to the country in his State of the Union address. So I would like to mention a couple of those points tonight.

First of all, of course, in his State of the Union message he said that one of the deepest values of our country is compassion. I think we have heard that tonight this President's 2006 budget shows very little compassion. Instead of sending us a budget for the American people, for the people, this President has sent us a budget that really turns our back on the people and on their future. It sacrifices our children, our seniors, our security, our veterans, our environment and our economy in order to advance special interests and to make permanent tax cuts for the wealthy.

In his State of the Union speech, the President also said over the next several months on issue after issue, let us do what Americans have always done and build a better world for our children and our grandchildren. Well, let me tell my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, how does cutting \$5 billion in housing, how does eliminating funding for Hope VI, how does cutting funding by 50 percent for the disabled in terms of housing, how does this create a better world for our children and for our grandchildren?

The assault on the poor in this budget is appalling, and the cuts keep coming. The President's budget has cut Community Development Block Grants, has cut housing assistance for people living with HIV and AIDS. It has cut the lead paint abatement program. It cuts the fair housing program. It cuts rural housing initiatives. It cuts Native American housing. It cuts the Youth Build program. It has eliminated the empowerment zone and brownfield programs, and this is just the tip of the iceberg.

Again, going back to the President's State of the Union speech, how does this budget build a better world for our children and for our grandchildren?

Also in his State of the Union speech, the President acknowledged, rightfully

so, the devastatingly high rates of HIV and AIDS in the African American community, and Mr. Speaker, we acknowledge the President's leadership in calling on Congress to reauthorize the Ryan White CARE Act. During last week's State of the Union speech, the President indicated this, but again, I must say, looking at this budget, it offers very little for our minority AIDS initiative.

He proposes a \$10 million increase in the Ryan White CARE Act, \$10 million. This is far short of what is needed. We need at least \$513 million more this year to keep people off of waiting lists and to prevent new infections. In short, we need a budget that provides a minimum of about \$2.6 billion if we are really serious about addressing this HIV and AIDS crisis here in America. A \$10 million increase in the Ryan White CARE Act really does not signal the seriousness of this crisis.

Furthermore, we need more money for the minority AIDS initiative. Ever since this President has been in office, we have flat-funded the minority AIDS initiative at \$407 million. We need at least \$610 million this year if the President is really serious, again as he said in his State of the Union address, if he is serious about addressing the HIV/AIDS pandemic in our communities.

□ 2045

The budget does not reflect what the President has said in terms of the seriousness of this in our country.

Also, in the State of the Union, the President devoted a large portion of his speech to address Social Security. And as he described it, Social Security is one of America's most important institutions, a symbol of trust, he said, between the generations, and that it is headed towards bankruptcy. Well, even if we discount the fact that the President simply is incorrect, and I believe he is and many of us do, in his assessment about Social Security's solvency, his budget for 2006 does not even include the cost of his estimated \$1.3 trillion proposal for Social Security privatization over the decade after its enactment. This is a critical omission.

And the President said in his State of the Union speech that a taxpayer dollar must be spent wisely or not at all. Well, let me just say parenthetically, I believe not only should tax dollars be spent wisely but they should be spent with compassion, as he talked about earlier, not or not at all. But in this budget, these cuts that the President has proposed are not even wise, let alone compassionate.

Also, the President's State of the Union speech was about freedom and democracy; very grandiose statements he made. But I wondered when I was listening to him why justice, as a value, why this was omitted really from these grand statements in the State of the Union. Well, quite frankly, after reading and reviewing this budget, I can see why. It explains why. Because there is no justice in this budget.

So, Mr. Speaker, I think we need to go back to the drawing board, and we need to remind the President about his State of the Union message. And I would say, as many have said before, that we want not just a budget but a just budget.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her comments, and I would like to go back to my introduction where I said that the budget is a statement of the morality of America. What our moral position is is stated in the budget. The beautiful rhetoric of the inaugural address, the beautiful rhetoric of the State of the Union address, they must be followed up with concrete statements of how we spend our money. That is not the case. We spend our money quite differently from the high standard that was set in the President's inaugural address and in his State of the Union address.

Mr. Speaker, I yield now to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. I have a couple of questions for the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) and for the chairman, but before that we have had several discussions about the budget and what the budget reflects.

Mr. Speaker, when you are in a group or organization, or in the church, you can tell something about the people as to how they spend their money. It is clear that this Bush administration does not value the people that are paying the bills. They do not value the people that are paying the bills. All you have to do is follow the dollars. Every single domestic program is cut under this administration.

My question has to go back to starting with Social Security. My question, one, pertains to the Social Security program that we just celebrated a few years ago, how many years it has been in existence, the most successful program in the history of this country. I guess I am the only Member that remembers that the Republicans said that they want to see the program wither on the vine.

Would my colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), explain how old the program is and why it was started in the first place.

Mr. OWENS. Well, Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentlewoman that it is more than 60 years old. And if I had a glass of wine here, I would drink a toast to it. Let us drink a toast to an aging lady in her 60s. That is really the prime these days. The most beautiful program that ever was developed, Social Security. It does not need an extreme makeover. It may need a few repairs here and there, but it does not need the kind of demolition that the President is planning for Social Security, the greatest program we have ever had. And we should all work and fight together to keep it.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I might add that we would have 50 percent more of

our seniors living in poverty were it not for Social Security. Our disabled rely on Social Security. Our survivors rely on Social Security, as a result of Social Security benefits. This does not need to be dismantled or privatized. It is a program that provides a safety net.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, my chief of staff and I were talking today about the program. He is a young man in his 40s, but his father died when he was a young man, and he was able to get that benefit that took care of him until he went to college. That is a benefit of the Social Security program. So it helps those people that have parents who die, and it also helps the disabled; is that correct?

Ms. LEE. That is correct. And I know many individuals who are disabled who would have a very dismal life had it not been for Social Security. Young people who are disabled are able to receive Social Security. It ensures a quality of life for those who, for whatever reason, have not been able to move forward. I do not want to see this touched for the disabled or for young people whose parents have died or for our senior citizens.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. I thank the gentleman for this discussion tonight.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I want to point out that among the programs eliminated, and I will submit a list of programs proposed for elimination in the education area, but among those programs are the Arts in Education program; Community Technology Centers, designed to close the digital gap between the poorer communities and the middle-class communities; the Javitz Gifted and Talented Education program, a tiny program, but many people complain there is nothing for the gifted, and so we need that. Regional Education Laboratories, which have existed for a long time, are going to be phased out. Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants, a program popular all across the Nation, which is proposed for elimination. TRIO Talent Search; TRIO Upward Bound program. The Vocational Education State Grants.

Drastic reductions are proposed in order to save money, as I said before. In order to save money to give more to the military, we are going to guarantee the security of the Nation by wiping out the programs that are the most beneficial for the development of our own population. The greatest resource that any nation can have is its own people, the people's development, the people's talent, the people's education. And we are turning our backs on that in this budget, which is a bad moral statement in comparison with what the President has said in his rhetoric in the inaugural address and in the State of the Union address.

The budget is a concrete statement. It is evidence of just how moral we are, and this budget falls short in many ways.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for allowing me the opportunity to have this discussion with my colleagues on a very important journey, road map, debate that will take place both in the House and the Senate.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to have been able to come to the floor and begin a discussion on the bipartisan efforts to pass a budget that would impact the American people in a positive way, but I think it is important to reiterate why we are standing here today. It is not because we want to cite the failings of the administration, but because we are concerned about the negative impact that this budget will have on millions and millions of Americans.

Let me refresh your memory, Mr. Speaker. We are going to be cutting in the President's budget, which will be debated now on the floor of the House, \$60 billion for Medicaid. That is not \$6 billion, not \$16 billion; but it is \$60 billion which includes those dollars for nursing home residents, those dollars for indigent mothers and their children, those dollars that cover the Children's Health Insurance Program that many States are already suffering because there is not enough money.

We will see a cut of 43 programs in education up to \$1.3 billion. That means that the extra burden on school districts will now accelerate. And those schools that are looking for additional funds for the increased population, it will not be there.

Veterans, the very people who have fought in Iraq and Afghanistan, now will find their care cut by \$1.2 billion over 5 years. And we note that that House committee has been reconfigured and therefore we do not have the kind of advocacy we look for.

Environmental Protection Agency, \$300 million. Department of Justice, the DNA labs the President spoke about, \$1.1 billion.

Let me say this: I applaud the community health clinics that will have a positive impact on Houston, and Texas in general, and many other cities the President has proposed. I applaud the dollars for Homeland Security. But, Mr. Speaker, we cannot in this budget pay for the needs of the American people by making the tax cuts permanent and taking \$1.5 trillion to \$2 trillion to change the Social Security System to a private special account.

I close by saying this to those who are listening to this debate: get engaged. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York and ask my colleagues to be a part of this debate. This budget can be changed. Social Security can be saved. And for those who think that the private account is worthy, spend for 40 years \$1,000, to the young people who might be listening; have invested \$99,000; give back to the United States \$79,000, and only receive \$21,000 for your annuity.

This budget must be changed. It must be a budget that is invested to help the American people. I thank the Speaker, and I look forward to the debate. I also thank the distinguished gentleman from New York and my colleagues who have been on the floor for their participation in this very worthy debate.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I submit herewith the list of programs slated for elimination, which I referred to earlier:

III. PROGRAMS PROPOSED FOR ELIMINATION

The 2006 request continues the practice of the Bush Administration—also consistent with previous administrations over the past 25 years—of proposing to eliminate or consolidate funding for programs that have achieved their original purpose, that duplicate other programs, that may be carried out with flexible State formula grant funds, or that involve activities that are better or more appropriately supported through State, local, or private resources. In addition, the government-wide Program Assessment Rating Tool, or PART, helps focus funding of Department of Education programs that generate positive results for students and that meet strong accountability standards. For 2006, PART findings were used to redirect funds from ineffective programs to more effective activities, as well as to identify reforms to help address programs weaknesses.

The following table shows the programs proposed for elimination in the President's 2006 budget request. Termination of these 48 programs frees up almost \$4.3 billion—based on 2005 levels—for reallocation to more effective, higher-priority activities. Following the table is a brief summary of each program and the rationale for its elimination.

<i>Program Terminations</i>	
[2005 BA in millions]	
Alcohol Abuse Reduction .....	\$32.7
Arts in Education .....	35.6
B.J. Stupa Olympic Scholarships .....	1.0
Byrd Honors Scholarship .....	40.7
Civic Education .....	29.4
Close Up Fellowships .....	1.5
Community Technology Centers .....	5.0
Comprehensive School Reform ....	205.3
Demonstration Projects for Students with Disabilities .....	6.9
Educational Technology State Grants .....	496.0
Elementary and Secondary School Counseling .....	34.7
Even Start .....	225.1
Excellence in Economic Education .....	1.5
Exchanges with Historic Whaling and Trading Partners .....	8.6
Federal Perkins Loan Cancellations .....	66.1
Foreign Language Assistance .....	17.9
Foundations for Learning .....	1.0
Gaining Early Awareness and Readiness for Undergraduate Programs .....	306.5
Interest Subsidy Grants .....	1.5
Javits Gifted and Talented Education .....	11.0
Leveraging Educational Assistance Partnerships .....	65.6
Literacy Programs for Prisoners .....	5.0
Menal Health Integration in School .....	5.0
Migrant and Seasonal Farmworkers .....	2.3
National Writing Project .....	20.3
Occupational and Employment Information .....	9.3
Parental Informational and Resources Centers .....	41.9
Projects with Industry .....	21.6

*Program Terminations—Continued*

Ready to Teach .....	14.3
Recreational Programs .....	2.5
Regional Educational Laboratories .....	66.1
Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grant .....	437.4
Schooll Dropout Prevention .....	4.9
School Leadership .....	14.9
Smaller Learning Communities ..	94.5
Star Schools .....	20.8
State Grants for Incarcerated Youth Offenders .....	21.8
Support Employment State Grants .....	37.4
Teacher Quality Enhancement ....	68.3
Tech-Prep Demonstration .....	4.9
Tech-Prep Education State Grants .....	105.8
Thurgood Marshall Legal Educational Opportunity Program .....	3.0
TRIO Talent Search .....	144.9
TRIO Upward Bound .....	312.6
Underground Railroad Program ..	2.2
Vocational Education National Programs .....	11.8
Vocational Education State Grants .....	1,194.3
Women's Educational Equity .....	3.0
<b>Total .....</b>	<b>4,264.4</b>

*Program Descriptions*

[Figures reflect 2005 BA in millions]

Alcohol Abuse Reduction .....	\$32.7
Supports programs to reduce alcohol abuse in secondary schools. These programs may be funded through other Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities National Programs and State Grants for Innovative Programs.	
Arts in Education .....	\$35.6
Makes non-competitive awards to VSA arts and the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts as well as competitive awards for national demonstrations and Federal leadership activities to encourage the integration of the arts into the school curriculum. Eliminating funding for the program is consistent with Administration policy of terminating small categorical programs with limited impact in order to fund higher priorities. Arts education programs may be funded under other authorities.	
B.J. Stupak Olympic Scholarships .....	\$1.0
Provides financial assistance to athletes who are training at the United States Olympic Education Center or one of the United States Olympic Training Centers and who are pursuing a postsecondary education. Athletes can receive grant, work-study, and loan assistance through the Department's postsecondary student aid programs. Rated Results Not Demonstrated by the PART due to lack of performance data and program design deficiencies, including its duplication of other Federal student aid programs.	
Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to vehemently state my disappointment, frustration, and objection to the FY 2006 budget submitted by President Bush.	

When President Bush submitted his 2006 budget to Congress on Monday he said, "The taxpayers of America don't want us spending our money into something that's not achieving results." I couldn't agree more. The unnecessary tax cuts for the rich and an optional war with Iraq are not producing results.

The President's 2006 budget request slashes social programs while increasing military spending. Yet not a single dime of his FY 2006 budget is earmarked for Iraq. Instead, those costs are hidden from the American people in the form of an \$80 billion emergency supplemental request to Congress. This budget will severely impact Texas citizens negatively, as well as other American citizens. They deserve better.

Mr. Speaker, never before has America faced such an array of issues that demand creative, competent leadership. But the Administration has pursued solutions that serve only to escalate the problems we are facing. Programs and policies that not only provide assistance for the poor but for a large portion of the American people who need help to keep their heads above water are under attack. On the cutting block by this Administration are grants for college tuition; housing assistance under Section 8; food stamps; health care for the uninsured.

Eight million Americans are unemployed. But Republicans passed a new set of tax breaks that reward corporations who send jobs overseas. About 45 million Americans have no health insurance. But Republicans have proposed Health Savings Accounts that benefit a wealthy few, encourage employers to drop insurance coverage and will increase the number of uninsured by 350,000. Over 8 million children nationwide are struggling to meet new national education standards. But Republicans refused to provide promised help to our schools, leaving millions of children without the help they need in reading and math.

America needs a national security policy that is as strong and brave and as decent as the heroes who serve in uniform. We must make sure that they have the training and equipment they need to get the job done right.

Democrats are working to build a future that is worthy of the trust of the American people, the sacrifices of our men and women in uniform, and the aspirations of all of America's children.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York?

There was no objection.

PRESIDENT'S BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, it is certainly a privilege to stand here tonight and to talk with my colleagues

and discuss what we have going on with the President's budget that has been submitted, and also with the desire of the President and of our leadership to begin to get their hands around the spending issue and to address the spending issue.

Mr. Speaker, one of the things I hear regularly from my constituents in Tennessee is it is time to stop spending so much of the taxpayers' money. And one of the things that people in my district constantly remind me of, and a message they want me to bring to Washington is: it is not the government's money. The government is not creating a product; the government is not selling a product. It is the taxpayers' money, and they want accountability with that money.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this morning I think that the taxpayers across this country woke to the kickoff of a national scare campaign, and it is aimed squarely at the President's budget and at this Congress' efforts to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in government. Listen to some of these headlines that we found in the newspapers out there.

This one from Illinois: "Bush Budget Includes Steep Cuts." In Tennessee a paper said: "Bush Budget Axes Scores of Programs." In Oregon, news sources said: "Domestic Programs Sacrificed in the Budget." And in California, newspapers declared: "The President's Budget Proposal Cuts Vital Funds For Safety Net."

Now, all of this is coming about, Mr. Speaker, because finally, finally this Congress and this President are answering a need and a desire the American people have, and that is to reform government, to reduce the amount of money that we are spending, and for us to come up with a 21st-century delivery of government services that is more effective and more efficient, that is going to meet the needs of government, that is going to avail itself of new technologies, and that is going to be fair to the taxpayer.

That is what they want. They want to be certain that we, the Members of the U.S. House, are going to be good stewards of the tax dollars that they send here. Because they want to see a system that is more fair to the taxpayers, to the working men and women that every single day get up and leave their homes and go to work; and who, with every single paycheck, look at that paycheck and look at the amount of money that is withheld from that paycheck to do, what? To fund government services.

□ 2100

Mr. Speaker, since when did eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse in government become a bad thing? And to listen to some of my colleagues here on the floor this evening, one would begin to think that trying to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal Government is a bad thing. But my constituents and millions of Americans

think this is the right thing to do and now is the right time to do it.

Listening to my colleagues speak tonight, one would begin to think that demanding results, demanding positive outcomes of government programs is a negative. But I hear from constituents and Tennesseans every single day that say let us demand results. Let us be certain that programs are producing the right outcomes that we expect from them. That is a positive, not a negative; and the American people are ready to see that kind of accountability. Why, Mr. Speaker? Because it is their money. It is their money that they have earned that is coming into the government coffers and is being spent on programs that are to benefit the American people.

I would like for every American to know that President Bush and this Republican Congress are not content to sit idly by while even a penny of taxpayer dollars is wasted, and let me tell Members there is significantly more than a penny of waste that we can target in this budget.

I am proud of the leadership of this House, the Senate, and the President and his team for saying we are going to roll the spending back. I agree with them. We can save America one dollar at a time, and that is what we are going to do. We are going to take these first steps and put it on the road, saving America one dollar at a time.

What those headlines should be saying is this: President Bush and the Republican Congress believe taxpayer dollars ought to be spent wisely or not spent at all. Sounds like something ours grandmothers probably told us. If you are going to do it, do it right. If you are going to do it, do it right the first time. If you are going to make some money, save it. If you are going to spend it, spend it wisely or do not spend it. In Tennessee we call that good old common sense. It makes sense, but I guess that is why a lot of the liberals do not like it, because it is good old common sense.

That is what this is all about. It is about our firm belief that the American people work far too hard and far too long to have half their earnings taken in taxes and then squandered by the government. Taxes, that is the single largest part of a family budget. They spend more on taxes than they do for food, for education, or for transportation. Taxes, and it is an imperative that we be good stewards of that money, that we be accountable for that money, and that we look for every single possible opportunity to save and manage wisely those taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, according to the Congressional Research Service, there are approximately 1,200 Federal Government programs, and I hope Members heard me say approximately because that is exactly what I meant to say. There are so many programs out there, we do not even know how many programs we have. We know we have approximately 1,200 programs.

So what our President is saying is, all right, folks, let us look at 150 of these, the really egregious examples of waste, and let us find some savings. Let us start to whittle away and find what works and what does not work. Let us look at the programs that have outlived their purpose, their usefulness, let us find the things that are duplicative, let us find the things that have turned out to be failures and are not producing the outcomes that we want and have not yielded an acceptable return for the investment of taxpayer dollars that have gone into those programs.

There is not a single thing radical here. As I said earlier, it is common sense, it is fiscal responsibility and the Republicans are committed to it. Why should an agency have its budget automatically increased year after year? Most people do not get automatic increases every year. Ask a lot of the folks working in my district. It is not a given that they are going to get a raise every single year, so why should an underperforming Federal Department get a budget boost every 12 months?

For too long in Washington, a Federal spending increase has been a certain thing. It has been as certain as the sun rises and that it is going to set in the evening. It is time to reform that process.

Here are some great examples of things that we need to get behind: the Forest Service. They could not figure out for what purpose it spent \$215 million out of its \$3.4 billion operating budget in fiscal year 1995. They could not figure it out. They did not know what they spent \$215 million on.

Has anyone mentioned that since 1992 the Rural Utility Services Electricity Loan Program has canceled \$4.9 billion in debt? That essentially means it loaned \$4.9 billion of taxpayer money and then said do not worry about paying us back. CEOs go to prison for things like that.

Did Members know that the State Children's Health Insurance Program, the SCHIP program, is currently insuring childless adults in two States at a cost to taxpayers of at least \$330 million? The program, a good program, was created to provide health insurance to uninsured children, not uninsured adults.

This is not an isolated problem. We have other examples, and it is not a rare thing that programs waste taxpayer money. In fact, the Committee on Government Reform where I served last Congress found that the Office of Personnel and Management's Inspector General recovers \$12 in fraudulent spending for every \$1 spent by its office. That is just the tip of the iceberg.

The Veterans Administration, we know there are \$3 billion in outstanding loans and that processing errors and program fraud account for \$125 million annually in VA pension overpayments. These overpayments comprise about 4 percent of the \$2.9 billion

in total pension benefits that the VA paid out in fiscal year 2001.

Mr. Speaker, given this information, how can we not work to reduce spending and insert accountability? How can we not say to these agencies no more funding increases until you prove you can handle what you have already got?

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to have an expert on some of these issues join us this evening here on the floor. The gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) is out of Mississippi's first district and he is a part of the Republican leadership here in Congress. He does a wonderful job for the people of Mississippi and does a wonderful job for our leadership. He is a deputy majority whip, a member of the Committee on Appropriations; and he knows a lot about our budget and what we can do to work on being more accountable in our government budget system.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) for that kind word of introduction.

I have to observe what a refreshing contrast we have seen tonight between the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and those who occupied the previous hour of Special Orders on this floor tonight because of the great difference in the philosophy of government evidenced by all of the speakers tonight.

The gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) has outlined a conservative philosophy of efficiency with the taxpayer dollars, not taking the first answer at face value but looking for savings wherever we can find them because that is what the taxpayers expect us to do.

What we witnessed in the previous hour was an example of what we hear from our liberal Democrat friends year after year. I had to think as I was listening to them that these are the same arguments that we hear over and over again from the other side of the aisle. They say we are not spending enough. Regardless of the fact that Federal spending almost always increases, it is never high enough for our friends on the Democrat side of the aisle. They always, always want to spend even more.

Whatever tax level the President and the Republicans propose, the Democrats always want to tax more. They want to raise taxes on the American people. However high taxes might be, we can always count on our friends to make the argument year in and year out that they want tax rates to be higher. They may shed crocodile tears about deficits, but their solution to deficits is always higher taxes, always higher taxation, and their solution to deficits is never ever to find a way to make savings for the American people.

Their arguments are always the same, and I must admit more often than not their predictions are off the mark too, Mr. Speaker, their predictions about how the President's budget will affect the poor, the disadvantaged, the unemployed, the econ-

omy as a whole. We heard those predictions, those same dire predictions last year, and what has happened? As a matter of fact, what has happened is exactly what we on the Republican side of the aisle predicted: healthy growth in our economy, the gross domestic product of a sustained rate of now 4 percent continuing on now for several months, and the unemployment rate falling. Job creation is at a record high in the United States of America, and I am proud of that. It has come in spite of the dire warnings we had from our friends on the left who predicted last year when we tried to hold the line on budgeting that we would have all sorts of dire consequences for the American people.

One argument that was made previously that cannot go unchallenged is this argument about the term "withering on the vine." I think some people in this town believe if you say something often enough, it will take on truth. As a matter of fact, no Representative on this side of the aisle has ever advocated Social Security withering on the vine. It is just factually inaccurate to say such a thing. We were actually accused of saying that not with regard to Social Security but with regard to Medicare, and it was not true about Medicare.

What a Speaker of the House at one time said should wither on the vine is this HCFA program which we have now renamed CMA that could command and control a health care system where government tries to manage each and every aspect of it. That is what he said should wither on the vine so Americans could have more choices about the way they get their health care.

Mr. Speaker, I am going to challenge every time I can this allegation that Republicans wanted either Social Security or Medicare to wither on the vine; it did not.

I want to applaud the President and my colleagues for saying tonight that we believe government can do better. We know there is waste and fraud and abuse in government spending.

□ 2115

And every single penny that is wasted, every single penny that is subject to fraud is money that could go to programs that actually do benefit Americans. And it is money that could go to tax reduction. It is money that could go to deficit reduction.

So central to the President's budget that he submitted to us this week is the fact that the President and Republicans in Congress are dedicated to providing stronger financial management and oversight for Federal programs. This should not be controversial. It ought to be a common-sense, bipartisan approach to Federal spending, and we invite all Americans to help us.

I hope that Americans will be contacting Members of this Special Order after tonight's Special Order, Mr. Speaker, and I hope that the phones will be ringing off the walls in congres-

sional offices with Americans giving us examples of the way they know we can save money. My constituents instinctively know that this Federal Government is so big, so large, so unmanageable that there have got to be ways that we can effect savings.

So I look forward to this Special Order tonight. We have got, I guess, around 40 or 45 more minutes. I intend to stick around, Mr. Speaker, and if the gentlewoman from Tennessee will recognize me again, we might be able to cite some very specific examples that I think she might find interesting about ways in which we believe that we can begin to look for additional savings for the American people.

I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I appreciate the gentleman's comments so very much, and I appreciate his insights and his wisdom that he brings to the discussion.

And he is exactly right. Government can do better, and it is our responsibility to challenge government to do better, to challenge our systems of accounting, to challenge our systems that we are using to track the agencies and the outcomes that are there. Everything is funded by the taxpayer's dollar, and we do want to invite the American people and our constituents to join us and be a part of this team as we look for ways to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in our system. We want to be certain that for future generations, for my children, for my grandchildren, that this is a healthy, vibrant nation where hope and opportunity continue to live and continue to be realized by every American man, woman, and child who seeks to find that American Dream.

And I agree with the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) that all too often some of the liberal elites, those that are government elitists, their answer to everything is, just give us a little more money and we can make it right. And we know that does not work. Higher taxes do not yield greater outcomes. What yields greater outcomes is finding ways to do things better, constantly challenging ourselves to do things better, constantly working to find ways to root out that waste, fraud, and abuse that have become so rampant in our governmental entities.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined tonight by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), who joined me in our freshman class in the 108th Congress, and he has been a leader in the effort to target waste, fraud, and abuse in the Federal system. He has done a tremendous amount of work on this issue. He has made it his cause and his challenge. He is a member of the Committee on the Budget and lends to that committee much of his expertise on how we can go about creating a better budget process and strengthening our government and strengthening our freedom for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) for his thoughts.

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. And I certainly want to recognize her for her great leadership in the United States Congress in helping root out waste and fraud and abuse. Her work on the Committee on Government Reform is known throughout the United States Congress. She has been a champion to make sure that there is accountability for taxpayer dollars so that we do something in this institution to protect the family budget from the Federal budget, and I appreciate her leadership.

And I also appreciate the leadership of the gentleman from Mississippi, who spoke earlier. I had the pleasure to serve on the Committee on the Budget with him, and he has been a champion of less government and more freedom on that particular committee.

Mr. Speaker, I especially tonight want to thank our President. There is no doubt in my mind why our President was reelected. He is a man of vision and a man of bold leadership. It is under his leadership that we are going to be able to not only strengthen Social Security for my parents, who are in their 70s, but save it for my children who are both in diapers and know a whole lot more about Big Bird and Barney than they do about Social Security.

And I appreciate the President's leadership on this budget because the only way that we are going to be able to save Social Security for future generations is to do something to rein in the growth of the Federal Government, to root out that waste and that fraud and that abuse and duplication that we know permeates every single nook and cranny of the Federal Government.

For years and years, decades and decades, Washington has squandered money out of the Social Security trust fund. It is time for Washington to put it back. And the way that Washington puts it back is to rein in the growth of government.

I have listened to part of the debate earlier this evening, and I think it is very important, Mr. Speaker, that we first agree on what the facts are. We heard a lot this evening about cuts here and cuts there and cuts here and cuts there. What I find interesting is in the budget that the President is proposing, government is still going to grow. It is going to grow 3.6 percent more in the next budget than it did over this budget. What the President is doing, though, and something that it is absolutely novel in this town, is, it is not going to grow quite as fast as it has in the past.

Most people would be very interested to know, if they just look in their rear-view mirror for a decade, government has grown on average 4.5 percent a year. That is over twice the rate of inflation. In other words, if we are happy with the government we had 10 years

ago, its level of spending, if we just wanted to keep that same government, we would have grown at the rate of inflation. Instead, we have done almost twice that.

And perhaps more importantly, Mr. Speaker, the government budget has grown almost three times faster than the family budget over this same time period as measured by median worker income.

I have a hard time believing and my constituents in the Fifth District of Texas have a hard time believing, why, with the exception of a national emergency, does the Federal Government budget have to grow so much faster than the family budget? And guess what? They are related.

That money is coming from somewhere. It is coming out of the family budget, and it is going into the Federal budget.

What we call mandatory spending now amounts to 11 percent of our economy for the first time in the history of America. What we call discretionary spending in this body is now approximately 7 percent of our economy for the first time in a decade. We are spending over \$20,000 for American households for only the fourth time in the entire history of the United States of America and for the first time since World War II.

It would be wonderful, Mr. Speaker, if all of this money that we were spending somehow magically turned into love and happiness and kindness. Unfortunately, all too often it does not. We have thousands and thousands and thousands of Federal programs spread across hundreds and hundreds of agencies. I defy anybody in this town to be able to tell me, what do they all do? And the examples we have of the waste and the fraud and the abuse and duplication are just profound. We read about it in our local newspaper every day.

It was not that long ago that we picked up our newspaper to find out that our Federal Government with our money spent \$800,000 for an outhouse in one public park and the toilet did not even flush. The only thing it flushed was hard-earned taxpayer money down the drain, \$800,000. And then we read about the millions and millions that were recently spent for an indoor rain forest in Iowa. And this does not even talk about a number of the questionable studies that we end up funding with taxpayer dollars.

I am not sure who thought up the use of taxpayer funding to figure out how and why college students decorate their dorm rooms. I am not sure exactly what vital Federal interest was being served by that. I think a number of my constituents would be surprised to learn that we spent over \$2 million of their money to study the sexual habits of older men. Mr. Speaker, I do not particularly care to know what is in that study, and I feel fairly confident that my taxpayers in the Fifth Congressional District do not really care to pay for it.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me talk a little bit about duplication. We have over 342 different Federal economic development programs, 342 at last count. That is probably 342 different executive directors and deputy directors. How many different Federal economic development programs do we need? And, by the way, a very good question that needs to be asked is, what does the Federal Government know about economic development anyway?

The Federal Government, at last count, administers 50 different programs to aid the homeless, 50 different programs spread across eight different Federal agencies. Four agencies administer 23 programs offering housing. Six agencies administer 26 programs offering food and nutrition. Three agencies and ten programs attempt to protect homelessness. Three different agencies, 17 different programs provide mental health treatment. And, Mr. Speaker, this is a very important cause. We need to make sure that something is done about the homeless in our society. But how many different programs do we need trying to do the same, exact thing? It just speaks out for some kind of consolidation.

Drug control, we have more than 50 Federal agencies responsible for waging the war on drugs. Early childhood development, we have more than 90 different programs spread across 11 different agencies. Job training, seven agencies and 40 different programs. Mr. Speaker, the list goes on and on and on, and that is just talking about duplication.

Some of the fraud that goes on that I believe our constituents would be shocked to find out, in the last year of the Clinton administration, the Department of Housing and Urban Development just lost 10 percent of their budget, roughly \$3 billion lost in improper payments. I mean, can one imagine for \$3 billion how many Americans could have paid the down payment on their first home? Instead, government just squandered the money.

Why does this happen? It happens because government does not do anything as well as we the people. As one of my colleagues said, it is intoxicating to spend other people's money, and unfortunately, there are a number of Members of this body that are quite intoxicated with that power to go out and spend other people's money. And it is always easy to do it.

And speaking of other news articles that I have seen recently, I saw where a government official paid a taxidermy service with taxpayer funds to prepare a shoulder mount of a mule deer head, and according to the General Accounting Office, the deer was road kill and found by the official on the side of the road. And there are Members in this body who want to raise people's taxes to pay for more of that. It is example after example.

Recently, the Republicans in this House finally cracked down on one abuse, and that is, for years and years

and years, the Medicare program paid almost four times as much for a wheelchair as the Veterans' Administration did. Mr. Speaker, how could that happen? We scratch the surface and what we discover is that one agency would competitively bid and the other would not. I wonder how many small businesses across Texas and Kansas and Oregon and Vermont would be able to stay in business if they did not competitively bid their supplies? Fortunately, we managed to discover that one and do something about it.

I could go on and on all evening, Mr. Speaker, but the point is that these are just a handful of examples. If we cannot find 1 or 2 or 3 percent of waste in a government budget, Mr. Speaker, we are simply not looking.

□ 2130

We are just not looking. And if we are going to save Social Security for future generations, we have to moderate the growth of the Federal budget.

Now, again, liberals in this body are going to say the President is cutting here and he is cutting there. But you need to listen to the language of Washington, because it is not the language of the American people. When people in Washington say "cut," what they mean is it is not growing as much as they would like to see it growing.

It is kind of like if your son comes up to you and says, Gee, Dad, you are giving me a \$5 a week allowance, and I really need \$10. You sit there and you think about it a while and you say, Well, Son, you make a good case. I have listened to what your expenses are. I am not going to give you \$10 a week, but I will raise you to \$7 a week. He says, Gee, Dad, that is a \$3 cut. Don't you know I wanted \$10? That is the language of Washington.

So I hope as the American people listen to the debate over this budget, that they listen very, very carefully, because what liberals call cuts really tend to be a moderation in the growth of government.

Again, if we are going to save Social Security for our children, we are going to have to moderate the growth of government. As my esteemed colleague from Tennessee was saying earlier, where is it chiseled in stone that we have to spend more money next year on a program than we spent last year? I have not read it in the Constitution, I did not read it in the Declaration of Independence, I have not read it in the Budget Act. But there are people here that say that if you care about farmers, or if you care about veterans, or if you care about school children, the only way you can show it is to spend more money next year than you did last year, regardless of what the results are, regardless of whether any kind of standards of accountability are being met.

So, again, Mr. Speaker, as people are telling us that all these budgets have been cut, they may be interested to know, for example, that over the last

10 years, education spending has increased 128 percent. It does not sound like a cut to me. Agricultural spending has increased 42 percent over the last 10 years. It does not sound like a cut to me. Health and Human Services has grown by 80 percent. It does not sound like a cut to me. The Energy Department has grown by 56 percent. It does not sound like a cut to me. Agency after agency after agency has seen large increases in their budget for the last decade.

What we really have to be asking ourselves are two different things: What is the essential role of government in the free society, and how can government most efficiently meet those goals?

It is time, again, Mr. Speaker, that we do what the President wants us to do, and that is to moderate the growth of the Federal Government, so we can start to root out all the examples of waste, fraud, and abuse and be accountable to the people who work hard back in our districts and send this money to Washington.

Again, there is so much of this throughout the entirety of the budget; and if we only start to moderate the growth of Washington, then we can start to root some of this out. And we must do this. Our deficit is too high; our debt is too high. We need to save Social Security.

Yet Democrats who will talk about the deficit and decry the deficit, all they want to do is increase more spending, more taxes. They tell us that tax relief is the reason that we have a deficit. Well, I would invite them to go talk to the people at the IRS, talk to the people at Treasury. What you will discover is that tax revenues are up. We cut tax rates and tax revenues came up because we promoted economic growth. Tax revenues are up almost 10 percent over last year, because more people are saving and they are working and they are investing. Tax relief is part of the deficit solution, not part of the deficit problem.

Besides that, it is the deficit which is a symptom. Spending is the disease. By any measure whatsoever, Mr. Speaker, spending is absolutely out of control in Washington D.C.

In some respects, this is not a debate about spending. What it really is is a debate about who is going to do the spending. All my colleagues would like to see more money spent on education, housing, and health care; but we are not indifferent as to who does the spending. Bureaucrats and liberals want Washington to do the spending. We want American families to do the spending. We know who has our children's best interest for the future in mind, and it is not Washington. It is our constituents back home.

We must remember what Ronald Reagan once said, and that is the closest thing to eternal life on Earth is a Federal program. We need to change that, Mr. Speaker, for the sake of our children, for the sake of Social Secu-

rity, and for the sake of the Republic. I appreciate again the opportunity to speak out about the budget and to speak about ways we can protect the family budget from the Federal budget. I appreciate the gentlewoman from Tennessee for yielding, and I appreciate her great leadership on this issue.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) for being here to talk with us this evening and reminding us of some points that are so very important. I hear from my constituents, as he does, about that language of Washington and understanding when something is actually a reduction and when something is just slowed growth when some of the spending has been moderated. The gentleman is so exactly right.

What we would like to do, what the American people would like for us to do, is root out that waste, that fraud, that abuse of the system; get rid of the duplication of programs; eliminate the bureaucracy here that soaks up the money and allow that money to go to the local programs where the rubber meets the road and be certain that the dollars are spent wisely. As I said earlier, spend them wisely, or not at all; make sure we are making good decisions and being good stewards.

The gentleman mentioned a little bit about economic development and tax relief. As the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) said earlier, it is the reduction in taxes that has helped to spur economic growth, which is such a vitally important part of working on waste, fraud and abuse; the fact that we have a growing economy.

The other part, that we reduce spending; that we take a good solid commonsense approach to this; that we create the right environment for business to be successful; and that we continue to reduce programs that are not helpful to that, that add to the cost of free enterprise, that slow down the process of delivering government services. These are good, commonsense approaches.

I do applaud our President and our leadership for taking a stand and moving us in this direction.

Mr. Speaker, we are joined also tonight by a new Member of this body, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY), and we are so pleased to have him here with us. He is out of Texas' Eleventh District. I particularly like the fact that he has brought a lot of common sense to Congress with him. He is a good old Texas Aggie from Texas A&M, spent some time in the U.S. military, has appreciation for freedom, for protecting freedom, and understands the importance of protecting individual freedom and free enterprise.

At this time I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CONAWAY).

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee and also want to compliment the two previous speakers on the excellent job they did in setting out some of the things that we all want to talk about.

In the interest of fair disclosure, though, I do need to correct one thing. I went to Texas A&M at Commerce, Texas, which is actually the second largest institution in the A&M system. We were the Lions, not the Aggies. In fair disclosure, I need to set the record straight on that.

Mr. Speaker, I stand tonight in support of our efforts to aggressively eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse in our Federal spending. I am a CPA by profession. I have over 30 years of practice in helping clients and others deal with this issue in the world outside of government, and it is incredibly important in that arena, as it is in Federal Government.

I once spent 5 years working with President George W. Bush as his business partner in Midland, Texas, the chief financial officer of the oil and gas exploration company that we co-owned, and it was an exercise in meeting payrolls and providing jobs for people of west Texas, but doing so in a cost-effective and efficient manner.

We were getting other people's money to spend in the oil business to drill with, and it was incumbent upon us to spend those dollars as if we were spending our own money, wisely and with an understanding of how scarce they were, because folks trusted us with that money.

We in Congress have much the same role in that regard. We take money away from people at the point of a gun, for the most part; but that should not relieve us of our obligations to spend that money as wisely as we possibly can.

I believe that is important that we in Congress aggressively approach the issue of balancing the Federal budget from a business perspective. President Bush and this Republican Congress, of which I am very proud to be a part, are committed to spending the American taxpayers' hard-earned money as wisely as we can.

We seem to hear a lot about opposition in Congress these days, not only opposition in Congress to cutting waste out of our budgets and out of our organizations, but we also see debates on Social Security reform, abusive lawsuit reform, funding our troops and much, much more. The opposition we face in these critical issues has become almost par for the course, and I find it quite personally disappointing that we are unable to reach any kind of common ground as we search for solutions to the issues and problems that face our Nation.

Now to the issue of eliminating waste, fraud, and abuse. Surely this is one area that both sides of the aisle can find common ground on, an area we can agree that every single tax dollar that we, as I mention, take away from the citizens of this country, the working citizens of this country, should be spent in a manner and on programs that we in Congress authorize and provide for. We should all agree on the importance of cutting waste, fraud, and abuse from Federal spending.

But, Mr. Speaker, it is imperative that every Member of Congress take this issue seriously. We are a little better than 2½ years past the passage of the Sarbanes-Oxley bill, which looked at fraud in the public arena, publicly traded companies. There are men and women today who are on trial for committing fraud within that arena, and they are going to go to jail. They are going to do felony time for that. Those were serious issues, where they defrauded the investing public. We ought to be just as serious about that happening in Federal spending programs as we are in the public arena.

Here are some examples of waste, fraud, and abuse that hopefully everyone who listens would find offensive. Fraudulent tax returns. As I mentioned, I am a CPA and I have spent 30 years practicing, preparing tax returns for folks, helping them comply with the income Tax Code.

According to some recent data, more than a quarter of the tax returns claiming the earned income tax credit were prepared erroneously, accounting for up to 32 percent of the total claims for over a decade. The estimated errors and erroneous payments, should they have been eliminated, would have freed up \$8.1 billion of tax dollars that we took away from the taxpayers of this country.

Another area is in the General Services Administration. Improper payments and duplicate payments for GSA credit cards occur primarily because cards are typically used without preauthorization for purchases, and controls to reconcile these purchases are inadequate. We have got a recent example of a GSA employee who spent over \$32,000 during a 15-month period on her government credit card for personal expenses. We just simply cannot abide by that kind of conduct.

We have also got waste in the tax collection system. There is an overall problem with the way we collect taxes to fund the Federal Government. The problem lies in the complex Tax Code that we have built over some approaching 90 years, a little better than 90 years, I guess.

With a simpler and fairer Tax Code, we could take the tax industry that is kept in business by the need to comply with the Tax Code; we could take that industry on that is kept in business because of the needs of complying with this complex Tax Code.

The costs of complying with the Federal tax laws and regulations is roughly \$250 billion a year. I would argue while much of this money goes to my CPA brethren and me to help our clients, it does not help businesses do a better job, whatever business they are in. It does not help them provide better surfaces. Drilling contractors in my districts do not drill for energy better because of this. This is simply a burden that they have to pay, year after year, to allow us to collect taxes.

We ought to be able to come up with a tax collection scheme that is simple

and straightforward and fair and eliminates much of these compliance costs, which not only is a compliance cost, but generates a great deal of tax fraud in its compliance.

Waste, fraud, and abuse not only costs taxpayers unnecessarily; but there are two hidden costs I would like to speak of. The first cost is to legitimate participants in programs who may not get the services that they need because resources that would have otherwise gone to provide those services have been stolen or diverted by cheaters within the system.

As an example, in my hometown we have recently convicted a physician of fraudulently collecting fees from Medicare and Medicaid. This money, money that this person stole from the taxpayers of this country, should have gone to the providers in our area for treating patients, not for cheating.

□ 2145

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if the gentleman would yield on that point, because I appreciate him making that very good point.

There are programs which are designed to help those people that cannot help themselves or that are at a disadvantage for whatever reason. The gentleman makes an excellent point that when someone cheats on a program like that, they are not only cheating the government and the taxpayers, but they are cheating the neediest Americans, the most disadvantaged Americans.

I wonder if I could go back to another point the gentleman from Texas made. Did the gentleman say that there is a 25 percent error rate in the earned income tax credit?

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, no, I think I said there was a 32 percent.

Mr. WICKER. Oh, my goodness. Okay, it is even worse than I heard. So 32 percent of the earned income tax credit is claimed erroneously or fraudulently, one or the other; is that what you are saying?

Mr. CONAWAY. Either by intention or by accident.

Mr. WICKER. The gentleman is an expert, and I am sure he can explain better than I can the purpose of the earned income tax credit, which is a worthy purpose.

Mr. CONAWAY. Well, that is right. The earned income tax credit was an attempt by this Congress to credit folks at the lower end of the earning scale for taxes that they would have otherwise owed to the Federal Government. It is a credit that is targeted directly to those who make the least amount of money in our system, or in our economy, and phases out as folks' income goes up.

Mr. WICKER. And it is designed for parents of children and for working poor parents to help give them an extra opportunity. So when almost a third of the earned income tax credit money goes to people who are not entitled to it, certainly it hurts the people who

would be entitled to it. Perhaps we could give a more generous benefit to the EITC families. Perhaps we could give a tax cut to other working families, or pay down the debt.

So I just appreciate the gentleman mentioning that very good point. And when he said it, I had to go back to the earned income tax credit, a program we are not proposing to cut in any way, but would it not be wonderful if we could find that one-third that is going to people who are not entitled under the law?

Mr. CONAWAY. Well, the good news is, we found a third of them, and there should be processes in place within the Internal Revenue Service to get that money back so that it does, in fact, go either to pay off the debt or to fund other government services.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I probably interrupted the gentleman's train of thought, but I just had to jump in on that very excellent point he was making.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, while we are there, let me mention one other area of cost that waste, fraud, and abuse causes. Every single time we have an incident of waste or fraud, the regulatory agencies in charge put on layer upon layer of additional regulatory burdens to try to prevent it. I am not criticizing them for that, but that is just the way the system works. They try to figure out, how did this person cheat us, how can we put some additional regulations in place so that we do not let that happen again.

Every time that happens, legitimate providers of services for Medicare, as an example, or health care have to continue to comply with this increasing burden of regulations that we have put in place. This costs them money.

In a business, when you have to comply with a regulation of some sort, you either have to hire somebody to help you with that, a direct cost, or you have to allocate some resource within your organization who was previously working to help you make money and help you provide services to clients to comply with that. So either one of those costs those providers within the system money, and it is a direct result of cheaters in our system.

Now, I am not advocating that we do not go find the cheaters; let us go find them and point them out. But let us also help all of us understand that as people cheat, that increases government regulation; and all of us, particularly on this side of the aisle, campaign often on reducing government regulations, so there is a second cost that the cheaters put into the system.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I wonder if I could interject one other thing at this point. We are about to run out of time, and I do not know if we have complimented the leader of this Special Order quite enough. She has been very generous in her remarks about us.

Actually, the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) has been quite a champion in the area, particu-

larly, of credit card fraud within the Federal Government. I understand this amounts to almost \$100 million a year in lost taxpayers' money. The gentlewoman, I think, has introduced, along with the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), legislation to address this problem; is that not correct?

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Yes, that is correct. I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for bringing that point up, because we were concerned about the use of credit cards, primarily looking at what was taking place in DOD, and knowing that there was an opportunity there to rein that spending in.

Last year, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) and I worked with Senator GRASSLEY, and we did introduce a piece of legislation that would bring that into line, because we feel like there is an opportunity to save about \$100 million annually by putting some proper controls and working to be certain that there is not waste and that there is not fraud in the use of government credit cards by employees. That is just one of the many ways, just one of the small ways.

As I said earlier, we can go about this one dollar at a time, because those dollars mount up to hundreds, to thousands, to millions, to billions of dollars. And over a period of 5 years or 10 years, which is really not that long a period of time, it is substantial savings for the American taxpayer as they are working to fund government.

It is so important, I say to the gentleman, as he has pointed out, that government can do better and that we realize that and that we challenge our constituents to work with us on this.

It is also important that we participate by being certain that we stop funding things that do not work. If it is not working, if it is a program that is not working or has outlived its usefulness or is duplicated in other ways, then we need to look for ways to be certain that we are not funding things that are not working.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, I know also, I would say to the gentlewoman, that she finds as refreshing as I do the remarks of our new Member who came to us from a business background and who is determined to work with us on this type legislation, someone who knows of what he speaks when he says he has taken other people's money and had to invest it wisely and make sure that it was used efficiently.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield for just a quick point, it is so refreshing to see members of the freshman class come in and join us on this issue. My freshman class made waste, fraud, and abuse its class project.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING), who was just here, was one of the founders of a group that we call the Washington Waste Watchers to draw attention to this subject. So we are so pleased, after having put a tremendous amount of work over the past couple of years on this.

Also, the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman DAVIS), who chairs the Committee on Government Reform, has put an incredible amount of time over the past 2 years with that committee, holding hearings and having reports, getting things on paper so that we are beginning to find out what is and is not working; who is and is not accountable for their money, what agencies are producing results, what agencies are not producing results. We can go back and look at the Treasury books from the year 2001 to see that the Federal Government cannot account for \$17.3 billion. Now, to my constituents and for all of us, that is not acceptable.

Mr. WICKER. Mr. Speaker, if the gentlewoman would yield on that point, the Federal Government could not account for \$17.3 billion, with a "b". That means that \$17.3 billion is just gone and the Federal Government cannot say what happened to it. Can we imagine? But this comes not from some story in some newspaper of doubtful authenticity, this comes from a report of the Department of the Treasury, the 2001 financial report of the United States Government.

Mr. Speaker, \$17.3 billion with a "b", and we do not know where it went.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, that is right. The Office of Management and Budget in their budget of the United States Government, fiscal year 2003, people can go to page 48 in that report and they will see how the OMB shows us that 21 of 26 departments and major agencies received the lowest possible rating for their financial management, meaning that the auditors cannot even express an opinion on their financial statements. Our colleague from Texas, who is a CPA, understands exactly what that means. We had 21 of 26 departments and major agencies that got the lowest possible rating.

Now, what we are saying, as the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) said, government can do better, we can do better. The American people, as taxpayers, expect us to do better. It is our responsibility, being a good steward of those dollars, that we do a better job, that we require government to do a better job. That is the purpose that we are setting forth.

I agree and I join each of the gentlemen who has spoken tonight in commending our President and our leadership in saying, the time has come to address this. We have to rein the spending in because we need to know what we are spending, where it is going, and what the American taxpayers' dollars are being used for.

Mr. WICKER. Well, let me just say, and these will be my final remarks and then I will yield back to the two of my colleagues for whatever they might want to say; I just look forward to working with my three fellow Representatives who have spoken on this Special Order tonight, and with the President, to say that we can be more diligent in the way that we spend the taxpayers' money, we can be more efficient, and we can continue in our effort

to root out waste, fraud, and abuse in our government.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Mississippi for joining us tonight.

I yield to my colleague from Texas for any final remarks that he may have.

Mr. CONAWAY. Mr. Speaker, as I said earlier, the Congress should approach Federal budgeting in a more businesslike manner. I, too, do not understand how underperforming Federal agencies or programs can continue to receive funding year after year without being held to account. In the real world, a business owner who manages his or her own business this way would soon find themselves out of business. Instead, Washington seems to reward that behavior.

Mr. Speaker, our President has proposed a budget that will serve as a good starting point for Members of this Congress as we begin to craft a budget that respects and honors the wishes of the hard-working American taxpayer. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join us in crafting solutions, and not just blind opposition, to wasteful programs that hamper our Federal Government.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for joining us this evening.

Mr. Speaker, before I came to Congress, I had the opportunity to represent Tennessee's 23rd State senate district. While I was in that body, I had worked on government reform issues and came up with a plan that would have called for across-the-board spending cuts. I certainly believed that State agencies could get in there and find waste, fraud, and abuse within their operations, and they could cut it and better serve the taxpayers of my State.

Of course, at the time that I came up with my plan, the 5 Percent Solution, it was criticized by so many as being too harsh. The word was, well, people will not accept that kind of accountability. A few years later, many of those reductions were actually put in place. And do my colleagues know what? Things started working a little bit better in Tennessee.

Today, we see some of that same press in Tennessee calling the taxpayers and the President's plan, Congress' plan far too harsh. I read some of those headlines earlier. But I do not think that some of the media, the liberal media has been paying attention to what has been taking place in some of our States.

According to the National Association of State Budget Officers, in fiscal year 2002, 26 States implemented across-the-board spending cuts, 15 States downsized State government employment, and 13 States streamlined government programs. We hear all the time that our State governments are great laboratories for new programs and new projects and creative government solutions, and this should be a

lesson to us here at the Federal level, because it is not impossible to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. It is our responsibility to do so.

□ 2200

Here are some of the headlines that we have found of what is going on in some of the States. In Alaska where Governor McCaskey proposed cutting 21 State programs and 200 jobs; in Colorado where the legislature passed an \$809 million budget-balancing package which eliminated some 200 State employees.

We are looking forward, Mr. Speaker, to working with the leadership in rooting out waste, fraud, and abuse.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 418, REAL ID ACT OF 2005

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-3) on the resolution (H. Res. 71) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### IRAQ WATCH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, for some time now, several of my colleagues and myself have come to the floor of the House to address issues surrounding our national policy in Iraq, and tonight we intend to have a few comments in that regard, particularly in regard to the budget and how the budget refers to our ongoing efforts in Iraq. And I was thinking about that in combination with the President's suggested budget the other day.

That same day I was looking at the President's budget, I was reading a story about 3 GIs who were walking through a town in central Iraq, and they were trying to alert people about essentially the polling activity and the election activity that was going to go on, but they knew they were in a very hostile environment when they were doing so. And a group of them, about nine soldiers were walking through an area, and they were just sort of handing out leaflets to folks about the election activity to let them know where they could vote and what kind of security was going to be provided, and a shot rang out. The leader of the platoon was shot and went down, and they immediately started to receive fire from all points of the compass.

The thing that struck me is that it said what immediately happened is two of the soldiers who were near the fellow who was shot immediately, instead of taking cover, jumped up and sort of literally sort of shielded the injured GI with themselves as they returned fire. That is just one of the many acts of heroism that our troops have been involved with in Iraq.

What it made me think about was, to ask the question frankly, whether back home we are matching the responsibility and the values and the heroism that are going on in Iraq. Because whatever you think about the Iraq policy, and I voted against the Iraq war. I thought the President's assertion that Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction was overstated, that his assertion that Saddam was responsible for September 11 was inaccurate, and I voted against the war. But, nonetheless, all of us respect what our GIs, Marines, and other service personnel are doing in Iraq.

And the question I was just thinking about is whether or not their courage and responsibility and the values, American values they are displaying in Iraq are sort of met on the domestic side here in Washington, D.C., particularly in regard to the budget that this administration has just proposed to the people in the U.S. Congress.

I was thinking about how you would test the budget that the President has proposed against the values that we are seeing by our troops in Iraq. And in thinking about it, it became pretty clear to me that there are some real questions about that, about whether this budget really is up to snuff and up to the level of character that we have seen of our people in Iraq.

Let me give the first example that comes to mind. We now have literally thousands of our sons and daughters, husband and wives coming home injured from Iraq, some very, very seriously. In fact, one of the most disturbing things about this war is, because of our excellent medical care, we are actually having people come back from Iraq with more devastating injuries than other wars because we have been successful in saving lives. But people are coming back with very, very debilitating injuries. And they are coming back to a system that we would like to see is eminently successful in treating them, the veterans health care system.

The first question I think we ought to ask about the President's budget is does the President's budget in the veterans health care system meet the heroism and the commitment and the sacrifice that our troops have put on the line in Iraq?

So when I looked at the President's budget I was absolutely flabbergasted to see what the budget proposal from this administration has in mind for our injured people coming home from Iraq. Now, one would think that an administration that took our country into war in Iraq, sent our sons and daughters

into combat, knew they were coming back by the thousands with missing arms, shattered faces, difficult trauma to deal with, one would sort of think that the budget would rush to their aid and embrace them with the arms of Americans who so much have embraced our troops and their spirits and their prayers since the war began.

One would think that the spirit that I saw at an old car wash being organized in Redmond, Washington that people had to send money and gifts to troops to help them through their trials, one would think that that same spirit would be imbued in the budget put forth by the President. I must sadly report that in looking at the President's budget, this budget stiffs our heroes coming back from Iraq. It cuts their benefits. It increases what veterans have to pay to get medical care they should have for free. It reduces our national commitment to veterans in meaningful ways. And I can reach no other conclusion than that the budget falls well short of our national commitment to our veterans.

This President who started a war in Iraq, a war that has caused such debilitating injuries, has proposed to make our veterans coming home from battle pay more out of their pocket for prescriptions and to get medical care. How is that consistent with the values of America? How is that consistent with what we expect when we want to honor our troops, to dishonor them by cutting the veterans health care system and making veterans pay more out of their pocket, a co-pay for their health care?

Where is the honor, I ask the White House, in cutting the benefits available for our troops coming home from Iraq? Where is the honor in requiring our veterans to pony up \$250 who are in certain categories even to get their health care? Where is that family value?

It seems to me that there ought to be a bipartisan consensus, that there ought to be family values, that if you send your son or daughter into harm's way for the benefit of your national family, that when they come home, if anything, you ought to increase the benefits that we have available to these folks. But that is not the case in this President's budget, because this President really had to face a choice in this budget. It was pretty clear.

We have over a \$400 billion deficit today, and this President really had to face a choice between two competing values. One value would be to provide for the health care of our veterans. One value would be to preserve the President's favored tax cuts for people who earn over \$400,000 a year.

Now, in order to at least staunch the red ink which, by the way, this does not do because this budget still does not decrease the deficit. It increases it. But one way to do it, this budget had to make a choice; this budget had to choose between two values. It had to choose between the value of honoring our veterans or the value of honoring

those folks who earn over \$400,000 a year and to make their tax cuts they got permanent. The President chose to honor that less than half of a percent of Americans to make those tax cuts permanent and abandon the value of honoring and embracing the health care needs of our veterans.

Budgets are not just monetary issues. They are statements of values. They are statements of what we believe in as a country. They are statements of what you hold most dear. And it is clear that this budget says that the most dear value that this budget reflects is the value of keeping those permanent tax cuts for people earning over \$400,000; and the people who are coming home from Iraq with missing eyes and shattered bodies and shattered psyches and missing limbs, who are coming home trying to rebuild their lives, they can just go fish according to this budget because they are going to have to pay more to get basic health care now.

Now, I do not think those are the values of America, the values that my constituents have, my neighbors have, Republicans or Democrats. Because I have to tell you, the Republicans and Democrats that I talk to and I represent in my district in Washington State, I think if you ask people on the street if it comes to a choice between those two things to reduce the deficit, what should you pick, I think it is about 95 percent would pick to give health care to veterans. But that is not a choice this White House made, this administration made; and it is sad.

I hope that we in this Chamber in a bipartisan way can join to preserve, defend, and protect those who preserved, defended, and protected us, which is our veterans. And it is not being done in this budget, and this is a symptom of an illness of this budget in total because it has sacrificed numerous values on the cross of making these President's tax cuts for people who earn over \$400,000 a year, that that value trumps everything. It trumps health care for veterans. It trumps reduction of the deficit. It trumps cleaning up nuclear wastes that are going into the Columbia River in my neck of the woods. It trumps cleaning up other Superfund sites around the country. It trumps enforcing our clean air laws so that our children do not get asthma.

This President puts that value above every other value that we have, Americans now have to have a chance to express in this budget; and it is sad and it is wrong and it is not consistent with the American values, I believe, on a bipartisan basis are held.

Now, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) has joined us, who has been an absolute stalwart talking about the importance of maintaining veterans benefits.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Washington State.

This is a serious time in the history of our Nation. We are facing a lot of

problems. We have lost well over 1,440 lives in Iraq. We have had literally thousands, 10,000 or more seriously injured. And yesterday we received the President's budget. And a part of that budget had to do with veterans health care.

Now, at a time when we have lost so much and are continuing to lose soldiers in Iraq, when the death benefit for the family of a lost soldier I think is currently \$12,500, the administration had indicated that they would support increasing that up to \$100,000; there is no mention of that in the President's budget.

□ 2215

There is no mention of that. There is no budgeting for this increased benefit for the families who have lost loved ones in this war. That puzzles me. But there are other things in this budget that puzzle me regarding veterans.

People listening to this, I would say to my friend from Washington State, may interpret this as just partisan bickering, and so I would like to share a press release that came from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. This is not a political group. This is a group devoted solely to trying to advocate for veterans who have participated in foreign wars.

The heading of this press release is "The President's 2006 Budget Disappoints the VFW," and it begins, "The President has delivered a disappointing funding request for the Department of Veterans Affairs," said the leader of the Veterans of Foreign Wars of the U.S., in reaction to the administration's fiscal year 2006 budget request that was released today."

I will not read the entire letter, but I will read parts of it. "Two key issues are the proposals to charge a \$250 enrollment fee that would impact approximately 2.2 million veterans and a prescription copayment that would more than double from \$7 a prescription to \$15" a prescription.

It continues, "The VFW is concerned that the enrollment fee and the prescription copayment increases will cost some veterans thousands of extra dollars in health care expenses, while driving others away from the VA.

"The message this budget communicates," the VFW says, "is that part of the Federal Government's deficit will be balanced on the backs of military veterans."

Listen to this. This is amazing. The budget proposal from the President slashes \$351 million from veterans' nursing homes that will result in 28,000 fewer veterans getting nursing home care, and it reduces State grants from \$114 million down to just \$12 million. It cuts \$4 million from medical and prosthetic research. At a time when we are having soldiers getting their arms and legs blown off in Iraq, this President sends us a budget that cuts by \$4 million money for prosthetic research.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, I want to ask if the experience in Ohio is the

same as it is in Washington. The gentleman has just read quite an extensive list of multimillion dollar cuts to the services that the VA system can provide for veterans. That may seem like abstract numbers, but I want to ask my colleague about this.

In Washington State, veterans now, in the existing budget before the cuts, are waiting months and months and months to get in for basic health care because even the existing budget does not allow them to get help. And so I talked to World War II veterans who literally are waiting months, and these are people in their upper 70s, to get basic health care with the existing budget.

This budget purports to cut multiple millions of dollars to reduce that, to increase the waiting line so when a person needs to go in to get various body parts checked, from their urinary tract to their cardiac function, they are in a waiting line. The people who went on the sands of Iwo Jima, they did not want to go to the back of the line. They went out the front of the boat. Now this budget is going to make the waiting longer.

That is the experience in Washington. I just wonder what the experience is in Ohio.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, well, I think what the gentleman is describing is true all over the country. It is less problematic in certain areas and much more problematic in other areas.

I just shared a press release from the Veterans of Foreign Wars regarding the President's budget. I have here a second press release from the national commander of the American Legion regarding the President's budget.

It begins, "The leader of the Nation's largest military veterans organization reacted strongly to the effects that President Bush's budget plan will have on veterans. He called it a smokescreen to raise revenue at the expense of veterans."

"This is not acceptable," said Thomas P. Cadmus, national commander of the 2.7 million member American Legion. "It is nothing more than a health care tax designed to increase revenue at the expense of veterans who served their country."

This is not the gentleman from Washington (Mr. INSLEE), the Democrat, or the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND), the Democrat, speaking. This is the national commander of the American Legion.

The fact is that when the President first came into office, most veterans were required to pay \$2 for a 30-day prescription. The President increased that almost immediately after coming to office from \$2 to \$7, and in this budget, he is asking that the price to veterans be increased from \$7 to \$15.

As I have said before on the floor of this House, many of our veterans take 10 or more prescriptions per month, and so the President wants to increase their burden. The President's budget also calls for an annual \$250 user fee

that many veterans would have to pay just to use a VA facility. This is unconscionable.

Here is what we have: Young Americans fighting this war, many losing their lives, many more being terribly injured, coming back home; and what they are going to find is a VA health care system that is being woefully underfunded by the President who chose to send them to war. That is a serious matter, but it is not just my opinion. It is the opinion of the major veterans organizations in this Nation.

I do not think this is an accident. I think this is a planned effort on the part of the administration to significantly reduce the money they are putting into VA health care.

I want to share with my friend from Washington State something that he may already know, but for 24 years one of our colleagues, a Republican Member, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), has been a member of the Committee on Veterans Affairs. For 24 years he has served on that committee. For the last 4 years, he was the Chair of that committee.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) is, in my judgment, the most prolific Member of this body. I do not always agree with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), but I admire him as a man of principle and character and courage.

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) was recently removed, not only as the Chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs, he was taken off the committee altogether after years of service. What had he done wrong? Well, apparently it was because he was an advocate for veterans. He wanted this President and this leadership in the House of Representatives to give adequate funding for VA health care, and so he was stripped of his Chair's position and he was removed from the committee.

Think about that. He had been on that committee for almost a quarter of a century, and 10 national veterans organizations wrote the gentleman from Illinois (Speaker HASTERT) a letter, urging the Speaker to keep CHRIS SMITH as the Chair of the Committee on Veterans Affairs.

I just want to tell my colleague who those people were and the organizations they represent: The executive director of the American Legion; the executive director of the Veterans of Foreign Wars; the national adjutant of the Military Order of the Purple Heart; the executive director of the Paralyzed Veterans of America; the national president of the Vietnam Veterans of America; the executive director of the Disabled American Veterans; the national executive director of AMVETS; the executive director of the Blinded Veterans Association; the executive director of the Jewish War Veterans; and the executive director of the Non-commissioned Officers.

They all signed this letter to Speaker HASTERT, and they said in this letter,

among other things, "In our view, it would be a tragedy if CHRIS SMITH left the chairmanship."

They went on to say that "The unnecessary loss of his leadership, knowledge, skill, honesty, passion and work ethic would be a deeply disturbing development, not just to us, but to the millions of veterans across the country whose lives he has touched."

What did Speaker HASTERT do? He ignored the plea from these 10 national veterans organizations. He removed the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) from the chairmanship of the Committee on Veterans Affairs because he was an advocate for veterans.

So I am not surprised that the President's budget woefully underfunds VA health care, because I think it was part of the plan; and in my judgment, they had to get rid of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) so that they would not have one of their own being critical of the President's budget in the VA Committee.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, this is a bit of an unusual thing that a Democrat is praising the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the former Republican Chair of this committee in the House, and I want to just ask this:

My perception of this is that here we had a Republican Member who is stalwart in attempting to preserve and improve the veterans' health care in our country, who was willing to rock the boat to do that, had the moral fiber to do that, and was in a sense excommunicated because he had the willingness to stand up to people who stood up at Guadalcanal and the people who stood up in all of those places whom we have had harmed, and he was a bit of hero I believe myself, and I am just going to ask my colleague to categorize this.

I think what the Republican leadership and, by extension, the White House, which I have to believe had some knowledge of this, was a slap in the face of every veteran in this country. Do you think that is a fair characterization?

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I think it is. In fact, if I could just share something else with my colleague, this is a letter to the Wall Street Journal that was written also by Mr. Thomas P. Cadmus, who is the national commander of the American Legion, from the national American Legion's headquarters, and it criticizes a statement that was made by an administration official, Mr. David Chu.

Who is Mr. David Chu? He is the Pentagon Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness. And Mr. David Chu was quoted as saying that "Veterans' pay and benefits are," and I am using this word from his statement, "hurtful, hurtful," and are, quote, "taking away from the Nation's ability to defend itself."

Here is a member of this administration blaming veterans, saying that because of their benefits they are somehow interfering or taking away from this Nation's ability to defend itself. I

mean, that is really pathetic. It is pathetic. And the national commander of the American Legion wrote this letter to the Wall Street Journal complaining about David Chu's statement.

So what I think we are seeing here is a calculated effort to reduce funding for veterans' health care and veterans' benefits, and the President, quite frankly, has got to be responsible for this. I mean, he is the commander in chief.

And let me point out something else to my colleague. Right now, when a serviceperson loses their life, there is a \$12,500 gratuity or compensation made available to the survivor, the survivor's spouse or to the family.

Now, we are in the process right now of offering bonuses of up to \$15,000 for many of our soldiers to get them to enlist.

□ 2230

In some cases, for Special Operations Forces, we are told they are being offered a bonus of up to \$150,000 to remain active in the military. So a suggestion has been made, and I have signed on to legislation, I think probably my friend from Washington State has as well, that would increase this death benefit to \$100,000. That is certainly not enough, but it at least is a reasonable effort on the part of this Congress to increase those funds from \$12,500.

I have gone to several funerals in my district, for soldiers who have been lost in Iraq. We have lost from the Ohio Sixth Congressional District six soldiers already. Two of those men were in their late 30s and the others were in their early 20s. So it is quite pathetic, I think, that this country would offer the survivors \$12,500. And if we can increase it up to \$100,000, that may be more helpful to the families left behind.

The fact is, there is no mention of this in the President's budget, and that really puzzles me. Why is this not accounted for in the President's budget that he just released to us?

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, I think what is disappointing about the President not putting it in his budget, is that we probably have over 160 or 180 cosponsors of this bill to raise that benefit for the families, yet it is still not there. And it is really just one of a whole suite of insults for the people coming back from Iraq and Afghanistan.

Do not forget the contributions of our people in Afghanistan who are suffering and still dying in Afghanistan.

What is so troubling to me, and I think a lot of my constituents, are two aspects. You have to ask yourself: How could an administration in the middle of two wars even think about cutting benefits to veterans? How could you possibly do that? I am trying to think, how could there be any possible rationale to do that when you have these people coming home in such dire straits?

I think there are two things going on here: One, I suspect that the people

who are coming up with these cockamamie, unfair, inequitable, I am going to call them un-American ideas, maybe that is a stretch but I am going to say that, when we are talking about heroes of the American Nation? How can you deign to raise copayments, charge them \$250, make them stand in line longer, make them wait longer to get cardiac care? How can you even think about doing that?

I think one of the things is that these folks who are making a pretty good salary, who are in the agencies and working at the White House, who are driving a decent car, kind of think, Oh, it is \$250. Big deal. What is \$25 extra for a prescription? Big deal. That is just pocket change. Falls out of crumbs or tips at lunch around here in Washington, D.C. On K Street, where lobbyists hang out, that is just tip money.

I think people forget when they try to stick injured GIs with this, they forget these folks are just absolutely scraping when they come back.

I saw a story about a family who lost a young father and husband in Washington State, and they interviewed the widow, who had four children, and they were living in the basement of their parents' house. She was trying to get enough to get back to community college to try to earn a living to support these four children. It was really a matter of feeding and clothing these kids. And \$250 is the difference between making it and not making it to these folks.

I think people making these decisions forget that. They just are not in touch with that, number one.

Number two, and this is the basic flaw of the entire budget, I think, is that the folks who drafted this budget have a view about our wars in Iraq and Afghanistan, and their view is that there are only a certain very small percentage of Americans who should bear all of the burden of these wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is the view of this administration that only those select individuals should take the entire weight of this conflict, not only in their physical health and whether they live or die but in their fiscal burden as well, and those are the people actually serving in the military in Iraq and Afghanistan. Nobody else in America should have any bit of sacrifice associated with this war in Iraq and Afghanistan.

I do not think that is the American way. And I do not think Americans really expect that. Americans believe that it is not only the GIs who should be the ones bearing some sacrifice from this endeavor. Yet the President wants to take every single dollar we spend there and make it deficit spending.

The part he will not make deficit spending, that he is too embarrassed to put on his debt on our grandchildren because he has a deficit that has blown through the roof, and it is terribly embarrassing, the part he will not make a deficit to put on his debt on our grandchildren, he will put on our veterans by cutting their health care.

These are the very people who lost their limbs. He wants them to bear all the burden. He does not want to ask anybody else in America to be associated with this. And that is wrong.

Mr. STRICKLAND. If my colleague will yield, what the President and what the administration will say is that they are increasing funding for VA health care, and on the books it looks as if they are. But much of that increase is coming from the veterans themselves because they are calculating as a part of their budgeting process the \$250 annual user fee that they are going to charge veterans. They are calculating the increase that they are going to get from charging veterans more for their prescription drugs, so that will go into the till; and they count that as increased funding for VA health care. So, quite frankly, they are asking veterans to fund their own health care.

Now, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), as I said earlier, was replaced as Chair of the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and we have a new Chair who has been quoted as saying that he thinks the VA should focus on the core constituency, those with service-connected disabilities and the very poor. But, quite frankly, the people that they are referring to as higher income can be making as little as \$22,000 and be considered higher income and be expected to pay this \$250 annual user fee and the increased cost for medications.

Now, if you are making as little as \$22,000 a year and you have expenses and you have a lot of medical needs and you need a lot of prescription drugs, then you are not high income.

Folks in this Chamber, I do not know exactly how much we make, quite frankly, but it is over \$150,000 a year. We are pretty well paid here. The American people need to know that. We are pretty well paid. But what about the veteran who is making a little over \$20,000 a year? And the people in this Chamber have the gall to say that those veterans ought to pay more? They ought to pay more?

It is, quite frankly, shameful. And that is why we are here. That is why we are talking about this. Because the veterans of this country need to know what the truth is.

Now, the President said in his State of the Union address not many days ago, standing at that podium right up there, he said, "Society is measured by how it treats the weak and the vulnerable." We have an aging veteran population in this country. More and more veterans are in need of nursing home care, and what does this budget do, the President's budget? It cuts funding for veterans' nursing home care. At a time when the need is increasing, there is less money for it.

It is, quite frankly, shameful. There is no other word that is adequate to describe it. It is a shameful set of circumstances that we are facing. I would hope that the veterans of this country

would understand what is being done to their health care system.

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, let me add that it is not just the veterans of this country that we think should be rightfully outraged about this insult to veterans. It is also those of us who have our liberty because of veterans.

I did something a little unusual for me; I actually watched the Super Bowl this year. It turned out to be a good game. It was very, very unique in Super Bowl history. I think the wrong team won, but still a good game. And the most telling commercial to me, which they always talk a lot about, the Super Bowl commercials, was the scene where you are like in a train station waiting room or an airport waiting room and you see people milling about, and then they all of a sudden somebody started clapping. You cannot see what they are clapping at, at first. Then the clapping rolls and pretty soon everybody in the room is clapping. Then you see these troops coming by, we assume coming back from Iraq or Afghanistan, and pretty soon the whole group is clapping.

I think that commercial really did encapsulate how Americans feel about our sons and daughters and husbands and wives who serve there. This is really deep and touching and it is good for America.

During Vietnam, there were a lot of disagreements. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) and I had enormous disagreements with the President about Iraq, and a lot of my constituents, a big majority of my constituents had a lot of disagreements. But to a person they felt the same way about our GIs coming home; the Marines, soldiers and sailors. That commercial showed people wanting to applaud them as they came home.

That is the spirit of America, yet this administration draws a budget that reduces the protection that these folks ought to have after coming home from the front line. That is just totally out of touch.

The veterans are a very uncomplaining group. I find veterans to be the least demanding group, perhaps, of any people I work with. It is just not in touch with the spirit of America of wanting to embrace these people.

It is denigrating their contribution. It is not understanding how deep people feel about the sacrifices that these folks have made in Iraq and Afghanistan. That is why we will have a very vigorous effort to restore this funding.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I would tell my colleague from Washington that a gentleman by the name of J.P. Brown, who has a weekly radio show where he talks about veterans' issues, had me as a guest on that show recently. I talked about what happened to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) and what was going on with VA health care funding. Mr. BROWN has said that he has gotten more calls from

listeners than he has ever received before.

I suspect that what we are talking about here tonight will be changed, because I do believe the veterans of this country and those who care about them are going to speak up and speak out.

I shared part of a press release from the Veterans of Foreign Wars. I would like to share a few more comments from that press release. This press release from the Veterans of Foreign Wars says, "This budget will cause veterans' health care to be delayed and may result in the return of 6-month-long waiting periods. That is especially shameful during a time of war."

Then it continues: "The VFW national commander is now calling on all 2.4 million members of the VFW and its auxiliaries, as well as all service members and their families, to urge their congressional Members to correct the shortfalls in this budget."

Then the press release concludes with this statement. "Without the American soldier, there would not have been a United States of America, and I shudder to imagine the rest of the world. Our Nation must honor its commitment to care for those who are ultimately responsible for every liberty we enjoy today."

So my sense is that the leadership of the various veterans' organizations in this country are going to mobilize their members to descend upon this Capitol, at least through e-mails and letters and phone calls, faxes, and so on, to demand of their Representatives, our colleagues in this Chamber, that this shameful budget, especially the parts that deal specifically with veterans' health care, be rejected by this Congress, and that we do what we should do, which is to provide adequate funding so that those who are in need of health care, those who have served the country and are in need of health care, have the ability to receive it in a timely manner.

Mr. INSLEE. If my colleague will yield once again, it seems to me our goal ought to be a policy that we can be proud of. This is not a budget to be proud of on behalf of our veterans.

I just want to reiterate, and continuing along the same vein that the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) has, I want to read from what Mr. Thomas Cadmus, Director of the American Legion, said in questioning this budget. He said, "Is the goal of these legislative initiatives to drive those veterans paying for their health care away from the system designed to serve veterans? The President is asking Congress to make health care poaching legal in the world's largest health care delivery system."

□ 2245

Health care poaching, instead of assisting the veterans, is not a budget America can be proud of. That is why we are going to continue this effort, and we hope others will join us to

make sure that the sacrifices of our men and women in Iraq and Afghanistan are honored with a budget that America can be proud of and can stand up and defend. This President's budget falls way short and it must be changed.

#### THE BUDGET AND IMMIGRATION REFORM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOUSTANY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I address the House tonight in regard to an issue that of course I have brought to the attention of my colleagues many times in the past. I continue to offer my observations about the issue of immigration and immigration reform.

I would, however, like to preface those remarks with some observations dealing with the issue of the President's budget and the general state of affairs of the Nation in terms of our deficit and the health of the economy.

Certainly I do so as a result of listening to my colleagues and their colleagues preceding them tonight attacking the budget for being so sparse, I suppose. A \$2.5 trillion budget, not meeting the expectations of many of the Members who have come to the floor tonight, and hoping a political advantage can be gained in their attempts to characterize this thing as a disaster.

But the real disaster it seems to me, Mr. Speaker, is the fact that we have a budgeting system here and a budget in and of itself which is out of control, record deficits even in light of the sparse and lean budget that was presented by the President. It still has a \$425 billion figure attached to it in terms of a deficit. I imagine since it is in the President's budget, he does not account for the supplemental that he is going to request in a short time, \$80-some billion, we are not sure exactly how much, or the transition costs for Social Security. And if we add those, the deficit would be dramatically higher.

So I have concerns myself about the budget. I have concerns not that it is providing too little to run the government, but in some ways not being accurate in ways it defines the problem or the solution because the problem is horrendous. We have a budget that is a reflection of course of the needs, wants, and desires of Members and their constituents; and that is as the process, I suppose, should be. If we recognize what that budget does in terms of what our role here is, and after all of the rhetoric about the veterans who will not be receiving health care and the children who will be dying because they do not receive nourishment, all of these incredibly bombastic statements which have been made by the folks on the other side of the aisle about this budget, the fact is if you just do this, and I am not going to dwell on it a long

time because there is another issue I want to address, but it does make one think about what the Founding Fathers would have thought about a budget of this nature and how they would have tried to rationalize the Federal Government spending the money it spends in all of the areas in which it operates, and wondering about the extent to which any of these things are required by the Constitution.

The Constitution actually is the blueprint for the Federal Government, what it is we are supposed to do. The 10th amendment makes it clear if the power is not given to us in that document, it rests with the States and the people. Actually we can look far and wide. You can scrutinize the Constitution with a microscope, and you will not find any reference to education being a responsibility of the Federal Government. It is not. It is not there. Yet 50 to \$60 billion, I have forgotten the exact number being proposed, but many billions of Federal dollars being proposed for educational services, and that is not even in the broader areas of higher education, just in K-12, and Health and Human Services and highways, all of things that we do here which are extraneous to our task. The task is to protect and defend. That is really the role we have at the Federal level. States cannot raise armies and provide for the general defense of the Nation and the common defense; and so, therefore, the Federal Government must do that. That is our role.

Every year we do more and more other things; and unfortunately we do not spend as much time, energy, and resources on the things required of us under the Constitution. So once you establish this incredibly generous activity on the part of the Federal Government and Federal taxpayers to fund all of the myriad of things in that budget, agricultural subsidies, educational subsidies, highway subsidies, Amtrak, I can go on and on, all of the things that are not our responsibility but have become such as a result of the years of indulgence, essentially. If you can just take all of that away and look at what our primary responsibility is and how we should be funding that, we could do it easily and we would have money left over for tax cuts, but we are told that the world is coming to an end, civilization is at an end, blood will run in the streets if we pass a budget of only \$2.5 trillion, with really close to a \$500 billion deficit.

I know that many people in America look at the budget and say it is rotten, how can they spend so much money, but do not care about the thing that I care about the most. I support the President's efforts to try and reduce the size of the budget. Unfortunately, it does not go nearly far enough. We still have an increase in the budget of somewhere around 8 percent as far as I can calculate it, and it is true that the most significant increases are going to defense and homeland security, which of course are appropriate. But we still

do as far as I am concerned far too much in other areas that are extraneous to our constitutional responsibility.

So when we hear folks on the other side of the aisle argue and harangue about these cuts, it is important to remember that for the last several years, certainly the last year I was on the Budget Committee, we waited in vain to ever see a budget from the other side. It is true that the minority has the responsibility of being the sort of watchdog of the majority. That is fine.

But one of the things we would expect is if they say here is what is wrong with the President's budget, here is what is wrong with the budget that the Congress has produced because it will be produced primarily by the majority party, but if history is any judge, we will not see a minority budget. They will not provide a plan because if they do, they would have to do one of two things: they would have to cut spending or raise taxes. That is it. That is it. And neither of those two things are they too crazy about doing.

They would argue that we should not continue the tax cuts or make the tax cuts permanent. But, frankly, even if you follow their suggestion and allow tax rates to go back up to levels they were prior to the President's tax cuts, it would do little to actually change the entire picture. They would have to do substantially more. They would have to cut spending or increase taxes. That is it. If you increase taxes, of course, you begin to take a toll on the economy. Although initially there will be an increase in revenue, you eventually get to the point where taxes begin to reduce the number of jobs, the economy becomes much more stagnant, and therefore revenues begin to drop.

So they are in a dilemma. They are in a dilemma. Therefore, the only thing they can do is say these tax cuts are no good. These tax cuts are terrible. So where would they cut then? If you have a \$425 billion to \$500 billion deficit, where will you cut? They will not show that because the cutting job is tough. The President is to be commended for laying out a budget that does include significant cuts, not nearly enough. And by the way, no one thinks for a moment they will survive this place. Even the administration does not think that. Some of these things they put in knowing they will be replaced by Congress, but they can take the high road by offering the cuts.

Nonetheless, the cuts will not survive. We will increase the budget more than even the 8 percent that the President has planned, the deficit will increase, and all because we are afraid of angering these constituencies that feel they are entitled to some part of this.

In the entire debate that is the thing that most rankles me, the idea that all of these people receiving this largess and the share of someone else's labor, we are transferring wealth from one person to another through our tax system, everyone on the receiving end

thinks it is okay, they are entitled to it.

Mr. Speaker, it is a fascinating thing. In that roughly \$2.5 trillion budget which has been put forward, the greatest amount, certainly somewhere near 80 percent of that budget, is in fact wrapped up in these entitlement programs. That word implies an inability on the part of Congress or anybody else to do anything about it. That is like it is there, it was handed down by God that these programs be in existence, and we cannot do anything about it. That is Social Security, Medicare, some veterans programs. That is where all of the money is. We could eliminate all of the discretionary spending in the budget, the Department of Defense, for instance, Department of Health and Human Services, we could eliminate the entire discretionary budget and still only save \$750 to \$800 billion of that roughly \$2.5 trillion budget. That would take care of the deficit, but we could end every program except Social Security, Medicare, and some veterans benefits. That is not going to happen, and we all know that, unless we actually address the issue of Social Security.

Now, the President has offered that proposal also, which of course the other side of the aisle demagogues the heck out of, and suggests if the President's plan were to pass, that old age pensioners, the Social Security recipients, would essentially be dead in their home within a short time, all having starved to death as a result of having their Social Security benefits cut by this heartless President. Of course these things are untrue. No one is suggesting a cut for the people presently on Social Security. That is not part of anybody's plan. Yet that is the way they present it. That is the demagoguing that goes on on these issues. Again, it is the idea of entitlement.

Mr. Speaker, let me say as clearly as I can that as far as I am concerned, the only thing to which I am entitled as an American is liberty.

□ 2300

That is it. That is what I want from my government. That is what I deserve. That is what the Constitution and the Declaration of Independence speak to. That is what I am entitled to, liberty. I am not entitled to a pension. I am not entitled to having my child educated at government expense. I am not even entitled to the Federal Government building any highways in my district. I am not entitled to any particular benefit to help me take care of my wife, who may be pregnant, and to provide for prenatal care.

I mean, all these things are good. I am not in any way suggesting that they are not good for society and that people banding together would not provide them for themselves. But I am just suggesting that nobody is entitled to these things, nobody, no American. I am not, and I do not think anyone is.

So I wish we could stop using the word "entitlement." I wish we could begin thinking about what are the things that we are actually responsible for as the Federal Government. That is what I would like to fund. What does the Constitution tell me is my role? What does it lay out as my role, and what am I supposed to do as a Member of this body to fulfill that role through the appropriations process.

And believe me, we could get out of here in about a month if we just concentrated on something like that. We would be done. Start in January and be done by March because the role is relatively limited. All the rest of this stuff is extraneous and is not an entitlement. No one, I repeat, no one is entitled to sharing the wealth of anyone else.

Anyway, I know these observations certainly will not carry the day. At the end of the debate on the budget bill, we will not have reduced expenditures. Most of the programs that the President has proposed being cut will not be cut; they will be plussed up. Some will get cut, I hope, and it is a start, and I am sure that the President saw it that way too when he sent us the budget. Personally, I am sure, although I have not had a chance to go through every single one, there are still greater cuts we could achieve, and I plan to be offering amendments throughout the process to try to achieve them.

But I do hope we will just always consider the fact that this idea of entitlements is a relatively new concept to this government, to the people of this country, and I wish that we could think about it again. I wish that we could devise a plan and devise a set of spending priorities that were not based on anything called entitlements but just simply what our responsibility is as a Congress, although I recognize that that day is perhaps not only a long way off but maybe nothing I will ever see in my lifetime, but nonetheless we will have to hope for the possibility.

And in hoping for possibility, I must say that this brings me to the other topic that I wanted to address tonight, and that is the issue of immigration and immigration reform. And as I have done many times on the floor of this House, I have brought to the attention of my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, the concerns I have had about the situation we face in the United States as a result of massive immigration across our borders, both legal and illegal. The numbers are astounding, and sometimes I am even taken aback at them. We are now interdicting at our borders about a million and quarter people a year. Three to five people get by the border guards for every person that they actually do interdict. So we do not know for sure. Maybe upwards of 5 or more million people coming into the country every year illegally. That amounts to, let us see, a lot of people every single day certainly, 20,000 maybe, 15 to 20,000 people every day if we are going to the

highest number that is possible coming in under those circumstances.

These are astronomical numbers, and they are things that are certainly disconcerting just on the numbers' side of things, what happens to us as a result of this massive increase in the population. An organization called Numbers USA has done excellent work on this, and I suggest, Mr. Speaker, that Members go to their Web site if they are interested in this kind of thing, at NumbersUSA.com, and look at what they project to be the population of the country by mid-century if we do nothing to curb immigration because almost all of the population growth in the Nation at the present time is a result of immigration, both legal and illegal; and the numbers do have consequences.

The numbers of people coming in have consequences on a lot of things. Our health care system certainly is one. Our educational system is certainly another. The fact is that we are providing services for millions upon millions of people who are working here illegally or not working. Regardless, they are here, and some are here of course legally, but we end up spending far more in the provision of services than we ever are able to obtain from these folks in terms of the taxes that they pay. So there are implications on the numbers' side of things.

The environment. We hear people talking about the concerns of the environment, but those concerns are fairly narrow when we talk to them about the impact of immigration. We have a bill, Mr. Speaker, I will be introducing very soon that will require the EPA to do an impact study on immigration. What is the impact? What is the result of massive immigration into the country on our resources and on the country as a whole? I would love to see something like that. Of course, I hasten to add it probably will never pass because no one really wants to see that. But I would like an environmental impact study done on the immigration. What is the environmental impact of this phenomenon? And I assure Members that they will find it is significant.

The Speaker probably knows the situation on the border. I have been down to the border of the United States and Mexico many times, up to the northern border with Canada many times, and what we see is really fascinating and certainly a depressing view of the landscape, especially on the southern border where people have come through by the hundreds of thousands, in fact, of course, by the millions; and as a result of just the human traffic, the actual foot paths that are created through desert, the roads that people create as a result of driving their vehicles just off of the highway and through the deserts sneaking into this country.

The amount of trash that is deposited all along that border, the pickup sites where literally thousands of illegal aliens will gather after they have walked across the border and will gath-

er to be picked up by vehicles and taken on into the interior of the country. And these sites I have seen have turned into simply huge dumps, refuse dumps, with papers strewn everywhere and clothing and human feces and diapers and syringes and plastic bags by the thousands and thousands and hundreds of thousands of other things littering the place in just like maybe a 20- or 30-acre parcel of land.

Of course, the cattle eat some of the plastic. The cattle die. The human feces gets washed into the water system in the few times it does rain, but when it rains it washes this stuff away. The land becomes polluted by the human traffic moving across. But, of course, we hear nothing from our friends in the Sierra Club about the environmental degradation to the land caused by literally millions of people coming across it unhindered. And then of course just, again, the numbers, the impact on the quality of life in cities all over this country by the massive number.

We just got a report not too long ago from the Transportation Department about the fact that 70 or 80 percent of all the traffic congestion we have in this country is a result of, of course, immigration. The numbers just tell the tale. And so when people are waiting in a traffic jam wherever they are throughout the country, just think about the fact that that traffic jam they are waiting in, the smog that is being produced, the time being lost is a result of the fact that we cannot catch up, we have not been able to catch up with the numbers.

□ 2310

The numbers overwhelm us. They are far greater in terms of the actual numbers of people coming into this country than ever before in the Nation's history and we just cannot keep up. That is the one aspect of it, the environment.

Then there is, of course, the issue of our economy and what kind of expenses we incur, what kind of expenses are incurred by the citizens of this country who are paying the infrastructure costs to support massive immigration, both legal and illegal. It is enormous. It is enormous.

We hear all the time about hospitals on the verge of closing. Some have actually closed, some have actually closed certain of their departments, neonatal, as a result of having hundreds of thousands of people coming who are unable to pay, but coming across the border oftentimes just to have children in the United States in those border hospitals. They are inundated. And it does not stop there. It goes throughout the country.

I returned recently from Idaho. I gave an award, there is a political action committee with which I am affiliated, actually I was a founder and do certainly support in many ways their actions, but have no formal tie with it anymore. But that was a different award.

I gave an award up in Idaho, the Eggle Award. This is an award that we established a couple of years ago to memorialize and honor a gentleman by the name of Chris Eggle, who was a young individual who worked for the Park Service down in Arizona, Organ Pipe Cactus National Park, and he was killed. He was killed by illegal aliens as they came into the country, escaping from Mexico where they had committed four murders just a short time before that. He gave his life in service to the country.

We wanted to have something that recognized that, and we created the Chris Eggle Award. We give it to public officials every year who we think are doing an outstanding job in trying to actually deal with the issue of immigration reform.

It was in that context that I was in Idaho. I traveled up there just a short time ago to give this award to a gentleman by the name of Robert Vasquez. Mr. Vasquez is a county commissioner in a county just north of Boise, Idaho.

Mr. Vasquez in this small county in central Idaho is inundated with illegal aliens. His county eventually came to the conclusion that they had to draw some attention to the fact that they were incurring all kinds of costs, especially for health care and incarceration, of illegal aliens, so Mr. Vasquez sent a bill to the Mexican government for \$2 million asking them to help pay for the costs of incarcerating Mexican aliens who were in this country illegally and in his county in Idaho. This is not a State that you would think would be "affected" by illegal immigration, but every State is affected, every State.

He recently, by the way, asked the Governor of the State of Idaho to declare his county a disaster area because of what has happened because of the impact that illegal immigration has had on his small county.

I just got back from a little place called New Ipswich, New Hampshire, and that is where I was when we gave the award that I was discussing earlier. This is an award given by an organization called Team America. It is likewise given to public officials who have done an outstanding job in trying to deal with and cope with this issue of massive illegal immigration into the country.

We gave the award to the police chief in New Ipswich, Chief Chamberlain. This town of New Ipswich has 5,000 people, in New Hampshire, mind you. He confronted, stopped a van in his little town, which had 10 illegal immigrants in the van. He called the Immigration and Customs Enforcement and they would not come out. They told him, "Oh, well, ten, let them go. Forget about it." He said, "No, they are here illegally, and I don't want them in my community. You should come and get them."

They simply kept telling him, "No, never mind, it is not a big enough deal." So he took a picture of these

folks sitting in custody while he held them in custody, and took another picture as he let them go. He sent both of these pictures out. He said here is what I did. I tried to detain them. Here is what happened when I talked to the immigration and customs officials. They walk away. They were here illegally. Everybody knows it. He knows it, they know it, the government knows it, and they let them walk.

This created quite a stir all over the country. It got a lot of attention, a lot of press attention to this.

A short time thereafter, here is another group of illegal aliens in his community, New Ipswich, New Hampshire, mind you, right? He gathers them all up, calls the immigration patrol and enforcement. They are out there in like 20 minutes. They gather them up, they send them all up. They do not like the publicity that accrued as a result of their unwillingness to do their job the first time around.

These things are happening everywhere throughout the Nation. In Colorado, and this is one of the most horrible things, and, again, unfortunately, incidents like the one I am going to describe to you are happening all over the country, because we hear from people by the hundreds, by the thousands, who have been victimized by people here illegally.

In Colorado a short time ago there was an accident caused by an illegal alien. The person in the other vehicle was killed. As it turns out, this illegal alien had had many confrontations with the law, had been picked up several times, but never had been reported to immigration control. Never. As a result, of course, he was allowed to stay in the country.

If you get convicted of a crime in the United States, you are supposed to be deported immediately. But he was never reported to them because Denver, among other reasons, but Denver, where we believe he was picked up, has this "sanctuary city" policy, where they will not report anything to the Federal Government about people who are in the community illegally.

As a result, we have had many instances where illegal aliens were in fact arrested for some sort of crime, are either out on bail, served some time, again are out on the street, never having that violation ever reported to immigration control and enforcement, and, therefore, of course, still are able to perform other crimes, to do other crimes, which happens all too often, again in this case in Colorado, or he is alleged to have done this, I should say. Anyway, we get calls like this all the time.

There was a sheriff, a deputy sheriff in California, Deputy Sheriff March, pulled over a guy, walked up to the car, the guy in the car shoots the deputy sheriff in the stomach. As he goes down, the guy gets out of the car, puts two more bullets in his head.

We know exactly who this person is that did this. He is back in Mexico

now. He will not be extradited by the Mexican government to the United States because he faces the death penalty and/or life imprisonment, which the Mexican government now calls cruel and unusual punishment. But that is only one side of the story, because there are over 1,000 people now just from California, over 1,000 murder warrants out for people in California alone who have fled to Mexico to avoid extradition to the United States.

The saddest part about this is a dead officer, but the most infuriating part about this is that this guy had been picked up twice before, or three times, I cannot remember now, and it was for very serious crimes. I think one was attempted murder. He should not have been, of course, in the United States. He had actually been asked to leave the country. I do not remember if they forced him out, I think they did. He then, of course, came back, because there is no security at the border. He should not have been in the country.

Approximately 25 percent of those who are presently incarcerated in our Federal prisons, 25 percent of the people presently incarcerated in our Federal prisons are non-citizens. We do not know the exact numbers for the States, but I think in many States it is very similar to that.

If the Federal Government were doing its job, of course, these people would not be in the United States. They could not have come here illegally. If they did come here illegally and did something wrong, we would have either put them in prison for a longer time, or, of course, deported them.

□ 2320

But we do not. We do not pay much attention to it because, of course, there are a lot of pressures that try to push us away from actually enforcing the law in this country.

These pressures come from a variety of places. They come from political parties like the Democratic Party that sees massive immigration as a source of voters. They come from the Republican Party who sees massive immigration, both legal and illegal, as a source of cheap labor. We get pressures from a lot of folks here on the Hill to not look carefully at the issue of immigration and immigration reform.

There will be a battle in this House tomorrow, on the Floor of this House tomorrow, over a bill that is designed to do a couple of things that desperately need to be done. It is referred to as the Sensenbrenner bill. I certainly hope that it will pass, and I think that it will, but the opposition will be vocal and we will see whether we can get through the whole process.

This is simply to say that there should be a standard applied for giving driver's licenses to people, and if States want to give driver's licenses to people who are in this country illegally, that is fine, we cannot stop them, but we can say that they will not

be valid for any Federal purpose like getting on an airplane, interstate travel, commerce, or going into Federal buildings or applying for any sort of benefit that Federal dollars are attached to. We can do that and we should do that.

Also, of course, the other thing that the bill does is to plug up some of the loopholes in our statutes, in our laws, with regard to people who are here as refugees, claiming refugee status. Many of these people have taken advantage of the loopholes. Some of them are terrorists or are potential terrorists, and they have a record; and they get here and they claim a certain status, and we have to essentially keep them. And if we can stop some of them, if they are terrorists in the country of origin and we know it there, we can deny access still. But once they get here, under the present law, if they get here, somehow we can not deport them. We can stop them from coming here because they are terrorists, but if they get here somehow, we cannot send them back under the present law. This bill is designed to address these issues.

There will be a huge fight tomorrow, and the debate will be lengthy and it will be vitriolic and very bitter on this kind of an issue.

I do hope, of course, as I say, that we pass it. But this is the first time since I have been in this Congress now, and this will be my seventh year, that I have actually seen a bill come to the floor with the potential of passage anyway, and this bill, having a true reform aspect to it. So I am encouraged by that, but I know a lot of work yet has to be done in the area of immigration reform.

Some of our opponents in this area keep putting bills forward that they say are true remedies and they are bills that are designed to develop some sort of guest worker program, but all of them with a component that I think is unacceptable to a majority of at least the Republicans in this House, I know to a majority of Americans it is unacceptable, and that component is this thing called "amnesty."

There was a Member on the Floor not too long ago, a proponent of this particular kind of plan who kept saying that we should not call these things "amnesty." He is trying to emulate Bill Clinton, when President Clinton at the time kept redefining terms in order to suit his own agenda. We all remember it all depends on what the definition of "is" is, that famous line. The same thing here.

Well, what is it? We are going to do this, but we do not want to call it "amnesty," and we should not say "amnesty," because people do not like amnesty, so we will not call it "amnesty." Now, it is amnesty if you tell people who are here illegally that if they just come and tell us who they are, they can stay, that is amnesty. That is what amnesty is. That is the definition of amnesty.

Now, there are a whole bunch of things, other things that the President

throws into this periodically. He says, I am not for amnesty, because I am not for giving anybody immediate citizenship. Well, good, I am glad. I am very happy to hear that, Mr. President, but that is about 5 or 10 steps past amnesty. That is not amnesty in and of itself. So do not set up these definitions, create the definition, and then you say, I am against that.

We cannot tell anyone who is here illegally that they can stay, because if we do, then that is amnesty, and if you give amnesty, all you do is encourage lots of folks, of course, to come here to this country, break the law, because they get rewarded for it. It is as simple as that. It is a terrible policy to give people amnesty, to reward people for breaking the law.

Now, the other side does not like us to use the word because they know Americans do not like it. So they keep trying to figure out how to obfuscate, to pretend that it is not part of their legislation when, of course, it is. We will point it out time after time after time, no matter where they want to run or where they want to hide or how many dictionaries they want to try to rewrite. It is amnesty, and we will point it out every single time they bring it up. What they say is that we do not have a plan, because we say we do not want to do mass deportation and we do not want amnesty, that it is the status quo on our side.

Well, let me tell my colleagues right now that I would deport anyone who is here illegally. I want that understood clearly. If someone is in this country illegally, the penalty for that is deportation, and I would, in fact, deport anyone who is here illegally.

Let me also hasten to say that our plans include provisions that, in fact, would make that task relatively easy because most of the people who are here illegally, if we did what our side is proposing, which is to say secure the border, number one; and number two, go after the employer who is creating the demand in the first place.

Actually enforce the law. That is all our side says, enforce the law.

There is a law against coming into this country illegally. We do not enforce it. There is a law against people hiring people who come into this country illegally. We do not enforce it. But if we did, if we did this weird, wild, wonderful, strange concept of enforcing the laws we have on the books, we would see a significant reduction in the number of people who are here illegally, because they would not have jobs, hopefully they would not get benefits and hopefully they would return to their countries of origin. And then you can establish some sort of guest worker program perhaps to allow people into this country in an orderly fashion to end, as the President says, the chaos on the border.

But it is idiotic to suggest that we could have a guest worker program if we do not secure the border on one end and go after the employer on the other.

That is the demand and supply side of this problem.

So I absolutely am in favor of deportation for anyone who is here illegally. And I know all of the sad sob stories we would hear, that they have been here for ages, a long time, they have kids in school. Well, I am sorry about that, but the fact is, if they have broken the law to come in, then the penalty is deportation. And if we can make it easier by simply not giving them jobs on the one hand and making it harder for them to cross that border on the other, if we can make it easier for people to return to their country of origin and if we do not have to go through "mass deportations," fine. But anybody who is still here after we put those two things in place needs to be deported.

Why are we so afraid of saying that? That is the law.

Now, if we do not want that law, then I think that the gentleman from the other side of the aisle who proposes his plan for guest workers should also propose that we stop deporting people who are here illegally, just take that away, repeal the law. But if he has the law on the books, then I suggest that the gentleman and anyone else who stands on this floor, who has taken the oath of office to enforce the law, should enforce the law. If they do not like the law, repeal the law, but do not keep ignoring the law. It is the worst possible thing to do.

We have put forth measures time and again on this floor that are truly comprehensive in nature. We will be introducing a bill of a similar nature in the very near future. It is a very comprehensive plan, and it deals with the issue of enforcement of our borders, and it also deals with the enforcement of our laws against people hiring folks who are here illegally, and it also creates a guest worker plan. But that can never happen in the absence of the other two things, never. It is a sham.

Any plan that just establishes a guest worker program without border security is a sham. No one thinks anything like that could work. I will not impugn their motives, because who knows why. A lot of folks have different reasons for pushing this concept of amnesty and ignoring the 20 million people who are here illegally.

□ 2330

But we cannot do it. It is not good public policy, and there are ways to address the issue. What is encouraging, Mr. Speaker, is that I have determined a shift in attitude on the part of this House, especially members of the Republican side who have for whatever reason seen the light and are now much more enthusiastic in terms of their willingness to do something about this issue. Maybe it is because Members of the other side in even the other body, in this case particularly HILLARY CLINTON not too long ago stated her adamant opposition to illegal immigrants coming into this country, wanted those borders defended.

There is a bit of humor there because I cannot for a minute believe that it is, I do not know how deep seated the feeling is. It does not matter. When HILLARY CLINTON says that, it sends a message pretty loud and clear to the rest of us that, politically speaking, we are on the right side of this issue.

The American public wants and demands immigration reform. They want an end to illegal immigration. They want a reduction of the number of illegal immigrants into the country, and we better start understanding that that is the mood of the country and respond to it. That is the nature of the system. That is exactly what we are supposed to be doing here, and it is happening. I have certainly seen it, and I am glad of it.

I think perhaps the most significant event of which I am aware in terms of its impact on this debate was the passage of Proposition 200 in Arizona. Mr. Speaker, this was a fascinating sort of exercise in democracy. The people of the State of Arizona recognized that the Federal Government has essentially left them high and dry. The borders are undefended. They are the funnel, Arizona had become the funnel through which hundreds of thousands of people, in fact, millions of people, a year were coming across the borders of Mexico and the United States into this country. Their social services were being depleted. Hospitals, schools, all the things I talked about, the rates of crime committed by people, illegal aliens was rising dramatically. Incarceration rates were therefore up.

So the people finally got a belly full of it, and they could get no satisfaction from the Federal Government. They could get no satisfaction from the State government. Most of the people there were afraid to touch this thing, and the people in government were afraid to touch it. In fact, every Member of the Congress, everybody from the Arizona delegation opposed it, Republican and Democrat. The two Senators opposed it.

I should back up and say, as a result of being so frustrated, the people of Arizona put an initiative on the ballot. It said a number of things. One was that if you are not here in this country legally, you cannot get social service benefits in the State of Arizona. It also said that you are going to have to prove you are a citizen if you are going to vote in Arizona.

These are pretty radical ideas. Ideas that everybody wanted to run away from, the establishment wanted to run away from for fear, among other things, that anybody connected with it would be seen as a racist. Well, they go ahead and put the issue on the ballot. And, I mean, all the newspapers came out against it; both parties came out against it. The proponents were outspent, I think, 2½ to 1 by the opponents.

Mr. Speaker, I have put issues on the ballot in Colorado in the past. I know how hard it is. It is a very difficult

thing to do to pass them, especially when you have that kind of opposition, the entire political establishment opposed to you. But the measure passed. It passed with 56 percent of the vote. But even more important, more amazingly, more shocking to many people here, although it was not surprising to me, 47 percent of those who voted for the amendment were Hispanic. So all those old canards, those things we hear, if you do this no Hispanic American would ever vote for you if you do things like this. If you do things like what? Enforce the law?

Do Hispanics not want the law enforced in this country? How many of them have come here illegally? Many in my State have been here many generations before my grandparents got here in the late 1890's. They have a stake in the Nation. They have a part of the Nation. They are Americans first. They want secure borders. They want the ability for American citizens, Hispanics, yes, Hispanic by ethnicity to be able to compete in the marketplace for jobs. They know that people who are coming across these borders create competition at the lowest level, the lowest rung of the economic ladder for low-paid, low-skilled jobs. So Americans with few skills find it harder and harder to ever work their way out of poverty.

When people talk about being compassionate when you look at this issue, I ask them to be compassionate about American citizens. I mention that the people in New Ipswich, the 10 that were taken into custody by Chief Chamberlain, I neglected to tell you they worked for a roofing company, according to the police chief, and they were paid \$18 a day for their labor.

Now, I often hear that people are only coming for jobs that no American wants. Well, for \$18 a day, yeah, it is hard to get an American to take a job like that. That is true. But for those who say, as the President does and others on the floor, that we just have to match every willing worker for every willing employer, I say think that through. Do you mean that?

Willing worker. You have willing workers for \$18 a day. Are you willing to bring them here and allow them to compete against an American worker? How about the guy who is willing to work for 16, 15, 14, 13? You will find somebody in the world willing to come here and work for less than the guy who is presently employed here. The Federal Government has no role in this, I ask? No role in trying to control those borders and thereby, yes, prop up wages.

Yes, it is true, propping up wages is a result of controlling your borders. That is true. But this is the difficulty we face here.

But as I say, Mr. Speaker, I think things are changing. I think Prop 200 sent a message that was heard by many people who are politically astute, HILLARY CLINTON being one, of course, many others now who I see standing up

and talking about this and going on television about it. It is great. I am happy to have the support of every single one of them. I will happily turn over the role of immigration reform leader to those who have positions of authority in this body which I do not have and probably never will.

I like to see a committee chairman on our side. I like to see people as prominent as Mrs. CLINTON on the other side on this issue. It is fine with me because what it tells the rest of us is that it is politically acceptable now to move in the direction of immigration reform. And we will be moving that way I think tomorrow. We should have to keep our eyes on it.

The opponents will not simply walk away from the battle, but they know they are on the defensive, and they are becoming very concerned about that, as well they should because the tide is turning. And we will be, I think, able to say by the end of this legislative session that we have actually won some battles, that we have actually brought the issue to the fore and been successful in many different ways.

So I just want to say in conclusion, Mr. Speaker, that every night when I do a Special Order and I go back, usually the fax machines are going and the e-mails are coming in and the phones are ringing from people who have felt strongly about this for a long time; and they come from all over the country, they come from every area of the country, north, south, east and west, small towns, large towns and from people with Hispanic surnames, because it is just so true that this issue does in fact touch a nerve Americans. It touches a nerve with Americans.

□ 2340

They want to keep America a place in which they can be proud, and they want to keep our borders secure, and they want to be able to pass on a bit of America to their children and grandchildren, and of course, in that endeavor, I wish them and us all the best.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. ETHERIDGE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. HINCHEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. SNYDER (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness.

Mr. STUPAK (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and the balance of the week on account of medical reasons.

Mr. LOBIONDO (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending the memorial service of a constituent who was killed in the line of service in Iraq.

## SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. DEFazio, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.  
 (The following Members (at the request of Mr. BOUSTANY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)  
 Mr. KELLER, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. THOMAS, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and February 9 and 10.  
 Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. FLAKE, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. HOEKSTRA, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. POMBO, for 5 minutes, today.  
 Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, February 10.

## ADJOURNMENT

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, February 9, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS,  
ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

604. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Application Procedures for Registration as a Derivatives Transaction Execution Facility or Designation as a Contract Market (RIN: 3038-AC14) received January 24, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

605. A letter from the Acting Administrator, FSIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Docket No. 03-026F] (RIN: 0583-AD05) received January 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

606. A letter from the Administrator, AMS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Exemption of Organic Handlers From Assessments for Mar-

ket Promotion Activities Under Marketing Order Programs [Docket No. FV03-900-1 FR] received January 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

607. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Guaranteed Rural Rental Housing Program; Secondary Mortgage Market Participation (RIN: 0575-AC28) received January 19, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

608. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Vaccination Clinics; User Fees for Investigational New Drug (IND) Influenza Vaccine Services and Vaccines (RIN: 0920-AA11) received January 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

609. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting a report, covering FY 2004, concerning surplus Federal real property disposed of to educational institutions, pursuant to 40 U.S.C. 484(o)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

610. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-690, "Jenkins Row Economic Development Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

611. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-691, "Apprenticeship Requirements Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

612. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-692, "Minimum Wage Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

613. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-696, "Low-Income Housing Tax Credit Fund Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

614. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-693, "Retail Service Station Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

615. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-694, "Free Clinic Assistance Program Extension Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

616. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-697, "Retirement Reform Act Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

617. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-699, "Skyland Site Acquisition Support Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

618. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-698, "Closing of a Portion of Public Alley in Square 5196, S.O. 02-2763, Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

619. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-700, "Multiple Dwelling

Residence Water Lead Level Test Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

620. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-702, "Closing of a Portion of a Public Alley in Square 2032, S.O. 02-5133, Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

621. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-704, "Department of Motor Vehicles Reform Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

622. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-715, "School Safety and Security Contracting Procedures Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

623. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-705, "Restaurant Candles Permission Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

624. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-716, "Child and Youth, Safety and Health Omnibus Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

625. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-714, "District Government Reemployment Annuitant Offset Alternative Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

626. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-701, "Distracted Driving Safety Revised Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

627. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-713, "Bonus Depreciation De-Coupling Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

628. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-706, "Domestic Partnership Protection Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

629. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-711, "Public Congestion and Venue Protection Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

630. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-710, "Real Property Disposition Economic Analysis Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

631. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-712, "Estate and Inheritance Tax Clarification Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

632. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-709, "Certificate of Title

Excise Tax Exemption Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

633. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-737, "Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom Active Duty Pay Differential Extension Second Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

634. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-717, "Ballpark Omnibus Financing and Revenue Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

635. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-736, "Depreciation Allowance for Small Business De-Coupling from the Internal Revenue Code Second Temporary Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

636. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-703, "Closing of a Public Alley in Square 317, S.O. 04-7832, Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

637. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-735, "Water Pollution Control Temporary Amendment Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

638. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-708, "Studio Theatre, Inc. Economic Assistance Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

639. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-707, "Dedication and Designation of Portions of New Jersey Avenue S.E., 4th St., S.E., and Tingey Street, S.E., S.O. 03-1420, Act of 2004," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

640. A letter from the Director, Office of Procurement of Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Agriculture Acquisition Regulation: Miscellaneous Amendments (AGAR Case 2004-01) (RIN: 0599-AA11) received January 10, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

641. A letter from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

642. A letter from the Director, Office of White House Liaison, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

643. A letter from the Human Resources Specialist, Department of Labor, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

644. A letter from the Chairman & CEO, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the FY 2004 report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform.

645. A letter from the Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting the Office's Performance and Accountability Report for FY 2004, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719; to the Committee on Government Reform.

646. A letter from the Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, GSA, National Aeronautics

and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Circular 2001-26; Introduction — received January 3, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

647. A letter from the Deputy Chief Acquisition Officer, GSA, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Circular 2001-27; Introduction — received January 13, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

648. A letter from the Deputy Archivist, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Records Management; Unscheduled Records (RIN: 3095-AB41) received December 7, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

649. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Administration and Information Management, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

650. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — General Schedule Locality Pay Areas (RIN: 3206-AJ45) received December 29, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

651. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Senior Executive Service Pay and Performance Awards; Aggregate Limitation on Pay (RIN: 3206-AK34) received December 15, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

652. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule — Federal Employees' Retirement System; Death Benefits and Employee Refunds (RIN: 3206-AK57) received December 27, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

653. A letter from the Executive Secretary and Chief of Staff, U.S. Agency for International Development, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

654. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act covering the calendar year 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

655. A letter from the Rules Administrator, Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Community Confinement [BOP Docket No. 1127-F] (RIN: 1120-AB27) received January 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

656. A letter from the General Counsel, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Execution of Removal Orders; Countries to Which Aliens May Be Removed [EOIR No. 146F; AG Order No. 2746-2004] (RIN: 1125-AA50) received January 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

657. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Final Regulations for Health Coverage Portability for Group Health Plans and Group Health Insurance Issuers under HIPAA Titles I & IV (RIN: 0938-AL43) received December 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

658. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Final Regulations for Health Coverage Portability for Group Health Plans and Group Health Insurance under HIPAA Titles I & IV (RIN: 1210-AA54) received December 30, 2004, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

659. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Domestic reinvestment plans and other guidance under section 965 [Notice 2005-10] received January 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

660. A letter from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Additional Relief for Like-Kind Exchanges for Which Deadlines May Be Postponed Under Sections 7508 and 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code [Notice 2005-3] received January 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

661. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Returns Required on Magnetic Media [TD 9175] (RIN: 1545-BE19) received January 14, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

662. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Medicare Prescription DrugBenefit [CMS-4068-F] (RIN: 0938-AN08) received January 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

663. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule — Medicare Program; Establishment of the Medicare Advantage Program [CMS-4069-F] (RIN: 0938-AN06) received January 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. SESSIONS: Committee on Rules, House Resolution 71. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence (Rept. 109-3). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BOEHNER (for himself and Mr. MCKEON):

H.R. 609. A bill to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself and Mr. BOEHLERT):

H.R. 610. A bill to provide for Federal energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Resources, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr. RANGEL, and Mr. SHAW):

H.R. 611. A bill to authorize the establishment of a program to provide economic and infrastructure reconstruction assistance to the Republic of Haiti, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself and Mr. BOEHLERT):

H.R. 612. A bill to provide for Federal energy research, development, demonstration, and commercial application activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. BEAUPREZ:

H.R. 613. A bill to prohibit the sale of any alcohol without liquid machine without pre-market approval, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCINTYRE:

H.R. 614. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives and job training grants for communities affected by the migration of businesses and jobs to Canada or Mexico as a result of the North American Free Trade Agreement; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HALL (for himself, Mr. GOODE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GORDON, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mrs. BONO, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 615. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to allow workers who attain age 65 after 1981 and before 1992 to choose either lump sum payments over four years totalling \$5,000 or an improved benefit computation formula under a new 10-year rule governing the transition to the changes in benefit computation rules enacted in the Social Security Amendments of 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BACA (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. LOWEY, and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 616. A bill to provide for reduction in the backlog of claims for benefits pending with the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BAKER:

H.R. 617. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on p-nitrobenzoic acid (PNBA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BEAUPREZ:

H.R. 618. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to ensure that the National Driver Registry includes certain information; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BEAUPREZ:

H.R. 619. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to authorize the Administrator of General Services to lease and redevelop certain Federal property on the Denver Federal Center in Lakewood, Colorado; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 620. A bill to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the development and implementation by States of security measures for driver's licenses and identification cards and a study on the consequences of denying driver's licenses to aliens unlawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEAUPREZ (for himself and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina):

H.R. 621. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow penalty-free withdrawals from retirement plans during the period that a military reservist or national guardsman is called to active duty for an extended period, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. BONO (for herself and Mr. MARKEY):

H.R. 622. A bill to reauthorize and revise the Renewable Energy Production Incentive program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BOOZMAN (for himself, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. OTTER, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. BERRY, Mr. PAUL, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. WAMP, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. TERRY):

H.R. 623. A bill to allow an operator of a commercial motor vehicle breaks in a daily tour of duty; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. PASCRELL, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. TERRY, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. SHIMKUS):

H.R. 624. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to authorize appropriations for sewer overflow control grants; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. PAUL, Mr. WELLER, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDEN, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. FILNER, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. WALSH, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. OWENS, Ms. WAT-

SON, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. TERRY, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. HAYWORTH):

H.R. 625. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the Hope Scholarship Credit to cover fees, books, supplies, and equipment and to exempt Federal Pell Grants and Federal supplemental educational opportunity grants from reducing expenses taken into account for the Hope Scholarship Credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CAMP:

H.R. 626. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the production of alternative fuel vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 627. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 40 Putnam Avenue in Hamden, Connecticut, as the "Linda White-Epps Post Office"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. REYES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HINCHEY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. BERRY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. ENGEL, and Ms. DELAURO):

H.R. 628. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for an influenza vaccine awareness campaign, ensure a sufficient influenza vaccine supply, and prepare for an influenza pandemic or epidemic, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage vaccine production capacity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FALBOMAVAEGA:

H.R. 629. A bill to extend the possession tax credit with respect to American Samoa an additional 10 years; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 630. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain Federal lands to the City of Yuma, Arizona, in exchange for certain lands owned by the City of Yuma, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 631. A bill to provide for acquisition of subsurface mineral rights to land owned by the Pascua Yaqui Tribe and land held in trust for the Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HEFLEY (for himself, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SALAZAR, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 632. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to carry out a pilot project on compatible use buffers on real property bordering Fort Carson, Colorado, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FORD, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. WATERS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. STRICKLAND,

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. OLVER, Mr. FARR, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GORDON, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. WOLF, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. McHUGH):

H.R. 633. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to increase the level of Government contributions under the Federal employees health benefits program; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (for herself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 634. A bill to designate Poland as a program country under the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, subject to special conditions; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut (for herself, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. CROWLEY, and Mr. WEINER):

H.R. 635. A bill to designate Poland as a program country under the visa waiver program established under section 217 of the Immigration and Nationality Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 636. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Allyl Pentaerythritol (APE); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 637. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Butyl Ethyl Propanediol (BEPD); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 638. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on BEPD70L; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 639. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Boltorn-1 (Bolt-1); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 640. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Boltorn-2 (Bolt-2); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 641. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Cyclic TMP Formal (CTF); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 642. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on DiTMP; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 643. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Polyol DPP (DPP); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 644. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on Hydroxypivalic Acid (HPA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 645. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on TMPDE; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 646. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on TMPME; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 647. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on TMP Oxetane (TMPO); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. KAPTUR:

H.R. 648. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on TMPO Ethoxylate (TMPOE); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 649. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a criminal penalty for journalists, who, without disclosure, accept Government payments to promote Gov-

ernment policies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 650. A bill to establish reasonable legal reforms that will facilitate the manufacture of vital, life-saving vaccines, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KING of Iowa (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. LEACH, Mr. LATHAM, and Mr. NUSSLE):

H.R. 651. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make improvements to assist young farmers and ranchers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. PETRI, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WELLER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina):

H.R. 652. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for taxpayers owning certain commercial power takeoff vehicles; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CASE, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. COOPER, Mr. FORD, Mr. BERRY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 653. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to ensure that the receipts and disbursements of the Social Security trust funds are not included in a unified Federal budget; to the Committee on the Budget, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MORAN of Virginia (for himself, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. WEXLER, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. EVANS, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, and Ms. CARSON):

H.R. 654. A bill to ban the transfer of 50 caliber sniper weapons, and otherwise regulate the weapons in the same manner as machine guns are regulated; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NADLER (for himself, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 655. A bill to amend part D of title XVIII of the Social Security Act to condition the payment of employer prescription drug subsidies on the maintenance of current prescription drug benefits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OBERSTAR:

H.R. 656. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to enhance the safety of the commercial human space flight industry; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. PAYNE (for himself, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, and Mr. WOLF):

H.R. 657. A bill to award posthumously a congressional gold medal to Thurgood Marshall; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. PITTS (for himself and Mr. GERLACH):

H.R. 658. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude from gross income gain on the sale or exchange of farmland development rights; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. PORTMAN (for himself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. TURNER, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina):

H.R. 659. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the rehabilitation credit and the low-income housing credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 660. A bill to award a congressional gold medal to Ossie Davis in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 661. A bill to provide for naturalization through service in a combat zone designated in connection with Operation Iraqi Freedom, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 662. A bill to permit expungement of records of certain nonviolent criminal offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 663. A bill to secure the Federal voting rights of certain qualified ex-offenders who have served their sentences; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California (for herself, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEK of Florida, and Ms. BORDALLO):

H.R. 664. A bill to amend the Uniform Code of Military Justice to bring sexual assault crimes under military law into parallel with sexual assault crimes under Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CHANDLER, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. HOLT, Mr. ISRAEL, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHERMAN, and Ms. WATSON):

H.R. 665. A bill to prevent access by terrorists to nuclear material, technology, and expertise, to establish an Office of Non-proliferation Programs in the Executive Office of the President, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. SPRATT (for himself and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 666. A bill to establish a new allowance for members of the Armed Forces serving in Iraq or Afghanistan to cover the premiums for Servicemembers' Group Life Insurance coverage obtained by the members; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 667. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Army to carry out the dredging project, Menominee Harbor, Menominee River, Michigan and Wisconsin; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WAXMAN (for himself, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. RUSH):

H.R. 668. A bill to direct the Consumer Product Safety Commission to classify certain children's products containing lead to be banned hazardous substances; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. BAKER, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. CASE, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. KIND, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. RAHALL, and Ms. HOOLEY):

H.R. 669. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to increase the maximum Federal share of the costs of State programs under the National Guard Youth Challenge Program; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 670. A bill to make permanent the teacher loan forgiveness provisions of the Taxpayer-Teacher Protection Act of 2004, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. MCDERMOTT, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H.R. 676. A bill to provide for comprehensive health insurance coverage for all United States residents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Resources, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BOEHLERT (for himself, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. AKIN, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado):

H. Con. Res. 46. Concurrent resolution congratulating ASME on their 125th anniversary, celebrating the achievements of ASME members, and expressing the gratitude of the American people for ASME's contributions; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. WEINER, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. WEXLER):

H. Con. Res. 47. Concurrent resolution commending the establishment in College Point, New York, of the first kindergarten in the United States; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H. Con. Res. 48. Concurrent resolution calling for the removal of all restrictions from the public, the press, and military families in mourning that would prohibit their presence at the arrival at military installations in the United States or overseas of the remains of the Nation's fallen heroes, the members of the Armed Forces who have died

in Iraq or Afghanistan, with the assurance that family requests for privacy will be respected; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TANCREDO (for himself, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. GOODE, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina):

H. Con. Res. 49. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of Western civilization; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BOUSTANY:

H. Res. 68. A resolution electing a certain Member to a certain standing committee of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BISHOP of Georgia (for himself, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. WATT, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. WATERS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FORD, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HONDA, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BARROW, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. CARSON, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. RUSH, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. CLAY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CLYBURN, and Mr. HASTINGS of Florida):

H. Res. 69. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of the late Ossie Davis; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas):

H. Res. 70. A resolution to honor and recognize the achievements of Emmitt Smith; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. MEEHAN (for himself, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. COX, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SNYDER, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H. Res. 71. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 418) to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, and to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence.

H. Res. 72. A resolution urging the interim Government of Iraq ensure that the charges brought against Saddam Hussein include charges for the crimes his government committed against the people of Iran during the Iran-Iraq war from 1980 to 1988; to the Committee on International Relations.

## PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CROWLEY:

H.R. 671. A bill for the relief of Saikou A. Diallo; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 672. A bill for the relief of Maria Cristina Degrassi; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 673. A bill for the relief of Denes and Gyorgyi Fulop; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 674. A bill for the relief of Kuan-Wei Liang and Chun-Mei Hsu-Liang; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANTOS:

H.R. 675. A bill for the relief of Maria Del Refugio Plascencia and Alfredo Plascencia-Lopez; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RANGEL:

H.R. 677. A bill for the relief of Kadiatou Diallo, Laouratou Diallo, Ibrahim Diallo, Abdoul Diallo, Mamadou Bobo Diallo, Mamadou Pathe Diallo, Fatoumata Traore Diallo, Sankarella Diallo, and Marliatou Bah; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina:

H.R. 678. A bill for the relief of Griselda Lopez Negrete; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

## ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 11: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.

H.R. 13: Mr. WELLER, Ms. CARSON, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. LEACH.

H.R. 16: Mr. COLE of Oklahoma and Mr. PICKERING.

H.R. 17: Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 20: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.

H.R. 22: Mr. OXLEY, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 23: Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. BACA, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. HOLT, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. CASE, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 25: Mr. HALL, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. BONILLA, and Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 27: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. FORTUÑO, and Mr. RADANOVICH.

H.R. 28: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 29: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. DUNCAN, and Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 32: Mr. JENKINS, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. PLATTS.

H.R. 34: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. WICKER, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. LAHOOD, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 40: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 42: Mrs. MYRICK, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. FORTUÑO.

H.R. 47: Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. RAHALL, and Mr. SESSIONS.

H.R. 63: Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HONDA, and Mr. WAXMAN.

- H.R. 64: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. CARTER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.
- H.R. 68: Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. HAYES, Mr. FORD, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
- H.R. 98: Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California.
- H.R. 113: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
- H.R. 114: Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. CARSON, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. WAXMAN.
- H.R. 127: Mr. DOGGETT.
- H.R. 128: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. WYNN, Mr. TOWNS, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
- H.R. 136: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, and Mr. HOSTETTLER.
- H.R. 179: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
- H.R. 180: Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. MILLER of Florida, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
- H.R. 181: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WAMP, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. PENCE, and Mr. HUNTER.
- H.R. 188: Mr. ROSS, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. LEE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CORINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. FATTAH, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. RUSH.
- H.R. 215: Mr. DAVIS of Alabama and Mr. BONNER.
- H.R. 226: Mr. REYES, Mr. MCHUGH, and Mr. FORTUÑO.
- H.R. 268: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
- H.R. 278: Mr. UPTON and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
- H.R. 284: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BACA, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. WYNN.
- H.R. 292: Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. POE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. VISCLOSKY, and Mr. GOHMERT.
- H.R. 302: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
- H.R. 304: Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MACK, and Mr. POE.
- H.R. 310: Mr. PICKERING, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. BUYER, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. WALSH, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. HAYES, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 313: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
- H.R. 314: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama and Mr. DEFazio.
- H.R. 328: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. WOLF, Mr. COOPER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. STARK.
- H.R. 330: Mr. RENZI.
- H.R. 331: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RENZI, Mr. CASE, Mr. FILNER, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
- H.R. 333: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. ROSS, Mr. KUCINICH, Ms. LEE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. GORDON, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. BERRY, and Mr. RENZI.
- H.R. 356: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. KLINE, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Ms. HARRIS, Miss MCMORRIS, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PETRI, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. TERRY, Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
- H.R. 368: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SHAYS, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
- H.R. 369: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin and Mr. CONYERS.
- H.R. 371: Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. STARK, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.
- H.R. 373: Ms. LEE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. FARR, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. STARK, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.
- H.R. 376: Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. HONDA, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. GORDON, Ms. CARSON, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BACA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FARR, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. LEE, Mr. FORD, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. STUPAK, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. CHANDLER.
- H.R. 380: Mr. CHOCOLA and Mr. SHUSTER.
- H.R. 389: Mr. RAHALL, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. REYNOLDS.
- H.R. 401: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
- H.R. 402: Mr. SIMMONS.
- H.R. 403: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
- H.R. 404: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
- H.R. 406: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
- H.R. 408: Mr. RENZI, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, and Mr. HERGER.
- H.R. 418: Mr. BONILLA, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. HALL, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DENT.
- H.R. 420: Mr. COX, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
- H.R. 425: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
- H.R. 454: Mr. KLINE, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. HART, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. MCCREERY.
- H.R. 457: Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. FOLEY, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
- H.R. 459: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. LIPINSKI.
- H.R. 483: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. HALL, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. SESSIONS.
- H.R. 490: Mr. FEENEY.
- H.R. 493: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. CUMMINGS.
- H.R. 499: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
- H.R. 515: Mr. DAVIS of Florida.
- H.R. 516: Mr. OXLEY, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. OTTER.
- H.R. 525: Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. HERGER, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. NORTHP, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. SHAW, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. MCKEON, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. KELLER.
- H.R. 526: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia and Mr. PORTER.
- H.R. 528: Mr. FORTUÑO and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
- H.R. 530: Mr. SHADEGG and Mr. DOOLITTLE.
- H.R. 533: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. KAPTUR, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
- H.R. 535: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
- H.R. 554: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HALL, and Mr. FORTUÑO.
- H.R. 556: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PORTER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. CARSON, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut.
- H.R. 576: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.
- H.R. 580: Mr. TANCREDO.
- H.R. 581: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. SPRATT, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
- H.R. 583: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. REYES.
- H.R. 596: Mr. SABO, Mr. ANDREWS, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
- H.R. 602: Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. REYES, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BASS, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DICKS, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. DEFazio, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FARR, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. KIND, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HALL, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. BOYD, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
- H.J. Res. 10: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. PICKERING.
- H. Con. Res. 6: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.
- H. Con. Res. 18: Mr. SENSENBRENNER and Mr. CHANDLER.
- H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. ROSS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WATSON, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PORTER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TERRY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. HONDA.
- H. Con. Res. 30: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CAPUANO, Ms. WATSON, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. NADLER.
- H. Con. Res. 32: Mr. PITTS, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
- H. Res. 22: Mrs. BLACKBURN and Mr. CASE.
- H. Res. 38: Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. RENZI, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. SESSIONS.
- H. Res. 41: Mr. MURPHY, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HAYES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GOODE, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. MOORE of KANSAS, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BOREN, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. COSTA, Mr. BOSWELL, Ms. HERSETH, Mr. CASE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr.

SALAZAR, Mr. BERRY, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. NEAL OF MASSACHUSETTS, Ms. PRYCE OF OHIO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. HASTINGS OF FLORIDA, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. WAMP, Mr. WOLF, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. MOLLOHAN.

H. Res. 46: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. GILLMOR.

H. Res. 54: Mr. PITTS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. MENENDEZ, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H. Res. 55: Mr. McDERMOTT, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. CASE, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. WAXMAN, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. UPTON.

H. Res. 61: Mr. CONYERS and Mr. WAXMAN.

### AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 418

OFFERED BY: MRS. JOHNSON OF CONNECTICUT

AMENDMENT No. 1: Page 28, after line 4, insert the following:

#### TITLE III—PREVENTING UNINTENDED UNITED STATES JOB LOSSES

##### SEC. 301. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The H-1B and L-1 visa programs were established to enable United States employers to hire workers with the necessary skills and allow the intracompany transfer of certain workers in the employ of companies with operations outside of the United States.

(2) Employers have used the H-1B and L-1 visa programs to fill hundreds of thousands of positions in United States firms.

(3) According to a General Accounting Office report, 60 percent of the positions being filled by workers provided under the H-1B visa program are related to information technology.

(4) The median annual salaries for information technology employment was \$45,000 in 1999.

(5) In 2001, Congress specifically banned the displacement of United States employees by H-1B visa holders and mandated that employers pay H-1B workers prevailing United States wages.

(6) United States unemployment in information technology specialties has increased over the last 2 years making it more difficult for employers to certify that they are unable to find American information technology employees to fill vacancies as required to gain approval of H-1B visa applications.

(7) United States consular officers in foreign countries in the past have expressed concerns that the L-1 visa program was being exploited beyond the original purpose of the program by allowing employers to bring in workers who subsequently are employed by other companies.

(8) It has been reported that the former Immigration and Naturalization Service was reviewing the L-1 visa program to assess whether companies were using the L-1 visa to circumvent restrictions associated with the H-1B visa program.

(9) The Department of Labor has had very limited authority to enforce the program requirements of the H-1B visa program and no legal authority to police the L-1 visa program.

(10) Historical weaknesses in the administration of the H-1B program by the former

Immigration and Naturalization Service caused unnecessary delays in processing employer requests and also made the H-1B program vulnerable to abuse.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to ensure that the H-1B and L-1 visa programs are utilized for the purposes for which they were intended and not to displace American workers with lower cost foreign visa holders, by closing the loopholes in the programs and strengthening enforcement and penalties for violations of laws.

##### SEC. 302. L-1 NONIMMIGRANT VISAS.

(A) WAGE REQUIREMENTS; LIMITATION ON PLACEMENT OF INTRACOMPANY TRANSFEREES; DISPLACEMENT OF WORKERS.—Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(F) No alien may be admitted or provided status as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(L) unless the importing employer has filed with the Secretary of Labor an application stating the following:

“(i) The employer shall make available for public examination, not later than 1 working day after the date on which an application under this subparagraph is filed, at the employer’s principal place of business or worksite, a copy of each such application (and such accompanying documents as are necessary). The Secretary shall compile, on a current basis, a list (by employer and by occupational classification) of the applications filed under this subparagraph. The Secretary shall make such list available for public examination in Washington, D.C. The Secretary of Labor shall review such an application only for completeness and obvious inaccuracies. Unless the Secretary of Labor finds that an application is incomplete or obviously inaccurate, the Secretary of Labor shall certify to the Secretary of Homeland Security, not later than 7 days after the date of the filing of the application, that the requirements of this subclause have been satisfied.

“(ii) The employer is offering and will offer during the period of authorized employment to aliens admitted or provided status as a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(L) wages that are at least—

“(I) the actual wage level paid by the employer to all other individuals with similar experience and qualifications for the specific employment in question; or

“(II) the prevailing wage level for the occupational classification in the area of employment;

whichever is greater, based on the information available at the time of filing the application.

“(iii) The employer did not displace and will not displace a United States worker employed by the employer within the period beginning 180 days before and ending 180 days after the date of filing of any visa petition supported by the application.

“(iv) The provisions of section 212(n)(2) shall apply to a failure to meet a condition of clauses (i), (ii), and (iv) and subparagraph (G) in the same manner as such provisions apply to a failure to meet a condition of section 212(n)(1)(F).”

(b) APPROPRIATE AGENCIES REFERENCES.—Section 214(c)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(1)) is amended by inserting after “Department of Agriculture.” the following: “For purposes of this subsection with respect to nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L), the term ‘appropriate agencies of Government’ means the Department of Labor.”

(c) RESTRICTION OF BLANKET PETITIONS.—Section 214(c)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)(A)) is amended by striking “In the case of” and all

that follows through the period and inserting the following: “Not later than January 15 of each year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with the Secretary of Labor to ensure that procedures utilized in that calendar year to process blanket petitions shall not undermine efforts by the Department of Labor to enforce the provisions of this subsection and shall consider any recommendations that the Secretary of Labor proposes to such procedures to enhance compliance with the provisions of this subsection.”

(d) ACTION ON PETITIONS.—Section 214(c)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)(C)) is amended by inserting before the period the following: “, unless the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Secretary of Labor, determines that an additional period of time beyond 30 days is necessary to ensure the proper implementation of this subsection”.

(e) EMPLOYMENT HISTORY.—Section 101(a)(15)(L) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(L)) is amended by striking “one year” and inserting “2 of the last 3 years”.

(f) PERIOD OF ADMISSION.—Section 214(c)(2)(D) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)(D)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “7 years” and inserting “5 years”; and

(2) in clause (ii), by striking “5 years” and inserting “3 years”.

(g) RECRUITMENT; ADMINISTRATIVE FEE; DEFINITIONS.—Section 214(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(2)), as amended by subsection (a), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(G) In the case of a petition to import aliens as nonimmigrants in a capacity that involves specialized knowledge as described in section 101(a)(15)(L), the employer, prior to filing the petition, shall file with the Secretary of Labor an application stating that the employer has taken good faith steps to recruit, in the United States using procedures that meet industry-wide standards, United States workers for the job for which the nonimmigrants are sought.

“(H) The Secretary of Labor shall impose a fee on an employer filing a petition to import aliens as nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) to cover the administrative costs of processing the petition.

“(I) The Secretary of Labor may initiate an investigation of any employer that employs nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) if the Secretary of Labor has reasonable cause to believe that the employer is not in compliance with this subsection. The investigation may be initiated not solely for completeness and obvious inaccuracies by the employer in complying with this subsection.

“(J) In this paragraph:

“(i) In the case of an application with respect to 1 or more nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(L) by an employer, the employer is considered to ‘displace’ a United States worker from a job if the employer lays off the worker from a job that is essentially the equivalent of the job for which the nonimmigrant is sought. A job shall not be considered to be essentially equivalent of another job unless it involves essentially the same responsibilities, was held by a United States worker with substantially equivalent qualifications and experience, and is located in the same area of employment as the other job.

“(ii) The term ‘lays off’, with respect to a worker—

“(aa) means to cause the worker’s loss of employment, other than through a discharge for inadequate performance, violation of

workplace rules, cause, voluntary departure, voluntary retirement, or the expiration of a grant or contract; but

“(bb) does not include any situation in which the worker is offered, as an alternative to such loss of employment, a similar employment opportunity with the same employer at equivalent or higher compensation and benefits than the position from which the employee was discharged, regardless of whether or not the employee accepts the offer.

“(II) Nothing in this clause is intended to limit an employee’s rights under a collective bargaining agreement or other employment contract.

“(iii) The term ‘United States worker’ means an employee who—

“(I) is a citizen or national of the United States; or

“(II) is an alien who is lawfully admitted for permanent residence or is an immigrant otherwise authorized by this Act or by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be employed.”.

(h) **TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.**—Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended by striking “Attorney General” each place that term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”.

**SEC. 303. TEMPORARY NONIMMIGRANT WORKERS.**

(a) **H-1B DEPENDENT EMPLOYERS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (E)(ii), by striking “an H-1B-dependent employer (as defined in paragraph (3))” and inserting “an employer that employs H-1B nonimmigrants”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “(regardless of whether or not such other employer is an H-1B-dependent employer)”; and

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (E), by striking “If an H-1B-dependent employer” and inserting “If an employer that employs H-1B nonimmigrants”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (F), by striking “The preceding sentence shall apply to an employer regardless of whether or not the employer is an H-1B-dependent employer.”.

(2) **CONFORMING DEFINITION AMENDMENT.**—Section 212(n)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)(3)) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A); and

(B) by redesignating subparagraphs (B) and (C) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively.

(b) **DISPLACEMENT OF WORKERS.**—Section 212(n) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(n)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(F), by striking “90 days” each place that term appears and inserting “180 days”; and

(2) in paragraph (2)(C)(iii), by striking “90 days” each place that term appears and inserting “180 days”.

(c) **ENFORCEMENT ACTION.**—Section 212(n)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8

U.S.C. 1182(n)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(I) The Secretary of Labor may initiate an investigation of any employer that hires nonimmigrants described in section 101(a)(15)(H)(i)(b) if the Secretary of Labor has reasonable cause to believe that the employer is not in compliance with this subsection. The investigation may be initiated not solely for completeness and obvious inaccuracies by the employer in complying with this subsection.”.

(d) **ADMINISTRATIVE FEE.**—Section 214(c)(9)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184(c)(9)(A)) is amended by striking “before October 1, 2003”.

**SEC. 304. COMPTROLLER GENERAL INVESTIGATION.**

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall undertake an investigation to determine—

(1) how the amendments made by this Act are being implemented;

(2) the impact that the amendments made by this Act have had on employers and workers in the United States; and

(3) whether additional changes to existing law are necessary—

(A) to prevent American workers from being displaced by nonimmigrants described in subparagraphs (L) and (H)(i)(b) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)); or

(B) to meet the legitimate needs of United States employers.