

including the Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots, want to see the division of Cyprus end before its entrance into the EU, the Annan plan for a Cyprus settlement was justly voted down by the Greek Cypriots by an overwhelming 76 percent.

My colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), outlined the many reasons why this vote took place.

□ 1930

But we have also heard that many of the residents are working to resolve these disputes and that there is growing strength for a unified Cyprus. A unified Cyprus would promote stability both politically and economically to the entire Mediterranean region. The people of Cyprus deserve a unified and democratic country, and I remain hopeful that a peaceful settlement will be found so that the division of Cyprus will come to an end. Some of us are calling for a special envoy to Cyprus to work towards achieving that end.

However, there have been recent developments that concern me, and I know that they may concern many of my colleagues. Earlier this month, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) and I sent a letter, along with 30 other Members of this body, to Secretary of State Rice asking for clarification about U.S. policy toward Cyprus. Specifically, we are seeking answers about the policy of the United States regarding travel directly into the northern occupied parts of Cyprus by U.S. citizens.

While we have not yet heard from the Secretary, I remain hopeful that our relations with Cyprus will remain steadfast and that we will continue to adhere to international treaties and U.N. Security Council resolutions on this issue.

I also want to mention the ongoing issue in Cyprus over property in the northern part of the island. Since Turkey invaded Cyprus, American citizens have been denied access to their property even though they hold titles to that property. I urge my colleagues to support legislation offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE), H.R. 857, the American-Owned Property in Occupied Cyprus Claims Act, which would enable U.S. citizens who own property in the Turkish-occupied territory of the Republic of Cyprus to seek financial remedies with either the current inhabitants of their land or the Turkish Government.

Additionally, I have introduced a resolution, H.R. 322, which expresses the sense of the House of Representatives in support of the European Court of Human Rights for its decision in the *Loizidou v. Turkey* and the *Xenides-Arestis v. Turkey* cases and for admitting similar cases before the court.

The European Court of Human Rights in 1996 ruled that Turkey must pay Titina Loizidou for denying her access to her property in the occupied part of Cyprus. Earlier this year the

European Court of Human Rights decided that a similar case brought by Xenides-Arestis against Turkey was admissible and that Turkey continues to be responsible for what happens in the occupied areas of Cyprus since Turkey exercises effective and overall control through the presence of over 30,000 troops in northern Cyprus.

While I hope that Turkey respects the decisions made by the European Court of Human Rights, I believe that denying property owners access to their land in northern Cyprus is wrong and that steps should be taken immediately to address this issue. Thirty-one years is too long to have a divided country. It is too long to be kept from one's home. It is too long to be separated from one's family. We have seen many tremendous changes around the world. It is time for Cyprus to live in peace and security with full enjoyment of their human rights.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in commemorating the 31st anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus. Long live freedom. Long live Cyprus. Long live Greece. And long live the United States and the friendship between our countries.

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my time out of order.

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

There was no objection.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, my Republican colleagues have recently unveiled a new plan to carve out private accounts from the surplus of the Social Security trust fund. This is the same trust fund that President Bush said was nonexistent just a few months ago. The President traveled with great fanfare to West Virginia where he said, There is no Social Security trust fund, just a bunch of IOUs stacked in an old filing cabinet.

Let me tell the Members something. That old filing cabinet was a new filing cabinet before it got \$639 billion taken out of it; and before the year is up, it will be \$800 billion that was taken out of the Social Security surplus used for anything but Social Security. That is the problem.

And now it seems that the Republicans in Congress have come to a stalemate. The President wants to privatize Social Security and cut benefits for the middle class. The congressional Republican leadership would rather avoid benefit cuts, but they too want to privatize Social Security.

While the White House and congressional Republicans struggle to decide which privatization plan they want to be for, I suggest a totally different approach to Social Security: save Social Security first. The surplus should have been for Social Security. It should always be for Social Security. And my suggestion is on the \$800 billion they already took out of it, before they do anything else with some grand plan to cut benefits or privatize it, pay back the \$800 billion they took.

I worked in an administration where we cut taxes for the middle class, balanced the budget, and extended the life of the trust fund by 10 years. Why? Because we had an economic plan that worked. It grew the economy. It grew middle-class incomes. It helped homeownership. It reduced the poverty rate, and we added 10 years to the life of the Social Security trust fund, and we cut taxes for the middle class, and we balanced the budget, unlike the \$2 trillion of additional debt we have added on to the books and on to the shoulders of our children. But it requires leadership and priorities, which is in short supply around here.

Before we create any private accounts or do anything else to fundamentally alter the character and nature of Social Security, our task here is to strengthen Social Security for the future and guarantee its future. And none of the plans, none of the various privatization plans, none of the ideas of benefit cuts or raising the age, none of that adds to the solvency. And the task here, Mr. Speaker, is to strengthen Social Security.

The American people have rejected the President's plan. They have rejected the congressional plan. They have rejected anything to do with privatization because they know it is the wrong way. I am going to tell the Members something as a person who represents a lot of employees from United Airlines: folks like the security that comes with Social Security.

They have had it up to here with risk, and all they are providing with privatization is more risk on top of more risk. They have it in their health care. They have it in their jobs. They have it in their own retirement savings. They do not need more risk, and they like the foundation of security that comes with Social Security. Ask any steel worker, any person who works for United Airlines or the airlines industry who lost their pensions or the 14,000 people at Hewlett-Packard, and they will say that privatization of Social Security is a nonstarter.

Middle-class families are struggling. They have flat wages, a 55 percent increase in energy costs, 10 percent increase in health care costs, 11 percent

increase in college costs. And what are we suggesting? Putting more risk in their retirement plans. Public servants such as teachers, police officers, fire fighters are being pressed out of the housing market. American families face more risk today, not less; and they do not want the risk they are selling.

With a savings rate at a historic low, falling to just 1 percent last year, we can pass the right legislation now to help people save for their retirement. Privatization stands in the way. Privatization of Social Security has become the poison pill to progress.

The truth is both Republicans and Democrats have good ideas on retirement savings, and we could take several steps right now to help Americans save for their retirement outside of Social Security. First, Congress should appoint a commission like in 1983 that said no to privatization and we developed a plan that saved Social Security for 75 years and in the meantime developed a bipartisan consensus on how to help Americans save for their retirement.

I have a couple ideas on what to do. First, I have introduced legislation on the automatic enrollment into 401(k)s so people are automatically enrolled in 401(k)s. My employees at RR Donnelley did that, a Fortune 500 company; and their participation of savings went from 62 to 92 percent of employees participating. The Wall Street Journal reported today that 21 percent of all companies have implemented automatic enrollment, up from 14 percent last year. This is good news, but we can do more.

Second, at tax time, when people are filling out their taxes, allow direct deposit of tax refunds into the savings account. Once a year about \$215 billion gets moved. It should not be moved to consumption, but to savings. And if people pick 10 percent, 50 percent, 100 percent of their tax returns to go to savings, we would add not only who saves but the amount of money that is saved in this country. A report by the Retirement Security Project of the Brookings Institute found that for every year, 100 million people receive a Federal income tax on average of \$2,000. We can have that directly deposited into their savings accounts like companies do today, and more and more Americans will not only save for their retirement, but more dollars will be added to savings.

Third, the Retirement Savings for Working Americans Act of 2005 makes the saver's credit; so people who are earning \$60,000 or less, the first \$2,000 that they save would be matched by \$1,000 by the Federal Government. It would help 50 million families with new incentives to saving.

Fourth, we should consolidate the confusing "alphabet soup" of 16 different savings plans into one portable pension.

Mr. Speaker, the vast majority of Americans have rejected the idea of privatization of Social Security. By

taking these steps, we can boost savings outside of Social Security and provide Americans with a real savings plan.

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.)

IN SUPPORT OF WEST PAPUA NEW GUINEA'S QUEST FOR FREEDOM

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I take this Special Order time to address a most serious problem pertaining to the colony of West Papua New Guinea, as it is noted and made part of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for fiscal years 2006 and 2007.

Mr. Speaker, the House has just passed this important legislation by a historic vote of 351 to 78 in favor of this bill, and I certainly want to personally commend the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the honorable chairman of our Committee on International Relations; the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), our senior ranking member; the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. LEACH), distinguished chairman of the Asia and the Pacific Subcommittee; and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for their tremendous help and leadership in getting this provision included in this year's authorization bill.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, I want to first extend my congratulations, and I do commend the good people of Indonesia for having achieved this new milestone of their political development into a democratic form of government. I commend the newly elected President of Indonesia, President Yudhoyono, and I wish him well in all his efforts to fight corruption and bring about democratic reforms in the new government.

I also note, Mr. Speaker, with interest that the honorable Prime Minister of Australia, Mr. John Howard, is visiting us here in Washington. It is my sincere hope that the Prime Minister will seriously rethink again Australia's policy towards West Papua New Guinea, and I urge all Pacific nations of the Forum Organization not to turn their backs on West Papua New Guinea.

As former colonies themselves, the Forum nations should seriously take the matter of West Papua New Guinea before the United Nations for reexamination, especially on the faulty policies that were implemented by the United Nations towards West Papua New Guinea in the years past.

Mr. Speaker, history has not been kind neither to the people of Indonesia nor to the people of West Papua New Guinea. Under the military dictatorships of Presidents Sukarno and Suharto, some 1 million Indonesians were brutally murdered and killed similar to the killing fields in Cambodia under Pol Pot. And by the same token, since the military takeover of West Papua by the Indonesian Army in 1969, approximately 100,000 West Papuans were murdered, tortured, killed; and it continues even as I speak today, Mr. Speaker.

In actual fact, Mr. Speaker, according to human rights reports and West Papuans themselves, actually approximately 300,000 to 400,000 West Papuans have been murdered, tortured to death, and disappeared at the hands of the Indonesian military.

Mr. Speaker, the United States mediated an agreement in 1962 between the Dutch and Indonesia regarding West Papua, but totally without Papuan representation. Under the terms of the agreement, the Dutch were to leave West Papua and transfer sovereignty to the United Nations Temporary Executive Authority for a period of 6 years, after which time a national referendum would be held to determine West Papua's political status.

This shift, however, did not come to pass. In fact, shortly after the sealing of this agreement, Indonesia violated the unambiguous terms by military force of arms, under President Sukarno, and seized control of West Papua from the United Nations.

□ 1945

Thereafter, in 1969, Indonesia orchestrated an election that many regard as a brutal military operation. Known as "an act of free choice," 1,022 Papuan elders were "selected" under heavy military harassment, and intimidation of their families, and to no one's surprise, every elder voted in favor of Indonesian rule.

Under the ensuing decades of Indonesian military rule, West Papuans have suffered as victims of one of the most repressive and unjust systems of colonial occupation in the 20th century. Brutal treatment by the Indonesia military has resulted in the deaths, as I said earlier, of some 100,000 West Papuans.

I am delighted to say that this bill requires Secretary Rice and the Department of State to reexamine the special autonomy law that was supposed to give autonomy to West Papua. It is my understanding, Mr. Speaker, that the provisions of the autonomy law that was passed by the Indonesia parliament, while substantive, is nothing but the paper that it was written on. The autonomy law, Mr. Speaker, I respectfully submit, is nothing but a sham, a complete farce, and the Indonesia government should be ashamed for doing this.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush during his speech in his inauguration and his