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No. 36

## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 28, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN J.H. "JOE" SCHWARZ to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer: Our God and Savior, You are eternal love, and all peoples are embraced by Your spirit. Show Your love to this Congress, shower Your wisdom upon all who work in public office for the good of Your people to build a just society.

Draw us closer into Your love and peace. Teach us to follow Your ways, that we may become capable of true love ourselves and be a fountain of living water in the midst of a thirsting world.

Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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 pro tempore. Will the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mrs. BLACKBURN led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 17, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
The 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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 17, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.:

That the Senate concur on House amendment to the bill S. 2275.

That the Senate passed S. 166.

That the Senate passed S. 1608.

That the Senate passed S. 2447.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 350.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 4826.

That the Senate agreed to without amendment H. Con. Res. 361.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
Clerk of the House.

### DEMOCRATIC SECURITY PLAN

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, Roll Call reports that the Democrats are going to unveil an "ambitious security plan" tomorrow.

Well, bless their hearts. If they have not noticed, those of us on this side of

the aisle have been focused on the issue and passing security legislation for more than 5 years now.

President Bush has made national security his priority mission. House Republicans have been talking about it for months. We have been working with our leadership on it. They consider national security priority number one, not a political tactic to trot out 7 months before an election.

We passed the PATRIOT Act to target terrorists. The Democrats voted against it. We passed the REAL ID Act to make it harder for potential terrorists to use valid State-issued identification documents. They opposed that.

We are pushing a border security bill to strengthen our border control, and Democrats in the Senate are threatening a filibuster. Mr. Speaker, Americans are going to see right through their last-ditch effort to look engaged on security.

### EXTEND THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN DEADLINE

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, as this calendar shows, the countdown continues to an outrageous tax congressional Republicans and the Bush administration plan to inflict on American seniors.

If Washington does not act before May 15, millions of seniors who have yet to choose a prescription drug plan will face a 1 percent tax that will be added onto their drug premiums for every month that they wait to sign up.

So if a senior, for example, does not choose to sign up for a plan until September, that senior would be forced to pay a 5 percent tax on top of their monthly premium every single month for the rest of their lives.

□ 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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President Bush has already admitted that his prescription drug plan is complicated and confusing, and yet the President refuses to give seniors more time to sign up for a drug plan without facing a penalty. If the President refuses to act, Congress must step in.

Congressional Democrats want to extend the deadline until the end of the year, giving seniors 7 additional months to navigate the complexities of the plan.

As we mark off another day on the calendar, Mr. Speaker, time is running out for congressional Republicans to join us in supporting this extension. America's seniors cannot afford a Bush prescription drug tax.

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#### TRIBUTE TO BUCK, SCOUT WAR DOG

(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, during the President's State of the Union address, a military working dog was among the honored guests, sharing box seats with First Lady Laura Bush.

While serving alongside a soldier in Afghanistan, Pakistan and Iraq, this dog searched for explosives and saved the lives of many American soldiers. Since World War II, dogs have served and protected our troops on nearly every battlefield, and today they help detect terrorists in the global war on terrorism.

For many years, Johnny Mayo and his dog, Buck, of Lexington, South Carolina, worked tirelessly to promote the dedication of America's military war dogs.

An inspiration for the book, "Buck's Heroes," Buck, a 15-year-old Siberian Husky, touched the lives of many people throughout our Nation. Last Thursday, Buck passed away at home. Today I am honored to recognize his unique service for all American military dogs, which is especially needed in the war on terrorism.

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

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#### IMMIGRATION AND THE LOS ANGELES RALLY

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, as a proud daughter of immigrants, I rise today to echo the message of immigrant families across America in support of comprehensive immigration reform.

This past weekend, I took part in the largest demonstration that has ever taken place in California, in the area of Los Angeles, since the Vietnam War. Half a million people, if not a million, marched peacefully to let the Senate know that an enforcement-only border protection approach will not solve our broken immigration system. Nearly

40,000 students across Southern California and some from my district even marched to defend human rights and immigration reform.

I urge them to return to their classrooms and empower themselves through education to make a difference in their future. President Bush said, "Immigration is an important topic. We need to maintain our perspective. At its core immigration is a sign of a confident and successful Nation."

Our Nation needs laws that protect our borders, embrace our families, and provide earned legalization for law-abiding immigrants. Immigrant families are an important part of our social fabric and economy. Our Nation should not turn its back and ignore their needs.

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#### THE NEW YORK TIMES GOT IT RIGHT

(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 never thought I would stand on our House floor and say the words I am about to say, but here goes: the New York Times got it right.

Yes, you heard me correctly. Over the weekend, the New York Times ran an article touting the success of the new Medicare prescription drug program with the headlines: "For some who solve the puzzle, Medicare drug plan pays off."

It is about time that the mainstream media started reporting on the success of the Medicare program. For months Republicans have been holding town halls and coming to this floor to discuss how this historic program is helping America's seniors save money on their prescription drugs.

But the media and Democrats have turned a blind eye. They have ignored folks such as Virginia Shores who thought she heard her pharmacist wrong when he told her that with her new Medicare prescription drug card the cost of her prescriptions was only \$50, down from \$250.

Well, I suppose every once in a blue moon the mainstream media gets something right. Perhaps now is the time for Democrats to take time off from their demagoguery and actually listen to seniors.

It is amazing what you can learn. Just look at the New York Times.

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#### THE SENATE NEEDS TO PASS THE WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT

(Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share my thoughts on our Nation's need for passing the comprehensive Water Resources Development Act by this Congress.

On July 14 of last year, H.R. 2864, the Water Resources Development Act, passed here in this House by a resounding 406-14. The measures authorized major flood control, navigation, environmental restoration, and other water resource projects.

Yet once again, similar to years past, this vital legislation has become bogged down by our colleagues in the other body. It is critical that we return to a 2-year cycle to provide continuity for vital water-related infrastructure. Infrastructure investment has been and will continue to be the bedrock foundation of our economic growth and public safety.

A water resource bill is critical to the protection of our environment and the public safety, and the Nation needs this one right now.

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#### MEDICARE PART D IS WORKING

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to talk about the good news that is spreading across the country. Medicare part D is working. Seniors are signing up for a drug benefit through Medicare for the very first time.

According to recent studies, seniors could save as much as \$1,100 annually. This is real savings for our senior population. Over 27 million Medicare-eligible beneficiaries now have drug coverage, a 25 percent increase from February, a 25 percent increase in 1 month.

Medicare's initial goal for the first year of enrollment was between 28 and 30 million beneficiaries, and they are well on their way there. In my home State of West Virginia, over 226,000 beneficiaries now have coverage, a 6 percent increase just in the month of February.

72,000 of those live in my district. This is real success. I sat next to John the other day at a dinner. He informed me with his new Medicare prescription drug coverage he is going to save \$4,000 this year.

This is good news. There is much more work to be done. We must pull together to work with our constituents to find the best plans for their individual situations.

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#### A TALE OF TWO YALE SPIES

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, Yale University proudly boasts it has among its students a so-called former Taliban leader. The Taliban promotes treating women like property, intolerance for religious diversity, hate for freedom, and death to America.

Has Yale let a Taliban spy into its midst? Has elitist Yale University lost its way? But Yale did have a spy graduate from its university over 200 years ago. He was a 21-year-old. His name

was Nathan Hale. He was a schoolmaster, a volunteer in the Continental Army, and a spy for George Washington.

While Hale was gathering intelligence on the British in 1776, he was betrayed by Tories in New York City, captured and hung by British General Howe without a trial.

Though Hale is rarely mentioned in U.S. history books any more, his last words before being hung were: "I only regret that I have but one life to lose for my country."

Yale University would do well to recruit and honor students like Hale, instead of Taliban radicals who are villains to freedom. And, Mr. Speaker, that is just the way it is.

□ 1415

#### RECOGNIZING ARIELLE CHIKOVSKY

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to an extraordinary young woman from South Florida, Arielle Chikovsky.

As a young girl, Arielle learned that she suffered from Ushers Syndrome, a genetic disease which causes the hearing-impaired to lose their eyesight. Yet Arielle has not let her condition detract her from her daily life. Remarkably, last year, at the age of 22, Arielle graduated from law school.

Arielle is a finalist in the American Eagle Live Your Life Essay Contest. If named the winner, she plans to donate the \$25,000 reward to Hope for Vision. Hope for Vision is a nonprofit organization dedicated to discovering treatments and cures for retinal degenerative diseases.

I congratulate Arielle, who sets an example for everyone she encounters, and I support Hope for Vision and its leader, Isaac Lidsky, for their efforts to find a cure for this disease.

#### 60 MINUTES AND THE FIRST AMENDMENT

(Mrs. MILLER of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the first amendment guarantees freedom of the press, and with that freedom comes responsibility. But we all remember the 60 Minutes II report during the last campaign which used partisan sources and forged documents to assert that the President of the United States had not fulfilled his duty in the National Guard, a report that was proven to be false.

Well, here we go again. Recently I saw a 60 Minutes segment in which a scientist claimed that his views on global warming were being censored by the administration. Of course, they did not report that this man had received a

\$250,000 grant from the foundation controlled by Theresa Heinz Kerry. They did not report that this man had endorsed John Kerry. They did not report that he has served as a consultant for Al Gore nor that he had made similar claims against President Bush's father in 1989.

The first amendment gives freedom of the press, but the truth is the foundation for credibility.

60 Minutes should tell both sides of the story in a fair and balanced way, or they should simply air this disclaimer: "60 Minutes brought to you by the National Democratic Committee."

#### MEDICARE PART D

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I was pleased to join with Representative JAN SCHAKOWSKY, Representative DAN LIPINSKI, a grass-roots community group known as Citizens Action, a large number of senior citizens, as well as a group of retired workers, calling for the redesign and redevelopment of part D of the Medicare program.

As a matter of fact, the seniors who were there all condemned everything that they had come into contact with relative to the terrible frustration. I hope that Americans all across the country would join with us to revise Medicare part D.

#### MEDICARE PART D SUCCESS STORY

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, every day we are hearing success stories from seniors who are saving money with Medicare part D. Two of these seniors are Mary and Jerry O'Brien of Cobb County, Georgia.

I want to share with you a letter Jerry O'Brien wrote to my office. He said, "I went to medicare.gov and I found a comparison of various programs. I chose one for my wife for \$70 a month, which has no deductible. We had no prescription insurance before and find Medicare part D to be very effective. We saved enough, in fact, on the first prescriptions to pay for 2 months' worth of premiums. I realize the program got off to a shaky start, but as far as I am concerned, it is now working well."

Mr. Speaker, Mary O'Brien saved enough money for 1 month of prescriptions to pay for 2 months of premiums. For the O'Briens, Medicare part D is literally paying for itself.

I hope seniors will hear the O'Brien story and go to [www.medicare.gov](http://www.medicare.gov) and find out how much money they could save with a Medicare part D plan. The initial enrollment period ends May 15,

so I want to encourage all seniors to sign up now and start their savings immediately.

#### GOOD FENCES MAKE GOOD NEIGHBORS

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the benefits of having a physical or virtual fence along the 2,000-mile Mexican-U.S. border to crack down on illegal immigration.

I recently returned from a week-long trip to the Mexican-California border, and I am convinced of one thing. Good fences make good neighbors. First, we need to complete construction of the double fence for 700 miles along the border near highly populated urban areas.

For example, San Diego saw a steep reduction in crossings from 500,000, now down to 130,000, when the double fence was completed there. Second, for the remaining 1,300 miles along the border, where mountains and rugged terrain make completion of a double fence impossible, we need to have a virtual fence which consists of infrared cameras that allow our Border Patrol agents to see the entire border.

Mr. Speaker, the House recently passed a tough border security bill that authorized the appropriate border security fence, but the Senate yesterday cleared a bill out of the Judiciary Committee that did absolutely nothing to build this border security fence. It is now time for the full Senate to get serious about border security.

#### CONGRATULATING GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY ON ITS APPEAR- ANCE IN THE FINAL FOUR

(Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, George Mason University hosts two Nobel Prize winners, a top 25 law school and the most ethically diverse student body in the world. But today, Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to honor the George Mason University men's basketball team for overcoming incredible odds to make it to the 2006 NCAA Division I Final Four.

George Mason is only the second team with a double-digit seed to advance to the Final Four and the first to do so since 1986. George Mason is also the first team in Colonial Athletic Association history to advance this far in the tournament. Under the guidance of Coach Jim Larranaga and assistants Chris Caputo, Scott Cherry and James Johnson, the Patriots have shown America that with hard work, dedication and, most importantly, teamwork, any goal, no matter how far-fetched it may seem, can be reached.

They provided several heart-stopping moments throughout the tournament

while relying on their wonderful sense of teamwork, which should be an example to all of us. Twice they rallied from double-digit deficits in both the round of 32 and the round of 8 against the Nation's top-ranked teams to accomplish this historic feat.

Members of the 2005–2006 Patriots include Tony Skinn, Jordan Carter, Makan Konate, Gabe Norwood, Tim Burns, Jesus Urbina, Lamar Butler, John Vaughan, Will Thomas, Chris Fleming, Folarin Campbell, Sammy Hernandez, Charles Makings and Jai Lewis.

Mr. Speaker, the George Mason University men's basketball team will be one to remember for the entire Mason community, from the student athletes who achieved this amazing feat, to the coaches, to the students and the entire Northern Virginia region.

I wish them the very best in this weekend's tournament in Indianapolis.

#### HOLLY'S LAW/RU-486

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, earlier this month two more women died after using the abortion drug RU-486.

A premature death is always tragic. But the deaths of these women are even harder to bear because they simply did not have to happen.

We already knew RU-486 to be dangerous and life-threatening. These are not the first deaths linked to it. Yet, despite this knowledge, neither the drug's manufacturer nor the FDA, has been willing to pull it from the market.

Faced with this reluctance, Congress has the duty to take action.

We often hear advocates of abortion promote their cause in the name of women's rights and women's health. If they want to protect women, then they should add their support to H.R. 1079, Holly's Law, offered by my colleague from Maryland, Mr. BARTLETT. This common-sense bill would withdraw FDA approval of RU-486 and subject it to a thorough review to measure its health risk.

Mr. Speaker, we should act in the best interest of women's health. Let us pass Holly's Law.

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF FLORIDA ON ITS FINAL FOUR APPEARANCE

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Florida Gators men's basketball team on their third Final Four appearance and the second in the past 5 years.

Now, at the beginning of the season, not much was expected of these young Gators. However, they rose to a number two national ranking on the strength of a 17-game winning streak,

and they continued that success through the post-season, winning the Southeastern Conference Tournament and then advancing to the Final Four with a 75–62 win over the top-seeded Villanova Wildcats.

Mr. Speaker, this Saturday in Indianapolis, the Gators will face the George Mason University Patriots whose Cinderella story has been equally inspiring. In recognition of this event, I have offered a friendly wager of a case of Gatorade to my colleague, Tom Davis.

Gatorade's creation in 1965 by Dr. Robert Cade at the University of Florida has marked the success of the University of Florida's athletic teams through the past decades and will hopefully aid in victory in the 2006 Final Four.

#### MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, when enrollment began for the new Medicare prescription drug plan last November, most American people heard only about what was wrong with the program. Now, after 3 months in the new program, have you heard the good news?

Last week, the Department of Health and Human Services announced that more than 27 million individuals are now receiving prescription benefits under the plan, when before they received none, 1.9 million new folks just in the last month alone.

As more seniors sign up, they are seeing the benefits of the new program. A recent report of the New York Times included comments from individuals who have signed up and seen their prescription drug costs drop dramatically.

One woman saw her monthly costs drop from \$476 to \$100 a month. A February HHS report announced that the average premium had fallen from an estimate of \$37 per month to \$25 per month in actual cost.

As this plan moves forward, Congress must make sure that flexibility exists to respond to patient needs. We should also share the good news because it is the right thing to do.

#### REMEMBERING CASPAR WEINBERGER AND LYN NOFZIGER

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember two great Americans, former Secretary of State Caspar Weinberger and former advisor and press secretary to Ronald Reagan, Lyn Nofziger. Both Californians, both true patriots and both World War II veterans, both dedicated public servants and both notable contributors to the Reagan revolution and legacy.

President Reagan's vision of peace through strength found the perfect ad-

vocate and architect in Secretary Weinberger. He rebuilt and revitalized a military that had suffered from underfunding and underappreciation. His success laid a foundation for the end of the Cold War and for the military might we rely upon today.

He recognized that a strong defense would not only secure the peace, but would protect our freedom as well. Cap said, "Peace alone is not enough. Peace can mean even slavery sometimes. Peace and freedom is what we have to have."

Lyn Nofziger is probably best known for his off-color humor and his dedication to his long-time boss, Ronald Reagan. As a spokesman for the Governor and the President, he communicated on behalf of the Great Communicator.

During the dark hours after the attempt on President Reagan's life, it was Lyn who relayed to the world Reagan's famous line, "Honey, I forgot to duck."

What Lyn valued most, though, was freedom and the pursuit of it. On his Web site, which is still up and where you can still read his musings, he said that he was a Republican "because I believe freedom is more important than government-provided security."

Mr. Speaker, these were remarkable men who so strongly valued freedom that they fought for it, and so fully believed in the promise of the United States that they gave voice and policy to a President who made our country more prosperous and our world more free.

We honor the service and tremendous contributions of Caspar Weinberger and Lyn Nofziger. Our thoughts and prayers are with their families.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 23, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
The Speaker, U.S. 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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 23, 2006, at 1:56 p.m.:

That the Senate agreed to S. Con. Res. 83.  
With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
Clerk of the House.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, March 28, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
The 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, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on March 28, 2006, at 9:30 a.m.:

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 1259.

With best wishes, I am,  
Sincerely,

KAREN L. HAAS,  
Clerk of the House.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, Speaker pro tempore Aderholt signed the following enrolled bills on Friday, March 17, 2006:

H.R. 4826, to extend through December 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits;

S. 2275, to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the National Flood Insurance Program;

S. 2320, to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

□ 1430

#### VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER ENFORCEMENT ACT

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4882) to ensure the proper remembrance of Vietnam veterans and the Vietnam War by providing a deadline for the designation of a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4882

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

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Enforcement Act".

#### SEC. 2. SITE.

Section 6 of Public Law 96-297 is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) SITE.—The visitor center authorized by subsection (a) shall be located in the open land in the triangular area between Henry Bacon Drive, NW, 23rd Street, NW, Constitution Avenue, NW, and the Lincoln Memorial."

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Mexico.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4882, introduced by Resources Committee Chairman RICHARD POMBO, along with Ranking Member NICK RAHALL, Congresswoman DONNA CHRISTENSEN and myself, would locate the congressionally approved underground visitors center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial on land adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial.

Chairman POMBO felt compelled to take this unusual action in direct response to what he and I and others believe is the unreasonable bureaucracy choreographed by the National Capital Planning Commission.

In November of 2003, the President signed the bill into law authorizing the creation of the visitors center. For 3½ years, this project has been under way with the National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund having promptly met all requests for environmental and related information on the siting of the center. Yet, the commission demands more.

Last November, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service gave the commission an extensive traffic analysis and met other information requests for a December 1 meeting at which the commission was expected to approve the site. However, without any notice to the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the commission removed the visitors center from the meeting agenda and requested an extensive and unprecedented environmental analysis.

There is no need for an additional analysis. In compliance with the Commemorative Works Act, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund commissioned a site selection study environmental analysis in June 2005 that recommended the most appropriate site, which is cited in H.R. 4882, as amended. Site A, as it is known, would not interfere or encroach on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial or other memorials

and protects the open space and visual sight lines of the National Mall as required by the authorizing legislation.

As a Vietnam veteran, I believe the visitors center is a long overdue complement to the most visited memorial in Washington, DC. While "the Wall," as it has become known, certainly provides a visitor with an intense and solemn experience, it lacks personal context. Our brave soldier, sailors, and airmen desperately need something more, an experience that can help them heal while bringing closure. Their objectives were honorable and their sacrifice was exemplary. Yet their heroism remains unnoticed by younger generations.

As today's participants in the military, young men and women, fight the war on terror, there is no better way to reassure them that America will honor their sacrifice, no matter what the Nation feels. The greatest thing that we can do to reassure them is to honor our Vietnam veterans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the bill, as amended.

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

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

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

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join Chairman POMBO as an original cosponsor of this measure, along with the ranking member on our Parks Subcommittee, Representative DONNA CHRISTENSEN. We urge our colleagues to approve H.R. 4882.

While the fighting ended more than 30 years ago, our work as a nation to reconcile with all that took place during the Vietnam Era continues.

Just as the Revolutionary War gave birth to our liberty, and the survival of our Union through the Civil War and two World Wars gave us strength, the lessons of the Vietnam War can grant us wisdom; and while the emotions stirred by that war in the hearts and minds of Americans are many and varied, the journey this Nation has taken with regard to Vietnam resembles nothing so much as a journey of grieving.

We grieve for the fallen, for the bereft families, for the survivors and their painful scars, and for the wounds inflicted on the country and the people of Vietnam.

Mr. Speaker, the experts tell us that there are stages to the grieving process. In those 30 years, we have experienced them each in turn.

The process began with denial and with anger. For a time, we denied Vietnam its rightful place in American history as we denied those who fought and died their rightful place in the pantheon of American heroes. And Lord knows we have felt the anger. To our shame, we directed much of that anger at those who served.

We have also lived through what the experts call the bargaining phase. We

have wished, we have hoped, and we have prayed that things might have turned out differently, that we might, as a nation, have responded differently. We have tried to negotiate away our failures.

And we have surely endured the next phase, the depression that comes with war and with death. Those who returned from Vietnam and the families of those who did not have felt the deep darkness of painful loss. And our Nation, as a whole, has endured a lingering sadness for so much that was lost during that time.

But, finally, Mr. Speaker, we reached the last stage; and it is here that the Vietnam Memorial plays such a powerful role. We have achieved some level of acceptance. We have, however belatedly, begun to treat those who sacrificed for their country in Vietnam with the reverence they have earned, and we have begun to heal. The Vietnam Memorial is a powerful symbol of that healing and an emotional catalyst for it.

The Wall's designer, the amazingly gifted Maya Lin, described her idea for the Wall as a "rift in the Earth." The Wall literally stands as a deep, dark scar on the land, and it represents the deep scar we carry as a nation; but a scar is an important part of healing.

The National Park Service describes the goal of the memorial as "nourishing national reconciliation," and in achieving reconciliation, the Memorial has succeeded beyond even the wildest dreams of its most ardent supporters.

More than 20 million people have made the journey to the memorial and the journey through the memorial, leaving millions of personal items in tribute and in memory; and they have felt some measure of healing, of acceptance. Perhaps more important, the Wall, and the reaction to it by the millions who have seen it, has begun to make Vietnam veterans and their families feel some measure of acceptance as well.

The leadership of the House Resources Committee has pledged to work together in a bipartisan fashion to ensure that this process of healing and acceptance continues.

A visitors center will broaden and deepen the experience of those who come to the Wall. A visitor center will educate. Visitors can learn about the 57,939 names that were inscribed on the Wall when it was built and the more than 300 that have been added since. The center can offer information regarding the 151 people listed on the Wall who, in making the ultimate sacrifice for their country, were awarded the Medal of Honor, or the 16 clergy members, or the 120 people who hailed from foreign countries. We still have many lessons to learn.

A visitors center can help interpret as well. The center will provide space for a small sampling of the enormous volume of memorabilia left at the Wall, and as more and more visitors bring with them less and less personal

experience of the war, a visitors center will provide them invaluable context and meaning.

Fittingly, Mr. Speaker, one end of the Vietnam Memorial points directly toward the grand statue of our 16th President housed inside the Lincoln Memorial. Written on the wall of that memorial are words from Lincoln's second inaugural address, which also speak to the role of the Vietnam Wall:

"With malice toward none, with charity for all, with firmness in the right as God gives us to see the right, let us strive on to finish the work we are in, to bind up the Nation's wounds.

"To care for him who shall have borne the battle and for his widow and his orphan, to do all which may achieve and cherish a just and lasting peace among ourselves and with all nations."

H.R. 4882 will help finish the work we are in regarding Vietnam. It will help continue the healing provided by the memorial. It will help bind up the Nation's wounds, and we urge its passage.

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

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

I thank the gentleman for his comments and would note that in this past week I was able to tour a brand-new school in my district, the 2nd District of New Mexico, that is named after the Bataan March.

The Bataan Death March occurred because the Nation forgot a small increment, a small group of soldiers, most of them in the New Mexico National Guard. Those people were taken captive, and now I find young school members, school kids today understanding the sacrifices that were made in that Bataan March back in World War II.

I was in Vietnam when the Nation turned its back on the young soldiers of the Vietnam Era. I was there as we were spit on and cursed as we came back. Right now, most Vietnam veterans look for only one greeting, that is, welcome home. Even today, those words are enough to satisfy the Vietnam veteran to whom a nation turned its back.

For the National Capital Planning Commission to turn its back on our veterans from Vietnam one more time is beyond belief. I urge passage of the bill.

Mr. POMBO. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4882, as amended.

H.R. 4882, legislation I introduced along with Resources Committee Ranking Member Congressman RAHALL, National Parks Subcommittee Chairman PEARCE and Subcommittee Ranking Member CHRISTENSEN, would locate the congressionally approved underground visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial adjacent to the Lincoln Memorial.

I felt compelled to take this unusual action in direct response to what I believe is the unreasonable bureaucracy choreographed by the National Capital Planning Commission, NCPC. After having met with the NCPC chairman, I

believed more than ever that I had to take such action when I asked him the simple question: When will the commission complete its unusually long evaluation for the placement of the center? His answer was that the commission was still collecting information and that he could not give me a day, month, week or year.

Following years of failed attempts to secure an authorization for the visitor center, I was able to get legislation to the President in November 2003. It is now March 2006 and the National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund have promptly met all NCPC requests for environmental and related information on the siting of the center and yet the commission wants more. Enough is enough.

As late as November 2005, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund and the National Park Service gave the NCPC an extensive traffic analysis and met other NCPC requests for a December 1 NCPC meeting. The commission was to approve the site for the center at this meeting.

Instead, without any notice to the National Park Service and the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund, the NCPC removed the visitor center from the meeting agenda and requested an extensive and unprecedented environmental analysis.

I do not believe there is a need for additional analysis. In compliance with the Commemorative Works Act and the NCPC policies and procedures, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Fund commissioned an environmental analysis/site selection study in June 2005. The recommended site for the visitor center is cited in H.R. 4882. Site A, as it is known, would not interfere or encroach on the Lincoln or Vietnam Veterans Memorial, and protects the open space and visual sightlines of the Mall as required by the authorizing legislation.

Mr. Speaker, at this time, I would like to thank John Reese and Scott Randall of the city of Danville, CA, and Mike Weber of the city of San Ramon, CA, for their service to this country and their leadership and strong support for the visitor center.

Finally, if there was any doubt as to the need for this important legislation, one should take a look at the article that appeared in the March 23, 2006, edition of the Washington Examiner. A spokeswoman for the NCPC is quoted as saying the commission is concerned that "you could end up with a four- or five-story building next to the Lincoln Memorial."

How is that possible when the visitor center is required by statute to be located underground? I think that quote sums up the agenda of the staff of the NCPC and their unfounded opposition to the visitor center.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4882, as amended.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to raise some serious concerns about H.R. 4882, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act. I think everyone in this body, myself included, believes strongly that the Vietnam Veterans Memorial should have a visitors center. That is why Congress passed H.R. 1442 2½ years ago with unanimous support.

That bill authorized the visitors center to be constructed on Federal land in the District of Columbia. It also required that the design and construction of the center comply with existing

Federal law governing the placement of memorials, museums, and other facilities on the Mall. As I am sure Members know, the construction of new facilities on the Mall is a difficult and often contentious issue where the competing interests of particular advocates sometimes conflict with the need to protect the sightlines and openness of the Mall itself.

In order to deal with these issues fairly, ensure that all interested parties have a voice, and protect what is truly a national treasure, Congress has created the National Capitol Planning Commission, over which the Government Reform Committee has jurisdiction. It has also established in law a process for the consideration and approval of new facilities on the Mall in the Commemorative Works Act.

The bill before us, H.R. 4882, short-circuits that process in two ways. First, it would create an arbitrary deadline for the visitors center's approval—30 days from the date of enactment. Second, the bill designates the sight on which the center will be built—a small triangle of land between the Vietnam Veterans and Lincoln Memorials. This seems like the kind of micro-management that could be avoided if the Commemorative Works Act process was followed.

One of the requirements of current law is for an environmental assessment to be done on all new facilities on the Mall. It is my understanding that the lack of a completed environmental assessment for the Vietnam visitors center is what has held up the approval for the facility by the Nation Capitol Planning Commission. This assessment will provide critical information needed for final site approval, and it is my further understanding that this assessment is currently underway.

I believe that this approval process should be allowed to reach its own conclusion, without mandated deadlines and site selection. The National Capitol Planning Commission is working in good faith with the National Park Service, the General Services Administration, the government of the District of Columbia, and Vietnam Veterans groups to reach a timely conclusion to this approval process. They should be allowed to do so.

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4882, the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center Deadline Enforcement Act.

I want to thank the chairman of the Committee on Resources, the gentleman from California (Mr. POMBO), and also our ranking member, the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), for their leadership in bringing this legislation to the floor.

In 2003, Congress authorized the construction of a visitor center for the Vietnam Memorial to help provide information and educate the public about the memorial and the Vietnam War.

Unfortunately, over the past three years, progress in selecting a location for the visitor's center has stalled due to bureaucratic red-tape. The legislation we are considering today will bring the site-selection process to a close by designating both a location for the center's construction and a deadline for its completion.

I believe an Educational Visitors Center will serve as an important learning tool for the millions of visitors who visit the Wall each year, especially those too young to remember Vietnam.

I strongly support this effort to at last make the Vietnam Veterans Memorial Visitor Center

a reality and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this legislation.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, there is no place more sacred for me than the Vietnam Memorial. A close second is the Lincoln Memorial. I visit and run by these poignant places on our National Mall on a nearly daily basis when Congress is in session.

When changes to the Mall are planned it is critical to have a process in place to protect the integrity of the memorials that honor our history. I'm appalled that a bill such as this is coming before Congress, which short circuits the well-functioning process currently in place.

This isn't about bureaucracy and the environment. This is about respect for two sacred places.

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

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

Mr. PEARCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4882, as amended.

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. PEARCE. 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 question will be postponed.

#### H. GORDON PAYROW POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4786) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as the "H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4786

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

#### SECTION 1. H. GORDON PAYROW POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, shall be known and designated as the "H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I introduced H.R. 4786 to honor H. Gordon Payrow, a man who was wise beyond his years. He was a man who challenged the process and brought new and innovative ideas and policies to his community. In his early years, he attended Bethlehem High School and Allentown Preparatory School. After graduation, he went on to study at Lehigh University where he earned a degree in business.

After his marriage to Dorothy Parker in 1943, he was elected to the Bethlehem City Council in November of 1951. It was not long after that he was elected as mayor and named the first "strong mayor" to emerge from the mayor-council form of government first authorized in 1957.

At his inauguration in 1962, Mayor Payrow declared: "Today marks the end of the North Side, South Side, and West Side. From here on we will only think of Bethlehem," thus bringing together a melting pot of cultures and proclaiming a new unity for the city. Payrow was extremely popular with both Democrats and Republicans, which led him to hold office for three consecutive terms.

During his tenure, Mayor Payrow never retreated from tackling controversial issues. Under Payrow, Bethlehem hired its first female police officer and began the construction of a new city hall. He oversaw the creation of the city's Fine Arts Commission, the Beautification Committee, and the Environmental Conservation Commission. He was also instrumental in laying the groundwork for a massive revitalization of Bethlehem's downtown area.

Further, during his three terms, the mayor worked to construct several fire stations, to demolish blighted housing developments, and to oversee the replacement and construction of several bridges critical to the transportation infrastructure of the city of Bethlehem.

Gordon Payrow was a man of great integrity and skill who believed in his city and in his constituents. The city of Bethlehem is a better place because of his influence, and it is only fitting and proper that a postal facility in the city be named after him.

I urge all Members to join me in honoring a great man that promoted excellence in government by passing H.R. 4786.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4786, legislation naming a postal facility in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, after H. Gordon Payrow.

□ 1445

This measure, which was introduced by Representative CHARLES DENT on February 16, 2006, and unanimously reported by our committee on March 9, 2006, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Pennsylvania delegation.

H. Gordon Payrow, Jr. served three terms as mayor of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, from 1962–1974. A dedicated public servant, Mayor Payrow was committed to improving the infrastructure of the city and beautifying the community. He was also instrumental in the construction and development of the Bethlehem City Center Plaza. After leaving office, Mr. Payrow continued his involvement in local issues and community service projects. He passed away in April 2004.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is altogether fitting and proper that we honor his life and his work by naming the postal facility after him, and I urge swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I do not think I am going to have any additional requests, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I too have no further speakers at this time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4786.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### DR. JOSE CELSO BARBOSA POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3440) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Avenida RL Rodriguez in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as the “Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa Post Office Building.”

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3440

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

#### SECTION 1. DR. JOSÉ CELSO BARBOSA POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 Avenida RL Rodriguez in Bayamón, Puerto Rico, shall be known and designated as the “Dr. José Celso Barbosa Post Office Building”.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other

record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the “Dr. José Celso Barbosa Post Office Building”.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3440, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Puerto Rico (Mr. FORTUÑO). This bill would designate the post office in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, as the Dr. Jose Celso Barbosa Post Office Building.

Dr. Barbosa received both his primary and secondary education in Puerto Rico. After graduating from the seminary, Barbosa tutored private students in order to save money to attend college. In 1875, he moved to New York to attend prep school, where he learned the English language in only 1 year. In 1876, he was admitted to the University of Michigan Medical School where he graduated valedictorian of his class in 1880.

On returning to Puerto Rico to set up his practice, he learned the Spanish Government would not recognize Barbosa's degree because it was not from one of the prestigious European universities. It took the American consul to intervene for Mr. Barbosa's degree to be recognized, and he became the first person on the entire island with an American medical degree. Barbosa practiced medicine across Puerto Rico and introduced the idea of employers paying a fee for the future health care needs of their employees, a very early health insurance system.

As well as being a respected physician, Barbosa was also an esteemed political activist. He formed the prostatehood Puerto Rican Republican Party on July 4, 1899, as an aftermath of the Spanish-American War in which Puerto Rico became a territory of the United States. In 1900, Barbosa became a member of the executive cabinet up until 1917 and a member of the Senate from 1917–1921.

In 1907, he established the newspaper *El Tiempo*, the first bilingual newspaper on the island. His daughter, Pilar Barbosa would one day become a renowned historian and a political activist who would carry on her father's work. Jose Celso Barbosa died in San Juan in December of 1921.

I urge all Members to come together to honor the perseverance and courage of Dr. Barbosa by passing H.R. 3440.

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, as a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 3440, legislation naming a postal facility in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, after Jose Celso Barbosa. This measure was introduced by Representative LUIS FORTUÑO on July 26, 2005, and unanimously reported by our committee on September 15, 2005.

Jose Celso Barbosa was born in Bayamon, Puerto Rico, in 1857. Dr. Barbosa was the first Puerto Rican to graduate from the University of Michigan, where he received his medical degree and graduated as valedictorian in 1880.

Upon returning to Puerto Rico, Dr. Barbosa worked in his private medical practice, became a professor of medicine in Puerto Rico, and entered political life as a firm defender of negotiating increased autonomy for Puerto Rico from Spain.

In 1899, after Puerto Rico was ceded to the United States after the Spanish-American War, Dr. Barbosa formed the Republican Party of Puerto Rico, which advocated for Puerto Rican statehood. He was the founder of the newspaper *El Tiempo*, and active in Puerto Rican politics, serving in the executive cabinet and, later, the Senate. He died in San Juan in 1921.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge swift passage of this legislation.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 3440, and 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. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3440.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### GENE VANCE POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4805) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 North Quincy Street in Clinton, Illinois, as the “Gene Vance Post Office Building”.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4805

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

#### SECTION 1. GENE VANCE POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 105 North Quincy Street in Clinton, Illinois,

shall be known and designated as the "Gene Vance Post Office Building".

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the "Gene Vance Post Office Building".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. 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 bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 4805, offered by the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JOHNSON). The bill would designate the post office in Clinton, Illinois, as the Gene Vance Post Office Building.

After winning an All-State selection in 1940, Clinton High School star Gene Vance committed to the University of Illinois to start his incredible basketball career. His days as a fighting Illini are what he has become known for. As a member of the famed "Whiz Kids" of the Illinois basketball team, Andy Phillip, Jack Smily, Ken Menke, Art Mathison, and Vance formed one of the Nation's premier teams in the early 1940s. Their fast-break style and ability to run the floor assured them 25 of 27 wins in the Big Ten Conference from 1941-1943, rightly earning them two Big Ten titles.

After the 1943 season, Vance and the rest of the "Whiz Kids" were called to military duty for World War II. Following the final regular season game, the entire team entered the war effort. After the war, they picked up right where they left off in 1947 and led the Illini to a second place finish.

After graduation, Vance was drafted by the Chicago Stags of the Basketball Association of America, which eventually became known as the National Basketball Association, or the NBA, as we know it today.

After his basketball career had ended, Vance turned to coaching. He returned to his home State to lead the LaSalle-Peru Cavaliers to a regional championship. He later became the athletic director at the University of Illinois and was recently voted 1 of the 20 greatest Illini basketball players of the past century.

I urge all Members to join me in saluting this dedicated and honorable man by passing H.R. 4805.

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. As a member of the House Government Reform Committee, I am pleased to join my colleague in consideration of H.R. 4805, legislation naming a postal facility in Clinton, Illinois, after Gene Vance.

This measure, which was introduced by Representative TIMOTHY JOHNSON of Illinois on February 28, 2006, and unanimously reported by our committee on March 9, 2006, enjoys the support and cosponsorship of the entire Illinois delegation.

Gene Vance was a member of the 1942-43 University of Illinois basketball team known as the "Whiz Kids." The "Whiz Kids" included Gene Vance, Jack Smily, Ken Menke, Andy Phillip, and Art Mathisen. The team earned the chance to compete for the NCAA Championship after being 17-1 during the season. But the Army drafted three of the "Whiz Kids" for service in World War II, and in a show of unity the team decided if all the "Whiz Kids" could not compete together, they would not compete at all.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is altogether fitting and proper that we would name this postal facility after Mr. Vance and urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 4805, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. 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. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4805.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF "NATIONAL MPS DAY"

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 85) supporting the goals and ideals of "National MPS Day".

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. RES. 85

Whereas mucopolysaccharidoses and mucopolipidoses (commonly known as "MPS disorders") are genetically determined lysosomal storage disorders that result in the inability of the body to produce certain enzymes needed to break down complex carbohydrates;

Whereas in individuals with MPS disorders, complex carbohydrates are stored in virtually every cell in the body and progressively cause damage to the cells, affecting multiple systems, including the bones, heart and other internal organs, respiratory system, and central nervous system;

Whereas the cellular damage caused by MPS disorders results in mental retardation, short stature, corneal damage, joint stiffness, loss of mobility, speech and hearing impairment, heart disease, hyperactivity, chronic respiratory problems, and, most importantly, drastically shortened life span;

Whereas the nature of MPS disorders is usually not apparent at birth, and, without treatment, life expectancy is usually very short;

Whereas the multisystemic damage that is caused by MPS disorders makes the disorders ideal models for many other degenerative genetic disorders;

Whereas recent research developments have resulted in limited treatments for some MPS disorders, and promising advancements are underway in pursuit of treatments for additional MPS disorders;

Whereas treatments and research advancements for MPS disorders are limited by lack of awareness about the disorders, even within the medical community;

Whereas the development of early detection and intervention techniques, effective treatments, and a potential cure for MPS disorders can be accomplished by research, data collection, and information distribution;

Whereas increased public and professional awareness and continued public funding will assist in the development of new techniques, treatments, and cures for MPS disorders, which will greatly enhance the quality of life for individuals with MPS disorders;

Whereas the National MPS Society, Inc., a group ultimately dedicated to finding a cure for MPS disorders, has designated February 25 of each year as "National MPS Day"; and

Whereas the designation of "National MPS Day" provides an opportunity to increase public and professional awareness about mucopolysaccharidoses and mucopolipidoses, and to encourage research for early diagnosis, effective treatments, and a potential cure for MPS disorders: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives supports the goals and ideals of "National MPS Day".

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise today in support of House Resolution 85, introduced by the distinguished gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

This resolution would support the goals and ideals of "National MPS Day." MPS and related diseases are rare genetic diseases that cause cells to form improperly, wreaking havoc among all the body's systems. Enzymes which normally break apart damaged cells fail to produce, resulting in progressive damage throughout the body, affecting the heart, bones, joints, respiratory system and the central nervous system. It can cause stunted growth, stiff joints, speech and hearing impairment, breathing problems, mental retardation, and a dramatically shortened life span.

All the symptoms of these diseases are not always apparent at birth. They develop slowly as damaged cells accumulate, many times resulting in death before the teenage years. Currently, there are no cures for these dangerous diseases.

I was unaware of MPS until Les Sheaffer, one of my constituents, came to talk to me about his daughter Brittany, who has MPS III, or Sanfilippo Syndrome. My staff and I were touched by Brittany's story and the Sheaffer family's resolve. Brittany's condition underscores the difficulties facing families coping with these dreaded diseases.

The occurrence of MPS in the general population is thought to be about 1 in 25,000 births. Increased public and professional awareness are important to further the development of treatments and techniques to help cope with and eventually cure these diseases. Because MPS diseases are not commonly known and well understood in the medical community, diagnosis is often delayed. Early detection and intervention can help to improve the quality of life for children like Brittany.

I applaud the efforts of the National MPS Society to support research, to support families, and to increase public and professional awareness of these diseases. This legislation would build on the National MPS Society's work by raising awareness of these devastating diseases and increasing support for the disease's victims and their families. For this reason, I ask all Members to join me and Mr. KIND in passing House Resolution 85.

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

□ 1500

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of National MPS Day. MPS disorders affect primarily children and reduce their ability to produce certain enzymes that clear the body of toxins. The resulting effect of this enzyme deficiency manifests itself in a number of ways: mental retardation, physical malformations, small stature, corneal damage, chronic physical pain, and a shortened and difficult life span. This disease affects our Nation's children and has a dramatic ripple effect that impacts all who know and love them.

MPS disorders are hereditary and there is no cure, but significant advancements have been made or are on the horizon. This is just one reason why MPS Day is so important. We must keep the public informed about the disease and in searching for a cure.

This resolution will help bring the struggles of those affected by MPS disorders into the public arena and will signify that we hope to do everything within our power to fight it.

MPS Day was commemorated on February 25 of this year, but it is a daily struggle for those affected with

the disease. If MPS affects one family, it affects too many; and we should continue to raise awareness and do all we can to help the families and the victims of MPS. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Res. 85.

Mr. Speaker, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H. Res. 85, supporting the goals and ideals of National MPS Day. MPS and ML, or mucopolysaccharidoses and mucopolysaccharidoses, are genetic disorders caused by the body's inability to produce specific enzymes. Most individuals suffering from this disease are children; and they endure a variety of ailments, including problems with the bones, heart, joints, and the respiratory system. Most devastatingly, they have drastically shortened life spans.

Because of a lack of information and understanding about these disorders, even among the medical community, children often receive delayed or wrong diagnosis. For this reason, it is of the utmost importance that we increase research and work for a cure. At the same time, we must increase awareness of these disorders that affect so many families. February 25 of every year is National MPS Day, and I believe we in the House of Representatives could do a great service to the MPS community by passing this resolution to honor this day and their work.

I am very pleased the Senate passed such a resolution, and I extend my thanks to my colleague and friend, Mr. DENT, as well as Mr. DAVIS, along with the 57 cosponsors who were instrumental in bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I first became aware of MPS because of Allison Kirch, a student in my district who suffers from such a disorder. Her parents, Susan and Larry, and her sister Helen are tireless in their care for Allison and their dedication to furthering the cause of MPS patients.

It is because of people like Allison and Helen, Susan and Larry that I feel so strongly about MPS disorders. Allison, now 10, was first diagnosed at the age of 3. Today she is a happy fifth grader at Spence Elementary School in LaCrosse, Wisconsin. The Kirch family, along with Les Sheaffer, Kym Wigglesworth, and Sissi Langford of the MPS Society, have done so much to educate me and others about this cause and issue.

Today's resolution is just a small part of furthering awareness of MPS disorders. There is so much more that can and must be done. As Members of Congress, we must take the lead in authorizing funds for research of MPS and ML disorders. As citizens, we must advocate tirelessly on behalf of the families who selflessly and tirelessly care for their loved ones. On behalf of

Allison and her family, I am proud to advocate for this resolution on the House floor and hope my colleagues will join me in honoring such a worthy cause today.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support adoption of H. Res. 85, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 85.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WELLINGTON TIMOTHY MARA

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 517) recognizing the life of Wellington Timothy Mara and his outstanding contributions to the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 517

Whereas Wellington Timothy Mara was born on August 14, 1916, in New York City;

Whereas Wellington Mara graduated from Loyola High School in New York and proceeded to Fordham University, from which he graduated in 1937;

Whereas Wellington Mara was closely involved with the Fordham University football teams of 1936 through 1938, which at one point won 25 straight games, and it was at Fordham University that Mara befriended future National Football League Hall of Fame coach Vince Lombardi;

Whereas Wellington Mara was a vital participant in the New York Giants Football Club since its inception and inclusion in the National Football League in 1925 under the original leadership of his father Timothy;

Whereas, in 1930, Wellington Mara acquired part-ownership of the New York Giants when his father divided the team between Wellington Mara and his brother Jack;

Whereas under the co-leadership of Wellington and Jack Mara, the New York Giants appeared in five National Football League Championship games between 1958 and 1963, and Wellington Mara was in charge of accumulating the player talent that engineered this remarkable accomplishment;

Whereas, by supporting the agreement to share television revenues equally among the teams of the National Football League, Wellington and Jack Mara gave up significant revenue for their own team, but put the National Football League on the path to collective success;

Whereas, after the untimely death of his brother Jack in 1965, Wellington Mara became the principal owner of the New York Giants;

Whereas, under his leadership, the New York Giants have 26 postseason appearances, 18 National Football League divisional championships, and six National Football League championships, including the Super Bowl XXI and Super Bowl XXV titles;

Whereas the only time Mara was away from the New York Giants was during World War II, when he served honorably in the United States Navy in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters and earned the rank of Lieutenant Commander;

Whereas, in addition to his outstanding leadership of the New York Giants, Wellington Mara also made outstanding contributions to the National Football League as a whole, including serving on its Executive Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, and Competition Committee;

Whereas Wellington Mara has been inducted into the Fordham Athletic Hall of Fame, and, in 2002, he was honored at the Fordham Founder's dinner, which is Fordham's highest honor;

Whereas Wellington Mara was inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame in 1997;

Whereas Wellington Mara served his community as a member of the board of the Giants Foundation, a charitable organization founded by the New York Giants to provide financial and social support for disadvantaged youths in the New York Metropolitan Area; and

Whereas, on October 25, 2005, Wellington Mara succumbed to cancer at his home in Rye, New York: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives, on the occasion of the death of Wellington Timothy Mara—

(1) expresses its deepest condolences to his wife of 61 years, Ann, his 11 children, and his 40 grandchildren; and

(2) recognizes the outstanding contributions that Wellington Timothy Mara made to the New York Giants Football Club, the National Football League, and the United States.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DENT. 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 resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 517, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL). This resolution recognizes the life of Wellington Timothy Mara and his contributions to the National Football League.

Wellington Mara was a co-owner and co-CEO of the NFL's New York Giants and one of the most influential and important figures in the history of the National Football League. The son of Timothy Mara, who founded the Giants organization in 1925, Mara is an alumnus of the Jesuit schools, Loyola School and Fordham University in New York City.

During the early 1960s, Wellington and his brother Jack, the owners of the NFL's largest market, agreed to share

television revenue on a league-wide basis, dividing the amounts of money available in cities like New York with smaller market teams, like the Pittsburgh Steelers and the Green Bay Packers. This concept of revenue sharing allowed the NFL to grow and is still being used today.

Along with his many other lasting contributions to the game, Mara led the Giants to six league championships, including two Super Bowls, nine conference championships, and 13 division championships. As an Eagles fan, that breaks my heart. Also, the Giants have accumulated the third highest number of victories in National Football League history. To commemorate his outstanding career, he was inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame in 1997. I urge all Members to come together to honor this pillar of the football community by adopting H. Res. 517.

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 rise in support of the resolution to recognize the life and accomplishments of an NFL institution, Wellington Timothy Mara. Mara spent nearly his entire life with the New York Giants, holding several positions from ball boy at the age of 9 to treasurer and team president.

Professional football and the New York Giants were in Mara's blood: his father founded the New York Giants. Father and son built one of the most successful franchises in league history.

Mara's passing this past October dealt an emotional blow to the Giants organization and the league at large. Mara was extremely involved with the team right up until his passing. He showed up at practice nearly every day and shared his wisdom with the players.

Although Mara was associated most intimately with the Giants, it was more than his dedication to the Giants that led to his induction into the Professional Football Hall of Fame. In the 1960s, when the Giants earned a dominant portion of television revenues garnered by professional football, Wellington and his brother Jack made the generous decision to split television revenues with poor-performing teams. This revenue division allowed teams in smaller markets to stay afloat until a substantial fan base and the development of a nationwide television market would enable these teams to stand on their own feet. If it were not for the generosity of the Mara family, the National Football League would not be where it is today.

Mara will be missed by many and was mourned by his family, his team, and the entire National Football League. A demonstration of the loss was witnessed when the Giants honored Mara by winning a decisive game over the Washington Redskins the same week of his passing.

Mr. Speaker, I am in support of this resolution.

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

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), the sponsor of the resolution.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank Chairman DAVIS, Ranking Member WAXMAN, Mr. DENT, and Mr. DAVIS for their help in bringing this resolution honoring the life of Wellington Mara to the floor.

This is not about sports, though. This is about a gentleman in sports who lived his life on and off the field as an outstanding American. With the retirement of Paul Tagliabue as the commissioner of the NFL, I hope this is not an era that is passing because this is an era which was an inspiration to all professional sports, and we will miss them all.

I rise today in strong support of this resolution honoring Mr. Mara, a fellow Fordham University alumnus who passed away just a short time ago at the age of 89. He is survived by his wonderful wife, Ann, four sons, seven daughters, 41 grandchildren, and the family has been recently blessed with his first great grandchild. He was not always on the football field.

To football fans of the New York/New Jersey metropolitan area, Mara is synonymous with our beloved New York Giants, the team he owned for most of his life. Born in the city on August 14, 1916, Mara was introduced to professional football at an early age, as was just stated a few times.

He would later recount a story from that inaugural season of overhearing head coach Robert Folwell telling his team to "give them hell out there." It was at that moment that this 9-year-old young man realized how tough football is, and fell in love with the game forever.

In 1930, Timothy Mara, Wellington's father, gave the team to his two sons. Jack was 22 years of age, and Wellington was 14. That is pretty remarkable. He became the youngest owner in the league. In the late 1930s, Wellington Mara attended Fordham University, my alma mater. That was when Fordham had a proud team, a team that went on to great heights: the seven blocks of granite, Vince Lombardi. He befriended Vince Lombardi.

Upon graduation, Mara joined the New York Giants as a full-time member of the team. With his brother in charge of the business, Wellington soon took control of all player personnel decisions. That is why even though there have been many problems in the NFL, like many sports, there is something very different about the National Football League. It is a family operation and the more it becomes that, the more we avoid the problems and pitfalls we have seen in organized sports.

He integrated the Giants at a time when much of the league remained all white. He drafted running back Frank Gifford and offensive tackle Roosevelt Brown and then traded for quarterback Y.A. Tittle, all future Hall of Famers. He was the architect of the dominant Giant teams of 1958–1963. No one surpassed him, paralleled perhaps by Dan Rooney of the Pittsburgh Steelers.

During World War II, Mara briefly left his beloved Giants and joined the Navy. He served in the Atlantic and the Pacific theaters. He earned the rank of lieutenant commander. He returned to the Giants following the war.

□ 1515

In the early 1960s the Giants were the most valuable franchise in the league, and television was the next great revenue stream. You have already heard, Mr. Chairman, how we shared the revenue to make sure that the league survived.

In the late 1970s, Mara further strengthened the team by hiring George Young as the general manager, who became the architect of the dominant Giant teams of the late 1980s.

All told, in Mara's 81 years, 81 years with one football team, they appeared in 26 post seasons, won 16 division championships and six NFL titles. Those six championships represent the third most, as my friend from Pennsylvania pointed out.

In 1972, Fordham University inducted Mara into the Athletic Hall of Fame, and in 2002, he was honored at the Fordham Founders Dinner, the university's highest honor.

In 1997, Mara was introduced into the National Football League Hall of Fame, an honor he reluctantly accepted. He believed that since players and coaches made the game great, the Hall of Fame should be reserved for them and not for owners.

Mara was so highly regarded by his fellow owners that just yesterday the National Football League renamed their official game ball "The Duke," the nickname given to Mara as a child by the New York Giants players.

I am proud to have authored House Resolution 517 honoring the life and work of Wellington Timothy Mara. I respectfully urge my colleagues join me and support the passage of this resolution of not only a great football player, great owner, but a darn great human being.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of Wellington Mara, former co-owner of the National Football League's New York Giants franchise and League businessman extraordinaire, and in support of Congressman PASCRELL's resolution recognizing the life of Wellington Mara and his outstanding contributions to the New York Giants football club, the National Football League and the United States of America.

Wellington Timothy Mara was a man among men. Wellington Mara was a man whose entire lifetime was dedicated to the National Football League and his family-owned Giants. Mara, who was given the nickname "The

Duke" as a youngster by Giants players, joined the Giants in 1937 as a part-time assistant to the president, started working full-time in 1938 as a club secretary and later served as vice president before becoming the team's president after the death of his brother, Jack.

Mara's extensive experience in organization, player personnel, trading and drafting helped produce 16 NFL/NFC divisional titles (two came after his induction into the Hall of Fame) and four NFL championships during his 68-season tenure that began with his graduation from Fordham in 1937. He engineered trades throughout the League solidifying deals with such stars as Frank Gifford and Roosevelt Brown—both future Hall of Famers—to mold the Giants into a dominant team in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

From 1956 to 1963, the Giants won six divisional championships and the 1956 NFL title. Mara's Giants went on to win Super Bowls XXI and XXV.

From 1984 to 2005, he served as president of the National Football Conference. He was inducted into the National Football League Hall of Fame in 1997 and into the Fordham Athletic Hall of Fame.

In spite of a busy, grueling schedule Wellington Mara always found time to serve his community as a member of the board of the Giants Foundation, a charitable organization founded by the New York Giants to provide financial and social support for disadvantaged youths in the New York Metropolitan Area.

Wellington Mara, who was born on August 14, 1916, in New York City, was respected as one of the most knowledgeable executives in pro football. He passed away on October 25, 2005. He leaves to cherish his memory his wife, Ann, his 11 children and his 40 grandchildren. He also leaves a legion of devoted admirers, friends and colleagues.

The NFL game ball was known as "The Duke" from 1941 to 1969. The NFL first used a ball in honor of Mara at the suggestion of Chicago Bears owner George Halas, who along with Tim Mara, Wellington's father, arranged for Wilson to become the league's supplier of game balls. "The Duke" ball was discontinued before the start of the 1970 season. The NFL owners recently voted unanimously to bring back "The Duke" game ball with the logo written on all game-day footballs.

I believe it is more than befitting that the National Football League pay tribute to the memory of this outstanding gentleman by bringing back "The Duke" football named in his honor and that this House pay him tribute with the passage of this Resolution today.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to honor Wellington Timothy Mara.

Mr. Mara, a longtime constituent of mine from Westchester County, was a pioneer in the sports world who has left an indelible mark on the National Football League.

Having been closely associated with the New York Giants since its inception in 1925 and having assumed partial ownership of the team at the age of 14, Wellington Mara played a critical role in helping the Giants become one of the cornerstone franchises of the NFL. Under his leadership, the Giants achieved greatness—26 postseason appearances, 18 divisional championships, and six league championships, including two Super Bowl victories.

In his almost 80 years associated with the Giants, Wellington Mara attended almost every Giants practice and home game until falling ill last spring. In fact, the only extended time he ever spent away from the team was in brave service to his country. While serving in the Navy during World War II, Wellington Mara proudly achieved the rank of Lieutenant Commander while serving in both the Atlantic and Pacific theaters.

It was Wellington Mara's vision and leadership in the 1960's that may provide the most lasting impact on the NFL. His willingness to share television revenue from the largest television market with smaller market teams enabled a balanced economic playing field which continues in the NFL today.

In addition to his leadership in the NFL, Wellington Mara was a generous, caring man whose compassion can be summed up in one phrase: once a Giant, always a Giant. He was well known for providing medical care for current and former players and their families, including finding doctors and covering their medical expenses. Additionally he often kept advisors and scouts on payroll long after their service to the team ended, simply as a means of showing appreciation for their service.

Simply put, Wellington Mara was football in America. A member of the NFL's founding generation, Mara served on the NFL's Executive Committee, Hall of Fame Committee, and Competition Committee and was elected to the Hall of Fame himself in 1997.

Mr. Speaker, I wish to offer my condolences to the entire Mara family, and I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers at the moment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 517.

I yield back the balance of my time. The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 517.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**PROVIDING THAT ATTORNEYS EMPLOYED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE SHALL BE ELIGIBLE FOR COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR TRAVEL**

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4057) to provide that attorneys employed by the Department of Justice shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4057

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

**SECTION 1. COMPENSATORY TIME OFF FOR TRAVEL.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Attorneys employed by the Department of Justice (including assistant United States attorneys) shall be eligible for compensatory time off for travel under section 5550b of title 5, United States Code, without regard to any provision of section 115 of the Departments of Commerce, Justice, and State, the Judiciary, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2000 (as enacted into law by section 1000(a)(1) of Public Law 106-113 and reenacted by section 111 of the Department of Justice Appropriations Act, 2001 (as enacted into law by appendix B of Public Law 106-553)).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Subsection (a) shall apply with respect to time spent in travel status on or after the date of the enactment of this Act.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nevada.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4057 as amended. I want to thank the leadership for bringing this important legislation to the floor.

This bill, which has been introduced by myself, Government Reform Committee Chairman TOM DAVIS, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DAVIS from Illinois and Mr. VAN HOLLEN, is intended to clarify that the Department of Justice attorneys are eligible to receive compensatory time off for time spent in travel status like all other General Schedule employees.

In 2004, Congress approved this government-wide "comp time for travel" in the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act. After the bill had passed, the Department of Justice determined that the bill as written did not give it the authority to waive certain limitations imposed on its attorneys by a previous appropriations measure. H.R. 4057 now, through the technical assistance of the Justice Department, unequivocally clarifies congressional intent.

This bill would allow Justice Department attorneys to be compensated for travel time during nonbusiness hours. This would greatly assist those employees who take early morning flights in order to attend to business away from the home office, but don't currently get compensated for their dedication. In light of the fact that quality-of-life programs are among the most effective recruitment and retention tools, I believe that Federal employees should receive compensation while traveling to do the Government's business.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you once again for your attention to this bill, and I urge passage of H.R. 4057 as amended.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join Representatives DAVIS, WAXMAN, PORTER and VAN HOLLEN in introducing H.R. 4057, which would make attorneys employed by the Department of Justice eligible for compensatory time off for travel.

In 2004, Congress passed the Federal Workforce Flexibility Act which provided compensatory time off to Federal employees when they travel on official business during nonworking hours. If an employee must travel on a Sunday to attend an out-of-town meeting on Monday, that employee can receive credit for giving up his weekend to travel on official government business.

The Office of Personnel Management issued interim regulations that went into effect on January 28, 2005, allowing Federal workers to receive equal time off in exchange for work-related travel outside of regular business hours.

In February of last year, the Justice Department issued guidelines barring DOJ attorneys from receiving the benefit. In support of its decision, the Department cited provisions in its fiscal year 2000 appropriations, which banned overtime pay to Justice Department attorneys. However, those provisions sought to limit overtime pay for attorneys, not compensatory time.

H.R. 4057, which has bipartisan and bicameral support, will clarify that DOJ attorneys are entitled to compensatory time off. And therefore, I am pleased to join with my colleagues in introduction and urge passage of this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I don't believe that I am going to have any additional requests for time, and I would yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I have no other speakers. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. PORTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4057, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

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**RECOGNIZING DR. I. KING JORDAN FOR HIS CONTRIBUTIONS TO GALLAUDET UNIVERSITY AND THE DEAF AND HARD OF HEARING COMMUNITY**

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 680) recognizing Dr. I.

King Jordan for his contributions to Gallaudet University and the deaf and hard of hearing community.

The Clerk read as follows:

**H. RES. 680**

Whereas in 1988, Dr. I. King Jordan became the first deaf President of Gallaudet University, and the first deaf president of any institution of higher education in the United States;

Whereas Gallaudet University grants more bachelor's degrees to deaf people than any other institution of higher learning in the world, is the only such institution serving primarily deaf and hard of hearing students, and provides groundbreaking research in the field of deafness;

Whereas deaf and hard of hearing graduates of Gallaudet University serve as leaders around the globe;

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan graduated from Gallaudet University in 1970 with a B.A. in Psychology, and received both a master's degree and a doctorate in Psychology from University of Tennessee by 1973;

Whereas before his appointment as president, Dr. I. King Jordan served as the Chair of the Department of Psychology and Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science at Gallaudet University;

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan was a research fellow at Donaldson's School for the Deaf in Edinburgh, Scotland, an exchange scholar at Jagiellonian University in Krakow, Poland, and a lecturer at schools in Paris, Toulouse, and Marseille, France;

Whereas from 1997 to 2001, Dr. I. King Jordan led the first comprehensive capital campaign for Gallaudet University and successfully raised nearly \$40,000,000, which was used by the University to strengthen academic programs, increase the endowment, and construct the Student Academic Center;

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan established the President's Fellow program to increase the number of deaf and hard of hearing faculty members by providing support for deaf and hard of hearing college graduates to complete their terminal degree;

Whereas in 1988, Dr. I. King Jordan proclaimed to the world, "Deaf people can do anything, except hear.";

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan is a strong advocate on the national and international level for deaf people and people of all disabilities, and was a lead witness in support of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) during a joint session of Congress prior to the passage of ADA;

Whereas in July 2005, Dr. I. King Jordan received the George Bush Medal for the Empowerment of People with Disabilities, an award established to honor those individuals who perform outstanding service to encourage the spirit of ADA throughout the world;

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan served in the Navy from 1962 to 1966;

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan has shared nearly 38 years of marriage with Linda Kephart, with whom he has two children, King and Heidi;

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan is a strong supporter of physical fitness and has completed more than 200 marathons and 40 100-mile marathons;

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan will retire as the first deaf president of Gallaudet University on December 31, 2006; and

Whereas Dr. I. King Jordan is an accomplished, respected leader who devoted his life to Gallaudet University and efforts to improve the quality of life for individuals who are deaf or hard of hearing, and individuals with disabilities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the House of Representatives—

(1) congratulates Dr. I. King Jordan on his retirement; and

(2) expresses appreciation to Dr. I. King Jordan for his many years of dedicated service to Gallaudet University, to the deaf and hard of hearing community, and to all individuals with disabilities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) and the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 680.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H. Res. 680, which recognizes the contributions of Dr. I. King Jordan to Gallaudet University and the deaf and hard of hearing community. Dr. Jordan retires as president of Gallaudet at the end of this year, and this resolution provides us the opportunity to acknowledge his significant achievements. I want to thank the resolution's author, Mr. KIND, for drawing our attention to Dr. Jordan's accomplishments and his status as one of America's leaders in the fields of higher education and disability policy.

When Dr. Jordan was appointed president by the Gallaudet Board of Trustees in 1988 he became the first deaf president of the university. Dr. Jordan's leadership of Gallaudet has heightened awareness of the contributions made by the university and the issues facing the deaf and hard of hearing community. During his time as president, Dr. Jordan has been a visible spokesman for the university and for deaf and hard of hearing individuals, as well as a tireless advocate for people with disabilities.

Dr. Jordan has been a leader in national efforts to address the needs of people with disabilities. In 2001 he was awarded the Presidential Citizen's Medal. This award, conferred by the President of the United States in recognition of individuals who have performed exemplary deeds or service for the country, acknowledged Dr. Jordan's efforts to promote self-determination and full integration of all people with disabilities.

I want to extend my congratulations to Dr. Jordan and wish him well in his retirement. I know that Gallaudet University will miss his leadership, and I can only hope that he will continue to be involved as an advocate for people with disabilities.

I want to, again, thank Mr. KIND for bringing this resolution forward and providing us this opportunity to acknowledge Dr. Jordan's achievement.

I ask my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

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

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I do want to thank the ranking member, Mr. KELLER, as well as the chairman of the Education and the Workforce Committee, Mr. MCKEON, for their help in bringing the resolution before us today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a great American, I. King Jordan, who has dedicated his life to helping others. On December 31, at the end of this year, 2006, Dr. Jordan will retire as the first deaf president of Gallaudet University located here in Washington, D.C., the only institution of higher learning in the world serving primarily deaf and hard of hearing students. I am pleased to author this resolution with my colleagues Mr. OXLEY, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. LAHOOD, and I thank them and the other cosponsors of this resolution for their support.

King Jordan's service to others began more than 4 decades ago when he served in the United States Navy from 1962 until 1966. He attended college at Gallaudet University after a car accident at the age of 21 left him deaf. He then went on to receive a doctorate in psychology in 1973, joined the faculty of Gallaudet University, and in 1988 he became its president. During his tenure at Gallaudet, Dr. Jordan raised nearly \$40 million to grow the university endowment and to construct the student academic center. Also, he established the President's Fellow Program to provide support for deaf and hard of hearing college graduates to complete their advanced degrees, thus increasing the number of deaf and hard of hearing faculty members.

In addition to his work in academia, President Jordan was a lead witness before Congress supporting the Americans with Disabilities Act; and he continues to advocate on both the national and international levels for deaf people, as well as all people with disabilities.

In 2005, Dr. Jordan received the George H.W. Bush Medal honoring outstanding service under the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

Dr. Jordan is an inspiration to all Americans and his years of dedication to others undoubtedly deserve the recognition of this House of Representatives. We will miss his terrific leadership and his advocacy on behalf of all the students at Gallaudet University.

I would like to congratulate Dr. Jordan and his wife, Linda Kephart, for their many years of dedicated service and wish them a very long and happy retirement.

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

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

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. KELLER and I especially thank Mr. KIND for introducing this. This was really RON's idea to honor President Jordan; and I know that the university and the people there are very, very appreciative, RON, of your thinking to honor Dr. Jordan.

I also want to thank the chairman of the full committee, Chairman MCKEON and his staff. I want to thank the majority leader's office. The truth is, ordinarily we don't do these kinds of resolutions, but because of the importance of the work of Dr. Jordan, the chairman of the full committee and the majority leader's office agreed that we could have this resolution brought forward.

This resolution will be presented tonight by some of us who will be at a fund-raiser at Gallaudet University where some very outstanding Republican basketball players and some outstanding Democratic basketball players will be participating in a basketball game at Gallaudet University. And I hope that some of us, including Mr. KIND and LYNN and others, will have a chance to present this resolution to Dr. Jordan.

□ 1530

Dr. Jordan became the first deaf president of Gallaudet University in 1988 after the students and people in the community came forward and said they wanted a deaf president. And at the end of the protest, the Gallaudet board named Dr. Jordan president.

He is from Glen Riddle, Pennsylvania. He spent 4 years in the Navy after high school.

Dr. Jordan, as was mentioned, was in a car accident when he was 21 years old that left him deaf. He received a BA degree in psychology from Gallaudet in 1970. In 1971, Dr. Jordan received his MA in psychology from the University of Tennessee. He also received his Ph.D. in psychology from the University of Tennessee in 1973.

Once he completed his education, Dr. Jordan began teaching in the Gallaudet Department of Psychology. He became chair of the department in 1983 and dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences in 1986.

Dr. Jordan has also been a research fellow at the Donaldson's School for the Deaf in Edinburgh, Scotland; an exchange scholar in Krakow, Poland; and a visiting scholar and lecturer at schools in Paris, Toulouse, and Marseille, France.

He lobbied for the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990 and was a lead witness in support of the ADA during a joint session of Congress. President Jordan, as was mentioned, has raised nearly \$40 million for Gallaudet between 1997 and 2001. The money has been used to strengthen the academic program, increase the endowment, and construct the Student Academic Center.

He also established the President's Fellow Program. The program is designed to increase the number of deaf and hard-of-hearing faculty members by providing support for deaf and hard-of-hearing college graduates to complete their degrees.

He has received 11 honorary degrees and numerous awards, including the Presidential Citizen's Medal and the Washingtonian of the Year Award. Dr. Jordan has also served as the chair and vice-chair of the President's Committee on Employment of People with Disabilities. In July 2005, he received the George Bush Medal for the Empowerment of People with Disabilities.

He will retire in December of this year, and his true partner in all of the work that he has been doing at Gallaudet has certainly been his wife, Linda. They have been married for almost 38 years.

I have had the privilege, along with a Democratic Member of the House, of serving on the board of directors of Gallaudet University. I was first appointed by Speaker Gingrich. In my district there is a school for the deaf, the only school for the deaf in Illinois, in Jacksonville, Illinois. So many of our students come here to Washington, and my interest in the school for the deaf in Jacksonville led to my interest in Gallaudet, and I have had the privilege of working with Dr. Jordan during the time of my tenure on the board of the directors at Gallaudet University, and what a privilege that it has been to work with him.

He is a true marathoner. Dr. Jordan has completed more than 200 marathons, 26 miles for a marathon, and 40 100-mile marathons. But he has completed the marathon of his life by doing the job that I am sure he always wanted, to be president of Gallaudet University; and he has been an inspiration for deaf people.

Each year I try to go to Gallaudet and visit with the students, and I can tell you he is an inspiration to the students there; and he is an inspiration, I think, to all of us and should be an inspiration to all Americans, that even with disabilities, you can do great things, and he surely has done great things.

So I want to add my congratulations to Dr. Jordan for a job well done, and I know he will not fade away. I know he will continue to work with the disability community and work around Washington, D.C. and do all that he can to improve those who have disabilities, particularly those who are hearing impaired.

And, again, Mr. KIND, thank you for your consideration in introducing this resolution.

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

I also want to extend my thanks to Mr. LAHOOD, who has been instrumental in getting this resolution here to the floor today and for his tireless support for all the students at Gallaudet University.

The only thing I would add is that the Democratic team will be trying to defend our title on the parquet floor this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY), one of the members of the board of trustees of Gallaudet University.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution to honor Dr. I. King Jordan.

Dr. Jordan is retiring as Gallaudet University's president at the end of this year, having become our Nation's first deaf university president where he has served since 1988, the first deaf individual to be the president of any higher education institution.

Dr. Jordan is both an accomplished, respected educator and a personal friend. During his tenure at Gallaudet, he has been an able, caring leader, propelling the university forward and advocating for deaf students. Among his accomplishments are Gallaudet's first-ever capital campaign, a campaign that supported construction of the state-of-the-art Student Academic Center on campus. He also paved the way for an increase in scholarships and academic programs, and he established a fellows program to provide support for deaf college graduates to complete their terminal degrees and become faculty members.

Dr. Jordan has been a strong advocate for individuals with disabilities all around the world. His testimony to Congress played a critical role in the passage of the landmark Americans with Disabilities Act in 1990.

I am proud to have had a chance to work with Dr. Jordan these past years, most recently as one of the three Members of Congress who sit on Gallaudet's board: Congressman LAHOOD, Senator MCCAIN, and myself. We have experienced a career of accomplishments for Gallaudet's students under Dr. Jordan's leadership. They are a testament to his inspirational words, words he spoke in 1988. He said: "Deaf people can do anything, except hear."

I wish Dr. Jordan much happiness in his retirement as he looks forward to traveling with his wife, Linda, spending more time with his family. But believe me, his compassion, his vision, and his service will be greatly missed.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON), the true representative for Gallaudet University.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin for his working with the chair to get this bill to the floor.

I am not on the committee of jurisdiction; so I want to particularly thank the committee for the honor. It is an unusual honor. We do not do this very often, what you do in bringing this resolution to the floor. And I want to give

my thanks to Mr. LAHOOD and Ms. WOOLSEY, both, for the service they perform by serving on the board of this very important institution. The fact that there are two Members of Congress on the board of Gallaudet perhaps speaks for itself as to the importance of Gallaudet, chartered by the Congress of the United States and still an institution of great importance to the Congress.

I do want to say to the gentleman from Wisconsin and to those of you, if you are one of them, Mr. LAHOOD, who are going to be at the game this evening, I always come to this wonderful game. As it turns out, I am having a reception myself tonight for the National Teacher of the Year, the first time since the award was given. It was set up in 1952, that the National Teacher of the Year comes from the District of Columbia. So you fellows are going to have to get along without me.

When they asked me to come, they first asked me to be a member of the team. They really did not know what they were saying. I did volunteer to come, however, to be there to do whatever I could. In fact, if this reception is over, I do intend to stop by and to thank you also for that very important work.

As you have heard, Gallaudet is really one of a kind. It is an institution without peer, the only institution for people who are deaf and hard of hearing of higher education throughout the world. So it is very precious to those of us in the District of Columbia who then see people come from all over the world to come to this singular institution.

Now, there has got to be great sadness on the campus of Gallaudet even as we express our appreciation today. Dr. I. King Jordan was not simply an extraordinary educator. He came to his post through a vote of confidence before he even got there from the students who had a demonstration; and as a result of that demonstration, the board of trustees at that time thought about their decision, and Dr. Jordan became the first disabled person to head the university.

It is hard to overemphasize what this meant to us in the District of Columbia. We saw it as wonderful history-making for a history-making institution, but that paled besides the joy of the students. You can imagine if you are going to a university for the deaf and the hard of hearing to see a person of such accomplishments head your own university. It was invaluable, I am sure, in ways that we shall never understand and shall never know.

But then it was up to Dr. Jordan to prove himself, and I am here to tell you as a person who is very familiar with all the institutions, he continues to be a tenured professor of law at Georgetown, where I taught full time before coming to the Congress, and under Dr. Jordan this institution has prospered and grown to even more admiration than it already enjoyed.

In order for that to happen, Dr. Jordan had simply to show that he could do what presidents do, and he has done that to a fare-thee-well, from fund raising, which may be the most difficult to do especially since this university does receive some funding from the Federal Government.

But as my colleagues know from their own State university, that does not matter that much today. Presidents are supposed to get out here on the hustings the way everybody else does, the way that private universities always have. And here when Dr. Jordan did it not only like everybody else does but did it in extraordinary ways, you see evidence of it in the new construction on the campus. You see evidence of it in the way in which the excellence of the institution has even improved. It already had a stellar reputation, and you see it in a very important expansion for graduate education for the deaf and hard of hearing.

Dr. I. King Jordan has performed with the excellence that the students expected. They knew what he could do. They knew from his academic reputation, they knew from his background, what he could do. He has performed up to that standard and well beyond.

The resolution that my colleagues bring forward today could not be more well deserved, and I thank you once again for it. And I thank you for myself and I thank you for the residents of the District of Columbia, including the disabled students who, of course, are resident there during the time they attend Gallaudet.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to conclude.

I thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia for her very warm and gracious remarks on behalf of Dr. Jordan here today. I also know that my predecessor, Representative Steve Gunderson, who also served on the board at Gallaudet University, would join us today in honoring the career of Dr. Jordan. It was Steve Gunderson who first introduced me to the wonderful work that is taking place at that university under the terrific leadership that I have personally witnessed throughout the years, and I know he joins us in support of the resolution.

Finally, I would mention too that the minority whip, Mr. HOYER from Maryland, who has been a good friend of Dr. Jordan, a strong supporter and friend of the university, was hoping to come down here and personally extend his warm remarks for Dr. Jordan's retirement. He is tied up right now.

□ 1545

I am sure he will be extending his remarks for the record. With that, I thank the gentleman for his support of the resolution.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, it is a great honor for me to rise to

honor Dr. I. King Jordan upon his retirement as president of Gallaudet University on December 31, 2006. Dr. Jordan is a native of Glen Riddle, Pennsylvania, a small town near Philadelphia, in the 7th Congressional District which I represent.

Dr. Jordan made history in 1988 when he became the Nation's first deaf university president at the world's only liberal arts university for the deaf—Gallaudet University. He also claims the distinction as the first deaf president of any institution of higher education in the U.S. The important message that Dr. Jordan sent to the world upon his appointment in 1988 was that deaf children brought up in a world that too often tells them that they can't do, now see they can do anything and that the only limit to their achievements is their ability to dream.

The year 1988 was a pivotal one for the deaf and hard of hearing. The year began when the students and faculty of Gallaudet University protested the decision by the board of trustees to bypass two qualified deaf candidates for president and choose instead a hearing candidate. Called Deaf President Now (DPN), the week-long protest was a watershed event. Their persistent, but nonviolent demonstrations captured the hearts of the Nation and their victory resulted in the selection of Dr. Jordan—a selection which was applauded by hearing and nonhearing Americans alike.

Dr. Jordan was not only a strong advocate for the Gallaudet community, but for individuals with disabilities across this Nation. One of his many proud accomplishments is the work he did to assist with the passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), which I supported. He was a leading witness in support of the ADA and delivered significant testimony not only in Congress, but across the country during the deliberations of this bill.

Dr. Jordan's presidency has paralleled a time of great accomplishments for deaf persons, and all individuals with disabilities. Their needs and abilities have come to the forefront of public debate. He is far more than a symbol of ability over disability, he is a sensitive and caring individual, and a strong and forceful leader.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Dr. Jordan and his wife, Linda, much happiness as they anticipate and begin a new chapter in their lives. I am proud to list Dr. I. King Jordan in the "Who's Who of the 7th Congressional District of Pennsylvania." His strong, forceful, compassionate leadership and service will be greatly missed.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor today to salute the outstanding service of Dr. I. King Jordan to Gallaudet University. Through his personal and professional accomplishments and contributions to the deaf and hard-of-hearing community, he has become a role model for all.

After serving in the Navy from 1962 to 1966, Dr. Jordan graduated with a B.A. in psychology from Gallaudet in 1970. He received his doctorate in psychology from the University of Tennessee in 1973. Afterward, he returned to Gallaudet and served as chairman of the Psychology Department and later as Dean of the College of Liberal Arts and Science. Tapped as Gallaudet's first deaf president in 1988, Dr. Jordan became the first deaf president of any institution of higher education in the country.

Over the past 18 years, Dr. Jordan has forged a strong relationship between Gallaudet

and Congress to improve the quality of life for deaf and hard-of-hearing individuals and those with disabilities. He is known and respected by his colleagues as an amiable and admired leader. Because of his passion for Gallaudet's mission, Dr. Jordan has always gone above and beyond his official duties to help others.

I've come to know and admire Dr. Jordan through the Gallaudet University Congressional Basketball Classic, a biennial event pitting Republicans against Democrats in our own version of "March Madness." The game celebrates Gallaudet's years of service to the deaf and hard-of-hearing, with proceeds from the game going to support the invaluable programs offered at the school. I'm proud to note that Republican members hold a 6–5 advantage in the Classic, which dates back to 1987—but clearly the students of Gallaudet are the real winners.

Tonight's 12th biennial Congressional Classic will be my last, as it will be Dr. Jordan's last as president of Gallaudet University. He has been a stalwart supporter of the game over the years and a tireless advocate of Gallaudet's mission in his outreach efforts to the nation at large. I join my teammates and the whole House in honoring this dedicated and exceptional man as he concludes nearly 19 years of distinguished service at Gallaudet's helm.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. KELLER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 680.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### SUPREME COURT GROUNDS TRANSFER ACT OF 2005

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2116) to transfer jurisdiction of certain real property to the Supreme Court.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2116

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

#### SECTION 1. TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION OVER CERTAIN REAL PROPERTY TO THE SUPREME COURT.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This section may be cited as the "Supreme Court Grounds Transfer Act of 2005".

(b) TRANSFER OF JURISDICTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Jurisdiction over the parcel of Federal real property described under paragraph (2) (over which jurisdiction was transferred to the Architect of the Capitol under section 514(b)(2)(B)(i) of the Omnibus Parks and Public Lands Management Act of 1996 (40 U.S.C. 5102 note; Public Law 104-333; 110 Stat. 4165)) is transferred to the Supreme Court of the United States, without consideration.

(2) PARCEL.—The parcel of Federal real property referred to under paragraph (1) is

that portion of the triangle of Federal land in Reservation No. 204 in the District of Columbia under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol, including any contiguous sidewalks, bound by Constitution Avenue, N.E., on the north, the branch of Maryland Avenue, N.E., running in a northeast direction on the west, the major portion of Maryland Avenue, N.E., on the south, and 2nd Street, N.E., on the east, including the contiguous sidewalks.

(c) MISCELLANEOUS.—

(1) COMPLIANCE WITH OTHER LAWS.—Compliance with this section shall be deemed to satisfy the requirements of all laws otherwise applicable to transfers of jurisdiction over parcels of Federal real property.

(2) INCLUSION IN SUPREME COURT GROUNDS.—Section 6101(b)(2) of title 40, United States Code, is amended by inserting before the period “and that parcel transferred under the Supreme Court Grounds Transfer Act of 2005”.

(3) UNITED STATES CAPITOL GROUNDS.—

(A) DEFINITION.—Section 5102 of title 40, United States Code, is amended to exclude within the definition of the United States Capitol Grounds the parcel of Federal real property described in subsection (b)(2).

(B) JURISDICTION OF CAPITOL POLICE.—The United States Capitol Police shall not have jurisdiction over the parcel of Federal real property described in subsection (b)(2) by reason of such parcel formerly being part of the United States Capitol Grounds.

(4) RECORDING OF MAP OF SUPREME COURT GROUNDS.—The Architect of the Capitol shall record with the Office of the Surveyor of the District of Columbia a map showing areas comprising the grounds of the Supreme Court of the United States that reflects—

(A) the legal boundaries described under section 6101(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code; and

(B) any portion of the United States Capitol Grounds as described under section 5102 of title 40, United States Code, which is contiguous to the boundaries or property described under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This Act shall apply to fiscal year 2006 and each fiscal year thereafter.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 2116.

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

There was no objection.

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

S. 2116 transfers jurisdiction of a small parcel of land from the Architect of the Capitol to the Supreme Court of the United States.

Most of my colleagues will recognize this property as the small triangular piece of land between the Hart Senate Office Building and the Supreme Court. For the past few years it has been surrounded by security fencing and cov-

ered by construction trailers and equipment supporting the Supreme Court Modernization project.

The small parcel of land is bordered by Constitution Avenue on the north, Maryland Avenue on the west and south, and by Second Street on the east.

This transfer also includes realigning the jurisdictional boundaries of the United States Capitol Police and the United States Supreme Court Police to reflect this land transfer.

The transfer will also enable the Supreme Court Police to have control over the grounds within the bollards that are currently under construction.

The Supreme Court Land Transfer Act of 2006 is a simple and sensible solution that provides a more distinct boundary between the Capitol grounds and the Supreme Court.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of the subcommittee with whom I have worked so closely for making sure that this small bill got to the floor and got done.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2116 is a bill to transfer the parcel of property currently under the jurisdiction of the Architect of the Capitol to the jurisdiction of the Supreme Court. The parcel of land is a small triangle of land bounded by Constitution Avenue Northeast, Maryland Avenue Northeast, and Second Street Northeast.

Once the parcel is transferred from the Architect to the Supreme Court, the Capitol Hill Police will no longer have the security responsibility for the parcel; and, further, the definition of the Capitol grounds will be amended to show that the parcel has been deleted from the definition of the Capitol grounds.

The Supreme Court requested this transfer in order to enhance its perimeter security program. Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and urge its passage.

Mr. Speaker, before I yield back the balance of my time I do want to say that this bill brings to mind, especially since it is being transferred for security reasons, the fact that we are operating under an old 19th century organization of the police that guard the complex of most important Federal building in the District of Columbia, the Supreme Court Police, the Library of Congress Police, and the Capitol Hill police.

Mr. Speaker, at the moment we have some jurisdiction over this Federal police force. But the jurisdiction I am speaking of, which has already been passed by the Congress of the United States, is not under our jurisdiction, but because of the security which is the reason for the transfer, I do want to say that what we have with this complex of buildings that are within

sight of one another, are very different police forces.

We have a police force that is trained differently for the three most important buildings in this vicinity. The Library of Congress is trained differently. It is as if these were the police forces of Maryland, Virginia, and the District of Columbia.

Mr. Speaker, that is dangerous. That is nothing short of dangerous. We have so shored up the Capitol, that any terrorist on the lookout for something to do in this vicinity is surely going to go to places that she may believe is less well guarded, like the Library of Congress, and like, if I may so, the Supreme Court of the United States.

I have met with the Marshal of the Supreme Court of the United States and the Library of Congress. I am familiar with both their police forces. But now that this bill has been brought to the floor, I urge that we all respond to what has now become public, because the Library of Congress Police have raised the question again.

There was an article in Roll Call just a few days ago that there were real security problems with the Library of Congress and its police. I have not heard the same thing about the Supreme Court.

But I do not think we should rest well knowing that we have shored up the Congress of the United States and we hope everything is well with the Supreme Court and the Library of Congress. I think it is our obligation to make sure that it is, in fact, the case.

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

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I would urge my colleagues to support this commonsense piece of legislation, and 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 Senate bill, S. 2116.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILK REGULATORY EQUITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 2120) to ensure regulatory equity between and among all dairy farmers and handlers for sales of packaged fluid milk in federally regulated milk marketing areas and into certain non-federally regulated milk marketing areas from federally regulated areas, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 2120

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Milk Regulatory Equity Act of 2005”.

**SEC. 2. MILK REGULATORY EQUITY.**

(a) MINIMUM MILK PRICES FOR HANDLERS; EXEMPTION.—Section 8c(5) of the Agricultural Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(5)), reenacted with amendments by the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(M) MINIMUM MILK PRICES FOR HANDLERS.—

“(i) APPLICATION OF MINIMUM PRICE REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, a milk handler described in clause (ii) shall be subject to all of the minimum and uniform price requirements of a Federal milk marketing order issued pursuant to this section applicable to the county in which the plant of the handler is located, at Federal order class prices, if the handler has packaged fluid milk product route dispositions, or sales of packaged fluid milk products to other plants, in a marketing area located in a State that requires handlers to pay minimum prices for raw milk purchases.

“(ii) COVERED MILK HANDLERS.—Except as provided in clause (iv), clause (i) applies to a handler of Class I milk products (including a producer-handler or producer operating as a handler) that—

“(I) operates a plant that is located within the boundaries of a Federal order milk marketing area (as those boundaries are in effect as of the date of the enactment of this subparagraph);

“(II) has packaged fluid milk product route dispositions, or sales of packaged fluid milk products to other plants, in a milk marketing area located in a State that requires handlers to pay minimum prices for raw milk purchases; and

“(III) is not otherwise obligated by a Federal milk marketing order, or a regulated milk pricing plan operated by a State, to pay minimum class prices for the raw milk that is used for such dispositions or sales.

“(iii) OBLIGATION TO PAY MINIMUM CLASS PRICES.—For purposes of clause (ii)(III), the Secretary may not consider a handler of Class I milk products to be obligated by a Federal milk marketing order to pay minimum class prices for raw milk unless the handler operates the plant as a fully regulated fluid milk distributing plant under a Federal milk marketing order.

“(iv) CERTAIN HANDLERS EXEMPTED.—Clause (i) does not apply to—

“(I) a handler (otherwise described in clause (ii)) that operates a nonpool plant (as defined in section 1000.8(e) of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph);

“(II) a producer-handler (otherwise described in clause (ii)) for any month during which the producer-handler has route dispositions, and sales to other plants, of packaged fluid milk products equaling less than 3,000,000 pounds of milk; or

“(III) a handler (otherwise described in clause (ii)) for any month during which—

“(aa) less than 25 percent of the total quantity of fluid milk products physically received at the plant of the handler (excluding concentrated milk received from another plant by agreement for other than Class I use) is disposed of as route disposition or is transferred in the form of packaged fluid milk products to other plants; or

“(bb) less than 25 percent in aggregate of the route disposition or transfers are in a marketing area or areas located in one or more States that require handlers to pay minimum prices for raw milk purchases.

“(N) EXEMPTION FOR CERTAIN MILK HANDLERS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, no handler with distribution of Class I milk products in the marketing area described in Order No. 131 shall

be exempt during any month from any minimum price requirement established by the Secretary under this subsection if the total distribution of Class I products during the preceding month of any such handler's own farm production exceeds 3,000,000 pounds.”.

(b) EXCLUSION OF NEVADA FROM FEDERAL MILK MARKETING ORDERS.—Section 8c(11) of the Agriculture Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(11)), reenacted with amendments by the Agriculture Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C), by striking the last sentence; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) In the case of milk and its products, no county or other political subdivision of the State of Nevada shall be within the marketing area definition of any order issued under this section.”.

(c) RECORDS AND FACILITY REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, or the amendments made by this section, a milk handler (including a producer-handler or a producer operating as a handler) that is subject to regulation under this section or an amendment made by this section shall comply with the requirements of section 1000.27 of title 7, Code of Federal Regulations, or a successor regulation, relating to handler responsibility for records or facilities.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE AND IMPLEMENTATION.—The amendments made by this section take effect on the first day of the first month beginning more than 15 days after the date of the enactment of this Act. To accomplish the expedited implementation of these amendments, effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall include in the pool distributing plant provisions of each Federal milk marketing order issued under subparagraph (B) of section 8c(5) of the Agriculture Adjustment Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(5)), reenacted with amendments by the Agriculture Marketing Agreement Act of 1937, a provision that a handler described in subparagraph (M) of such section, as added by subsection (a) of this section, will be fully regulated by the order in which the handler's distributing plant is located. These amendments shall not be subject to a referendum under section 8c(19) of such Act (7 U.S.C. 608c(19)).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) each will control 20 minutes.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under rule XV, the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS) will control 20 minutes in opposition to the bill.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, who I understand is on his way, and in his absence the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA), to have control of time for 10 minutes, and that they be permitted to yield blocks of that time.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2120. My original interest in this legislation was to address a loophole created in the interface of the Federal Milk Market Order System with individual State milk marketing arrangements.

Under the authority of the Agricultural Marketing Agreement Act of 1993, the Secretary of Agriculture protects dairy producers from predatory pricing by setting a minimum price that must be paid by processors who distribute fluid milk within a Federal Milk Market Order Area.

While a majority of the country is covered by one of 10 Federal orders, some States, California in particular, have enacted legislation which authorizes State agencies to regulate minimum milk price for intrastate sales.

Herein lies the dilemma. Milk processed and distributed in the neighboring State of Arizona, which operates under a Federal order, is subject to the Federal minimum pricing regulations. However, milk processed in Arizona and then sold in California is exempt from the Federal existing regulations.

And since the commercial product originates from outside the State, it is exempt from California State regulations. Because of this loophole, milk produced in Arizona and sold in California is not subject to any minimum pricing regulations. This creates an unfair advantage for out-of-state fluid milk processors.

This situation was first brought to my attention by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and I agreed to help resolve this issue.

The solution simply directs the Secretary to apply the minimum pricing regulations of the Federal order system to any covered milk handler if they sell a significant portion of their fluid milk production in States that have established minimum milk pricing regulations.

Mr. Speaker, as all of our colleagues can attest, Federal dairy policy is among the most complicated and politicized of all of our programs. Indeed, the main reason that it has taken as long as it has to bring this bill to the full House for consideration is because often the simplest dairy bills tend to act as magnets and attract all kinds of unrelated pieces that are in many ways controversial.

This legislation is no exception. While the original intent was to remedy a situation that has caused great concern to the California dairy industry, two additional provisions have been added to this legislation to address concerns elsewhere.

Admittedly, I was reluctant to include these provisions; but after meeting with members of the dairy industry and hearing their near universal support, I decided to move forward with the legislation as drafted.

The two provisions that were added simply exempt Clark County, Nevada from the existing Arizona-Las Vegas

Milk Market Order and create a 3 million pound-per-month cap on the exemption for producers who process and distribute their own milk within the Arizona-Las Vegas Order.

Mr. Speaker, I am aware that some Members may have concerns about one or more of these provisions. As I indicated, I too had some reservations. But as I stated, there is near unanimous support within the dairy community, both the producers and the processors, for these changes. I therefore urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, far be it from me to rise and challenge the chairman of the authorizing committee regarding a dairy issue.

He and I have talked about this on many occasions; and frankly, much of that which he suggests as a potential solution to the California-Nevada-Arizona problem I am in total agreement with.

My difficulty is that I have reviewed with great care all of those suspensions that are on the floor today. This is the controversial suspension. And indeed, rather than talking policy, I will talk policy all that my colleagues would like today, I would prefer to discuss the violation of procedure that is involved here.

Under our rules, suspensions are to be addressing issues that are not controversial, that Members on both sides of the aisle are able to largely agree upon. There are minor exceptions to this. But in this case, we are talking about a violent exception.

□ 1600

It is clearly understood by people operating with this bill on both sides of the aisle that I have had very strong opposition and others have had opposition to this policy. And yet to have it come to the floor as a suspension with no notice whatsoever, I mean, I learned last Friday by accident that this bill was going to be on the floor.

Frankly, I might be on a plane today, otherwise; and it is hardly the way to treat Members on either side of the aisle dealing with a fundamental question of procedure. So for that reason initially I have expressed my very strong opposition.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds. Just to respond to the gentleman, I certainly respect the gentleman's concerns. I too learned about the measure last Thursday or Friday, but this is very common with the scheduling of suspensions.

As the gentleman is well aware, we have been discussing this issue, and it has been on the cusp of coming to the floor for a long, long time. We need to attempt to resolve these differences, and I think the consensus, on the part

of many, is that we need to proceed with this debate today. I think that is the best way to get to the heart of what is going on here.

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Without objection, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. PETERSON) will control the time previously allocated to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

There was no objection.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of the bill before us, and I would like to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and the other members of the committee for their hard work and cooperation. I would also like to acknowledge the gentlemen from California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. BACA, Mr. CARDOZA and Mr. COSTA, who have worked diligently to bring this important issue to the attention of the House.

Though this bill is not perfect, Mr. Speaker, it will begin to solve an imbalance in our regulatory structure. However, it ignores the fact that the real solution is for California to join the Federal Dairy System. Right now, one handler in Yuma, Arizona, is using a loophole in the current system to sell from a Federal milk market area into California and is not paying the minimum milk price that either institution has in place. This practice is disrupting the marketplace and undermining the goal of fairness that the regulatory system should encourage.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, this bill offers a piecemeal approach when dairy policy really needs a more comprehensive adjustment. The bill will begin to address the problem more immediately, but will leave more work to be done for a later time.

Mr. Speaker, even as one part of this bill is written to ensure that the Yuma handler is on the same regulatory playing field as his competitors, the bill's second provision completely exempts Nevada processors from regulation. So one provision requires that similar rules apply to all handlers, while the other gives special status to handlers in Nevada.

It may be that the exemption for Nevada will allow the Yuma handler to regain unregulated status that the bill is meant to take away. Keep in mind, Mr. Speaker, that the goal of this bill is to level the playing field between producers and handlers, which is what I hope it will do despite the fact that it is not a particularly comprehensive solution.

Without feedback from hearings and from the USDA regarding implementation of this bill, we cannot be sure that it will resolve the problem that is occurring now with the plant in Yuma, Arizona. Who is to say that the same issue will not arise elsewhere? Are we going to legislate milk price regulation

every time a new milk processing plant opens? I hope not.

Finally, I must reiterate that the entire problem addressed by this bill could be solved if California belonged to the Federal order system. We need our policy to recognize that no State, even California, is isolated from the dairy marketplace. Each day raw milk and processed dairy products cross the California border in both directions. Despite that fact, California has taken various actions to isolate itself; most notably, in 2003 the Supreme Court ruled unanimously against California's position that its system was protected from scrutiny under the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution.

California has attempted to stop the flow of raw milk from Nevada to California processors by requiring that the processors pay an extra fee into the California pool, a contribution that was not shared with producers supplying that milk.

Mr. Speaker, that California even felt the need to tax incoming milk in that way is a sign that the system is becoming unsustainable.

Although this bill before us today is needed and is not perfect, I just have to say that it does little to address the broader problems that arise from the two systems operating side by side. So I am here today to support this bill because it will give us a short-term solution to the problem. And I look forward to working with my colleagues as we move ahead, my colleagues in the dairy industry, to develop a more sensible plan for the long term.

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield as much time as he may consume to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY).

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that I find this discussion rather interesting today. We have a bill before us which essentially objects to a producer from Arizona, because he is doing to California what California has done to the rest of the country with respect to milk marketing orders for quite some time.

It seems to me that if we are going to be dealing with this issue, we ought to be dealing with it generically, with all of its ramifications. I don't think this bill belongs on the suspension calendar. I think if we are going to take care of somebody's side problem, we ought to take care of other problems that are associated with the milk marketing order system as well.

What this process reminds me of is something that happened a number of years ago when Mr. Gingrich was Speaker and Steve Gunderson, a Republican from Wisconsin, was chair of the Dairy Subcommittee. Steve had expected to be able, on the farm bill, to offer an amendment to the committee product dealing with milk marketing orders. He wasn't allowed to do that,

even though he was the chairman of the subcommittee handling the bill.

Instead, what happened is that there was an insider's fix between then-Speaker Gingrich and then-chairman of the Rules Committee, Mr. Solomon. They guaranteed that in return for their sweetheart deal, Gunderson wouldn't even be able to offer his amendment on the floor.

We have seen all too much of that for the past years around here, and so I have no illusions about what is going to happen to this bill, but I for one want to object to the fact that it is on the suspension calendar. I want to object to the fact that if we are going to take care of this little discrete problem that we are not, in the process, taking care of the broader issues that confront us on the whole area of milk marketing order systems.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, I want to take a moment to respond to the gentleman from Wisconsin regarding the concern that this legislation is targeting one or two individual producer handlers to the benefit of the rest of the dairy industry.

We are here today to discuss how to keep the current Federal milk market order, something very important to the people of Wisconsin and other States, operating in a fair and equitable manner. I do not fault companies for their success. In fact, I applaud them for it.

When one or two companies' success, however, is based on a gap in the regulatory system, I believe we have an obligation to respond. In this particular case, millions of pounds of unregulated milk flows in your State commerce in direct competition with regulated milk. This certainly has the potential to impact markets.

I support this legislation because I believe that this milk should be treated the same way by the Federal Government that we treat milk that is in direct competition with it.

This is not about punishing individuals. It is about ensuring a level playing field for competition.

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

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA).

Mr. CARDOZA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in full support of S. 2120, the Milk Regulatory Equity Act. For those familiar with dairy policy, there is never an easy fight in dairy policy, and this legislation is no different; it will be familiar.

Throughout the years, there have been more obstacles thrown in the path of this worthy legislation than I can count. I am grateful to my friend and colleague, Devin Nunes, for his tireless leadership and pursuit of correcting this problem. I also want to thank Senator FEINSTEIN and the chairman and ranking member of the House Agri-

culture Committee for their support in moving this legislation forward.

Our dairy industry is extremely regulated and for good reason. Dairy products are both highly perishable and critical to the dietary requirements of Americans. Without a formal process for pricing, pooling and processing, the entire chain of production from producers through consumers is at risk. Dairy policy works because all players, including processors, producers, co-ops, distributors and buyers adhere to the same rules. Rules and regulations keep the dairy markets stable and allow orderly distribution of high-quality milk, cheese and butter products.

This bill will close a dangerous loophole that allows a few large producer handlers to escape all these carefully crafted Federal and State regulatory requirements. It would require those operations physically located in a Federal order, but shipping entirely into a State order, to comply with the regulations governing dairy policy in the order where their plant is located.

Do these individuals who are exploiting this loophole want to maintain it? Absolutely. However, due to the unique characteristics of a commodity like dairy, it cannot be allowed to continue. The foundation of this legislation is that all dairy organizations should be governed by the same rules. One group should not have an unfair competitive advantage over another.

The Milk Regulatory Equity Act ensures production and price of milk is fair and equitable. This is an extremely important bill for my home State of California, but also for the entire country. History has shown that things that happen first in California then spread east.

This loophole has the opportunity to affect every milk marketing order across the country. Let us stop it now before that happens. This is a good bill and one that deserves our support.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I will speak just for a moment, for the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDOZA) talked about a loophole. The loophole that he is talking about really is a part of an existing law. But if there is a loophole, it is handled by a regulation that has been handled by the Department recently.

That very regulation is currently being challenged in the courts, and people are attempting to codify that regulation in order to bypass my constituents' opportunity in the courts. They were due to appear in court tomorrow to defend their interest, and this bill is on the floor today, making it not just a very controversial issue, but violating our very fundamental process.

Mr. Speaker, I would urge the House to be very reserved about using the suspension process in this fashion.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT).

(Mrs. SCHMIDT asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 2120, the Milk Regulatory Equity Act, which would amend an outdated regulatory exemption within the Federal milk marketing order. I commend Chairman GOODLATTE and the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), the author of the bill, for their work in moving this legislation forward.

Years ago, the United States Department of Agriculture exempted small producer handler dairy farmers from regulation because they owned and milked their own cows and sold their own products directly to local consumers. Today, some of these unregulated producer handlers collect U.S. Government subsidies and have grown to be among the largest dairy processors in the country with significant market shares.

This is an unfair advantage, and this exemption can adversely affect the prices other farmers receive. Consumers also suffer as unregulated producer handlers eliminate competition. This bill eliminates the loophole that allows now large producer handler operations to be unregulated and requires equal application of the law. It still allows family producer handlers to be exempted if their product is less than 3 million pounds per month.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. COSTA).

Mr. COSTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of S. 2120 and ask for your support of this bill. I too want to thank Chairman GOODLATTE and Congressman NUNES and Congressman CARDOZA for their efforts on this important piece of legislation that eventually, I think, will lead to an important part where we need to focus on comprehensive dairy policy as we look toward the 2007 farm bill.

But I rise to speak very simply about something that is complicated, that, as most of you know, is dairy policy.

□ 1615

Your support of this bill does not require the detailed knowledge of the myriad pacts that govern the dairy industry and demand a historical analysis of what is going on throughout the country and individual States.

S. 2120, though, is about fairness. Is it fair today in California some of the world's most productive dairymen and women are being undercut by a legal loophole between the Federal and State dairy programs that permits some dairies to skirt all the rules?

Is it fair that by exporting these programs, some dairies avoid all regulations, enabling them to sell to retailers at well below well-regulated dairies?

Is it fair that this bill, which has passed the United States Senate with

unanimous consent with overwhelming, obviously bipartisan support, has had to wait 3 years to be considered by the House?

Is it fair that one of the few dairies in this country that opposes this legislation claims he is simply using the free market system, while accepting nearly \$1 million a year in Federal dairy support payments?

No, it is not fair. Your support of S. 2120 will bring fairness back to dairy farms. If we are going to ultimately craft an even-handed dairy policy throughout the country, and we have competition abroad, we need to first take this first step.

I urge you to support S. 2120.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, responding directly to my colleague from California's point, indeed it has been suggested that we are dealing with dairy policy in a major way here on the floor. If that is the case, clearly we should not be handling that very policy by way of a suspension matter. It is a fundamental violation of that process.

This bill has had a number of years for possible consideration in the authorizing committee; and, yet, the authorizing committee has never held a hearing on this subject, the subject of the Senate bill that is before us today.

I would suggest to us that our authorizers need to, in a fundamental way, look at national dairy policy and not let California continue to take such advantage of the country, as my colleague, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), suggested. In this case, we have California divided against itself, the central valley against my district.

I must tell you, a long time ago, I tried not to have to deal with dairy policy because of problems in the past, but I can tell you also you can never quite satisfy dairy people in California because any kind of competition is a problem.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), the chairman of the Dairy Subcommittee of the Agriculture Committee.

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, this has been a very interesting debate; and if you want to get into hot water, just start debating dairy policy. It not only gets very complicated very fast, but it gets very heated.

This is not a new issue. This has been percolating around this Capitol now for at least 2½ years. I was first made aware of it by the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES) and others on a trip to California. I have learned more about this issue than I think I really ever wanted to know; and, frankly, I think most Members of the House do

not really want to know too much about this.

Our colleague from Ohio, I think, said it well. This is really an example of where the laws were originally designed to protect small producer-handlers, and here we have a large producer-handler who has found this, and I do not want to get into a fight here over the term "loophole," but he has found this opportunity and he is exploiting this opportunity.

Now, we have said repeatedly to our colleagues in California, this essentially is a California issue, why do you not work it out. I think there was a good-faith effort on both sides of this argument to try and do that; but, unfortunately, they failed.

This is a very complicated issue, but I think all of the speakers who have preceded me have said it well, that we have a responsibility to have a Federal milk system that is fair to everybody. What we have right now is one particular producer who is trying to use the best of both worlds, who is situated right on the border; and, frankly, I think we have a responsibility to close that loophole.

Let me point out that this is not an issue, while generally milk issues divide geographically, they divide between the people who produce the milk, the dairy farmers and the processors, this is one where virtually everyone in the dairy industry, from all corners of the United States, whether they are dairy farmers large or small, whether they are processors large or small, or whether they are in the marketing side or the manufacturing side, almost universally they support this legislation.

So with all due respect to our distinguished colleague and chairman of the Appropriations Committee, I think this is an idea that has percolated for a very long time. It is time for the House to take action. I strongly support the bill, and I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting it as well and pass it here today on the House floor.

Mr. Speaker, as Chairman of the Subcommittee with jurisdiction over dairy programs and policies, I want to express my support for this legislation and reiterate the comments made by the Chairman of the Agriculture Committee.

As he said, the federal milk marketing order system has served the dairy industry well. But we have this situation where a processor from outside California can undermine the market there by under pricing the regulated competition.

Mr. NUNES and a number of others have worked to address this, and the legislation before us today would direct USDA to apply the minimum pricing regulations of the federal order system to milk processed in a federal order area and distributed into states that have a statewide system.

While we're aware that some Members have concerns with this legislation, it's important to point out that it has the strong support from nearly the entire dairy industry, both producers and processors.

Again, as Chairman of the Dairy Subcommittee, I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is pretty apparent for those who have been listening that this is not a simple matter. I mean, dealing with national dairy policy by way of a suspension bill, with the presumption this is a very simple, noncontroversial item, at best, distorts the process.

Let me share with my colleagues that there is a regulation in place that covers the problems that have been raised here on the floor. The department has recently done that. That regulation is being challenged in court, and it is supposed to be heard tomorrow. So the opponents are choosing to bring the bill up today to undermine that opportunity for a family business to have an opportunity to expand their business.

I would suggest to my colleagues perhaps we should be supporting small producer-handlers across the country who would wish to expand their business, and those who have not chosen to follow that line, if it is so profitable, why do they not follow that line themselves? They, too, could become producer-handlers.

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

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I have just one speaker remaining, and I believe we have the right to close.

Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I do not think we have any additional speakers, and so I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I yield the remaining balance of my time to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES).

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman of the Ag Committee, BOB GOODLATTE, and Ranking Member PETERSON for this ongoing 3-year debate.

I find it interesting when we come to Washington, you learn that people like to use politics instead of policy. If you notice, the opposition to this bill, they did not talk or discuss the policy of this matter. They talked about the politics of it.

So since they went down that road, I would like to say that this bill is not controversial. This bill has been debated for 3 years. The Senate passed it unanimously. The Senate authorizers have said that this needs to get done. The House authorizing committee, we have the chairman of the Dairy Subcommittee who recognizes this needs to be done.

The opposition to this bill, who is a good friend of mine, but this has unanimous support across California, unanimous. Every dairy farmer in the State of California has sent letters to their Congressman, and every dairy industry, not only the dairy farmers, this is

not just about dairy farmers, this is dairy processors. This is grocery stores, and it is not only California. It is across the entire country. This has national implications to let producer-handlers game the system. This is about gaming the system.

So it is not confusing. It is not controversial, and if you look at the fact that they talk about a constituent being in California in a lawsuit that is being brought forth, that is simply not true. The lawsuit has been brought forth in Texas, and the person claims to be a constituent of Texas.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NUNES. I yield to the gentleman from California.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman involved is a constituent of mine. I can take you to his farm anytime you like, in California.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, all I am saying is the court case you cited is filed in a Texas court, and he claims to be a resident of Texas.

Mr. LEWIS of California. One of his major farms is in my district, and all the farmers around him in California are supporting his position.

Mr. NUNES. Well, I thank the chairman for that, but I do have to say that we have a differing opinion here, and I can provide the chairman with letters, if he would like, at a later date.

But with that, I want to thank, again, the House leadership and the ranking member and especially Chairman GOODLATTE for bringing this forward, and I hope that the House will pass Senate bill 2120 as quickly as possible.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition of S. 2120. Although I acknowledge there is merit to the original intent of this bill, I am unable to ignore the harm it may cause for the small business dairy industry in light of recent developments. As this industry is an integral economic contributor to my district, and indeed Oklahoma as a whole, it would be negligent of me to endorse this bill and rely on good luck to protect my constituents.

Mr. Speaker, the dairy industry is complex and there are many legitimate competing interests. With this in mind, I commend my colleagues in both bodies of Congress who diligently worked to build a rare consensus while crafting this bill. I have no doubt in my mind that the original intent of this bill was narrow in scope, focused on regulating aspects of the milk industry in certain western states. In addition, I have no doubt that the crafters of this bill believed they were protecting smaller dairy farmers, processors, and producer-handlers outside of those states from falling under similar regulations in the future.

However, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Department of Agriculture acted before Congress, issuing a final rule on February 24, 2006, establishing similar regulations as would be established by S. 2120. I must admit Mr. Speaker, this begs the question: Why is it necessary for Congress to now duplicate what has already been legitimately addressed by the USDA? I fear the only outcome may be to codify this regulation, thereby inherently suggesting that Congress

will endorse similar such regulations in the future. This is a precedent which I can not support. I believe in our government's regulatory process Mr. Speaker, and as such, I believe there is no longer any need for Congress to act upon this particular issue. Had the USDA not taken this action, I also have no doubt I would have felt much more comfortable with this bill.

Mr. Speaker, S. 2120, although originally well-intentioned and carefully crafted to insulate dairy farmers, processors, and producer-handlers outside of these particular western states from unintended consequences, has been outdated by the regulatory actions of the USDA. Should Congress pass S. 2120, it may only serve to set a dangerous precedent which could severely harm an important part of America's dairy industry in the future.

Mr. BACA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 2120, The Milk Regulatory Equity Act of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, this bill comes before us today with the full support of the leadership of the House Agriculture Committee and the nearly unanimous support of the entire dairy industry.

As Ranking Member of the Department Operations, Oversight, Dairy, Nutrition and Forestry Subcommittee of the House Agriculture Committee, I can speak to how rare it is for a bill to achieve such wide consensus and agreement among government officials and industry representatives.

This bill is good legislation that will close an unintended loophole created by past federal regulations. While most states determine their milk prices based on their Federal Milk Market Order Area, certain states have enacted legislation which authorizes state agencies to determine milk prices for intrastate milk sales. This then allows some out of state milk processors to be completely exempt from any minimum price regulations and creates an unfair market advantage. S. 2120 will fix this problem and place all milk processors on a level playing field.

Dairy operators in the Inland Empire of California, including Chino and Ontario—in or near my district—are being hurt by this loophole. Hard-working farmers all across America are facing the same situation, and we owe it to them to provide regulatory action that will help all dairy processors.

I want to commend Chairman GOODLATTE and Ranking Member PETERSON of the full Committee for their excellent work on this legislation.

I also want to thank Chairman GUTKNECHT of our Subcommittee for his leadership on this matter.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill and continue the federal government's tradition of offering American consumers consistently priced high quality milk.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to S. 2120, the Milk Regulatory Equity Act.

I think there well may be a need for Congress to consider legislation dealing with Federal Milk Marketing Orders (FMMOs). But the subject is too important to be handled the way this bill has been.

The suspension calendar is supposed to be reserved for bills that the relevant committees have reviewed and that are not controversial, which is why debate is limited and no amendments are allowed.

However, there has been no hearing on this bill and it has never been approved by any

Committee—in either the House or Senate—so there has been no opportunity to consider the testimony of anyone who might be affected, including at least one Colorado company that has told me of their objections to the bill as it now stands.

Before we make a change in Federal dairy policy that has been in place for 70 years I think it is appropriate to hear all sides of the debate. Because that has not happened, I cannot support the bill.

I urge all Members to join me in voting no today, so that the bill can receive a more careful evaluation and so that possible revisions can be considered in the Agriculture Committee.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 2120.

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. LEWIS of California. 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 question will be postponed.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on the bill just considered.

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

There was no objection.

#### LOCAL COMMUNITY RECOVERY ACT OF 2006

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4979) to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify the preference for local firms in the award of certain contracts for disaster relief activities, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 4979

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

##### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Local Community Recovery Act of 2006".

##### SEC. 2. USE OF LOCAL FIRMS AND INDIVIDUALS FOR DISASTER RELIEF ACTIVITIES.

Section 307 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5150) is amended by adding at the end the following: "In carrying out this section, a contract or agreement may be set aside for award based on a specific geographic area."

##### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the Corps of Engineers should promptly implement the

decision of the Government Accountability Office in solicitation W912EE-06-R-0005, dated March 20, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. SHUSTER) and the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 4979.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 4979, introduced by Mr. PICKERING of Mississippi, amends the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to clarify the preferences for the local firms in the award of contracts for disaster relief activity.

The Local Community Recovery Act of 2006 makes it clear that the government can limit contracts to local communities devastated in disasters.

□ 1630

The Stafford Act has a preference for doing business with local firms because putting communities back to work is an important strategy for helping them rebuild their economy.

In the areas hardest hit by Katrina, the job market, local economy and tax base have been devastated. This legislation will put people back to work rebuilding their communities while simultaneously strengthening the local economy and tax base. Another common advantage of contracting locally can be lower cost and faster job completion.

I would like to recognize my colleague, Mr. PICKERING, for his dedication to bringing this legislation to the floor. Mr. PICKERING has been a champion of this issue and has worked to help the people of the entire gulf coast region. This bill is further proof of his dedication and efforts. Since Katrina ravaged the gulf coast, Mr. PICKERING has worked tirelessly with me and the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee to resurrect his district and all of the gulf coast region.

I would also like to thank Ranking Member OBERSTAR and Ranking Member NORTON for working with us to develop a compromise bill that encourages the Army Corps to move forward with its local contracts.

The amended version of the bill does not limit judicial review of any contracts. As a result, the bill we are considering enjoys bipartisan support, I repeat, bipartisan support, and I encourage Members to support final passage.

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

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

The legislation in its amended form before us this afternoon is the result of the finest of legislative action in which a substantive goal has been achieved through discussion and understanding of one another, understanding the underlying law and its application, and in this case, an administrative action that has produced a right result.

The objective in the Gulf States devastated by hurricanes, not just Katrina but Rita and Wilma and the ones preceding and the ones yet to come, is local recovery. That means not just restoring the physical needs of the communities, the homes, the businesses, the streets, the levees, the lighting, but also the businesses.

The objective of the Robert T. Stafford Act, which I must say I have had a very large role in shaping over the past 21 years with my then-colleague on the committee, Mr. Clinger, is to affirm that the administering agencies, that is, those administering the law and the funding, would give preference to local businesses to restore those businesses, to expedite completion of recovery work, and to achieve lower costs, because businesses locally know how to do the job better than out-of-State companies.

In this particular case, in the aftermath of Katrina, the Corps of Engineers responded by taking the action that law allows them. They issued a contract for debris removal in Mississippi that originally was given to a Florida company, Ash Britt. They decided not to renew that contract, because it was evident that the work was not going to be done principally by local companies and, instead, chose to issue three separate debris removal contracts to Mississippi firms to guarantee that local Mississippi companies would be selected for the contracts and to do so by limiting the bidding to Mississippi companies. The Florida company protested that bid to the Government Accountability Office.

Last week, the GAO issued its ruling, its decision in the matter of Ash Britt, Inc., with reference to the file number, dated March 20, and in the most important part said: "We think Ash Britt misses the point when it argues that some form of preference short of a set-aside also implements the Stafford Act's preference for using local businesses to clean up disaster-related debris. The question here is not whether some lesser form of preference might have satisfied the act's intent, but whether the preference chosen was an abuse of agency discretion. Since the language in the statute does not specifically restrict the application of the preference, and since the use of a set-aside is consistent with the statutory goal of assisting firms in the affected area, we do not view the Corps' decision to implement the Stafford Act preference with a set-aside as an abuse of the agency's discretion to implement this statutory scheme." And then they conclude with referring to previous GAO decisions in the matter.

That settles it. The Corps has the authority; that authority has been affirmed by the Government Accountability Office, and the contracting should proceed. The GAO decision, so clear, so precise, so unequivocal in my judgment and in previous experience with the Corps and with GAO, should ward off any lawsuit or further appeal by Ash Britt. I think they will be very wise to accept the judgment of GAO and allow the procedure to go forward.

The bill before us is a revised version of the legislation the gentleman from Mississippi introduced just before our recess and which we discussed at some length. I had some reservations about it, some concerns, especially the prohibition of judicial review. That has wisely been removed, as the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, has expressed.

So I want to make it very clear that we have had a very thoughtful, very constructive discussion with the gentleman from Mississippi, with the subcommittee staff, with GAO, and with the Corps of Engineers. And the language in this sense of Congress portion of the bill pending before us this afternoon, "It is the sense of Congress that the Corps of Engineers should promptly implement the decision of the Government Accountability Office in solicitation," and I don't need to repeat the reference, dated March 20, 2006, that should be very clear direction to the Corps of Engineers to proceed forthwith, get these debris removal contracts under way, and move ahead without concern or fear of further appeal by the contractor in this case.

I think it is a good legislative outcome. It is a good direction to the Corps. It will be good for people of Mississippi. It will be a good lesson for workers and smaller contractors in other hurricane-affected Gulf States. It will set a good precedent for the future.

I think that we have had a very fine result this afternoon, and I urge my colleagues on this side of the aisle and all Members to support this legislation.

I would further observe, Mr. Speaker, that my wife is from New Orleans. Her family was affected by the hurricane. We have just recently, just 2 weeks ago, spent time in New Orleans; went with family and friends to the 17th Street Canal, saw the levee break, saw the work of the Corps, the cofferdam set up to rebuild that portion of the levee, traveled to Saint Bernard Parish, saw the absolute utterly horrifying destruction of an entire 38,000-home area inundated, over the rooftops, homes floated away from their mooring, and debris still in the streets.

That debris needs to be removed. Those people need relief. They want to get back in their homes, they want to rebuild, and they are frustrated that companies that know how to do the work aren't being called on to do it.

This legislation will set the course, chart the future, give an opportunity for those who know how to do the job to get in there and do it and do it expeditiously.

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 Mississippi (Mr. PICKERING).

Mr. PICKERING. Mr. Chairman, I thank you for your support, your leadership on these issues, and for your commitment and traveling to the Gulf region, to New Orleans and to the Mississippi Gulf Coast, your leadership on the committee and on the Select Committee on Katrina to find the solutions for the future storms and recoveries, but also to do everything you can to make sure that this Congress does the right thing for this region as we recover. I am extremely grateful.

To Mr. OBERSTAR, I thank you for working with me today in the best sense and tradition and civility of this place to find common goals and common ground to be able to help my people in my home State recover, rebuild and, most importantly, to lead the way for themselves.

As the Stafford Act clearly states, and Mr. OBERSTAR was here in the beginning of that act and has been intimately involved in all aspects of that over his career here, but let me read the Stafford Act and the committee language when it was first enacted.

In section 204 of the Disaster Relief Act of 1970, the Senate Committee on Public Works, which proposed the language, stated, "Preference is to be given to persons or firms who work or do business in the disaster area." The committee report discussed the rationale and justification for this provision. "One outstanding feature of the aftermath of a great disaster is the lack of ready cash. A Federal assistance program should be designed to revitalize the community by infusions of cash through the use of local people and business firms."

To be honest, this has not been done in this recovery. Unfortunately, it is a failure of the Bush administration in implementing the contracts for the recovery of this region. But the administration is trying to correct that action. Today, 95 percent of all Federal contract dollars, 95 cents on every dollar spent on Federal contracts, is going to out-of-State firms, not in-State, not community, not local, but out-of-State.

Now, why is it so important that local firms, local businesses, local communities lead the way? It is those local businesses that will pay local taxes to rebuild local schools, to make the contributions to the churches as they care for the people who are helpless, needy, hungry, and homeless. It is those companies that will pay for the rebuilding of the Little League ball parks. All of the community institutions and infrastructure are led by local businesses and local leaders, and it is those people who should be on the front lines, not at the back of the line in the recovery effort.

What the Corps of Engineers did in December was to try to correct that.

They set aside on a geographic preference consistent with the Stafford Act contracts for debris removal. And let me say this: In Mississippi alone, we have had more debris, as you can see from these pictures, more debris than any disaster in American history. Over 50 percent more has already been cleaned up than ever occurred in any disaster anyplace in America. What the Corps did in December was to say, in the future, going forward, we are going to let local companies lead the recovery and comply with the congressional intent and stated objectives of the Stafford Act.

Unfortunately, the incumbent contractor from out of State protested that action. They gamed the system to delay the implementation of those contracts. Three months later, the GAO rejects the protest, finds in favor of the Corps, finds in favor of the congressional intent of the Stafford Act, and says, in essence, the protest is baseless.

It is time, and this act urges the Corps, to immediately, to promptly move forward in the implementation of local contracts for local debris removal.

President Bush, when he addressed the Nation in Jackson Square in downtown New Orleans stated: "In the work of rebuilding, as many jobs as possible should go to the men and women who live in Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama." What we are doing in this act is clarifying and reaffirming the original intent to make it possible that no one can litigate this or game this or delay this to keep local firms from leading the way.

Let me say this. As I look across to both sides, this body has been extremely generous to the people of Mississippi and New Orleans. We have appropriated billions, now over \$100 billion to the recovery of the region. The churches and the charities across this country have been compassionate, and their generosity has flowed down and poured into our region. Our people will be forever grateful. Mississippi is the most generous State in the Nation, according to IRS returns. We are the poorest State, but we give more per capita than any State in the Nation. We are a proud people, and we want to lead the way and work first.

□ 1645

We do not want to be at the back of the line. We want to be on the front line, cleaning up, rebuilding, restoring and renewing our region.

I urge bipartisan support of this action today so that our region can recover with the help, but not the dependence, not the displacement, not the replacement of our own people, our own economy, our own jobs; and I ask all of us to look at this legislation and to work with me and for the administration to keep its commitment and to keep the law and the intent of this legislation.

In closing, let me also ask the current contractors: do nothing as these

contracts to Mississippi companies go forward to disrupt, to sabotage, or to slow the work. Cooperate with us and partner with us, just as our companies have partnered with you as you led. Stand down. Let us stand up. Let us lead the way, and we can have a continued good relationship. But protest this, litigate this, fight this, sabotage it, and there will be bad will that will go forward and undermine the way that our communities and our country should work together.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Members for their support, and I thank the ranking member, Mr. OBERSTAR, as we continue to rebuild our region.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds to express my appreciation to Mr. PICKERING for those kind remarks. We have spent a very productive time together.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN).

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. OBERSTAR for his leadership on this matter and for forging this bipartisan agreement. I rise today in support of H.R. 4979, the Local Community Recovery Act of 2006.

I want Members to know I approve of this language allowing set-aside contracts based on a geographic region. Florida for years has pushed for more local company involvement. This is something that Florida has been pushing for after every hurricane has battered our State.

Every time contracts go to out-of-state contractors who have relationships with FEMA and the Department of Homeland Security, Florida companies do not get the work. This provision will allow local communities to recover more quickly. It is important for all contractors to work with local companies and local workers who know the area and the best way to get the job done.

The Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act provides assistance to States in response to natural disasters. I recommend that the agencies follow the law and allow local communities to recover from these natural disasters.

Mr. Speaker, on April 1, hundreds of us will be going to New Orleans. It will be my second trip to work in that area and to try to encourage local participation and to find out the status so we can come back and report to the Congress on the progress. I think every Member should go to the region and work in that region to make sure that the \$100 billion dollars that we are appropriating is spent in the local area.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express appreciation for the cooperation we have had this afternoon in working out this matter that should have been considered appropriately in committee

process. In the subcommittee, full committee we could have resolved these matters in an expeditious manner in a very expedited way. But failing the committee process, we have reached, I think, a very sound, very progressive and forward-looking outcome.

I want to restate section 2 of the pending bill, line 8: "In carrying out this section, a contract or agreement may be set aside for award based on a specific geographic area." This is unmistakable language. It reaffirms the original intent of the Stafford Act, reaffirms historical precedent, and states it very clearly in legislative language.

We intend to get this bill passed this afternoon, and I hope the other body will act expeditiously as well so we can make this very, very clear and proceed on the awards of these contracts and reestablish businesses in Mississippi, as the gentleman from Mississippi has so well and firmly and forcefully stated as a very strong and effective advocate for the people of his district.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for your cooperation. It always seems to me that the gentleman from Minnesota and a gentleman from Pennsylvania are working on the FEMA program, Mr. Klinger, Mr. Ridge, and the gentleman's father, the first Mr. Shuster. Every time we do, we come up with a good result.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for those kind words.

The Local Community Recovery Act makes sense. As the ranking member pointed out, it clarifies and reaffirms the language in the Stafford Act. It also directs the corps to move forward quickly so we can see the cleanup continue to make progress in the Mississippi and in the gulf coast region.

I want to again thank Mr. OBERSTAR for his cooperation on this issue. Once again, the T&I Committee has come together in a bipartisan manner and moved forward for the betterment of this Nation. I also thank Mr. PICKERING for his leadership and in working so closely with the T&I Committee to put this together for what I think is going to be a very positive outcome.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). 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. 4979, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### COMMENDING HAITI FOR HOLDING DEMOCRATIC ELECTIONS

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 353) commending the people of the Republic of Haiti for holding democratic elections on February 7, 2006, and congratulating President-elect Rene Garcia Preval on his victory in these elections.

The Clerk read as follows:

#### H. CON. RES. 353

Whereas the Republic of Haiti held democratic presidential and legislative elections on February 7, 2006;

Whereas reports indicate that the elections were peaceful and that 2.2 million Haitians—more than 60 percent of registered voters—participated in the elections;

Whereas many Haitians walked miles on election day to reach a polling station and waited for hours in line to exercise their right to vote;

Whereas the participation of an overwhelming number of Haitians in the elections demonstrates the commitment of the Haitian people to democracy;

Whereas on February 16, 2006, Rene Garcia Preval was declared the winner of the presidential election with 51.15 percent of the vote;

Whereas on February 23, 2006, the White House announced that President George W. Bush phoned President-elect Rene Garcia Preval to congratulate him on his victory in the elections and to discuss cooperation in Haiti's economic development and the fight against the illegal drug trade;

Whereas the elections of February 7, 2006, are a sign of hope for the future of the people of Haiti;

Whereas violence and natural disasters have caused tremendous suffering and loss of life in Haiti;

Whereas the people of Haiti would benefit from efforts to achieve national reconciliation; and

Whereas the elected government of Haiti will need the support and assistance of the United States and the international community to ensure social and economic development and to improve the lives of the Haitian people: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) commends the people of the Republic of Haiti for holding democratic elections on February 7, 2006;

(2) congratulates President-elect Rene Garcia Preval on his victory in these historic elections; and

(3) pledges its support and assistance for national reconciliation, democracy, and development for the people of Haiti.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from American Samoa (Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this concurrent resolution that commends the people of Haiti for holding peaceful and democratic elections on February 7 and expresses the sense of the United States Congress that the U.S. should actively support efforts in Haiti to move that country toward national reconciliation, democracy, and development.

Further, the resolution acknowledges the Haitian people's needs for sustained support and assistance from the United States and indeed the international community to ensure social and economic development.

The elections took place February 7 with 2.2 million Haitians, over 60 percent of the registered voters, participating. There were only minor reports of violence and voting flaws.

This bill recognizes the perseverance of the Haitian people as they struggle to maintain democracy. Many Haitians walked miles on election day to reach a polling station, and they waited hours in line to exercise their right to vote. The participation of an overwhelming number of Haitians in these elections clearly demonstrates the commitment of the Haitian people to democracy.

I support the Waters resolution, House Concurrent Resolution 353, a resolution to commend the people of Haiti for the success of their recent election and congratulates President-elect Rene Preval on his victory in the elections. President-elect Rene Preval defeated a large field of candidates and won the election with over 51 percent of the vote.

The people of Haiti have suffered tremendously as a result of violence and natural disasters, and the elections are a sign of hope for the future of the Haitian people. This resolution pledges the support of Congress and the assistance of the United States for national reconciliation, democracy, and development for the people of Haiti.

Finally, this resolution embodies the hope that many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle share, that democracy, stability, and prosperity will be realized as Haitians move beyond these recent elections and put the turbulent chapter behind them. I urge my colleagues to show their support for democracy in Haiti by supporting this resolution.

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

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

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

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my commendation and appreciation to the distinguished chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for his leadership and support of this legislation, and also our senior ranking member, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS). I do also want to thank my distinguished friend

and colleague, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN), for her management and being on the majority side in support of this legislation.

Of course not least of all, the author of this legislation, my very dear friend, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), who is the sponsor, the chief sponsor and author of this proposed resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it was my privilege to travel several times to Haiti with one of our distinguished and senior colleagues of this institution, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS). I can appreciate the many problems and issues facing the good people and the leaders of the country of Haiti. I do want to say I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, with the cherry blossoms in full bloom in the Nation's capital, democracy is once again blossoming in the troubled island nation of Haiti.

After a tumultuous 2 years under an interim government, the people of Haiti recently went to the polls en masse to elect a new President and a new legislature. After some delay, Mr. Rene Preval was declared the victor in the presidential contest. He is due to be inaugurated after the second round elections for the remaining seats in the National Assembly that are being held. These are scheduled for sometime next month.

Mr. Speaker, once again Haiti has a new chance to emerge from years of conflict and despair and grinding poverty to build a country that reflects the resourcefulness of its people and leaders. The task is tremendous. Haiti still lacks a professional police force that respects human rights and is trusted by the populace.

□ 1700

The murderous drug-dealing organizations continue to control parts of the capital and threaten instability in other parts of the country. Many schools are not in operation and most hospitals are little more than way-stations for the morgue. Infrastructure is virtually almost nonexistent.

Mr. Speaker, although the challenges before him are awesome, I think our President-Elect Preval is singularly capable of addressing these issues, but he cannot and he should not do it alone.

Our own government, the United States, working through the United Nations with our bilateral partners must redouble our efforts and financial commitment to Haiti so that the consolidation of democracy and the rebuilding of the country's economy have a reasonable chance of succeeding.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, the President's budget proposal for Haiti for next year fails miserably in this regard. At a time when we should be deepening our commitment to the poorest country in the Western Hemisphere, the President proposes to cut core development spending to Haiti by about 20 percent.

I am hopeful that as a result of the efforts of my colleagues, especially including our newly elected ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), we will be able to remedy the administration's shortsightedness through a Foreign Operations appropriations process. Indeed, given the extraordinary opportunity presented by these elections, I hope my colleagues on the Appropriations Committee in this and the other body will consider adjusting the pending emergency supplemental appropriations bill to include funding for the urgent needs of the Republic of Haiti.

In the meantime, I look forward to the April second-round elections and the overdue inauguration of Haiti's newly elected president.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY), who just got back from a trip to Haiti with Ms. WATERS, the author of this resolution.

Mr. FOLEY. Thank you, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Madam Chairman. And first let me thank MAXINE WATERS, my colleague from California, who not only accompanied me to Haiti, but traveled from California on a late-night red eye to meet me in Miami to fly to Haiti, to fly back to California that very day, in a gesture of goodwill, in a bipartisan gesture of goodwill to show Rene Preval that the United States Congress, Democrat and Republican, wish him Godspeed in helping the people of Haiti.

Chairwoman ROS-LEHTINEN told you the facts. On February 7, 2.2 million Haitians went to the polls and exercised their constitutional right to select a leader. They went by foot, by tap tap and other forms of transportation, traveling hours and standing in line for almost a day to get to their polling places.

Despite some early challenges, things did go very well. Mr. Preval, a populist president, as the only person to ever serve a full term as an elected president in Haiti, brings to his office the hopes and dreams of every Haitian. As we sat with Mr. Preval, I think MAXINE and I both felt a palpable sense of hope and optimism.

Mr. Preval understands the challenges that face him in Haiti. Mr. Preval was quick to suggest they don't need an army and waste tax dollars or federal dollars or dollars from other countries in establishing an army. He wants a legitimate police force. He wants a police force free of corruption. He wants health care and education to the provinces of Haiti.

He knows the challenges that lie before him, but as a wonderful man with a cheerful disposition, he is ready to accept those challenges. But he needs our help; he desperately needs the help of the United States, of Canada, of

France, of CARICOM, of world leaders who are willing to invest in the plight of the Haitians.

We noticed a bounce to the steps, and I reported that to my hometown paper, the Palm Beach Post, which wrote a brilliant article and an editorial on our trip to Haiti, because for the first time you could see some optimism in the people's faces. You could see commerce flourishing in the market square.

And I don't want to mischaracterize. There are huge problems in Haiti. But just a sense that we may have finally turned a fresh page, a new chapter, a new opportunity for Haitians, and particularly for Haitians living in the United States who think about their families back there and simply want the best for them. They have arrived on our fabulous shores and have contributed to our community, but they also think back, as all generations of people from other countries do, about those that are back home. Will they be safe? Will they be healthy? Will they be prosperous? Is there a chance, a fighting chance that they will be given an option like most of us to live in peace and tranquility, raise their kids.

What I noticed too was the incredible number of children going to school and wearing beautiful dress uniforms and skipping along the streets. Again, once again, a sense of optimism. And having been there right after 2004, I can assure you there were challenging moments when you felt all was lost and all hope had faded and all optimism was extinguished.

Rene Preval, the president-elect, is here in our Capital tonight. Many of us, including Chairman SHAW of the Trade Committee and Ranking Member RANGEL, Chairman THOMAS and others are going to greet him and welcome him and talk about some aggressive trade approaches that we hope to launch in our committee. So in the spirit of bipartisanship and goodwill for those here in this Chamber who are willing to go that extra mile, I reach out the hand of friendship to Mr. Rene Preval, soon to be President Preval, as he embarks on a journey that has tremendous impact on all Americans.

And I thank Chairman ROS-LEHTINEN, as well, for her steadfast engagement in our conversations on Haiti, on the hemispheres that surround Haiti, because all of us, if we are going to truly solve this puzzle, need to solve it together. We will put the past behind us, the acrimony behind us, the politics behind us and move forward with a new day for Haitians.

Mr. FALOMAVEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), the distinguished ranking member of our Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from American Samoa for recognizing me. I also want to call attention on our side of the aisle to my colleagues, Congresswoman WATERS, Congresswoman LEE and my good friend, Congressman DELAHUNT, who have always been carrying the ball on the

issue of Haiti and the U.S. response to Haiti and the U.S. friendship with Haiti. I really take my hat off to all of them.

I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 353, which praises the people of Haiti for their recent elections and congratulates Rene Preval on his victory. I commend my friend and colleague, as I mentioned, Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS, for introducing this resolution, and I am pleased to be an original cosponsor. I am pleased that my district, the 17th District in New York, has a very large Haitian community in Spring Valley, New York; and I know they are all eagerly anticipating better things for Haiti and U.S.-Haiti relationships.

After a history of instability, poverty and democratic setbacks, Haitians poured onto the streets last month to cast their votes, demonstrating their desire for a better future. And after a contested vote counting period, the front runner in the presidential election, Rene Preval, was declared the winner with nearly 52 percent of the official vote, compared to less than 12 percent for his closest contender. Now, such a large margin of victory gives Mr. Preval a strong mandate and legitimacy to reform and rebuild Haiti's institutions and fractured society.

Yet the challenges are vast. The same massive underlying problems still plague Haiti, and a second round of elections looms in the coming weeks.

While the Haitian people and government have the ultimate responsibility for ensuring their future, we in the United States have a duty to assist in every aspect of Haiti's political, economic and social state-building. Moreover, given Haiti's proximity to our borders, we have an overwhelming interest in doing so.

Now is the time for the United States to tangibly demonstrate that it stands with the Haitian people in their quest for democracy and stability. Therefore, together with Chairman BURTON and a bipartisan group of subcommittee colleagues, I recently called for us to seize this limited window of opportunity by providing \$50 million extra money in fiscal year 2006 supplemental assistance for our neighbors to the south.

Elections signal the beginning of a transition, not an end. It is thus my hope that the Appropriations Committee will ensure that Haiti's enormous needs are met. This is the least we can do to help the Haitian people at this critical time.

I also call on the administration to work with the citizens of Haiti, their newly elected government and the international community to help Haiti advance on its path of freedom and prosperity. And I urge Secretary of State Rice to attend Preval's upcoming inauguration.

And finally, I reiterate my congratulations to the people of Haiti for their successful elections and to Rene Preval for his victory. I would like to highlight that President-Elect Preval is

visiting Washington today, as the gentleman from Florida mentioned. And I look forward to meeting him and offering my full support for Haiti's quest for national reconciliation, democracy and development. I am proud to be the ranking Democrat of the International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, and I look forward to working with my colleagues.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), the distinguished lady and the chief sponsor of this legislation, my good friend.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker and Members, I thank the gentleman from American Samoa, and I would like to thank the Chair of the International Relations Committee, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the ranking member of that committee, my colleague from California, Congressman LANTOS, and the Chair and ranking member of the International Relations Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, Congressman BURTON and Congressman ENGEL.

I would also like to commend Congressman FOLEY, and before I talk a little bit about our visit, I would like to thank many Members of Congress: Congresswoman BARBARA LEE, who co-chairs the task force on Haiti with Congressman JOHN CONYERS and the Congressional Black Caucus; Congressman DELAHUNT; Congresswoman JAN SCHAKOWSKY; the many Members of Congress who have fought and stayed with the problem and did not give up.

Haiti, and the people of Haiti have suffered mightily. The struggle between the haves and the have-nots is legendary, the rich versus the poor, the elite versus the rejected, the mulattos versus the blacks.

Haiti needs a break. Haiti has experienced economic dislocation. It has experienced devastating hurricanes. But the people of Haiti have worked and they have believed in democracy. And so the people, on February 7, 2006, they went to the polls and they voted. More than 60 percent of the people of Haiti registered and they voted. They demonstrated their commitment to democracy.

Oh, they had all kind of obstacles. On that day there was a shortage of election workers and polling places, and there were long lines that caused voters to have to wait for hours before they could exercise their right to vote. But they voted. And they did what they had to do. They walked for miles and they voted. And in the end, President Preval emerged victorious.

The people of Haiti voted, including the Lavalas Party, the party that had elected President Aristide. They voted in large numbers. They are the predominant party in Haiti. And despite their lingering concerns about the way in which their democratically elected president, Mr. Aristide, had been removed from office, they did not boycott the elections. Despite the obstacles and the inconveniences of the elec-

tion, they were determined to cast their vote and have their voices heard.

The people of Haiti elected Mr. Rene Garcia Preval. The people of Haiti simply want what all democracy should afford: fairness, justice and equality.

Haiti is a poor country. Haiti deserves our support. Haiti deserves the support of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Haiti deserves bilateral support.

The people of Haiti want investment and trade. The people of Haiti do not deserve to have their will undermined by the powerful elite who are well connected to the power brokers in the U.S., Canada and France. We can encourage investment in Haiti and support fair wages and decent housing and public education for all of the children.

Mr. Preval is a smart, capable leader who loves Haiti. We need to support him and help him to develop Haiti.

Mr. FOLEY and I just returned from a trip to Haiti where we met with President-Elect Preval. President Preval was a gracious but determined host. President Preval recognizes that he has a great responsibility, but he is not deterred.

President Preval is hopeful and optimistic. And since his election, people are out cleaning the streets. The uniforms are back on the children. They are going to school. Business and commerce was going on in the marketplace. I have great hopes for Haiti.

When we spoke with Mr. Preval, he talked about investment. He wants to create jobs. He talked about the fact that they must have electricity. We must encourage support from the World Bank and from the International Monetary Fund and from our own country to help them get the electricity.

The people must have clean water. They need a new water system there. They do not want to spend their money on an army. They want a well-trained police force and community policing. There is much to be done. There is reconciliation to be had. But we are hopeful.

We congratulate the president and we thank the Members of Congress for all the support that they have given.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

□ 1715

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Florida for yielding, and I really welcome the enthusiasm and the optimism that have been expressed by the Congresswoman from California and the gentleman from Florida.

I am pleased to cosponsor this resolution. However, I have served as an observer in past elections in Haiti, elections that prompted great hope, but resulted in great disappointment. So I believe for a moment it is important to reflect, and I would quote the words of Luigi Einaudi, who was tasked by the OAS to mediate between the opponents

of the former president of Haiti, Mr. Aristide, and I am going to quote his words.

This is a gentleman who knows Haiti well and Washington well: "Haiti is a tragedy, and it is a tragedy of partisanship and hate and hostility. These were divides among Haitians, and they are also divides among Americans because Haiti came to symbolize within the United States a point of friction between Democrats and Republicans that did not facilitate bipartisanship or stable policy or communication."

In the end, he was unsuccessful. Aristide was overthrown in February of 2004, and Haiti continued to descend into violence and despair. But it wasn't Einaudi that failed. Haiti's political class bears much of the responsibility for this tragedy because of their self-serving and cynical refusal to place nation over people in exchange for self-aggrandizement.

But here we also have our share of responsibility. A recent New York Times story entitled "Mixed U.S. Signals Helped Tilt Haiti Towards Chaos" should be essential reading for all of us, and I will insert this article into the RECORD.

Former U.S. Ambassador to Haiti, American Ambassador Dean Curran, once referred to the "chimeres of Washington." A chimere in Haiti is a thug hired to intimidate one's political opponents. And different Haitian political actors, both Aristide and his opposition, had their chimeres in Washington.

It has been my experience that there has been more advocacy than neutrality about Haiti on the part of the United States. Too often we join the zero-sum game of Haitian politics. We picked sides and supported them at the expense of Haiti and its long-suffering people.

For example, some here, working in coordination with Aristide's opponents, would place so-called "holds" on U.S. assistance in Haiti, blocking aid for the police, for the judicial system, for human rights observers, for election monitors; and Haiti's fragile institutions collapsed, starved from the outside and rotted from the inside.

I would note, and it is important to note this, that many of these holds were placed during the term of Rene Preval when he was the president in the past. Others who supported Aristide failed to recognize his shortcomings and deficiencies and failed to encourage him to put forth a positive vision for the Haitian people. The end result was that Haiti's fate was not only decided in Haiti, it was also decided here in Washington.

But now, with this most recent election, Haiti does have an opportunity to move past its past, and we have the same opportunity here in Washington. For Haiti to have a future, two things must happen: First, the Haitian political class must act like small "d" democrats and make a priority the needs of the Haitian people; and sec-

ond, Americans must put our differences aside and commit to a bipartisan policy of noninterference in Haiti's internal politics.

I want to participate in that. I have had conversations with groups whom I have had profound differences about Haiti with in the past, such as the International Republican Institute. And maybe I am naive, but I sense an emerging consensus that we must come together on the part of all who have an interest in Haiti and encourage a new and constructive approach.

I am not saying that the U.S. should abandon Haiti, far from it. In fact, we should increase our aid. But I would recommend that we should provide assistance through multilateral organizations like the United Nations.

Yesterday we met with Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who agrees that the international community must provide a deep and sustained commitment to Haiti. In fact, I believe that Haiti should be the first test case for the United Nations' new peace-building commission, and the U.S. should give it its full support. And I have to admit that for the first time I do see a glimmer of hope for Haiti, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to make that a real ambition.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, at this time, I gladly yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE), one of our most distinguished senior members of the Committee on International Relations, and certainly a champion of human rights and my dear friend.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman for yielding and for his leadership in the cause of democracy, peace, and justice throughout the world.

I rise today in strong support of H. Con. Resolution 353, which congratulates the people of Haiti on holding peaceful and democratic elections on February 7. And I want to thank Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS for her bold leadership and for bringing forth this resolution immediately in full support of the Haitian people and their right to once again decide who will lead their democracy and to restore the rule of law in Haiti.

In supporting this legislation, we also congratulate President-Elect Rene Garcia Preval, a man who, I am confident, will restore peace, human rights, and accountability throughout Haiti and within Haiti's government.

Mr. Speaker, with over 2.2 million Haitians, more than 60 percent of registered voters, participating in these elections, it is clear to me that the people of Haiti are ready for peace and willing to do whatever it takes, whatever it takes to restore and secure their democracy once again.

Since the undemocratic removal of former President Aristide in 2004, Haiti's health, education, and economic sectors have spiraled into ruin. During the last 2 years, unemployment reached a staggering 90 percent in

parts of Haiti. For months, schools remained closed and children feared kidnapping or death on the city streets. The only public hospitals that many of Haiti's poor could rely on were centers run by international organizations such as Doctors Without Borders or the International Red Cross. Public hospitals and government services were either closed or too dangerous to utilize. People feared kidnapping, assault, and even murder walking out of their homes and onto the streets.

However, the Haitian people have voted for a change, Mr. Speaker. Haiti now has an opportunity to set its own course through responsive government that puts people first. President Preval has demonstrated that he understands how to turn around Haiti's economy while still preserving the rights of all Haitians, especially Haiti's poor, and by raising the standard of living, increasing job opportunities and education for Haiti's poor.

During his first tenure, from 1996 to 2001, as president, Mr. Preval found ways to build hundreds of miles of road, dozens of schools, health centers. He transformed thousands of acres of land into peasants' hands and organized the two most famous and successful human rights trials in Haiti's history.

An international response, however, right now will be necessary in order to make Haiti's hopeful possibilities for a future a reality. That is why the Congressional Black Caucus, Haiti Task Force, the House International Relations Committee, Congresswoman WATERS, Mr. FOLEY, myself, all of us, Democrats and Republicans, in a bipartisan way are committed to making Haiti's future a bright one by supporting their duly-elected president.

Haiti will also need our financial support and technical assistance if it is to overcome the challenges it faces in its economy and its infrastructure and its ability to provide basic services to all Haitians. We must support a restoration of security by helping to get guns off the street and support an international effort to establish a national truth and reconciliation commission.

Also, we must support and move forward all of the trade efforts and aid efforts; we have got to increase these efforts, and also additional resources for fighting the HIV and AIDS pandemic, which Haiti has the highest rates in the Caribbean. These are items which are key to securing order and peace in Haiti, securing the people's choice.

And this is what happened now, the people have made a decision once again. The people's choice is Mr. Preval, and we have got to make sure that we help him to do everything he can to turn Haiti around. The Haitian people deserve no less.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, for their collegiality, I thank them very much.

I again thank the distinguished gentleman from American Samoa for his leadership, but as well the commitment that he brings to this Congress of internationalism and international cooperation. Likewise, my appreciation for my good friend ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN for the leadership she brings to this committee and, as well, her compassion for issues dealing with human rights.

I want us to be reminded of the fact that Haitians fought alongside Americans in the course of our freedom. So I want to applaud Congresswoman WATERS for knowing our history and, as well, appreciating the pivotal role that Haiti and Haitians play in the security of America and the friendship of America. I remind you again that when we were fighting for our freedom, Haitians were alongside of us fighting, shedding their blood, and allowing us to be free. So our American history and Haitian history are intertwined, and we have a legitimate reason for looking and ensuring the democracy, the justice, and the freedom of the people of Haiti.

Let me also acknowledge the fact that many times our interaction with Haiti has not been the best. I traveled to Haiti with the chairman of the Intelligence Committee and the ranking member of the Judiciary Committee, Mr. CONYERS, and we traveled before the elections occurred, met with the interim government, met with many of the different party leaders and others seeking to have a fair election.

It was not a very easy trip. There were accusations. There were suggestions that the government was trying to keep some of the candidates off of the ballot.

What I will say about Mr. Preval is that he stayed the course. Even in the midst of all that turmoil, he continued to campaign. Even with threats against his candidacy, he continued to campaign.

I think we should appreciate as well the comfortable relationship that he has with former President Aristide. He does not bring hostility to his leadership, but at the same time he brings his own leadership, his own mantle, if you will, of guidance of the people of Haiti.

So I too join my voice in congratulating the soon-to-be president on his inauguration and hoping that we will help him establish an excellent police force, one that provides safety for the Haitian people.

And I would ask, as a member of the House Judiciary Committee, that we would join in the authorization and the encouragement of the Appropriations Committee to be able to provide that funding. I would ask that the Judiciary Committee, along with the appropriators appropriately associated with the authorizing committee, really focus in on assisting Preval, along with, of course, the Committee on Inter-

national Relations, in this whole question of law enforcement and a secure, trained police force. As well, the education of the children is important, clean water.

And I too believe that there is optimism as 2.2 million people voted on February 7. But we need to encourage trade; as well, we need to make sure that the Haitians who are in the United States feel safe to return. And if they do not feel safe, Mr. Speaker, I hope that as we look at immigration reform, we will add Haitian parity to the bill, which means that those who are in fear of their life who are still here in this country would have the opportunity to attain their status. Many of them are detainees because their particular status does not equate to other provisions, if you will, such as those in Cuba.

□ 1730

Let me also say that I hope that the extra money that the ranking member spoke of, \$50 million and more, will be added to the Haitian appropriations.

And then, of course, I hope that we will have a representative delegation with good intentions and good will that will visit and represent the United States as they attend the inauguration of Rene Preval.

Might I say that there is legislation going through the House that calls, offered by Congressman KUCINICH, of which I am one of the cosponsors, to establish a Department of Peace.

It is interesting that I would say that in the course of debating or congratulating Haiti and its election, but maybe that is a valuable department to have, because maybe we can then promote peace.

Might I just say in closure, I thank the Speaker very much, and I thank the gentlewoman, the manager of the bill. I congratulate the Haitians and I support H. Con. Res. 363; I congratulate the author, Ms. WATERS, and I look forward to better days for the Haitian people.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege and certainly an honor for me to give the rest of my time to our distinguished ranking member of our Subcommittee on the Western Hemisphere, the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), to summarize the various aspects of this important legislation. And certainly I want to again thank my good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida, as the manager of this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. WAMP). The gentleman from New York is recognized for 2 minutes.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from American Samoa. I will not take the full 2 minutes.

I just want to say that I am very excited that since I have become the ranking Democrat on the Western Hemisphere Subcommittee of the International Relations Committee, this is actually the first bill that has come to the floor.

It is a very, very important bill, because as was mentioned by all of our

colleagues on both sides of the aisle, the relationship between the United States and Haiti is a very important one and a very special one.

And we have had lots of successes in the relationship, and also lots of failures through the years. I think that we want to, on a bipartisan basis, build on successes, and as everyone has mentioned before, the people of Haiti have spoken. They have had a democratic election. We talk a lot about democratic elections. We have it right here in Haiti in the Western Hemisphere, and overwhelmingly the people of Haiti have chosen Mr. Preval as their leader.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is incumbent upon those of us in the United States Congress and the administration and all of us working together to make sure that Mr. Preval succeeds and that more importantly the Haitian people succeed, and that democracy succeeds in Haiti, because it is not simply a matter of another country and what do we care whether it is a success or a failure. We do care and we should care, because Haiti is so close to the United States in terms of geography, because Haiti is right in our hemisphere, because Haiti is an important country, because there are many Haitian Americans in the United States with ties to the old country.

And that is why it is really just so important that we in the United States, and we talk about protecting democracy all over the world, and well we should. But I think right in our own back yard we have a lot to do.

So I want to thank Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA and all of the others who have spoken; Ms. WATERS, whose resolution this is; Congresswoman ROS-LEHTINEN, with whom I have collaborated on so many important things, for all of their hard work and for all of us speaking of one mind here on both sides of the aisle that we want the U.S.-Haitian relationship to improve and to be successful.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, I urge a unanimous vote of all our colleagues.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I just wanted to thank Ms. WATERS for offering this resolution, for Mr. ENGEL, the ranking member on the subcommittee for his remarks, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA for his leadership on our International Relations Committee.

Mr. Speaker, I especially want to thank two staffers from each side of the aisle who have worked tirelessly not only on the issue of democracy for Haiti, but on all of the issues that impact Western Hemisphere: Mr. PAUL Oostburg, thank you, Mr. Oostburg, for your leadership.

And on our side, Ted Brennan. Thank you, Mr. Brennan, for your valuable work.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to heartily congratulate the people of Haiti on their recent election of President Préval on

February 7, 2006. It was a great triumph for the country to hold “free and fair” presidential and legislative elections. Reports were that the elections were peaceful and that 60 percent, over 2.2 million Haitians, many who stood in line for 6 hours or more, participated. This election is a great advancement of a return to normalcy for this great country and its stupendous citizens.

This is a pivotal point in history for Haiti and the world. I now call on the international community, with the U.S. in the lead, to support democracy in this determined country. I am hopeful that this first step will serve as the beginning of national reconciliation of democracy as well as social and economic development for Haiti.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H. Con. Res. 353.

I think it is important for this House to recognize the Republic of Haiti for recently holding successful, democratic elections, and to congratulate President-elect René García Préal on his electoral victory.

Haiti is the world's oldest Black republic and the second-oldest republic in the Western Hemisphere, after the United States. While street violence, kidnappings, and political instability have plagued Haiti in recent years, and are still threats, the democratic will of the people persevered and elections were embraced by the nation.

The presidential and legislative elections on February 7, 2006 saw unprecedented voter turnout. A member of my staff traveled to Haiti as an election monitor. Many Haitians were required to walk for miles to their designated voting centers and then were forced to wait for hours in line; nonetheless, more than 60 percent of those registered exercised their right to vote and participated in electing a new, democratic government.

This election marks a significant moment in Haiti; it not only serves as the basis of hope along the road to democracy, but also serves as a testament to the resolve and character of the Haitian people during their long struggle for peace, reconciliation, and prosperity.

Now is the time for the United States to commit itself to long-term support to Haiti. The task facing President-elect Préal is daunting; he must establish a new government, reform the judiciary, establish and maintain domestic order, create jobs, jumpstart the economy, and end Haiti's endemic malnutrition and crushing poverty. In the past, this Congress has turned a deaf ear to Haiti's needs—specifically by not passing the Haiti Economic Recovery Opportunity Act, which I have introduced in this Congress, along with Senator MIKE DEWINE in the Senate. It is my hope that President-elect Préal's election will mark a new, more supportive era in Haitian-American relations, in this Congress and in this administration.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 353.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

## 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 5 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1833

## AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan) at 6 o'clock and 33 minutes p.m.

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on motions to suspend the rules previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H.R. 4882, by the yeas and nays;

S. 2120, by the yeas and nays.

## VIETNAM VETERANS MEMORIAL VISITOR CENTER ENFORCEMENT ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, H.R. 4882, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4882, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 4, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 68]

YEAS—404

Abercrombie	Bonner	Chabot	Diaz-Balart, L.	King (IA)	Pickering
Ackerman	Bono	Chandler	Diaz-Balart, M.	King (NY)	Pitts
Aderholt	Boozman	Chocola	Dicks	Kingston	Platts
Akin	Boren	Clay	Dingell	Kirk	Poe
Alexander	Boucher	Cleaver	Doggett	Kline	Pombo
Allen	Boustany	Clyburn	Doolittle	Knollenberg	Pomeroy
Andrews	Bradley (NH)	Coble	Doyle	Kolbe	Porter
Baca	Brady (PA)	Cole (OK)	Drake	Kucinich	Price (GA)
Bachus	Brady (TX)	Conaway	Dreier	Kuhl (NY)	Price (NC)
Baird	Brown (OH)	Conyers	Duncan	LaHood	Pryce (OH)
Baker	Brown (SC)	Cooper	Edwards	Langevin	Putnam
Baldwin	Brown, Corrine	Costa	Ehlers	Lantos	Radanovich
Barrett (SC)	Brown-Waite,	Costello	Emanuel	Larsen (WA)	Rahall
Barrow	Ginny	Cramer	Emerson	Larson (CT)	Ramstad
Bartlett (MD)	Burgess	Crenshaw	Engel	Latham	Rangel
Barton (TX)	Burton (IN)	Cubin	English (PA)	LaTourette	Regula
Bass	Butterfield	Cuellar	Eshoo	Leach	Rehberg
Bean	Buyer	Culberson	Etheridge	Lee	Reichert
Becerra	Calvert	Cummings	Everett	Levin	Renzi
Berkley	Camp (MI)	Davis (AL)	Farr	Lewis (CA)	Reyes
Berman	Camp (CA)	Davis (CA)	Fattah	Lewis (GA)	Reynolds
Berry	Cannon	Davis (IL)	Feeney	Lewis (KY)	Rogers (AL)
Biggert	Cantor	Davis (KY)	Ferguson	Linder	Rogers (KY)
Bilirakis	Capito	Davis (TN)	Filner	Lipinski	Rogers (MI)
Bishop (GA)	Capps	Davis, Jo Ann	Flake	LoBiondo	Rohrabacher
Bishop (NY)	Cardin	Davis, Tom	Foley	Lofgren, Zoe	Ros-Lehtinen
Bishop (UT)	Cardoza	DeFazio	Fortenberry	Lowey	Ross
Blackburn	Carnahan	DeGette	Fossella	Lucas	Rothman
Blunt	Carson	Delahunt	Frank (MA)	Lungren, Daniel	Roybal-Allard
Boehlert	Carter	DeLauro	Frank (AZ)	E.	Royce
Boehner	Case	DeLay	Frelinghuysen	Lynch	Ruppersberger
Bonilla	Castle	Dent	Gallegly	Mack	Ryan (OH)
			Garrett (NJ)	Maloney	Ryan (WI)
			Gerlach	Manzullo	Ryun (KS)
			Gilchrest	Markey	Sabo
			Gingrey	Marshall	Salazar
			Gohmert	Matheson	Sánchez, Linda
			Gonzalez	Matsui	T.
			Goode	McCarthy	Sanchez, Loretta
			Goodlatte	McCaul (TX)	Sanders
			Granger	McCollum (MN)	Saxton
			Graves	McCotter	Schakowsky
			Green (WI)	McCrery	Schiff
			Green, Al	McDermott	Schmidt
			Green, Gene	McGovern	Schwartz (PA)
			Grijalva	McHenry	Schwarz (MI)
			Gutierrez	McHugh	Scott (GA)
			Gutknecht	McIntyre	Scott (VA)
			Hall	McKeon	Sensenbrenner
			Harman	McKinney	Serrano
			Harris	McMorris	Sessions
			Hart	McNulty	Shadegg
			Hastings (FL)	Meehan	Shaw
			Hastings (WA)	Meek (FL)	Shays
			Hayes	Meeks (NY)	Sherman
			Hayworth	Melancon	Sherwood
			Hefley	Mica	Shimkus
			Hensarling	Michaud	Shuster
			Herger	Millender	Simmons
			Herseth	McDonald	Simpson
			Higgins	Miller (FL)	Skelton
			Hinchey	Miller (MI)	Slaughter
			Hinojosa	Miller (NC)	Smith (NJ)
			Hobson	Miller, Gary	Smith (TX)
			Hoekstra	Miller, George	Smith (WA)
			Holden	Mollohan	Snyder
			Holt	Moore (KS)	Sodrel
			Honda	Moore (WI)	Solis
			Hooley	Moran (KS)	Souder
			Hostettler	Moran (VA)	Spratt
			Hoyer	Murphy	Stark
			Hulshof	Murtha	Stearns
			Hunter	Myrick	Strickland
			Hyde	Nadler	Stupak
			Inglis (SC)	Napolitano	Sullivan
			Inslee	Neal (MA)	Tancredo
			Israel	Neugebauer	Tanner
			Issa	Ney	Tauscher
			Jackson (IL)	Northup	Taylor (MS)
			Jackson-Lee	Norwood	Taylor (NC)
			(TX)	Nussle	Thomas
			Jefferson	Oberstar	Thompson (CA)
			Jindal	Obey	Thompson (MS)
			Johnson (CT)	Oliver	Thornberry
			Johnson (IL)	Osborne	Tiahrt
			Johnson, E. B.	Otter	Tiberi
			Johnson, Sam	Owens	Tierney
			Jones (NC)	Oxley	Towns
			Jones (OH)	Pallone	Turner
			Kanjorski	Pascrell	Udall (CO)
			Kaptur	Pastor	Udall (NM)
			Keller	Paul	Upton
			Kelly	Payne	Van Hollen
			Kennedy (MN)	Pearce	Velázquez
			Kennedy (RI)	Pelosi	Vislosky
			Kildee	Pence	Walden (OR)
			Kilpatrick (MI)	Peterson (MN)	Walsh
			Kind	Peterson (PA)	Wamp
				Petri	

Wasserman	Weldon (FL)	Wilson (SC)
Schultz	Weldon (PA)	Wolf
Waters	Westmoreland	Woolsey
Watson	Wexler	Wynn
Watt	Wicker	Young (AK)
Weiner	Wilson (NM)	Young (FL)

NAYS—4

Blumenauer	Weller
Waxman	Wu

NOT VOTING—24

Beauprez	Fitzpatrick (PA)	Marchant
Boswell	Forbes	Musgrave
Boyd	Ford	Nunes
Capuano	Gibbons	Ortiz
Crowley	Gillmor	Rush
Davis (FL)	Gordon	Sweeney
Deal (GA)	Istook	Terry
Evans	Jenkins	Whitfield

□ 1854

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to ensure the proper remembrance of Vietnam veterans and the Vietnam War by designating a site for a visitor center for the Vietnam Veterans Memorial."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MILK REGULATORY EQUITY ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the bill, S. 2120.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOODLATTE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2120, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 285, nays 128, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 69]

YEAS—285

Ackerman	Cannon	Dent
Akin	Cantor	Diaz-Balart, L.
Allen	Capito	Diaz-Balart, M.
Andrews	Dingell	Capps
Baca	Cardin	Doolittle
Baird	Cardoza	Drake
Barrett (SC)	Carnahan	Duncan
Barrow	Carson	Edwards
Bartlett (MD)	Carter	Ehlers
Barton (TX)	Case	Emanuel
Bass	Castle	Engel
Bean	Chabot	English (PA)
Becerra	Chandler	Eshoo
Berkley	Chocola	Etheridge
Berman	Cleaver	Everett
Berry	Coble	Farr
Bishop (UT)	Conaway	Fattah
Blackburn	Cooper	Feeney
Boehlert	Costa	Finer
Boehner	Costello	Fitzpatrick (PA)
Boozman	Crenshaw	Flake
Boren	Crowley	Foley
Boucher	Cubin	Fortenberry
Boustany	Cuellar	Fossella
Bradley (NH)	Cummings	Fox
Brown (OH)	Davis (AL)	Franks (AZ)
Brown (SC)	Davis (CA)	Gallegly
Brown, Corrine	Davis (KY)	Garrett (NJ)
Burgess	Davis (TN)	Gerlach
Burton (IN)	Davis, Jo Ann	Gilchrest
Buyer	Davis, Tom	Gingrey
Camp (MI)	DeGette	Gohmert

Gonzalez	Marshall	Ryan (WI)
Goode	Matheson	Ryun (KS)
Goodlatte	Matsui	Sabo
Graves	McCaul (TX)	Salazar
Green (WI)	McCollum (MN)	Sánchez, Linda
Green, Al	McCotter	T.
Green, Gene	McHugh	Sanchez, Loretta
Grijalva	McIntyre	Sanders
Gutierrez	McMorris	Schakowsky
Gutknecht	McNulty	Schiff
Hall	Meehan	Schmidt
Harman	Melancon	Schwartz (PA)
Harris	Mica	Schwarz (MI)
Hart	Michaud	Scott (VA)
Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Sensenbrenner
Hayes	Miller, Gary	Sessions
Hayworth	Miller, George	Shadegg
Hensarling	Moore (KS)	Shays
Hergert	Moran (KS)	Sherman
Herseth	Murphy	Sherwood
Higgins	Myrick	Shimkus
Hinchey	Napolitano	Shuster
Hinojosa	Neugebauer	Simmons
Hoekstra	Ney	Simpson
Holden	Northup	Skelton
Honda	Norwood	Slaughter
Hostettler	Nunes	Smith (TX)
Hoyer	Nussle	Sodrel
Hulshof	Oberstar	Solis
Inglis (SC)	Ortiz	Souder
Inslee	Osborne	Spratt
Israel	Otter	Stearns
Issa	Owens	Strickland
Jindal	Oxley	Sullivan
Johnson (CT)	Pastor	Tanner
Johnson (IL)	Pearce	Tauscher
Johnson, Sam	Pelosi	Taylor (MS)
Jones (NC)	Pence	Thomas
Kanjorski	Peterson (MN)	Thompson (CA)
Keller	Peterson (PA)	Thompson (MS)
Kelly	Petri	Thornberry
Kennedy (MN)	Pickering	Tiahrt
Kildee	Pitts	Tiberi
Kind	Platts	Turner
King (IA)	Poe	Udall (NM)
King (NY)	Pombo	Upton
Kline	Pomeroy	Van Hollen
Kuhl (NY)	Porter	Velázquez
Lantos	Price (GA)	Walden (OR)
Larsen (WA)	Price (NC)	Wamp
Latham	Pryce (OH)	Wasserman
Leach	Putnam	Schultz
Levin	Radanovich	Waters
Lewis (GA)	Ramstad	Watt
Lewis (KY)	Reichert	Weiner
Linder	Renzi	Weldon (PA)
Lipinski	Reyes	Westmoreland
Lofgren, Zoe	Reynolds	Wexler
Lowe	Rogers (AL)	Whitfield
Lucas	Rogers (MI)	Wilson (NM)
Lungren, Daniel	Ross	Wilson (SC)
E.	Roybal-Allard	Woolsey
Mack	Ruppersberger	Wu
Manzullo	Ryan (OH)	Wynn

NAYS—128

Abercrombie	Dicks	LaTourette
Aderholt	Doggett	Lee
Alexander	Doyle	Lewis (CA)
Bachus	Dreier	LoBiondo
Baker	Emerson	Lynch
Baldwin	Ferguson	Maloney
Biggert	Frank (MA)	Markey
Bilirakis	Frelinghuysen	McCarthy
Bishop (GA)	Granger	McCrary
Bishop (NY)	Hastings (FL)	McDermott
Blumenauer	Hefley	McGovern
Blunt	Hobson	McHenry
Bonilla	Holt	McKeon
Bonner	Hooley	McKinney
Bono	Hunter	Meek (FL)
Brady (PA)	Hyde	Meeks (NY)
Brady (TX)	Jackson (IL)	Millender-
Brown-Waite,	Jackson-Lee	McDonald
Ginny	(TX)	Miller (FL)
Butterfield	Jefferson	Miller (NC)
Calvert	Johnson, E. B.	Mollohan
Campbell (CA)	Jones (OH)	Moore (WI)
Clay	Kaptur	Moran (VA)
Clyburn	Kennedy (RI)	Murtha
Cole (OK)	Kilpatrick (MI)	Nadler
Conyers	Kingston	Neal (MA)
Cramer	Kirk	Obey
Culberson	Knollenberg	Olver
Davis (IL)	Kolbe	Pallone
DeFazio	Kucinich	Pascarell
Delahunt	LaHood	Paul
DeLauro	Langevin	Payne
DeLay	Larson (CT)	Rahall

Rangel	Shaw	Visclosky
Regula	Smith (NJ)	Walsh
Rehberg	Smith (WA)	Watson
Rogers (KY)	Snyder	Waxman
Rohrabacher	Stark	Weldon (FL)
Ros-Lehtinen	Stupak	Weller
Rothman	Tancred	Wicker
Royce	Taylor (NC)	Wolf
Saxton	Tierney	Young (AK)
Scott (GA)	Towns	Young (FL)
Serrano	Udall (CO)	

NOT VOTING—19

Beauprez	Forbes	Marchant
Boswell	Ford	Musgrave
Boyd	Gibbons	Rush
Capuano	Gillmor	Sweeney
Davis (FL)	Gordon	Terry
Deal (GA)	Istook	
Evans	Jenkins	

□ 1911

Mrs. MALONEY changed her vote from "yea" to "nay."

Messrs. SHAYS, SCOTT of Virginia, GREEN of Wisconsin, and HOYER changed their vote from "nay" to "yea."

So (two-thirds of those voting having responded in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the Senate bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 4200

Mr. SAXTON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that my name be withdrawn as a cosponsor of H.R. 4200.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Jersey?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 4297, TAX RELIEF EXTENSION RECONCILIATION ACT OF 2005

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 4297, the tax reconciliation conference report.

The form of the motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 4297 be instructed—

(1) to insist on the provisions of section 106 of the Senate amendment (relating to extension and increase in minimum tax relief to individuals),

(2) to recede from the provisions of the House bill that extend the lower tax rate on dividends and capital gains that would otherwise terminate at the close of 2008, and

(3) to the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, to insist on a conference report which will neither increase the Federal budget deficit nor increase the amount of the debt subject to the public debt limit.

TRIBUTE TO BUCK OWENS

(Mr. THOMAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Speaker, as the world now knows, early Saturday morning in his sleep, Buck Owens let go of the tiger's tail. What people probably do not know was what happened on Friday night. Because as Buck usually did, he acted naturally. He went to his Crystal Palace, his dance hall and dining room, had his usual chicken-fried steak Friday evening, and told the staff he did not feel very good and he was going to go home and miss the Friday night performance.

In going out to his car, a car full of people from Bend, Oregon, saw him, and they ran over to him and they said, Buck, we came all of the way down to see you. He turned around and went back in and played the complete first set because he could not disappoint a fan.

He went home and never woke up.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of my friend and country music legend, Buck Owens, who passed away on Saturday, March 25, 2006.

With 25 No. 1 songs, Buck had one of the most successful country music careers in history. Known for his trademark red, white and blue guitar, he was on stage nearly every Friday and Saturday night with his band, Buck Owens and the Buckaroos, at his Crystal Palace in Bakersfield. In fact, just hours before he passed away, he had spent the evening performing at the Crystal Palace, closing his portion of the show with his 1969 hit "Big in Vegas."

Alvin Edgar Owens was born to Texas sharecroppers in 1929 and became known as "Buck" at the age of 4 when he nicknamed himself after a mule on the family farm. In 1937, after their trailer hitch broke during their move west, Buck and his family ended up in Phoenix, where they remained for more than a decade. During that time, Buck and his siblings worked in the fields picking cotton and potatoes, which Buck later said, "was where my dream began to take hold . . ."

Buck began regularly playing music in local pubs when he was 16 and, when he moved to Bakersfield in 1951, he quickly found work playing with steel guitarist Dusty Rhodes and then Bill Woods and the Orange Blossom Playboys. While Buck at first played a hollow-body Gibson guitar, after a pawnshop sold his Gibson before he could redeem it, Buck began using a Fender Telecaster electric guitar that made his music unique and eventually became known as the "Bakersfield Sound."

In 1957, Buck signed a recording contract with Capitol Records and in 1958 he cut four original songs, including "Second Fiddle," which eventually reached No. 24 on the Billboard charts. During this time, Buck acquired a one-third interest in a Tacoma, WA, radio station and he remained in the radio business for the rest of his life. In 1959, Buck began doing his own live television show and his television career ultimately included 16 years as a co-host of "Hee-Haw."

Throughout his career, Buck earned the respect of musicians from all different genres of music. In fact, even the Beatles recorded a cover of one of his songs, "Act Naturally," in 1965. In 1996, he was recognized for his accomplishments and was inducted to both the

Country Music Hall of Fame and the Nashville Songwriters Hall of Fame.

Buck was truly a Bakersfield institution, and his No. 1 hit, "Streets of Bakersfield," has become our town's unofficial anthem and our favorite of Buck's songs. However, in addition to our pride in his accomplishments as a performer and businessman, we appreciated Buck's generosity, including his support for Bakersfield College's music program as well as his annual Toys 4 Tots event, Buck Owens Rodeo, and celebrity golf tournament. Bakersfield will not be the same without Buck Owens. He was the heart of the town and will truly be missed.

□ 1915

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). 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.

#### MEDICARE PART D

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Madam Speaker, well, Congress is temporarily in Washington between breaks, and I don't know how some Members on the other side of the aisle spent theirs, but along with Representative HOOLEY and Representative BLUMENAUER, all of us from Oregon, we spent the day yet going up the length of the Willamette Valley holding meetings in senior centers and other public venues to hear from seniors, senior advocates, people who work with seniors and care about seniors about the experience with the so-called Medicare part D prescription drug benefit.

Now, I heard from the other side of the aisle what a stunning success it is. We are protecting the profits of the pharmaceutical industry. They will get an extra \$139 billion in profits. We are subsidizing the insurance industry to offer these plans, plans which can be changed on a weekly basis even though seniors can only sign up for one plan a year.

Yet as great as they say these things are, about half the seniors in my State and across America who were not mandatorily enrolled are not yet participating in the plans, in part, because in my little State, there are some 46 plans in my district, I guess in Portland a few more, so there are actually a total of 96 variants available to seniors.

They describe to us what happens when you go on these sites, these are the advocates, not the seniors. You will get, and there will be a little tiny asterisk by certain drugs, and they have given you some plans that might be good for you because you need a plan that will pay for the drugs your doctor has prescribed.

If you hit the little tiny asterisk, then a drop-down window comes out.

Most seniors don't know about drop-down windows. The drop-down window says limits may apply. It turns out the limits might be you take 60 of those twice, two a day. The limit might be one a day, but it is not very explicit about that. When you call the 1-800 number, you can't get a human being to get information. So seniors are, for the most part, totally confused. They are having trouble, even when they try to focus in on a plan that might give them help, getting to a point where they can make a choice.

Of course, even if they do choose a plan that pays for that plan, that plan can change the drug benefit on a weekly basis, not something that a senior can do.

Now, we also heard from a small pharmacist, because of the confusion in the transition for the dual eligibles, her pharmacy, her little pharmacy, had to front \$45,000 in prescriptions to seniors and has yet to be reimbursed. The reimbursements are starting to trickle in. She had spent 8 hours the day before trying to reconcile some of those to the actual outlays in the drugs that she had fronted for her seniors.

We heard time and time again about problems. My doctor has hired an additional person to try and deal with all the prior approvals required for seniors who have been taking a drug for years, many of these new plans will require all sorts of documentation on why they should get that drug. Many seniors don't know, who have already subscribed, that they are temporarily getting their old drugs until the 1st of April. On the 1st of April, they will fall under their new plan's mandates, and they may not be able to continue taking the drug their doctor has prescribed.

Minimally, Congress should revisit this punitive time limit. The time limit, you have to sign up by May 15, or we will penalize you. They say 1 percent per month; but guess what, you can't sign up again until next fall.

Any senior who doesn't sign up by May 15 will be penalized 6 percent tax, 6 percent extra for life as a bonus to the already subsidized insurance companies on top of their premium. That is not fair. Congress should undo that arbitrary mandate. That was to try and stampede seniors into plans that they don't understand that they might not want, and that should go.

But then perhaps we should do what the head of Walgreens has suggested. He said there are so many plans out there, so many benefits, so many formularies, his pharmacist can't figure it out.

Like Congress did 25 years ago, he says Congress should standardize these plans and say, there will be five or 10 plans out there with standard benefits, so everybody can understand what the 10 options are. They can just learn 10 options and then let the private companies compete over price, perhaps without a subsidy from the taxpayers.

Or, God forbid, we could actually take on the pharmaceutical industry

since the drug prices under these plans are actually on average higher than the prices offered by Costco. What a great deal. The President likes to talk about how these insurance companies, or PBMs, how they have just bargained so hard and driven down the prices. They are only 50 percent higher than the prices that the VA gets through negotiations for our veterans. But the Republicans outlawed, they outlawed, Medicare bargaining lower drug prices on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries.

Now, who does that help? They said that was un-American to negotiate lower drug prices. It is not un-American to give huge windfall benefits to the pharmaceutical industry.

#### MARKING 185 YEARS OF GREEK INDEPENDENCE

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the House in honor of Greek Independence Day that was celebrated on March 25. Greek freedom fighters brought sovereignty back to their country, 185 years ago, allowing the Greek people to decide their fate for themselves again.

I speak here today to honor all persons and nations who have successfully fought for their right to live according to the rules of democracy and freedom, denying the rule of tyranny and autocracy. As the oldest democracy in the world, the Greek nation has passionately struggled to uphold democracy as its form of government.

The significance emanating from the year 1821 is outstanding, not only in the Greek context, but also as a strong symbol of the inspiration one brave nation can provide to the world.

When in 1821 the Greek people regained their independence, more than four centuries of occupation and oppression by the Ottoman Empire came to an end. The peoples of the Balkans were soon to follow the Greek example and sought freedom from the Ottoman rule.

The courage and vision of the Greek freedom fighters also transcended the borders of the former Ottoman Empire. The independence movement received broad support from intellectuals abroad, including English poet Lord Byron and U.S. Senator and Secretary of State Daniel Webster.

The Greek flag symbolizes the legacy of 1821. The cross in the upper left part of the flag stands for the Greek Orthodox Church, which significantly helped Greeks to preserve their ethnic, cultural, and linguistic heritage during the years of occupation. The cross is embedded by nine alternating blue and white stripes, each representing one letter of the Greek word for freedom. While the flag was developed in the early days of independence, it took more than 150 years before it became the official Greek flag.

After the end of the Ottoman occupation, Greeks had to struggle for another century before their land was truly freed. In the 1970s, Greeks once again fought for freedom and independence, stripping off a 7-year rule by a military junta. Shortly after democracy had been reestablished, the Greek nation finally adopted the cross-and-nine-stripe flag as its official flag.

The United States is a proud partner of the Greek nation, which has given the gift of democracy to the world, and which throughout history has fought to uphold this gift as its guiding principle. Greeks and Americans share a common vision to have everyone on this planet enjoy the gift of freedom and democracy. Greece is one of our strongest allies in the international war against terror.

The United States and Greece have consistently joined forces to fight the global threats of terrorism and state-sponsored terrorism, nuclear proliferation, illegal narcotics, and international crime. As a strong NATO ally, the Greek military has taken on a strong and abiding commitment in Afghanistan as well.

Greece has given the United States both military and financial support for Operation Enduring Freedom. It contributes to it is International Security Assistance Force and has pledged to fund educational programs.

Located on shores of the Mediterranean Sea, Greece is of the greatest geopolitical importance. Neighboring with the Balkans, it serves as a shining beacon of peace and stability in the region. Bordering with Turkey, it serves as the bridge to the Muslim world.

I commend Greece for its strong work in the Middle East Partnership Initiative, MEPI, and its strong participation in the Broader Middle East and North Africa Initiative.

However, many pressing issues in the region remain unresolved, Madam Speaker. The ongoing conflict over the final name of the former Yugoslav republic of Macedonia causes grave concern, just as it grieves me to see the continued division of Cyprus and the unbalanced approach that has been taken to overcome this division.

I hope that we will soon be able to witness the end of the occupation and a reunification of Cyprus on fair and equitable terms. The emergence of a strong, vibrant and justly unified Cyprus would provide stability, both politically and economically, to the Mediterranean region.

I urge Congress remain engaged in the search for a just and lasting reunification that will promote peace and stability. Recalling the Greek routes of democracy, I am proud to represent the interests of my Greek American constituency. With currently 1.5 million members, the Greek American community contributes significantly to the prosperity of our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am proud of the friendship that binds the United States, the land of freedom, and

Greece, the country of freedom fighters.

Together, we can promote democracy, the rule of law, and respect for human rights worldwide.

#### ORDINARY WOMEN, EXTRAORDINARY LIVES

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, in recognition of Women's History Month of 2006, we recognize and celebrate the contributions of great American heroines who have built a legacy for women leadership over the 230 years of our Nation's history.

In celebration of this year's Women's History Month theme, "Women: Builders of Communities and Dreams," I call upon each of us to dedicate ourselves to making the future for all of America's girls and women full of hope and opportunity.

Today I salute the work of two extraordinary women and two exceptional young girls from Florida's 20th Congressional district. But first I would like to commend Her Excellency Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, President of the Republic of Liberia, who addressed the Congress just last week. She represents the aspirations and expectations of women in Liberia, Africa and women all over the world.

Now I would like to recognize two young women from the 20th District of Florida, Taryn Daley of Davie and Katie Bonilla of Weston, who started 10 lemonade stands to raise money for pediatric cancer research.

Taryn, 12, and Katie, 11, were inspired by their mitzvah project, which is a part of their bat mitzvah requirements of public service and a national program known as Alex's Lemonade Stand, an idea started by a young girl named Alexandria "Alex" Scott who was diagnosed with an aggressive childhood cancer.

In less than 2 weeks, Madam Speaker, Taryn and Katie found more than 30 volunteers, enlisted a group of sponsors, and raised \$3,000 to fight childhood cancer. These two young ladies are proof that this generation of young women are dream builders. Their courage and compassion gives us all hope for a brighter future. They will inspire more young women to make the world a better place.

Next I would like to recognize the City of North Miami Beach police chief and president of the Miami-Dade Association of Chiefs of Police, Linda Loizzo. Linda is a true trailblazer. She has served the North Miami Beach Police Department for 32 years in a number of capacities: deputy chief, assistant chief of operations, major in charge of administrative services, commander in charge of the investigative division, and supervisor of several special support services units.

Linda was the first woman promoted to the rank of sergeant, the first woman promoted to the rank of lieutenant and major, and the first woman promoted to the rank of chief of police from the North Miami Beach Police Department. Her work doesn't stop there. Linda is also the regional director of the Florida Police Chiefs Association and she serves on numerous organizational boards.

Without question, Linda represents the best of our Nation's first responders. The National Association of Women in Law Enforcement estimates there are more than 16,000 police departments in this country, which is just slightly more than 200 female police chiefs.

Chief Loizzo didn't just break down walls in a male-dominated profession. She shattered and crumbled stereotypes in all professions and particularly those in law enforcement.

Finally, I want to recognize Cindy Arenberg-Seltzer, president and chief executive officer of the Children's Services Council of Broward County. Across the country there are millions of children that long for stability and hope in their lives. In Broward County, the needs of this vulnerable population are vast.

In 1999 there was a critical need for programs to make essential services available to children who face abuse, neglect, or abandonment. Cindy was a powerful voice in leading the charge for a Broward County ballot initiative to designate family program funding. The initiative passed overwhelmingly with 70 percent of Broward voters approving.

Since that time, Cindy has been instrumental in helping to ensure that each child will live in a safe and loving environment and has the resources needed to grow up healthy and strong. Today, Cindy serves as the board's chief executive officer and has led the effort to expand available funding to improve the lives of Broward's children.

Madam Speaker, in a world where the magnitude of problems that face our children can be daunting, Cindy identified and fixed a problem with the system and continues to deftly refine and steer the program. Her leadership and passion for children has made a difference in the lives of many south Florida families and provided thousands of children with a future filled with unlimited possibilities.

These women and young girls are doing what may seem like ordinary work, but they are leading extraordinary lives. Their work and service showcase what the theme of this year's Women's History Month was designed to celebrate and encourage.

□ 1930

On behalf of the people of Florida's 20th Congressional District, I am proud to recognize their uncommon character and motivation in performing the work that successful communities and gen-

erations are built upon, and I am delighted to recognize them in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with this honor.

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

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

#### MAKING THE WORLD SAFE FOR CHRISTIANITY

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, the top neoconservative of the 20th century was Woodrow Wilson. His supposed idealism, symbolized in the slogan, "Make the world safe for democracy," resulted in untold death and destruction across the world for many decades.

His deceit and manipulation of the prewar intelligence from Europe dragged America into an unnecessary conflict that cost the world and us dearly. Without the disastrous Versailles Treaty, World War II could have been averted and the rise to power of Communists around the world might have been halted.

We seem to never learn from our mistakes. Today's neocons are as idealistically misled and aggressive in remaking the Middle East as the Wilsonian do-gooders. Even given the horrendous costs of the Iraq War and the unintended consequences that plague us today, the neocons are eager to expand their regime-change policy to Iran by force.

The obvious shortcomings of our regime change and occupation of Afghanistan are now readily apparent. The Taliban was ousted from power, but they have regrouped and threaten the delicate stability that now exists in that country. Opium drug production is once again a major operation with drug lords controlling a huge area of the country outside of Kabul. And now the real nature of the government we created has been revealed in the case of Abdul Rahman, the Muslim who faced a possible death sentence from the Karzai administration for converting to Christianity. Even now that Mr. Rahman is free due to Western pressure his life remains in danger.

Our bombs and guns have not changed the fact that the new puppet Afghan Government still follows Sharia law. The same loyalty to Sharia exists in Iraq where we are trying hard to stabilize things, and all this is done in the name of spreading democracy.

The sad fact is that even under the despicable rule of Saddam Hussein, Christians were safer in Iraq than they are today. Saddam Hussein's foreign minister was a practicing Christian. Today, thousands of Christians have

fled Iraq following our occupation to countries like Jordan and Syria. Those Christians who have remained in Iraq fear for their lives every day. That should tell us something about the shortcomings of a policy that presumes to make the world safe for democracy.

The Muslim world is not fooled by our talk of spreading democracy and values. The evidence is too overwhelming that we do not hesitate to support dictators and install puppet governments when it serves our interests. When democratic elections result in the elevation of a leader or a party not to our liking, we do not hesitate for a minute to undermine that government.

This hypocrisy is rarely recognized by the American people. It is much more comfortable to believe in slogans, to believe that we are defending our goodness and spreading true liberty. We accept this and believe strongly in the cause, strongly enough to sacrifice many of our sons and daughters and stupendous amounts of money to spread our ideals through force.

Pointing out the lack of success is taboo. It seems of little concern to many Members of Congress that we lack both the moral right and constitutional authority to impose our will on other nations.

The toughest task is analyzing what we do from their perspective. We should try harder to place ourselves in the shoes of those who live in the Arab countries where our efforts currently are concentrated. We are outraged by a Muslim country that would even consider the death penalty for a Christian convert, but many Muslims see all that we do as a reflection of Western Christianity which, to them, includes Europe and America. They see everything in terms of religion.

When our bombs and sanctions kill hundreds of thousands of their citizens, they see it as an attack on their religion by Christians. To them our actions represent a crusade to change their culture and their political systems. They do not see us as having noble intentions. Cynicism and realism tell them that we are involved in the Middle East to secure the oil that we need.

Our occupation and influence in the holy lands of the Middle East will always be suspect. This includes all the countries of the Arabian Peninsula, Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan. Naively believing otherwise will guarantee continuing hostility in Iraq.

Our meddling will remain an incitement for radicals to strike us here at home in future terrorist attacks. All the intelligence gathering in the world will serve little purpose if we do not come to understand exactly why they hate us despite the good intentions that many Americans hold dear.

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.)

#### GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY ANNIVERSARY

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. Madam Speaker, I am proud to join with several of my colleagues this evening in celebrating the 185th anniversary of Greek independence from the Ottoman Empire.

In the years since Greek independence, Americans and Greeks have grown ever closer, bound by ties of strategic and military alliance, common values of democracy, individual freedom, human rights, and close personal friendship.

Madam Speaker, while we celebrate Greek independence this evening, it is also important that we recognize that Greece continues to battle oppression from present-day Turkey in Cyprus. It is crucial our Nation work with the United Nations and the Government of Cyprus to once again unify the island. However, I am deeply concerned that our government's recent actions will actually make it more difficult to reunify Cyprus. The U.S. State Department and Secretary Rice seem much more interested in rewarding those who illegally occupied the northern third of the nation back in 1974 than actually reunifying the islands. Over the past year, our State Department decided to allow Americans to fly into the occupied north, something that has not been permitted since the illegal occupation took place back in 1974.

Last year, I joined many of my colleagues from the Congressional Hellenic Caucus in sending a letter expressing our deep concern regarding the legality of U.S. citizens flying directly from Turkey to the airport in northern Cyprus. In response to that letter, the State Department responded that it was encouraging the elimination of unnecessary restrictions and barriers that isolate and impede the economic development of the Turkish Cypriot community.

Madam Speaker, this new policy must also be responsible for a decision earlier this year by the State Department to resume trade with the occupied north through ports that were declared closed after the invasion in 1974. In order to allow trade, the State Department is forced to ignore both Cyprus' domestic law, as well as international law that prohibits entering Cyprus through an illegal port in the north.

Madam Speaker, I am deeply concerned that the State Department's new policy towards the government and the people of the occupied north will only delay reunification of the entire island. If U.S. allows direct trade through routes in the north, what incentives do the illegal occupiers of

northern lands have to make any concessions to the rightful inhabitants? It is as if the State Department has completely forgotten who is responsible for the division of Cyprus in the first place.

I have repeatedly encouraged Secretary Rice to take an historic look at the Cyprus problem over the past 30 years. It is important to look at this problem not only through the lens of the nonvote in 2004, but also from the perspective of three decades of illegal actions on the Turkish side.

Madam Speaker, I pledge tonight to continue to speak out against a State Department that seems more comfortable punishing the victims of the Cyprus problem while rewarding the occupiers. I am hopeful that one day soon, like Greece, the island of Cyprus will be unified and free. And tonight I also applaud the determination that the Greeks showed 185 years ago to overcome the Ottoman Empire and restore democracy in the place of its birth.

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

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

#### FAIRNESS IN TRADE TARIFFS

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

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, recently Congressman DALE KILDEE and myself have introduced H.R. 4808.

We both are very concerned about the jobs that continue to go overseas, "outsourcing" some people call it. And with this bill what we are speaking to is the tariff situation that will exist between China and America.

In 2008, the Chinese will be selling in America Chinese cars that are made in China. These cars obviously will be made by people who make in many cases less than \$1 an hour, \$1.25 an hour, no benefits, but yet they will be selling these cars in this country.

What Mr. KILDEE and I have done, along with other Members in both parties, is to say, we want to see fairness in this arrangement. If we try to sell an American car in China today, tonight, tomorrow we would pay 28 percent tariff. When the Chinese sell their cars in this country in the year 2008, they will pay 2.5 percent.

What this bill does is simple. It says fairness, fair trade. What is good for the Chinese economy should be good for the American economy. What is good for the American economy, let it be good for the Chinese economy. But for this country, we have lost so many manufacturing jobs in my own State of North Carolina. Since NAFTA was en-

acted, we have lost over 200,000 manufacturing jobs. Just the past 4 years, between 2001 and 2005, we have lost 2.9 million manufacturing jobs in this country.

This Nation cannot and will not remain strong if we do not have a manufacturing base. So this bill that Mr. KILDEE and I have put in is very simple. I will repeat it again and then I will close very shortly.

That is, if we are going to accept Chinese cars to be sold in this country in 2008, and right now they will pay a 2.8 percent tariff while we are selling American cars in China and American cars have a tariff of 28 percent.

Madam Speaker, I will tell you this, I think the American people are tired and really kind of fed up, if you will, with the fact that we have not done a better job in this Congress, both sides, of trying to protect the American worker. This really is a bill that we are trying to send a message. With the WTO and the relationship we have, it would be very difficult for this bill to be signed by the President, but Mr. KILDEE and I believe that the Congress, on the floor of this House, should debate H.R. 4808 and let the American people, or as good as the American people, let the negotiators know that the Congress does care about fairness in these trade agreements.

With that, Madam Speaker, I will close by saying that I appreciate the honor of serving in the House. I hope that we will always do our best to protect American jobs and the American worker.

I also want to close by asking God to please bless our men and women in uniform. And, God, please bless the families of our men and women in uniform. And, God, please bless America.

#### SMART SECURITY

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Madam Speaker, with today marking the 17th anniversary of the accident at Three Mile Island, this seems like an appropriate opportunity to discuss the dangers posed by nuclear energy and nuclear weapons.

As I have said from this floor many, many times before, I believe there is no greater national imperative than to bring our troops home from Iraq. But the end of the war must also be the beginning of some fresh and creative thinking about national security.

We are in a desperate need, a need for new strategies for keeping America safe. Last summer, Madam Speaker, I introduced the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty Commitments Act. The concept behind the bill is very simple, and it is a really good starting point. America must keep its word and live up to the agreements it has made to reduce our nuclear arsenal. But we need to go even further.

So along with the Physicians for Social Responsibility, Friends for Peace, and WAND, I have developed a plan called SMART Security. SMART stands for sensible, multilateral, American response to terrorism, which seeks peaceful and diplomatic solutions to international conflict. SMART addresses a range of issues including energy independence, democracy building, and global poverty. But at its core is a renewed commitment to nuclear non-proliferation and disarmament.

SMART calls on the United States to stop the spread of weapons of mass destruction and to do it with strong diplomacy, with enhanced weapons regimes and regional security arrangements. Under SMART, we would set an example for the rest of the world by renouncing nuclear testing and development of new nuclear weapons. SMART would redouble our commitment to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Program which has been successful in reducing nuclear stockpiles and securing nuclear materials in the former Soviet Union.

□ 1945

SMART would stop the sale and transfer of weapons to regimes involved in human rights abuses, and it would ensure that highly enriched uranium is stored only in secure locations.

Mr. Speaker, at just the moment that we need to be vigilant about nuclear proliferation, the Bush administration is asking Congress to give its approval to his dangerous and misguided nuclear energy deal with India. Here he is agreeing to share sensitive nuclear technologies with a nation that was testing nuclear weapons as recently as 1998. He would essentially reward India for its refusal to sign the nonproliferation treaty, feeding the nuclear appetite of a nation that has failed to show the responsibility expected of a nuclear state.

What message does the India pact send to Iran and North Korea? What leverage do we have with these countries to give up their nuclear ambitions, especially since, despite the threats they represent, they have done actually nothing to violate their treaty obligations?

If this India agreement were ratified, how would we deal with India's neighbor and rival Pakistan, which is likely to demand the same nuclear concessions from the United States and which has a dishonorable history of sharing nuclear technology with rogue actors?

Mr. Speaker, there is a cruel irony to the U.S. nuclear policy. While we happily share nuclear technology with countries that have not always handled it responsibly, and while we continue to pursue a large and expensive nuclear arsenal of our own, we are fighting a bloody and expensive war over a nuclear weapon that never even existed. Remember, we are only in Iraq because our so-called leaders looked us in the eye and said there would be a mushroom cloud over American cities unless we sent our troops off to die.

It is time for a 180-day degree turn in our thinking about these issues. It is time we stopped equating security with aggression. It is time we rejected the doctrine of preemption, instead of reaffirming it as the Bush administration did recently. It is time we got SMART about national security.

It is time we protected America, not by invading other nations, but by relying on the very best of American values: our desire for peace, our capacity for global leadership, and our compassion for the people of the world.

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

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

#### CONTRIBUTIONS OF THE ON-PREMISE SIGN INDUSTRY

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

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the contributions of the on-premise sign industry to our economy and our country. From April 5 to April 8, the International Sign Association, which represents thousands of manufacturers, users and suppliers of on-premise signs and sign products, will be having its 60th Annual International Expo in Orlando, Florida.

At that expo, there will be 550 companies displaying nearly 1,700 booths of the most advanced and innovative sign products the industry has to offer. Nearly 25,000 people are expected to attend this event. This includes businesses from across the country and around the world. The expo will feature custom, architectural, digital and national sign companies and their products, giving sign enthusiasts and small businesses a prime opportunity to learn more about this ever-changing industry.

I sit on two committees that deal extensively with sign-related issues, so I am familiar with the issues that concern the industry. For example, on the Committee on Small Business, we are all aware of how important small businesses are to our economy. We know that 90 percent of American businesses are small business, and we know that they create the lion's share of new jobs. And we know that these small businesses thrive in an environment with as little government regulation as possible.

But what many people may not know is that the Small Business Administration, over which our committee has jurisdiction, officially recognizes that effective on-premise signage is a critical component of a business' success and can contribute to the success of all businesses. In fact, as SBA Bulletin No.

101 on signage for businesses states: "Signs are the most effective, yet least expensive form of advertising for the small business." Obviously, the \$12 billion on-premise sign industry plays a critical role in the success of small businesses and our economic growth.

Unfortunately, the on-premise sign industry still, like most small businesses, faces a flood of government regulations and needs our support. We need to enact extensive and permanent tax cuts, so that small business owners can keep more of their own money and use it to grow their businesses. We need to give small businesses the freedom to choose to participate in association health care plans, so that employers can give their businesses solid health care coverage. We need to pass serious tort reform, so that small businesses are not bogged down in legal costs and red tape. In other words, Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government needs to get out of the way.

As a member of the Judiciary Committee, I understand that the Federal Government has a role to play in protecting the constitutional rights of on-premise signage, specifically, that the commercial speech represented in on-premise signage has certain guaranteed protections under the first amendment. It is vitally important that small businesses be allowed to communicate their business messages to American consumers, and one of the best ways to do this is with on-premise signage.

Similarly, the sign industry also has trademark concerns and needs protection from arbitrary government regulation that fails to acknowledge the protected status of their registered trade or service mark, slogan, motto, or other key text in their on-premise signage. And of course, small businesses can be adversely affected by the State's power of eminent domain, represented in the Kelo case most recently, especially those businesses whose on-premise signs have been taken by the government for whatever reason or excuse.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to educate my colleagues about the value of on-premise signage and to describe the challenges they face. I congratulate ISA on 60 years of annual expos. I wish them the best of luck with their convention. I thank the thousands of on-premise signage businesses across the country, as well as the men and women who run them, for their invaluable contribution to our economy and our society.

#### COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT

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

Mr. BISHOP of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to state my opposition to H.R. 609, a higher education reauthorization bill that is much more than a day late and a dollar short.

As a former college chief administrator, I am deeply proud to represent my district, my State, and the higher education community on the Education and Workforce Committee; but I am not particularly proud of the reauthorization bill we produced.

We have had the past 8 years to build on the Higher Education Act of 1998. Today, we have an opportunity in this reauthorization bill to give young Americans and aspiring students more opportunities to attain the dream of a college education.

Indeed, we have a choice to expand access and the reach of the Federal Government's helping hand to those who cannot afford skyrocketing tuition, rising fees, room and board, textbooks, and so many other soaring costs and sacrifices associated with going to college.

But the choice we made late last year to cut student loans to the tune of \$12 billion weakened our commitment to students. With those cuts in the budget reconciliation bill, we sent a message to America's students and their families that they are no longer among this Nation's top priorities.

As a consequence, the rapidly expanding gap between the amounts of available student aid compared to the cost of attaining a college education is growing out of control. And yet, while this administration's response is that colleges should simply charge less, it is not making the same demands of other industries that are equally critical to our economy's infrastructure and competitiveness.

This month, as high school seniors across the land receive their college acceptance letters, their proud parents are calculating how they can squeeze college costs into their budget. It is an uphill climb for most families that is made tougher by the President's budget cuts, which freeze Pell grants for a fifth year in a row; recalls the Federal portion of the Perkins Loan Revolving Fund that could extract another \$600 million out of the student aid system each year; and freezes funding for SEOG and work study.

If we want to maintain our edge in the global economy, we cannot afford to undercut the administration's competitiveness initiative. But the promise of a more competitive workforce is simply incompatible with budget proposals to freeze Pell grants for a fifth year in a row and recalling a portion of the Perkins Loan Revolving Fund.

This hypocrisy builds on the Republicans' record on student aid: \$12 billion in cuts to student loans; failure to extend the tuition deduction for higher education; and a 3-year long impasse over this reauthorization bill. Deep cuts in the President's budget will most likely carry over into the budget resolution we consider next week, further compounding the Republican hypocrisy. Similarly, the reauthorization bill moves America in the exact opposite direction of where our competitive workforce should be heading.

In fact, cuts to student aid threaten to return the state of higher education to the pre-World War II era, when only 5 percent of Americans had earned a college degree, compared with nearly 30 percent today. If we are to sustain our leadership and competitive edge in the global economy, we cannot afford to enact policies which will lead to only the elite being able to afford to go to college.

The so-called "education President" has put forward a woefully inadequate budget, and our leaders in this Chamber have presented a short-sighted reauthorization bill that falls short of what America's students, their parents, and our workforce deserves.

Mr. Speaker, I will be offering several amendments this week to address some of the shortfalls of H.R. 609. One bipartisan amendment, cosponsored by my colleague on the Education and Workforce Committee, Mr. SOUDER, would strike intrusive language in the bill dictating how colleges should carry out transfer credit policies.

An amendment sponsored by another colleague on the committee, Mr. HOLT, would correct a problem with the State tax allowance tables that deprive over 1 million students out of their fair share of Pell grants and reduce, if not eliminate, their eligibility for other types of need-based aid.

I will also offer amendments to preserve the Perkins Loan Revolving Fund, extend the expired tuition deduction claimed by middle-class families, and increase oversight on the administration and grading of ability to benefit exams.

Mr. Speaker, I am hopeful that the Rules Committee will make these amendments in order. They are not partisan or political but, rather, commonsense amendments, making a weak bill better and keeping America's college students a top priority for this Nation.

#### ENERGY

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

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I think most Americans are pretty interested, very concerned about the high cost of energy, particularly fuel.

At the present time, we are nearly 60 percent dependent on foreign oil. OPEC provides the largest part of that oil that we are importing. We currently have a very large trade deficit, and petroleum is really the major part of, at least the largest single entity in that trade deficit, and this is a major threat to our economy. Right now, the purchase of foreign oil contributes about one-third of that trade deficit that we are now experiencing.

The United States has only 3 percent of the world's petroleum reserves. So we are highly dependent on the rest of the world. We are now using more petroleum than we are discovering. So we

are on a downhill slope. Obviously, we have to do some things differently than what we have been doing, and I think the energy bill we passed here in the Congress last summer was certainly a step in the right direction.

Many people may remember there was a renewable fuel standards in it that was fairly significant. There were incentives for wind, solar, hydrogen fuel cells which may be the wave of the future, something that is not a renewable fuel standard, but also some nuclear incentives were in there. We have not done much nuclear production for a long time, whereas Europe has moved ahead, and much of the energy in Europe is now due to nuclear power.

A couple of the major issues in a renewable fuel standard have to do with ethanol and biodiesel, and the remainder of my remarks will be addressed mainly to those topics.

First of all, a renewable fuel standard adds \$51 billion to farm income over 10 years, and the good news for taxpayers is that this reduces government farm payments by \$5.9 billion over that 10-year period. That is money that otherwise would be paid by the taxpayer. It also reduces the trade deficit of the United States by roughly \$34 billion, and it significantly reduces air pollution as well.

So we think that obviously there are some tremendous benefits to the renewable fuel standard. Currently, we are producing roughly 5.9 billion gallons of ethanol this year, 2006; and the energy bill mandates by the year 2012, just 6 years from now, that we produce 7.5 billion gallons; but, actually, we will far exceed that at the pace that we are now producing ethanol.

□ 2000

By 2025, there is a goal on the part of many of us to become independent of the oil that is produced in the Middle East, which would mean we would need to produce roughly 60 billion gallons of ethanol, biodiesel, and those types of fuels. And this is doable. It is going to take a concerted effort, a commitment on the part of our country, but we can do that. Technology is changing rapidly.

One thing that I think is important to show is that we often hear that, well, ethanol is okay, but it actually burns up more energy than it produces. And that is not true. Ethanol, for every Btu of fossil fuel used, yields just about 1.4 Btu's of energy because a lot of the energy in ethanol comes from the sun. In contrast, gasoline, for every 1 Btu of fossil fuel used to produce it, yields about eight-tenths of a Btu. So there is an energy deficit.

The same is true of MTBE. And, of course, MTBE is rapidly being phased out, so there is a tremendous demand now for ethanol to fill that gap. So, anyway, the technology is certainly changing.

Something that is on the horizon is cellulosic ethanol. This is ethanol that would not necessarily be made from

corn, but would be made from switchgrass, rice, wheat, corn stover, so corn stalks, wheat stalks, and rice stalks can be used. These are things that are currently sometimes burned or thrown away. Also wood chips. So there is a tremendous opportunity out there in parts of the country that are not necessarily in the Corn Belt to be in some form of the ethanol industry.

Biodiesel is now where ethanol was about 10 or 15 years ago. It is on the cusp of really becoming a major part of our fuel supply and shows great promise. There are many spin-offs and by-products from ethanol. For instance, biodegradable plastics can be made in the process of wet milling. And right now a great deal of our packaging stores, like Wal-Mart and others, are now using biodegradable plastics.

So we think there is a great future here. And, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to address the House.

#### COMPREHENSIVE IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to acknowledge and lend support to the well over 1 million people who marched across American cities and towns in a peaceful, nonviolent way for fairness, dignity, and humane and respectful treatment of immigrant workers in our Nation. This ground swell of humanity wanted some very simple things. They wanted the principles of fairness and equal protection under the law to be applied in a fair and just way.

The people who marched are for comprehensive, reality-based immigration reform by this Congress, a reform that acknowledges the economic value, necessity and, yes, indeed, the codependency of our economy on the immigrant workforce; that also recognizes the inherent value of human beings and reaffirms the process of rigorous examination and process to attain permanent legal status and eventually citizenship. And it reaffirms a reality-based immigration reform, reaffirms the need for security in this country by assuring that the people that work here, that function here, are not hidden in the shadows but part of the workforce, integrated into that workforce and protected by the same laws and principles that all working people in this country enjoy.

I think what is happening in this country on the question of immigration is really about the future of our country. We have, as a Congress, a choice on immigration reform. We should not continue on the path set by this Congress in the Sensenbrenner bill, a bill that asks us to criminalize 11 million human beings in this country, that raises the specter of mass deportation and that ignites a flame of intolerance and division that this country is not about.

We don't need a path to create second-class citizens. We don't need a path that hides from our economic reality. We don't need a path that ignores the business interests. We don't need a path that forgets fairness and equity under the law. And we don't need a path that creates division and discrimination as a rule of law.

We cannot shun our values as an immigrant nation. This is a wrong path. And while possibly it is a short-term political victory based on division and based on creating a wedge issue that splits people in this country, it is a long-term defeat for this Nation.

I believe that we can do better. We can create a situation for the people of this country and for the immigrant workers in this country that is not blanket amnesty, that is not about open borders, that understands security is a priority issue, but also understands that comprehensive reform is the most important way to deal with this issue.

So let us not, as we debate this issue and as we continue to grapple with this very vexing and complex issue, let us not forget we are dealing with human beings, let us not ignore our economic reality, and let us put together a comprehensive package that accommodates both those realities and at the same time reaffirms the traditions, the values, the hopes and the aspirations of immigrants that have made this country what it is, that will strengthen it in the future, and that will continue the progress and the enlightenment this Nation needs.

#### OCALA NATIONAL FOREST

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly oppose the Bush administration's proposed sale of 300,000 acres of national forest lands, which include 1,000 acres of the Ocala National Forest in my congressional district.

The Bush administration's rationale for selling our national forest lands is to raise money for rural roads and schools. While our budget shortfall is temporary, ruining pristine national forest lands is permanent. That is why all four of the living former chiefs of the U.S. Forest Service sent a letter to Congress on March 13, 2006, strongly opposing the auctioning off of 300,000 acres of national forest lands.

Mr. Speaker, our national forest lands are worth protecting. Millions of Americans each year use our national forests to go hiking, fishing, hunting, camping, swimming, canoeing, and enjoying the outdoors. The Ocala National Forest also provides a habitat for thousands of animal species, including rare birds and black bears.

Now, what does the administration say about these forest lands to be sold? Well, Under Secretary of Agriculture Mark Rey, who directs national forest

policy, said "These are not the crown jewels we are talking about." Well, they say a picture is worth a thousand words, so let me show you a photograph of some of the actual land in the Ocala National Forest which is marked for sale by the administration.

Look at the green plush forest. Does this look ugly to you? Does anybody really believe that this would look better as a strip mall or a condo project? I think it is a crown jewel.

And let me show you who else thinks this land is pretty important. This is a photograph published in my local newspaper, the Orlando Sentinel, of a black bear that lives in the Ocala National Forest. Now, this black bear is being relocated from one location to another location. Look at this cute little black bear. Does anybody really believe that we should sacrifice this little black bear's habitat on the altar of budget deficits?

This fire sale of forest lands is literally unbearable. It is also financially shortsighted. We cannot sell national forest land every time there is a budget shortfall. This is a dangerous precedent for Congress to set. Our financial problems need to be addressed over the long term, not through the shortsighted sale of national treasures to the highest bidder.

The proposed sale of the forest land is not even an adequate budgetary solution. The money raised from this nationwide sell-off would not even be enough to cover the short-term school and road needs of the communities near Ocala National Forest, let alone other areas of the country.

Well, what can we do about it? There are three things: First, I circulated a letter to the Florida delegation asking them to oppose the sale of our Nation's forest lands, especially the nearly 1,000 acres in the Ocala National Forest. I am proud to report today that this letter was signed by both of our U.S. Senators, Republican and Democrat, and by a bipartisan majority of our House Members. On March 1, 2006, this letter was submitted to the U.S. Department of Agriculture as part of the official comment period to voice our strong opposition to the sale.

Second, Congressman BEN CHANDLER of Kentucky and I are currently circulating a bipartisan letter asking Members to oppose the sale of 300,000 acres of forest lands all across the country in 41 separate States. Thus far, 52 Congressmen have signed on to our letter, and we encourage others to sign on tomorrow. After tomorrow, we will send this letter to the leaders of the House Budget Committee to urge them to oppose the administration's budget request and to encourage them to find alternative funding for rural schools and roads.

Finally, if we are unable to block this sale on the front end by having the administration withdraw this proposal, the plan would still have to be approved by this Congress, and I would encourage all of my colleagues to vote not just "no," but "heck no."

Mr. Speaker, in closing, I am very optimistic we will be successful in blocking this reckless fire sale of our national forests and that our children and grandchildren will be able to enjoy the serenity of the great outdoors for many years to come.

### THIRD ANNIVERSARY OF THE WAR IN IRAQ

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, last week, on March 19, our Nation marked a somber milestone. We began the fourth year of the Iraqi war. It is becoming quite clear that this falsely conceived war is proceeding disastrously, with no end in sight. The administration's repugnant use of the phrase as bombing began, "shock and awe," has deteriorated into a "knock-down and raw, last man left standing" war of attrition.

The situation in Iraq continues to deteriorate precipitously. In the last month alone, there has been an escalation of sectarian violence. Dozens of suicide bombings, insurgent attacks and the like have left almost 1,000 more people dead since a bombing destroyed the dome of Samarra's Golden Mosque, a sacred and holy site to Shiite Muslims.

Iraq is still without a functioning government, as the Iraqi parliament has convened just once and for only 30 minutes. Moreover, there was an automobile ban in place throughout Baghdad to prevent car bombings that same day. A city-wide ban on cars, Mr. Speaker, is not a safe city. A nation where journalists cannot travel to report is not a safe country.

Headlines from newspapers around the globe have the same theme, civil war in Iraq. The administration, however, does not seem to see it that way. The President was in Ohio last week and made the following comment: "Americans look at the violence that they see each night on their television screens and wonder how I can remain so optimistic about the prospects of success in Iraq. They wonder what I see that they do not."

Well, I think the President has it the other way around, Mr. Speaker. The world sees a lot this President doesn't. Three years ago, we saw the administration did not have a plan to win the peace, and he and his narrow group of advisers led us down the path to war. We also see what he cannot see today, that our presence in Iraq has led to an increase in violence and terrorist activities in the Middle East and around the world, making us less safe as a nation.

Three years ago, on the eve of the invasion, I warned, and I quote myself, "Even if we take the ground, we do not share the culture. In the end, we have to learn to exist in a world with religious states that we may not agree with, and find ways to cooperate."

So the President has traded a brutal sectarian regime for an unstable nation that looks more and more every day like a dawning theocracy.

□ 2015

Events in the last few weeks seem to show this is indeed becoming the case. By refusing to prepare for the possibility that we would be considered occupiers rather than liberators, these architects of this war never afforded an opportunity to truly win the peace. Hospitals and medical services were ignored. Iraqi organizations open to the West were never consulted. Western media was not culturally appropriate inside that region. The seeds for unrest were sown before U.S. troops even entered Iraq.

Achieving military success without winning the hearts and minds of the public is a hollow victory, and now the President tells us troops will remain in Iraq until he leaves office in 2009, who knows when.

May I remind the body this President held a theatrically staged press event on a U.S. aircraft carrier on May 1, 2003, with a "Mission Accomplished" banner flying in the background. Major combat operations in Iraq have ended, he announced.

Two weeks ago, the United States launched the largest aerial assault in Iraq since 2003. More than 1,500 of our soldiers were deployed in the Samarra region to root out insurgent strongholds and seize weapons caches and the like. That sounds like a major combat operation to me, and it sounds like we are losing ground rather than making progress.

Statements by those in the administration prior to the invasion show how wrong the Bush administration has been. Donald Rumsfeld in February 2003 said, "It is unknowable how long the conflict will last. It could be 6 days, 6 weeks, I doubt 6 months."

Vice President CHENEY in March 2003 said, "We will, in fact, be greeted as liberators. I think it will go relatively quickly . . . (in) weeks rather than months." We are into the fourth year, almost as long as it took to fight World War II.

The toll this war has taken is staggering. Since March 2003, 2,322 U.S. soldiers have died, another 18,000 troops have been injured as a result of hostilities, with numbers doubling between 2003 and 2004 and increasing again in 2005.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I wish to place in the RECORD names of Ohioans, 104 of them, brave patriots who have died in service to our country in Iraq. God bless them.

#### OHIOANS DEAD THROUGH OPERATION IRAQI FREEDOM (AS OF MARCH 4, 2006):

Anderson, Nathan Richard; Andres, Joseph John Jr.; Barkey, Michael Christopher; Bates, Todd Michael; Bell, Timothy Michael Jr.; Benford, Jason A.; Bernholtz, Eric James; Biskie, Benjamin Walter; Boskovitch, Jeffrey A.; Bourdon, Elvis; Bowen, Samuel Robert; Brownfield, Andrew David; and Buryj, Jesse Ryan.

Christian, Brett Thomas; Cifuentes, Michael Joseph; Conover, Steven Daniel; Davids, Wesley Graham; Derga, Dustin Alan; Deyarmin, Daniel N Jr.; Dixon, Christopher Robert; Dowdy, Robert John; Dyer, Christopher Jenkins; Eckert, Gary Andrew Jr.; Eckfield, Robert Franklin Jr.; Erdy, Nicholas Brandon; and Etterling, Jonathan Edward.

Finke, Michael Wayne Jr.; Fitzgerald, Dustin Robert; Ford David, Harrison IV; Garmbach, Joseph Martin Jr.; Gilbert, Richard Alan Jr.; Godwin, Todd Justin; Grella, Devin James; Gurtner, Christian Daniel; Hardy, Richard Allen; Harper, Bradley Jared; Hawkins, Omer Thomas II; Hines, Timothy James Jr.; Hodge, Jeremy Michael; and Hoffman, Justin Fenton.

Ivy, Kendall Howard II; Johnson, Adam Robert; Keeling, Thomas O; Kinney, Lester Ormond II; Kinslow, Anthony David; Knight, Timothy Allen; Knop, Allen James; Kreuter, David Kenneth John; Kuhns, Larry Robert Jr.; Landrus, Sean Gregory; Large, Bryan William; and Lyons, Christopher P.

Martin, Ryan Abern; McVicker, Daniel M; Mendezruiz, David A; Mendoza, Ramon Juan Jr.; Messmer, Nicolas Edward; Meyer, Harrison James; Miller, James Hoyt IV; Mitchell, Curtis Anthony; Montgomery, Brian P; Morgan, Richard Lynn Jr.; Murray, Jeremy Enlow; Neighbor, Gavin Lee; Nolan, Allen Duane; and Nowacki, Andrew Walter.

Oberleitner, Branden Frederick; Odums, Charles Edward II; Ott, Kevin Charles; Pintor, Dennis Lloyd; Pratt, Daniel Joseph; Prazynski, Taylor B; Prince, Kevin William; Pummill, Richard Thomas; Ramey, Richard Patrick; Ramsey, Joshua Adam; Reed, Aaron Howard; Reese, Aaron Todd; Rock, Nathaniel S; and Rockhold, Marlin Tyrone.

Schamberg, Kurt Daniel; Schroeder, Edward August II; Scott, David Allen; Seesan, Aaron N; Seymour, Devon P; Shepherd, Adam Roger; Shepherd, Daniel Michael; Sloan, Brandon Ulysses; Smith, Kevin Scott; Smith, Michael James Jr; Souslin, Kenneth Clarence; Spann, Jacob D; Sparks, Jason Lee; Squires, Brad D; Swaney, Robert Adam; and Swisher, Tyler Bobbitt.

Tipton, John Edgar; Van Dusen, Brian Keith; Vandayburg, Allen Jeffrey; Webb, Charles Joseph; Wightman, William Brett; Wilkins, Charles Langdon III; Williams, Andre L; Wobler, Zachary Ryan; and Zimmer, Nicholas Eugene.

#### OHIOANS DEAD THROUGH OPERATION ENDURING FREEDOM (AS OF MARCH 4, 2006):

Egnor, Jody Lynn; Foraker, Ryan Dane; Freeman, Daniel Jason; Goare, Shamus Otto; Good, Alecia Sabrina; Hickey, Julie Rochelle; Jones, Darrell Ray Jr; McDaniel, William Louis II; O'Neill, Michael Christopher; and Owens, Bartt Derek.

### HONORING SERGEANT ANTON HIETT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to express the heartfelt condolences of a grateful Nation and to honor the life of Sergeant Anton Hiett of Mount Airy, North Carolina. Sergeant Hiett passed away on March 12, 2006, while serving in Afghanistan.

Sergeant Hiett served our country as a U.S. Army Reserve combat medic. His strong patriotism and desire to do what was right led him to join the

military after graduating from North Surry High School. He began his career as an infantryman, but later decided that his calling was to care for his wounded comrades. Last year, Sergeant Hiatt volunteered to go to Afghanistan because he felt compelled to help his country at war.

Sergeant Hiatt was a loving husband, father, son and brother. His friends describe him as someone "having a big heart and always going the extra mile to help others."

He leaves behind his wife, Misty Hiatt, his 2-year-old daughter, Kyra Hiatt, his parents, George and Angela Hiatt, and three siblings. May God bless and comfort them during this very difficult time.

We owe this brave soldier and his family a tremendous debt of gratitude for his selfless service and sacrifice. Our country could not maintain its freedom and security without heroes like Sergeant Hiatt who made the ultimate sacrifice. Americans as well as Afghans owe their liberty to Sergeant Hiatt and his fallen comrades who came before him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring the life of Sergeant Anton Hiatt.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.)

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

(Mrs. MALONEY 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 North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BUTTERFIELD 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 Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GUTKNECHT 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 gen-

tleman from Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### BLUE DOG COALITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, this evening, as on each Tuesday evening, I rise on behalf of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, a group of 37 of us that are fiscally conservative Democrats that are concerned about the state of affairs in America. We are concerned about the debt, the deficit, the budget; and we are committed to trying to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government and our Nation's budgeting process.

Ever since I was a small child growing up in Prescott, Emmet and Hope, Arkansas, I always heard it was the Democrats that spent the money. And yet it was a President named Bill Clinton from Arkansas, from my hometown of Hope, Arkansas, in fact, that gave this Nation its first balanced budget in 40 years. From 1988 through 2001, America enjoyed the prosperity that came with having its fiscal house in order. America enjoyed the prosperity that came with having a balanced budget.

It is hard now to believe that from 1998 through 2001 this country had a balanced budget, because, as we all know, for the sixth year in a row this Nation, under this Republican-led Congress and under this President, this administration, has given us the largest budget deficit ever, ever in our Nation's history for a sixth year in a row.

As a matter of fact, as you walk the Halls of Congress, it is easy to spot a fiscally conservative Democrat because the 37 of us who belong to the Blue Dog Coalition have this poster outside our office in the Halls of Congress. As you can see today, the U.S. national debt is \$8,365,525,832,151 and some change. That is a big number.

Let us put it in a way that we all can understand it. For every man, woman and child, including those born this past hour, every citizen of America's share of the national debt is \$28,000 and some change.

Mr. Speaker, where I come from, very few of my constituents can afford to write a check for \$28,000 and yet it is this kind of debt, this kind of deficit that we are saddling on our children and grandchildren and expecting them

someday to pay back, and I believe it is morally wrong.

I raise these issues because, you see, my grandparents left this country better than they found it for my parents, and my parents left this country better than they found it for my generation, and I believe we have a duty and an obligation to try and leave this country just a little bit better than we found it for the next generation. But instead, for the sixth year in a row, we have the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation's history.

This administration, this Republican Congress, continues to pass tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year. Just in the last few months, this Congress passed the so-called Budget Deficit Reduction Act. Here is what it did. It cut Medicaid, the only health insurance plan for the poor, disabled, and elderly. It cut student loans and a program for orphans to the tune of \$40 billion. And then they passed another tax cut to the tune of about \$90 billion.

I was not real good in math in high school or college, but you can do the math on that. Some \$90 billion in tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year, \$40 billion in cuts to Medicaid, to orphan programs and to student loans. That amounts to \$50 billion in additional debt, and yet the Republican leadership in this body had the nerve to call it the Deficit Reduction Act.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is time for those of us in the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition to rise up and hold this administration, this Congress responsible for these kinds of reckless spending habits that destroy future generations.

The budget the President has submitted for fiscal year 2007, some \$2.8 trillion, you have to give it to him, he has managed to cut all of the programs that matter to people: health care, education, infrastructure, economic development, and yet give us the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation's history all at the same time. How does he do that? Because he continues to propose to borrow money from foreign lenders, foreign central banks, foreign investors to fund tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year. What has it given us? It has given us a debt of \$8,365,525,832,151.

By the time we complete this hour, Mr. Speaker, the national debt will have risen more than \$41 million.

Every Tuesday night those of us in the Blue Dog Coalition, we are 37 members strong, we come here to talk about the debt and the deficit and what it means, not only to today's generation but to future generations, because you see, Mr. Speaker, these are big numbers. They are big numbers, but let me put it in perspective.

Not only is our Nation borrowing about a billion dollars a day; we are sending \$279 million every day to Iraq, but do not dare ask the President how he is spending it or if he has a plan for how it is to be spent because he will tell you that you are unpatriotic. Some

\$57 million is going every day to Afghanistan. And on top of that, our Nation is spending the first half a billion we collect in your tax money each and every day simply to pay interest, not principal, just interest on the national debt.

We need I-49 in my congressional district. I need \$1.5 billion to complete it. Give me 3 days' interest on the national debt, I can build I-49. On the eastern side, we are waiting on I-69. Give me 3 days' interest on the national debt, and I can complete I-69' and with these two interstates, we can bring economic opportunities and jobs to one of the most depressed and distressed areas of the country.

These are the kinds of priorities that should be America's priorities that continue to go unmet until we get our Nation's fiscal house in order and restore some common sense to our government.

Mr. Speaker, if you have questions for the Blue Dog Coalition, I would invite you to e-mail us at [bluedog@mail.house.gov](mailto:bluedog@mail.house.gov).

Mr. Speaker, we are very privileged this evening to have a special guest join us, that is, the whip of the Democratic Caucus, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), and I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank both Mr. ROSS and the Blue Dog Coalition for focusing on what I believe to be one of the most critical problems confronting our country. I am going to speak a little bit about that.

I lament the loss of one of the great leaders of the House, one of the great leaders of the Blue Dog Coalition, Charlie Stenholm. No Member with whom I have served over the last 25 years, a quarter of a century, has been any more focused on trying to instill fiscal responsibility in the policies of this House than was Charlie Stenholm.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friends in the Blue Dog Coalition for organizing this important Special Order hour. The Blue Dogs have long been focused on this issue of fiscal responsibility, and I believe there is no more important issue in our Nation today.

□ 2030

I do not make that statement lightly. It is not hyperbole. I realize that our Nation is at war. Our gulf coast is still reeling from the worst natural disaster in American history. We are struggling, nearly 5 years after 9/11, to address our homeland security vulnerabilities.

Forty-five million Americans have no health insurance. Health care costs, gas prices, and college costs are all up for our citizens; and median household income, at the same time, as you know, Mr. ROSS, is down. These are many of these critical issues that we face today. However, what the Blue Dog Coalition knows, and what every American needs to know, is that these

issues that we face will all be impacted by the dangerous fiscal policies that we are embarked on.

Why? Because the record Federal budget deficits and exploding national debt that have been instigated over the last 5 years will affect our ability to address virtually every issue confronting the American people. That is why this matters.

This is not just some pie-in-the-sky issue that Mr. ROSS and I are talking about. Mr. ROSS made it very clear what he could do with just 3 days' interest in terms of bringing economic vitality to an area that needs growth and jobs and help with prosperity. Other issues such as the war on terror, homeland security, health care, education, Social Security and Medicare are all going to be impacted by these incredibly huge deficits that we are creating.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I know you are interested in these comments, but here is what David Walker had to say, the Comptroller General of the United States. He told the Senate Budget Committee on February 15, and I quote, "Continuing on this unsustainable fiscal path will gradually erode, if not suddenly damage, our economy, our standard of living and, ultimately, our national security." Now, that is the gentleman whom we have appointed as the watchdog for the Congress on the finances of this country to make sure we don't waste money. What he is saying is, these policies are unsustainable, dangerous and will undermine our national security.

Mr. Speaker, it gives me no pleasure to say this, but I believe it is an undisputed statement of fact. This administration, through its insistence on unaffordable tax policies, is the most fiscally reckless administration in American history. Just listen to former Republican House Majority Leader Dick Arme of Texas, who told the Wall Street Journal in January of 2004, and again I quote, "I'm sitting here and I'm upset about the deficit, and I'm upset about spending. There is no way I can pin that on the Democrats. Republicans own the town now." That was the former Republican majority leader saying, Republicans are responsible for this reckless, irresponsible fiscal policy that worries Dick Arme.

Simply look at the facts. When President Bush took office in January 2001, he inherited a projected 10-year budget surplus of \$5.6 trillion. That is what he said. It is not what we said. He said that in a statement to the Congress.

President Clinton reduced the budget deficit every year during his first term, and then, Mr. Speaker, in his second term, presided over four straight budget surpluses. That hadn't been done for 70 years prior to that time. The first time that happened was 70 years ago. In fact, the Clinton administration paid down the national debt by \$453 billion during that second term. In fact, the surpluses were over half a trillion

dollars. But we paid down the debt by \$453 billion.

So, not surprisingly, President Bush issued this bold prediction on March 31, 2001. Before I get to that, my friend has put up on the board, Mr. ROSS, the distinguished gentleman from Arkansas, has put up on the board the deficits over the last 25 years. Now, I have been in Congress every one of those years, Mr. Speaker. 17 of those have been with Republican Presidents, 17 of those years. Eight of those years have been with a Democratic President.

Now, Mr. Speaker, some say, oh, well, 9/11 happened. It did. It cost us. It was serious. We needed to respond to it. But, very frankly, from 1982 to 1993, 9/11 didn't happen. Did we go to war in Iraq? Yes. And the good news was President Bush and Jim Baker went around the world and said, this is an international problem, and the international community paid for it. We didn't.

But if you will look at those figures that Mr. ROSS has put up, every year, every one, without fail, under a Republican President over the last 25 years has been a deficit year.

And then you get to the Democratic year. Now, frankly, Mr. ROSS has them in blue, but the first four numbers are, in fact, red numbers. We ran deficits. Why? Because we were pulling ourselves out of the deep debt that had been created by the prior two administrations. And then when we did that, it then took us into surplus for 4 straight years. But here's the good news.

Seventeen years, it is the bad news first; 17 years under Republican administrations, \$4-plus trillion of deficits. Under Bill Clinton, \$62.2 billion of surplus. That is an amazing record.

But here's what President Bush issued, a prediction in March of 2001 inheriting these surpluses, quote: "We will pay off \$2 trillion of debt over the next decade." That is what President Bush said, over the next 10 years. He has now been here 6 years. Two billion dollars of debt over the next decade; that will be the largest debt reduction in any country, ever. Future generations, President Bush said, shouldn't be forced to pay back money.

Now, I want, Mr. Speaker, I know you will be interested in this and others will be interested, other colleagues. President Bush said this: "Future generations shouldn't be forced to pay back money that we have borrowed. We owe this kind of responsibility to our children and grandchildren."

Tragically, although President Bush said that, his policies have led to exactly the opposite and have placed, if you add—Mr. ROSS says \$28,000, but if you add the added debt limit, \$30,000 per child, per grandchild, per wife, per husband, and depending upon the size of your family, if it is four, \$120,000.

The reality, of course, shows that notwithstanding what Mr. Bush said he was going to do, the President said he was going to do, he has done exactly

the opposite. In 5 years, the Bush administration and this Republican Congress, Mr. Speaker, have created the four largest budget deficits in American history: As Mr. ROSS pointed out, \$378 billion in fiscal 2002, \$412 billion in fiscal 2003, \$318 billion in fiscal 2005, and a projected \$371 billion in fiscal 2006. And the Congressional Budget Office, Mr. Speaker, is projecting deficits as far as the eye can see.

So not only did this administration not reduce the deficit by \$2 trillion, it has added \$3 trillion. That is a \$5 trillion mistake.

As far as paying down the national debt, the administration and this Congress have been forced to raise the statutory debt limit four times in 5 years. As Mr. ROSS knows, and my good friend, Mr. MATHESON knows, during the last 4 years of the Clinton administration, we never raised the national debt, not once. And, in fact, during the entire 8 years, we only raised it twice.

This administration has raised the statutory debt limit four times, for a total of \$3.015 trillion, with a T. The national debt limit now stands at \$9 trillion, which means that every man, woman and child in America owes about \$30,000 of debt, as I said.

Consider, as the gentleman has pointed out, and he talked about it in terms of a day. We are borrowing \$600,000 per minute, \$600,000 per minute. In the last years of the Clinton administration, we didn't need to do that because we had responsible fiscal policies that we were pursuing.

Consider, the first 42 American presidents borrowed a total of \$1.01 trillion from foreign governments and financial institutions over 211 years. This administration, in 5 years, now in their sixth, has borrowed from foreign entities, China, Saudi Arabia and others, \$1.055 trillion. In other words, this President, in 5 years, has borrowed more money from foreign governments, foreign banks, foreign financial centers than all of the other Presidents America has had, combined.

Mr. Speaker, you don't need a doctorate in economics to appreciate that our Nation's economy and its security is more vulnerable when we are deeply indebted to foreign creditors.

Our deteriorating fiscal condition also has other serious side effects, Mr. Speaker. For example, the interest payments on the national debt are exploding. This is just like the interest consumers pay on their credit cards. In fiscal 2007, those interest payments will total a projected \$243 billion.

Now, Mr. Speaker and my colleagues, \$243 billion is more money than every bill we will pass appropriating money for health, for education, for infrastructure, for environment, for crime prevention, for fighting terrorism, except the defense bill. So of the 11 appropriations bills we will pass, only one is larger than the interest we have to pay on the debt because we are mortgaging our future. In fact, interest payments on the national debt over the next decade are projected at \$3 trillion.

Mr. Speaker, our children and grandchildren won't be able to buy anything for that. As a matter of fact, that sum is so large that just with the interest we are paying, we could pay all of Medicare expenses over the next 10 years. Think of that. These interest payments constitute resources that could have been used for national and homeland security, for Social Security and Medicare, for health care and education, and yes, Mr. Speaker, for tax cuts.

Now, Mr. Speaker, let me close by saying it is highly ironic that President Bush traveled the country last year warning of Social Security's imminent demise, while at the same time he was spending every single nickel of Social Security surplus over the last 5 years. \$817 billion of Social Security surpluses we have spent. And, in fact, what we have done is, we have taken those FICA taxes from working men and women and given it to some of the richest people in America in their tax cuts. My, my, my, what responsible policy. And, in fact, under the Republican budget policies every nickel of the Social Security surplus will again be spent over the next 5 years, a total of \$1.148 trillion in total.

Consider that just a few years ago the chairman of the House Budget Committee, Mr. NUSSLE of Iowa, confidently predicted, now, this is Mr. NUSSLE of Iowa, our colleague who chairs the Budget Committee, who talks about fiscal responsibility, he said this: This Congress will protect 100 percent of the Social Security and Medicare trust funds, period.

This is Mr. NUSSLE. No speculation, no supposition, no projections.

That statement of course, Mr. Speaker, proved absolutely, undeniably false, wrong. We have spent every nickel. We haven't saved 1 cent of that Social Security surplus. And I hope the Members of this House and the American people will keep this representation and others made by our Republican friends in mind as we prepare to consider this coming budget because they are going to say a lot of things, as they have in the past.

We will likely hear many more confident, bold predictions in the days ahead, predictions that are simply unmoored in fiscal reality. Every single Member of this House knows that the one tried and true method of restoring fiscal discipline is to reinstate the common-sense pay-as-you-go budget rules that were adopted when the Democrats were in charge in 1990. And George Bush I joined in that bipartisan agreement to get a handle on our fiscal posture in America.

Our Republican friends allowed those paygo rules to expire, Mr. Speaker, in 2002. We urged them to keep them. We have offered them in our budget resolution every year. They have been rejected. And our Nation has rued the day that that rule was changed.

I urge my colleagues, join Democrats in supporting pay-as-you-go budget

rules. Let us end this cycle of deficit and debt that threatens our Nation's security and future.

And I thank my friend, Mr. ROSS. I thank Mr. MATHESON, who cochairs the Blue Dog Caucus, for continuing to focus on this issue which, in my opinion, is the most important that confronts our country because every other issue will be impacted by our fiscal irresponsibility.

□ 2045

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the whip of the Democratic Caucus, for joining the Blue Dog Coalition this evening as we hold this Republican administration and this Republican Congress accountable for this reckless spending, for this record deficit, for the record debt, and for this out-of-control budget that truly does not reflect America's priorities.

The gentleman from Maryland raised an excellent point when he talked about the Social Security trust fund. And I am beginning to understand. The first bill I filed when I got to Congress back in 2001 was a bill to tell the politicians in Washington to keep their hands off the Social Security trust fund. And the Republican leadership refused to give us a hearing or a vote on that bill. And now I understand why, because when we talk about the fiscal year 2006 deficit at \$318 billion, that is not right. The real deficit is \$494 billion because the \$318 billion is counting the Social Security trust fund.

Now, when I go to the bank to get a loan, they want to know how I am going to pay it back, when I am going to pay it back, where the money is coming from to pay it back. And yet our government, this Republican Congress, continues to borrow billions of dollars from the Social Security trust fund with absolutely no idea, no provision on how or when or where the money is coming from to pay it back. And I believe that is morally wrong, as we have a duty and an obligation to protect Social Security for today's seniors as well as future generations.

I am also pleased to be joined this evening by one of the co-Chairs of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, a real leader within the group, Mr. MATHESON from Utah.

Welcome.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. ROSS.

And it is great to have the minority whip join us. He has often been described as an honorary Blue Dog, and he has always recognized and been a voice in support of fiscally responsible policy. And I just want to emphasize a point that the minority whip had made in his comments about this notion that we should live with the set of rules that you have got to live within your means.

It is going to take some tough decisions to bring back fiscal discipline to this government. Balanced budgets are not going to be easy to achieve. If it

was easy, I would like to think it already would have happened.

So what the Blue Dogs believe is that you have got to put in a set of rules and a structure that helps encourage fiscal discipline. And one of the rules that the Blue Dogs have been strongly supportive of and the minority whip has mentioned in his comments is this notion that you pay as you go. And this is a concept that is pretty basic when you think about it.

If you have something new, a new program where you want to spend some money, you have got to pay for it. You have got to pay for it by taking money away from something else or finding a source of revenue to pay for it.

But the other piece of that puzzle is, if you want to do a tax cut, you have got to pay for that with corresponding cuts in spending or finding revenues elsewhere. It is really a pretty basic concept. I think people, when they look at their own household budget, look at it that way. They have so much money coming in and out that if they want to do an adjustment somewhere, they have got to do an adjustment someplace else to accommodate for that. And that is all we are asking.

And what is interesting, and I may want to ask the minority whip to describe this for me, he was here in 1990 when this was put in place, when the first President Bush was in office. I was not in Congress at that time, but those rules were in place starting after 1990, and I think among many factors, they were the critical factor in moving us toward the surpluses that we enjoyed by the end of the 1990s. And I find it unfortunate, and we should all find it unfortunate, quite frankly, that those rules were allowed to expire at the end of, I believe, 2001.

I know legislation has been offered and introduced to restore those rules. We cannot seem to get a vote on restoring those rules. I would love to have an up-or-down vote here in the House of Representatives on restoring those rules. I would love to see anyone, really, stand up and vote against that type of common-sense approach to encouraging fiscal discipline here in Congress.

I think that that is such a crucial point, I want to reemphasize what the minority whip had mentioned because I think that people are looking for solutions.

It is easy to step back and just complain about the problems we have here, but there are solutions out there to help us get our arms around this problem, and one of them is, let us look for these pay-as-you-go rules so that we all live within our means and we make responsible decisions.

The Blue Dogs actually have a 12-point plan, and I just want to talk about one other of those points in this segment where I am talking right now that I think is important, because along with trying to have fiscal discipline and making sure you live within your means, you have also got to

make sure that money is being spent wisely, and that means you need accountability. And we do not have accountability right now in many, many agencies within the Federal Government. Do you realize in the Department of Defense, there are 63 different agencies and only six of them can give you a clean audit of their books and the other 57 cannot tell you where the money is being spent?

Now, I think it is Congress' job to ask the questions about where that money is being spent. I do not think this Congress has been very aggressive in its oversight function and asking where the money has been spent. The most recent year for which we have this data is 2003, and the government cannot account for \$24.5 billion that was spent. And we throw a lot of numbers around here; \$24.5 billion is a lot of money. That is more than the budget for the entire Department of Justice for a whole year, and right now we do not have the ability to have Federal agencies tell us how that money has been spent.

So one of the other points of the Blue Dogs' plan I just want to mention is, it would be a requirement that you have got to give us a clean audit of your books, and if you do not, your budget stays frozen at the previous year's level. I think that is a pretty good economic incentive for people to want to tell us how the money is being spent, and that forces accountability. So with fiscal discipline, of course, we want to have a structure that forces those tough decisions, but it is also important that we make sure we know how money is being spent. We need to have answers to those questions.

So I wanted to stand up in response and reaction to the very great comments and great statistics and great information and history that the minority whip has laid out for this cycle of moving from debt to a period of surplus, and now we are moving deeply into debt again. I want to reemphasize his support of the pay-as-you-go that he mentioned. He mentioned another notion of accountability the Blue Dogs have been a strong advocate for. I think that is how we are going to try to get our arms around this situation.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON), co-Chair of the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, for his insight.

And the gentleman is right. As members of the Blue Dog Coalition, we are trying to make some sense out of our Nation's government, out of the budget process, trying to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline. We are not here just to rail at the Republicans. It may be the first time in 50 years that they have controlled the White House, House, and Senate. But we are not here just to criticize or to hold accountable, but also to offer up solutions and ideas on how we can fix this thing for America and future generations, and that is why we have a 12-point plan.

And the gentleman from Utah talked about accountability. And right here you will see an aerial photo of a hay meadow at the Hope Airport in Hope, Arkansas, a so-called FEMA staging area. It is my understanding that it has been about 7 months now since Hurricane Katrina, a terrible storm, devastated the gulf coast. We have folks in Pass Christian, Mississippi, living in military-style tents. We have got some 80,000 people living in camper trailers. We have got over 10,000 families living in hotel and motel rooms spread out over several States. And yet FEMA has purchased and has stored in a hay meadow at the Hope Airport some 10,777 brand-new, fully furnished, fully furnished, manufactured homes, \$431 million worth just sitting there in a hay meadow at the Hope Airport, some 450 miles from the eye of the storm, while people continue to live in hotels and military-style tents and in camper trailers.

This is an example of the lack of accountability in our government. This is a symbol of what is wrong with this administration and what is wrong with FEMA. Their response is, they are concerned because, as you can see, they are literally just parked in this hay meadow, literally parked in the hay meadow.

And now winter weather has come and set in and spring is here and the showers are here and it is starting to rain. So FEMA's response, you would think, would be to get these 10,777; and 300 of them have been moved, by the way, good for FEMA, so we are down to 10,477 brand-new, fully furnished manufactured homes. You would think FEMA's response is, let us get them to the people who lost their homes and everything they own, who so desperately need them on the gulf coast. But no, FEMA's response is, we are going to fix that. We are going to spend \$6 million to gravel the hay meadow. That is FEMA's response.

It is the lack of accountability that people are fed up with, Mr. Speaker. This is a symbol of what is wrong with this administration, what is wrong with this Republican Congress and what is wrong with the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

At this time, I am pleased to yield to the gentleman from Georgia, a real leader within the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, Mr. SCOTT.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Thank you very much, Mr. ROSS. And, as always, it is indeed a pleasure to be with you on these special orders.

I want to agree with our distinguished majority whip, who has distinguished himself in his years of leadership here, who has been fighting this fight for so long. And our whip pointed out an important point that is registering with the American people, and that is this: There is great concern all across the breadth and the depth of this country concerning the degree of foreign ownership of our country.

Mr. ROSS, we have time and time again been on this floor pointing out

the danger of foreign investment that we are overwhelmingly dependent upon. We are not critical of being an open, free society in which we are open for investors from all around the world to come and participate in our great economy. We are certainly not against the trade policies that involve all of the globalization. That is very important. We are very much involved and in support of opening up free markets so that our goods and our products are being traded.

But, Mr. ROSS, it is a dangerous, dangerous situation when we are overwhelmingly now dependent for our wherewithal on foreign interests. The fact that now that foreign investors control and own over 52 percent of our debt is not a healthy position for us to be in, for the mere fact that right now we are borrowing at a rate, that we are spending more just on interest to these countries than what we are spending on our own homeland security, our veterans, and our education, combined.

Here is the question: What will happen if this dries up? What will happen, let us say, in our negotiations and our dealings with China, from whom we are borrowing and who holds \$250 billion in our debt? Or with Japan, that controls over \$658 billion of our debt? Or with Taiwan, who controls over \$117 billion? Or Hong Kong at \$80 billion? Or the OPEC and the Middle Eastern countries, who control, combined, over \$75 billion of our debt?

The issue here is that these are countries in which we have severe differences with who can use this at an inappropriate moment of strategic blackmail in so many financial areas and national security areas. Speaking of which, we cannot have any national security if we do not have financial security.

Mr. ROSS, I am glad you mentioned your trailers. I had a town hall meeting back home in one of my communities called Riverdale in Clayton County, and my Uncle Eugene said, You know, I was watching you all on television. I want you to ask your partner there, Mr. ROSS, have they moved those trailers yet?

Mr. ROSS. Three hundred of them.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Three hundred of them are moved. But they have still got so many there.

Mr. ROSS. Ten thousand four hundred and seventy-seven remain in this hay meadow at the Hope Airport while people continue to live in hotels, camper trailers, and military-style tents. It is horrible.

□ 2100

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. We are in a very, very delicate situation financially and a very insecure position financially, particularly as the world is looking at us.

But the most important point that I want to make, as I turn it back over to one of my other colleagues, is this. In my office today I had a visit from a group of my constituents who run a program called TRIO.

TRIO is the overlaying umbrella of a series of upward-bound programs that help young people who need a helping hand to get them into college. And that program is being axed by the President. I just left this morning, a group of us in a CODEL, with Congressman JERRY MORAN, who is a good friend who is on the Republican side, but is a good subcommittee chairman of our commodities group.

We had a hearing on the farm bill. And the two most important issues that they were saying is, please, Congressman, do not let the Bush administration cut our farm programs, our conservation programs. We had another visit from another group of folks who were senior citizens: do not let them cut our Medicare and our Medicaid programs. From the veterans themselves: please do not let them cut any more of our programs.

So when we look abroad at the foreign situation and we look here at home, we see pressing concerns and threats to our financial security that is at the hands of this administration and its very, very unresponsive, irresponsible and reckless financial policies.

And I am just proud to be here with the Blue Dogs this evening to point those issues out and make sure that the American people are aware of the great, great issues that we are faced with.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from Georgia who raises an excellent point, that is, how the United States is becoming increasingly dependent on foreign lenders, foreign central banks, foreign investors. In fact, foreign lenders currently hold a total of well over \$2 trillion of our public debt.

Compare that to only \$23 billion in foreign holdings back in 1993. And who are these countries that we are borrowing billions of dollars from? Japan, \$682.8 billion. China, \$249.8 billion.

As my friend from Tennessee, one of the founders of the Blue Dog Coalition, Mr. TANNER, has said before, if China decides to invade Taiwan, we will have to borrow even more money from China in order to defend Taiwan.

This does directly impact not only our national security, but our monetary policy because they can call these loans.

United Kingdom, \$223.2 billion. Caribbean Banking Centers, I had never heard of such, \$115.3 billion. Taiwan, \$71.3 billion. OPEC, \$67.8 billion they have loaned us to fund our government, to fund tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year, and we wonder why we have got \$2.50 gasoline.

Korea, \$66.5 billion. Germany, \$65.7 billion. Canada, \$53.8 billion. And Hong-Kong rounds out the top 10 lenders in loaning money to the United States of America at \$46.5 billion.

I yield to the gentleman from Georgia.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Just to add to that point, just to add to that, in addition to all of what you just said, when you add the fact that this country is

borrowing \$2 billion every day from foreign governments, just to finance our trade deficits, we have just been talking about the budget deficits.

But when you turn and you add our trade deficits to that, and Mr. ROSS, again, a point that came out of my agriculture hearing just today in Valdosta, Georgia, was the point that now for the first time, just 10 years ago, the United States, on our agriculture we controlled or held 17 percent of all of the world's exports on agriculture products.

Now, do you know that that is down to less than 10 percent? And the fact of the matter is, we are now exporting more of our foodstuffs into this country than we are exporting out. This is not good for our national security, for this country, not only depending upon our finances from abroad; but, good Lord, if we get to the point where we are depending on our food from abroad, we are in serious trouble.

Mr. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia. I am pleased to have him as an active member of the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition. We are 37 members strong.

Mr. Speaker, if you have questions, comments or concerns you would like to raise with us, you can e-mail us at [bluedog@mail.house.gov](mailto:bluedog@mail.house.gov). That is [bluedog@mail.house.gov](mailto:bluedog@mail.house.gov).

Another very active member, a leader within the fiscally conservative Democratic Blue Dog Coalition, is the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF). I yield to him for as much time as he may so desire.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. ROSS) for yielding to me. Once more I thank him for leading these Blue Dog hours each week and for the tremendous job he does in trying to balance our budget here in the Nation's Capital, as well as look out for those constituents back in Arkansas.

I wanted to join the gentleman from Arkansas and raise a number of concerns with the way that we are handling the Nation's budget, talk about some of the reforms that the Blue Dogs have been advocating. Let me just start out by talking about the budget picture. The chart that you have put up, Mr. ROSS, really tells the story of the trillions of dollars' worth of debt we have acquired, the fact that for every man, woman and child in the country, we now owe \$28,000.

I was out in my district last week talking to a group of school kids. They were asking me, what would I like to see different about the way the country is run. I said, well, for one thing, I would like to see us balance our budget.

Right now, we are spending your money, I told this young man. We are spending so much of your money, that when you graduate from college, if you graduated tomorrow, in addition to your student loans, you would owe the

country \$28,000. By the time you actually graduate from college, it will probably be, on the present course, much more than that.

Now, why is it that we have this debt? Well, the bottom line is, we are spending money faster than it is coming in, and you can't vote. We are spending your money, because you cannot object. That just is not right.

Now, how did we get to this situation? I think we got here through some very creative accounting. It used to be that when we calculated our debt, we looked at a 10-year window. But the 10-year picture got so bleak, we decided that, no, we will start looking at, instead, a 5-year window. We won't look at what happens beyond 5 years because the debt just grows so large.

In fact, what we started to do is we started to craft some of the revenue and tax measures here so that they would balloon in the outyears, so the impact on the budget would take place in the outyears, so that if we only looked at the narrow 5-year window, we didn't see how bad the picture got when the full effect of our policies took place 5 to 10 or 15 years from now.

But we did more than that. When the administration, for example, says that their plan will balance or cut the debt in half over the next 5 years, they are taking great poetic license with certain assumptions about what will happen in the next several years. For example, the administration's budget, the one they say that will get us to cut the deficit in half in the next 5 years, ignores the costs of the Iraq war after the end of this year.

That makes an assumption I think we would all like to make that there won't be any further war costs after December 31, but that is not a realistic assumption. Even if the last troops have come home by then, there are still billions and billions of dollars to repair, to maintain, to replace the equipment that has been degraded in Iraq.

More than that, we have to prudently expect that the expenses of the Iraq war are not going to come to an end on December 31. Even if all the troops came home, those expenses would not come to an end then.

What other fictions are we using in the budget process? Well, we are assuming that nothing is done about the alternative minimum tax. This tax that was started in the 1970s and was designed to apply to only a few families in the country was never indexed for inflation.

The basic theme behind that, or the theory of that, wasn't a bad theory, it was that several of the largest, wealthiest families in the country shouldn't escape any form of tax because they used a clever combination of tax loopholes. There ought to be some alternative minimum calculation. What was designed to and did apply only to a handful of families in the 1970s, because it was never indexed for inflation, now is applying to millions of people.

This cannot be left unchecked. If the AMT is not fixed, then all of the tax cuts that were given in the last several years will be completely wiped up and replaced with a very large middle-class tax increase.

Now, the administration knows this is a problem that has to be dealt with, but it is very expensive to fix this problem. It is going to require that we deal, very frankly, with some of the different budget priorities that we haven't been willing to deal with.

But by ignoring the impending AMT problem, by ignoring the ongoing costs of the war in Iraq, by narrowing the budget window that we are looking at from 10 years to 5 years, by engaging in these kinds of smoke and mirrors, by taking certain costs off the books, we can present to the country a budget picture which is not reflective of reality.

It doesn't show what dire fiscal straits we are really in. It is one of the reasons why I am so grateful for the work you are doing, Mr. ROSS, to point out to the country just how bad it has got in terms of our fiscal picture to promote the Blue Dog's 12-point plan, part of which is very simple, that is, when you are in a hole the way we are, stop digging.

That is part of our PAYGO proposal that says that we want to stop the hemorrhaging, that when we agree to new spending on this House floor, we should find a way to offset that cost so that we do it in a revenue-neutral way. When we agree on new tax cuts, we should find a way to do that in a revenue-neutral way, either by cutting spending or raising revenues somewhere else.

PAYGO, pay-as-you-go, basically says there is no free lunch, and, indeed, there isn't, as you can see by the fact that every man, woman and child in this country now owes \$28,000. From 2001 to 2003, just a couple-year period, the total government spending soared by 16 percent. We are trying to put a lid on those kinds of increases.

We are trying to urge that the Federal Government simply use accounting practices that the biggest and the best firms in the country have to use. The GAO did a study that showed that 16 of 23 major Federal agencies can't do a simple audit of their own books. Can you imagine, Mr. ROSS, if one of the companies back in your district or mine did their accounting, if they were a public company, they did their accounting the way that the Federal Government does, how long it would be before they were indicted before a Federal grand jury? It wouldn't be long at all.

Now, why is it that we can require transparency and accountability and honest bookkeeping among our private firms in the interests of their shareholders, in the interests of their employees, but we don't seem to require it of the country itself? We haven't set aside funds for a rainy day.

It is something that most businesses do, it is something that most families

do, so that when these tragedies occur, when we have natural disasters, when we have man-made disasters, we have some reserve to go back to. It makes infinite sense.

The economy is a cyclical phenomenon. We ought to have something stored away for a rainy day for when we are in a down part of the cycle. That is only prudent planning. That is part of the Blue Dog plan. We shouldn't hide the votes on this House floor when we are going to raise the debt.

Most Americans are unaware of the fact that the national debt is a little bit like a credit card debt. When we want to raise the national debt, that is when we want to authorize the administration to borrow more money. We have to vote to authorize it the same way that when people want to borrow more on their credit card they have to contact the credit card company and ask them to raise the limit.

How do we do that around here? Well, do we have an up or down vote where we can force people to go on the record and vote either to raise the national debt or against raising the national debt? No, we do more of that smoke and mirrors. We make it a procedural vote on top of a procedural vote on top of a procedural vote. Unless you are a sleuth, there is no way to find out that we have, in fact, voted to raise the debt on all Americans.

We shouldn't hide those votes. We should be open about those votes. We should be held accountable for those votes; and maybe, maybe, if each and every Member had to come to this House floor and defend a vote to raise the debt, we could compel the adoption of sound fiscal practices like pay-as-you-go.

I would love to see that. I would love to be able to join my Blue Dog colleagues and offer an amendment to a motion to raise the national debt that says, all right, we will agree to a short-term increase in the national debt provided that we adopt pay-as-you-go rules, provided that we come back here in a short period of time, we see what action the administration, the Congress are taking, that we don't raise the national debt by great leaps and bounds that let us off the hook for a year at a time, but, rather, give us only a short leash to get our fiscal house in order to show that we are diligently working on it.

□ 2115

These are some of the reforms the Blue Dogs are advocating. They were good public policy. They would enjoy, I believe, bipartisan support if we had the chance to actually vote on these proposals. And I want to compliment my colleague for all of his leadership on this issue.

Mr. ROSS. I thank the gentleman from California, a real active member and leader within the fiscally conservative Blue Dog Coalition, Mr. SCHIFF, for joining us in the discussion this evening as we outline the Blue Dog

Coalition's 12-point plan for curing our Nation's addiction to deficit spending.

This is the first time in 50 years the Republicans have controlled the White House, the House and the Senate, and they have given us the largest budget deficit ever in our Nation's history for the sixth year in a row. The debt is \$8,365,525,832,151 and some change.

We will be updating that board here in just a few moments to show you, Mr. Speaker, exactly how much the debt has gone up since we started this hour-long discussion about trying to restore some common sense and fiscal discipline to our Nation's government.

Each week it seems as we wind down this hour others come to the floor to refute what we have to say. And one of the favorite sayings each week that we hear from the other side is how we voted against the Deficit Reduction Act. And I think it is important, Mr. Speaker, that everyone understand exactly what the Deficit Reduction Act was really all about.

It was about cutting Medicaid. Eight out of ten seniors in Arkansas in a nursing home are on Medicaid. Half the children in Arkansas are on Medicaid. One out of five people in my home State will be on Medicaid some time this year. It is the health insurance program for the poor, the disabled, the elderly. Student loans, programs for orphans, those are the types of programs that were cut \$40 billion to help pay for another \$90 billion in tax cuts for those earning over \$400,000 a year. Ninety billion minus 40 billion is \$50 billion in new debt, and yet they had the nerve to call it the Deficit Reduction Act.

We are running out of time. And I will yield as we begin to update this board, showing exactly how much the debt, let's just do it real quick. In fact, the debt has gone up \$41,666,000 in this past hour. So that means it is now \$8,365,567,498,151 and some change.

Mr. Speaker, the minute we have left I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT).

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. I just want to say, because we are going to get ready for our Republican friends, some of them, to come and try to refute what we are saying, but as the good book, the Bible, says, "Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free."

We have done that tonight. And even Mr. Arme, the Republican's former leader of this House, complained bitterly about the Republican leadership and the direction they were going when he said, "They are in control. They control this town," he said.

There is no reason for us to have these deficits. They cannot refute the fact that under this Republican administration, under this Republican-led Congress they have borrowed more money, they have run up this debt, they have borrowed more money from foreign governments than all of the last 42 Presidents and administrations combined. They cannot argue that point.

They put forward a budget that slams right into the face of homeland and national security by cutting our veterans, by refusing to deal with the concurrent receipts measure, by cutting aid to veterans by a million dollars, and education up and down the line.

So the truth is speaking tonight, Mr. ROSS, and it has been indeed a pleasure for us to be here to tell the truth and set America free.

#### THE OFFICIAL TRUTH SQUAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the Conference for allowing me to join some of my friends and colleagues this evening and talk about some issues that we have heard a little bit about so far this evening and talk about some other matters as they relate to national security.

I want to introduce the Official Truth Squad. We are back again this evening. People are getting great response all across my district at home about the Official Truth Squad, because people say, isn't it wonderful that finally somebody is talking about the truth. And the gentleman before, just before, talked about the truth and we will show some truth tonight. I urge my colleagues on the other side on the aisle to stick around and look at the real numbers, look at the real numbers.

The Official Truth Squad began with a group of freshman Congressmen. We would meet and have met almost every week since the beginning of last year. And as we began to appreciate and understand how the Congress worked and what kind of issues were being addressed and how they were being addressed on the floor of the House, it became apparent to us that there were a lot of accusations that were flying across and there was a lot of misinformation and disinformation.

And our friends on the other side of the aisle oftentimes utilize what I call "the politics of division," and that is, they split America. They split people into groups and they try to get people to fight, to be angry with each other. And we do not believe that that is the best way to solve problems.

We believe that, together, the challenges that we have, they are not Republican challenges, they are not Democrat challenges; they are American challenges. We believe that together we are able to best solve the challenges that face us. So we formed the Official Truth Squad to try to bring truly some facts, some truth, about the issues that you hear talked about on the floor of the House and elsewhere. We are also frustrated by somewhat of a lack of civility in Washington, so our desire is to try to raise the level of the rhetoric a

little bit and stay away from the partisan and personal sniping that seems to go on.

In fact, when we talk about the truth I am fond of the utilizing a quote that many folks know and that is from Senator Daniel Patrick Moynihan, a fine United States Senator, a former Senator from the great State of New York. He said that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts. Everyone is entitled to their own opinion and not their own facts.

I think that is important to talk about because you have just heard a lot of discussion about a balanced budget amendment and about PAYGO, paying as you go for the Federal Government. And you get the sense that the folks who just present that material hadn't ever had an opportunity to vote on any of those things; that those things had never come up before the Congress, right, Mr. Speaker. That is the kind of sense I got as I was sitting there listening to him. I said they must have not ever had an opportunity to vote on those things.

But in fact, they have, each of the items that they discussed, four separate times in the 1990s. There was a great opportunity to vote on a balanced budget amendment. The majority of the individuals on the other side of the aisle, the majority, in fact, the majority of the folks who were Blue Dogs here voted against a balanced budget amendment, most recently in 2004. And I know it is the truth because you can look it up; it is Roll Call Vote number 311, 311 in 2004. It was about a budget resolution that would make the amount of money that is appropriated binding so that you cannot go above that amount in the Federal Government's spending.

What was the vote then? One hundred eighty-one Democrats voted no. Now, that is the truth. So when you talk about trying to paint the picture of budget responsibility and fiscal responsibility, it is important to look at how people are voting.

They talk about PAYGO, pay as you go, and that is an important thing, and we have been working on that for years. But the most recent time when they had an opportunity to vote on it in 2004, Roll Call Vote number 318, look it up, Mr. Speaker, Roll Call Vote number 318, 2004, not a single Democrat voted for the PAYGO rule. Not one. Not a single Blue Dog that voted, not a single Democrat voted in favor of the PAYGO rule.

So, Mr. Speaker, everyone's entitled to their own opinion, but they are not entitled to their own facts. So I think it is important that we point out facts.

I just want to briefly, before we get into the issue of national security, which we are going to talk about tonight, I think it is important to show the American people what the facts are about some of the other issues that were discussed.

Medicaid, you heard about Medicaid cuts, right, Mr. Speaker? Well, in fact,

here is a chart from 1995 to 2005, the amount of money that the Federal Government has spent on Medicaid. And you would think if there was a cut, as it has been described by folks on the other side, that this red line, which is the amount of money that the Federal Government spends, that it will go down, right, that it would go down. In fact, every single year since 1995 through 2005, there has been an increase in the Federal money spent on Medicaid, an average increase of 7.4 percent per year.

Mr. Speaker, that is not a cut. That is an increase and it is an appropriate increase to care for those who are neediest in our society. In fact, it is an increase from \$89 billion in 1995 to \$181 billion in 2005.

What about the education money that is talked about, these "cuts"? Here is the education annual growth over the past 5 years, 2000 to 2005. The average growth is at 9.1 percent, 9.1 percent.

When you talk about Pell grants, which is the amount of money that the Federal Government provides for those most needy to go to school, to go to college or university and you talk about "cuts," that is what you hear, isn't it, Mr. Speaker? In fact, what we have seen over the past 5 years is an increase every single year. Those aren't cuts, Mr. Speaker. It has grown about 10.3 percent every year since 2000.

So we call ourselves the Official Truth Squad because we are interested in bringing truth to the table. Truth is the only way that we can solve the challenges that we have in our Nation right now, and truth and working together is truly the only way to solve the great challenges that we have.

Tonight, we want to address a little bit of a different issue and it is an issue that when I talk to folks at home is really one of the top issues, if not the top issue, that they talk about when they talk about what they want their Federal Government to do in terms of addressing needs that they have; and the issue is that of national security. And there are a lot of different ways that we can talk about it, and we will discuss a couple of them this evening.

I have been joined by a number of my colleagues this evening and I want to thank them for coming. First, I want to introduce Representative BLACKBURN, who is a wonderful colleague, not a freshman, but we have given her honorary freshman status in the Official Truth Squad. We will come here this evening to talk about national security as it relates to border security because, as most of us believe, if the border is not secure, the Nation is not secure.

I welcome you this evening and thank you for coming.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership on this issue and for his leadership in continuing to bring the Truth Squad to the floor every evening, so we can talk about the issues that affect our constituents and the American people.

Mr. Speaker, we have as a party and as a conference been talking about the security agenda for many months now, looking at energy security, moral security, retirement security, economic security for this great Nation. A big part of this security agenda is our national security and we continue to address this issue. We talk about the war on terror. We talk about protecting our Nation, and that is where the border security component comes in.

In December, we passed a border security bill to address so many of these issues that are before us. And, of course, as typically happens and many times happens here, those of us in the House roll up our sleeves and get to work and we pass a bill. It crosses the Rotunda to the other side, to the other body, and maybe it languishes or does not move quite as quickly. But the Members of the House have taken action on this issue.

□ 2130

It is indeed one that deserves our attention, and as we talk about border security, there is one component that I would like to highlight this evening, just one component as we talk about border security and the importance of keeping this border secure.

When we talk about illegal immigration and illegal immigrants, I think it is imperative that we turn the focus to illegal entry. That is the action that an individual outside this country is choosing to commit—the act of illegally entering our country, and we need to keep our focus on that: Why would they choose to enter illegally? Why would they choose to circumvent our laws? Why would an individual choose to circumvent the rules? Why would they choose illegal entry?

Mr. Speaker, I think that you and I would probably agree that we are going to work diligently to protect our homes from illegal entry, and I am going to work just as hard to protect this country from illegal entry as I am going to work to protect my home from illegal entry.

I think it is important that we realize that individuals who decide they are going to illegally enter somewhere maybe come with a different agenda, but we have to recognize that they do not come as an invited guest.

We have rules in place that individuals are supposed to follow, and those individuals that follow those rules are then invited and brought into the process of being able to seek citizenship, of working to attain that citizenship, to being able to be a part of the bounty and the richness that this country offers.

We are a Nation of immigrants, but we are a Nation of laws, and it is important that we continue to recognize that, as we look at the debate, that we realize that entering this country illegally, that action is something that circumvents our laws.

I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his leadership on the issue. I thank

you for including me and allowing me to come to the floor and be a part of the Official Truth Squad and continue to put the focus on the issues that are important to my district in Tennessee and important to so many of our constituents.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, thank you so very much. I appreciate you coming and joining us this evening, and I think that you pointed out some very important perspectives that the constituents that I have at home would agree with, I know, and that is that illegal immigration may be a misnomer because it really is illegal entry and it is important to appreciate that perspective and to understand that what we are talking about here is, as you described, protecting our home, protecting our homeland, and that illegal entry into one's home we do not allow as a Nation, and that illegal entry into our homeland ought not be allowed either.

So as you mentioned, America is indeed a Nation of immigrants, but it is a Nation of laws as well, and so a comprehensive immigration reform must begin with securing the border. I thank you very much for coming and joining us this evening.

Also coming this evening is Judge POE, the honorable Congressman TED POE from Texas, member of the freshman class and an active member of the Official Truth Squad. His experience back in the State of Texas is just wonderful information and a resource that he has to give to the United States Congress and to America, and so I appreciate you coming this evening and sharing your perspective on national security.

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank my friend from Georgia for yielding some time to continue the thought about the specific issue of border security as it pertains to national security.

Security has been the talk of this House for the last few weeks, especially about port security, how the concern of Americans for securing the safety of our ports, with foreign governments infiltrating and running our port operations, how the American public has made that statement and Congress has responded with at least, on a temporary basis, doing something immediately about securing our ports, because it is the number one duty of government to protect or secure the people.

We do a lot of debating in this House about what is the purpose of government, and it seems to do a lot of things, maybe some things that our Founding Fathers never expected or even wanted for government to do. But one of the things government must do and has a constitutional duty to do is to protect the security of the Nation from within and from without.

One of those specific issues, of course, is protect our borders. Living in Texas, we constantly are concerned about the infiltration into our Nation

of people from other places illegally coming here, and it serves three concerns. One, of course, the war on drugs continues to escalate, and drug cartels know there is a lot of money in selling those drugs in the United States, and so violence has occurred on the Texas border because those drug cartels are fighting over turf to bring in that cancer and prey on the weaknesses of Americans. So that is the first concern.

Second concern, of course, is the universal concern in this country about terrorists, international outlaws, criminals who want to do us harm and come here for that specific purpose. Having a porous, open border encourages that conduct, and we know that those people expect to come in the United States and even try to come in the United States because of our lack of security on our borders.

Then there is that third group of people who illegally enter the United States for a multitude of other reasons; and the United States, our Nation, this government, this House, the people's House, must have the moral will to protect the dignity of the border. It seems to me that Third World countries protect their borders better than we do here in the United States, and we are a Nation that can do anything. The reason we do not protect the borders and secure the border is because we do not have the will to do it as a Nation.

It is interesting, we have heard a lot of rhetoric this week, especially about the bill that passed back in December that got almost no notice until the Senate starts talking about our bill and their option, or variation on that bill; but let me try to give you an example of how things are occurring in the United States by comparing it to maybe an analogy in another country.

Let us say that, for some reason, I want to go to France, and based on some of the things I have said about France, the Government of France, they probably would not let me in legally. I would have to sneak in. So if I sneaked in, took my four kids, three grandkids and showed up in France, over to Paris and say, teach my kids in English and give them an education, oh, I am not going to pay for it, the French people are going to pay for this education and provide social services for my kids and my grandkids and my two grandkids that are on the way, and continued that line of thought, the people in France would get me out of the country, and rightfully so. That would be true whether I went to France or to China or even to Mexico; but, yet, that seems to be what is occurring here in the United States because of our lack of securing our borders.

Our good friend from Tennessee, Mrs. BLACKBURN, has already alluded to this. If we have an intruder in our home, we call those people burglars. They are not welcome guests. They are not a guest burglar. They are a burglar. But if we have an intruder to our homeland because of, I guess, political correctness, we call them an undocu-

mented guest worker. Both are committing illegal acts because of the entry into either our home or to our homeland. They are both not invited, and the one goes to jail and the other seems to be rewarded for that illegal entry, and we continue to reward that illegal conduct.

It seems to me that Mexico does have an immigration policy and to some extent that immigration policy is colonize the United States with illegal entry into the United States. We know that that is true because the Government of Mexico even publishes pamphlets and gives to individuals in Mexico how to sneak into the United States, what route to take, and so their policy is: colonize America.

It is not only to colonize America, but it is to make Americans feel guilty about trying to protect the sovereignty of our own Nation. I do not know if you can see this or not, Mr. Speaker, but this is the front page today of *The Washington Post*. You would think that this was the *Mexico City Times*, but it is not. Right here in the middle are thousands of folks, many of whom are illegally in the United States, assembling in Los Angeles; and you see that the 15 to 20 flags in this photograph, they are not American flags. They are flags from Mexico, Mexican nationals, proclaiming that the United States should not basically enforce the rule of do not come here illegally; another way of trying to tell the United States that our policy should benefit Mexico rather than put America and Americans first.

Illegal entry is wrong. There has been some misunderstanding about a guest worker program. We have a guest worker program. The United States grants every year 1.2 million visas to people who want to come here legally to work. Some of those take a long time to process. That is a whole other issue. The immigration department needs to move faster and quicker on that, but we grant 1.2 million legal visas for people who want to work here legally every year, but yet that has not done one thing to stop illegal entry into this country.

So we must protect the dignity of the United States, secure the border. We must understand that everybody wants to live in America. I do not blame them. It is obvious this is the country, because of our history and our worth of the individual, all people want to come here. The people need to respect the dignity and the rule of law and the sovereignty of this country and come here the right way.

That is the responsibility of our government, our Federal Government: secure the borders first, protect the sovereignty of our Nation, and then let us talk about what to do with people that have already illegally come into the United States.

It is a complex issue, but we need to start. The time is now to move forward on border security for the three reasons that I mentioned.

I appreciate my friend from Georgia allowing me to speak to this issue; and, hopefully, we can continue the dialogue and come up with some basic results that protect our homeland, like we want to protect and do protect our homes.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for participating tonight and for really sharing his firsthand knowledge and information from his background as a judge in Texas and really putting the whole issue into perspective, again, about protecting one's home, protecting one's homeland, the importance of the war on drugs, the war on terror and something that I talk about often with my constituents, and that is that our immigration policy really has been one of benign neglect for the past couple of decades, and that is why we find ourselves in the situation where we are right now, and that it just takes the will, it takes the will of leadership and the will of the Members of Congress to move us forward as it relates to illegal immigration.

I am hopeful that we will be able to do that. I am hopeful we will be able to do that in a positive way, in a way that recognizes the wonderful diversity of America and recognizes that America is a land of immigrants, without a doubt, but that also, and as importantly, it is a land of laws. We are a Nation of laws, and that is I think the important perspective that I would like to share with folks tonight as it relates to the issue of border security and illegal immigration.

I want to take a little different tack on the issue of national security. We have, as a Nation, remarkable challenges that confront us, and one does not have to let one's imagination run very wide to appreciate the challenges and the threats that we have as a Nation.

We stand truly on the shoulders of our parents and our grandparents. My parents' generation was the World War II generation. My father was a soldier in World War II, fought in the Philippines, and he and his generation have been called the Greatest Generation. Each generation has its own responsibility, there is no doubt.

When I am asked at home about the war in Iraq and how we are doing right now as a Nation, I always try to raise up and say let us talk about this in a larger picture.

□ 2145

Because I believe sincerely, and I know that most folks who look at this objectively believe that the war in Iraq is not really a war in Iraq, it is the battle in Iraq in the war on terror. It is a bigger issue. It truly is a bigger issue.

It is something that Frank Gaffney calls in his book "War Footing," he calls it "the war for the free world." That is a very sobering comment, but I think it is pertinent to talk about exactly what are the challenges and how big are the challenges that are before us as a nation.

I had recently the opportunity to meet with and to speak to a group of constituents who are members of Employers United for a Stronger America. This is a group of employers who actively support the Guard and the Reserve in our Nation. They do so in incredible ways: by assisting families, in helping when they have employees who are members of the National Guard or Reserve and they are called up to active duty. They help families, they help communities, they help the children, they assist in college education and in all sorts of wonderful ways, keeping the employee's salary going. Really remarkable.

And I was very interested to find out greater information about the Guard and Reserve. I know that some of my colleagues know this, but I wasn't fully aware of the incredible commitment that the Guard and Reserve are currently making. Since the inception of the National Guard and Reserves, there were only two call-ups in World War II and Korea until 9/11. And since 9/11 there have been five call-ups to active duty of members of the Guard and Reserve.

More than 200,000 Guard and Reserve troops have been called up for both the battle in Iraq and in Afghanistan. The number on active duty now is about 120,000, and over 450 companies have joined and participated in this Employers United for a Stronger America, and I think that they demonstrate that this is a larger issue. Our Nation's security is a larger issue than just that responsibility that is held by the troops and by the military.

One of my main concerns about national security, and I suspect others have a similar perspective, but it is what I call the "Vietnam syndrome." It is the sense that with the conflict and the war in Vietnam that we became tired and frustrated as a nation with that battle and with that war, and that that has somehow shaded how we have reacted to the acts in the war on terror since then.

And I say that because I want to remind folks of the Official Truth Squad quote that we cite so often, and that is that everyone is entitled to their own opinion but you're not entitled to your own facts. And I want to cite some fairly sobering facts tonight and I think it puts the whole issue into perspective about national security.

What I would like to do is just list items that have been truly acts in the war on terror, because it didn't begin with September 11. You know that, Mr. Speaker. Everybody can appreciate that. Really, September 11 was but one in a series of acts against our Nation and freedom.

Many folks will cite that the war on terror began in November of 1979, when there was the seizure of our embassy in Tehran and the incredibly long and arduous ordeal of the 444-day-long hostage crisis that so many of us remember vividly.

Then, in April 1983, the bombing of our embassy in Beirut with 63 Ameri-

cans killed. In October 1983, the bombing of our U.S. Marine Corps headquarters in Beirut, with 241 killed.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, these are facts. These aren't opinion.

December 1983, a truck loaded with explosives was driven into our embassy in Kuwait. September 1984, there was another violation of our embassy in Beirut.

April 1986, the Madrid bombing of a restaurant that was frequented by United States soldiers. August 1985, the bombing of the United States Air Force Base in Rhein-Main killing 22. October 1985, the Achille Laurel hijacking, where an American invalid in a wheelchair was executed.

April 1988, TWA Flight 840 was bombed, killing four. In 1988 again, Pan Am Flight 103 was bombed over Lockerbie, Scotland, killing 259. January 1993, two CIA agents were shot and killed as they entered CIA headquarters in Langley, Virginia.

Again, Mr. Speaker, facts. Facts, not opinions.

In February 1993, the first World Trade Center bombing with six killed and over 1,000 injured. November 1995, a car bomb explodes at a U.S. military complex in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, killing seven servicemen and women. June 1996, truck bomb in Dhahran destroys the Khobar Towers, a United States Air Force barracks, killing 19 and injuring over 500.

Facts, Mr. Speaker, not opinion.

Two coordinated attacks on U.S. embassies in Kenya in Tanzania, killing 224. October 2000, the U.S.S. *Cole* attack in Yemen. And then September 11, 2001, the attack, second attack, on the World Trade Center, with over 3,000 Americans killed.

And we wonder whether they are done.

Well, you don't have to go far to get, again, Mr. Speaker, more facts about the remarkable threat to our Nation's security. This is a quote just a little over a year ago from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in January 2005, very recent, in which he said, "We have declared a fierce war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology."

So I think it is very telling, Mr. Speaker, to appreciate that the challenges that we have as a nation are not minor challenges. They are remarkably significant and they have been going on not just since 2001, they have been going on for years and years and years. And it is imperative that we as a society and that we as a Congress recognize the challenges and the threats that are posed before us.

I am pleased now to yield to one of my good friends and fellow freshmen, Congresswoman VIRGINIA FOXX from the great State of North Carolina. She has been a wonderful participant and active member of the Official Truth Squad. She always has a great perspective. She has a history as an educator and comes with wonderful experience and great perspective, especially in

this area, the area of national security and national responsibility as it relates to national security, and I yield to her such time as she may consume.

Ms. FOXX. Thank you, Congressman PRICE. We are fortunate indeed to have you doing yeoman's work on the Truth Squad and making sure that we are organized every night and here to bring the truth to the American people, because they are certainly not hearing the truth from our colleagues across the aisle.

Those of us who are freshmen, as the audience can see, very often are in the Chair at night, and we heard these untruths being said over and over and over again last fall and we spoke to the leadership and said, we need to do something about this. And the leadership threw that back to us and said, Well, what are you going to do? So the freshmen decided that we would take on this task and be here to present the facts, the facts as they are, indisputable facts.

Earlier this evening, I came to this podium and spoke about Sergeant Anton Hiatt from the little town of Mount Airy, in the Fifth District in Surry County, North Carolina, and about the fact that he had been killed in Afghanistan. I expressed my sorrow and concern for his family and my gratitude for his service. Sergeant Hiatt represents the best of this country and the folks willing to serve our country in the military.

We are really, really fortunate to have the best and the brightest in our military. We have an all-volunteer military now, and these folks are stepping forward to do what needs to be done to keep this country free. Our enlistments are up and our reenlistments are up. And no matter what the national media would like you to believe, things are going much better in Iraq and Afghanistan than you hear about in the news on a daily basis. So we are fortunate to have those folks.

I have often come to this podium and spoken about the role of the Federal Government vis-a-vis national security. Anyone with just a moderate amount of history education will know that the Federal Government was formed to provide for the defense of this Nation. It was formed to break away from England, first of all, and then for the defense of the Nation. And that is our number one goal and our number one role.

The Federal Government, unfortunately, over the last many years, has taken on many other roles, but we should never lose sight of the fact that the Federal Government is the only level of government that can deal with national security and the defense of this Nation. So it is entirely appropriate that our focus here in Congress is on national security and on the defense of this country.

Night after night and day after day we hear the Democrats decry the amount of money being spent on national security and national defense.

Well, ladies and gentlemen, if we don't have our freedom, nothing else matters. And maintaining that freedom is the number one role of the Federal Government and of our wonderful military out there willing to sacrifice every day so that we can remain free.

I want to talk a little bit about something that is going to happen tomorrow, Mr. Speaker, on this issue of national security. Tomorrow, the Democrats are scheduled to host a media stunt to unveil their so-called "strategy" on national security issues. While I am sure that the Democrats will talk the talk, their actions speak far louder than words.

The American people need to look beyond the Democrats' spin and study their record. Again, let's go to the facts, not what they try to tell us, and their record on this issue. When the American people do that, they will see that the Democrats have no credibility because they have voted against many measures to keep our country safe.

I am going to give you some points on this. Republicans voted to pass a major border security bill in December, but Democrats, led by the minority leader, opposed the bill. Republicans believe that border security is national security.

Republicans voted to pass the PATRIOT Act to keep Americans safe, but Democrats, led by their minority leader, opposed the bill. In fact, the minority leader over in the Senate boasted that he had killed the PATRIOT Act.

Republicans voted to pass the REAL ID Act to make sure people who received drivers' licenses are here legally. But Democrats, led again by their minority leader, opposed the bill. And we all know that the terrorists that attacked us on 9/11/2001 had several drivers' licenses they were not entitled to, which led them to be able to do the horrific acts they were able to do.

If this wasn't bad enough in terms of these things I have outlined that the Democrats have done just in this session alone, they are now trying to cut \$60 billion from military weapons systems that keep our brave men and women in uniform safe.

If Democrats want to talk the talk like they are for a strong national security, then they need to start walking the walk. They need to stop coming in here every day and criticizing our President for doing all that he can to keep this country free. They need to stop patronizing us for supporting our men and women in uniform, and they need to understand what the role of the Federal Government is, because it is obvious that they do not.

National security is our number one issue, and as long as Republicans are in charge, we are going to see that it is our number one issue. We are going to see that this country remains free so that we can continue to do the great things that we have done.

We are the greatest nation on earth. We are not perfect. Nobody ever said

that we were. But we know how to get things done and we know how to allow for freedom, not just for this country but for others.

□ 2200

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I appreciate the gentlewoman's participation as part of the Official Truth Squad in trying to bring some reality and facts to the debate about whatever issue it is we are discussing, and this evening obviously it is about national security. You really put things in an appropriate perspective I think when you stated that oftentimes we tend to get clouded about what the Federal Government's real responsibility is. What is their fundamental responsibility? What is our fundamental responsibility? It is clearly laid out and that is the security and defense of our Nation. If we do not do that, nothing else matters that we do here.

I want to thank the gentlewoman for her participation in the Official Truth Squad tonight and appreciate your very cogent discussion about national security and about the importance of having folks work together in a positive and really uplifting way for America, not in a negative and spiteful and divisive way. We believe strongly that, again, these challenges are not Republican challenges, they are not Democrat challenges, they are America's challenges, and that is where we need to focus.

Right before Ms. FOXX discussed national security, I went through a list of events that had occurred since November of 1979, since the taking of hostages in Tehran at our embassy and that 44-day-long hostage crisis. There have been easily 15 to 20 specific factual events that have occurred, that when taken in their entirety clearly show that this war on terror, or what Frank Gaffney calls the war for the free world, has been ongoing for a longer period of time than most of us would admit to ourselves or to our colleagues. But it is true. It is true and it has not gone away.

Folks who say you do not need to worry about that, you just need to temporize things, that really the issue is not one that is that serious, that we do not need to address it in a head-on manner, I would draw your attention to this quote again from Abu Musab al-Zarqawi in January of 2005, and if this is not a chilling quote, I do not know what is. If this does not get your attention as a Member of Congress and as an American, I do not know what will: "We have declared a fierce war on this evil principle of democracy and those who follow this wrong ideology."

Madam Speaker, I think that means us. I think that means America; and any response that does not recognize the gravity of that situation is, I think, irresponsible.

So when we gather as Members of Congress and we talk about the issues that are before us as they relate to national security, you cannot overesti-

mate them. You cannot overestimate them. It is as fundamental as democracy itself, as clearly stated by our avowed enemy. He has defined himself as such.

There has been a lot of discussion this past week or so about Zacarias Moussaoui who is having his sentencing phase of his trial. This is the gentleman arrested in August of 2001 on immigration charges. He aroused suspicion. He was at a Minnesota flight school, and he presented himself to that flight school and said he wanted to learn to fly a Boeing 747. And thank goodness that somebody recognized this request as something that was a little out of the ordinary and he was arrested.

It turns out that he ultimately pled guilty to all six charges. He pled guilty in April 2005 to charges of conspiracy to commit acts of terrorism beyond national boundaries, to commit aircraft piracy, to destroying aircraft. That is what he pled guilty to. Again, facts not opinions. Conspiracy to use weapons of mass destruction, conspiracy to murder United States employees, and conspiracy to destroy property of the United States, and some people would minimize his involvement and say that is not really all that important, he probably didn't have that much to do with it.

Just this week, Mr. Zacarias Moussaoui claimed, proudly claimed, that he and shoe bomber Richard Reid were going to be the hijackers on a fifth plane on September 11 and planned to fly it into the White House. Thank goodness they were not successful in that endeavor.

Madam Speaker, I cannot tell you how proud I am of the men and women who defend our Nation. I cannot tell you how proud I am of the men and women who stand up in this body and in this Congress and provide those individuals the resources that they need to be able to defend our homeland, to make certain that we are indeed secure as a Nation.

I know that most of us get asked to visit school groups and scout groups, Boy Scout and Girl Scout groups, to talk about government and Congress. I enjoy those visits for many reasons, not the least of which is the vitality and enthusiasm of the young people is infectious. And their enthusiasm for America is infectious as well. Oftentimes I review basic American history and then talk about the type of government we have and whether our Nation will exist forever.

It is interesting the response that I get as I talk with young people because it is a question that many have not thought about or comprehended. When you ask them, they say, sure, America will exist, it will always exist because there is a sense that in spite of the problems and the challenges that we have, that we as a Nation, and in spite of our disagreements about policies that we have, we as a Nation will indeed survive forever. There is this general sense that it is the destiny of the

United States and its continuation as a representative democracy is just a given, that we are guaranteed to exist forever, kind of just because.

Madam Speaker, you and I both know all too well that simply is not an absolute. It takes constant vigilance. It takes the action of those individuals in Congress as well as men and women across this Nation to be constantly on alert and make certain that we constantly are giving back to our Nation.

It is certainly my hope and prayer that we continue to flourish so we in future generations will have the opportunity to live freely and to meet the challenges that allow all of us to reach our greatest dreams.

Madam Speaker, I know I believe in the wonderful goodness of our Nation. I believe in its wonder and its beauty and its awesome promise. But as you also know, Madam Speaker, I know that liberty and freedom and our Nation require constant vigilance and support. We truly are a wonderful and a glorious Nation, and we remain a beacon of light and a vessel of hope and freedom to men and women around the world. I think it is incredibly important that we appreciate that September 11 was simply the culmination of over 20 years of specific events, and that there are savages on the Earth who have admitted that they will go to incredible lengths, including their own death, in order to destroy our way of life. It is that kind of enemy, it is that kind of world that requires a different vigilance than we have known.

Each generation has its duty. Each individual has his or her role to play. We all know that freedom is not free and each of us has to sacrifice and each of us has a price to pay for the liberty and the freedom that we so enjoy.

Madam Speaker, it has been my privilege to come and present the Official Truth Squad perspective on national security this evening and to try to raise the level of the rhetoric here in the House Chamber, to try not to be divisive, to ask my colleagues to recognize, both Republican and Democrat, that we are all in this together, that the challenges that we have are not partisan challenges, the challenges we have are American challenges. And when we work better together, we are able to solve those challenges that much more easily.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the members of the conference once again for allowing me the opportunity to present this hour this evening. I want to thank each of my colleagues for joining me this evening.

God bless America and may God continue to richly bless our great Nation and the men and women who protect us.

#### THIRTY-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOX). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentle-

woman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, I yield to Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to be here once again with the 30-Something Working Group, and I want to thank the Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), for giving us the opportunity to spend some time talking tonight about the priorities of the American people.

I am thrilled this evening to be joined, as we come to the end of Women's History Month, to be joined by my fellow freshman colleague and also my roommate while here in Washington, D.C., the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. BEAN).

Ms. BEAN. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to join the gentlewoman.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, we spend a great deal of time at the end of the day talking about some of the frustrations about this job. The gentlewoman from Illinois and I, two of the few women Members, particularly in the freshman class that we were elected to, as were you, Madam Speaker, in 2004, who are moms with young kids that are trying to balance work and family. We find ourselves at home talking about that a lot.

Ms. BEAN, when you and I are sharing frustrations and stories about concerns that we have and that our constituents have, I find that we often end up talking about it in the context of our kids and the children of our constituents. I know you have a story that you talk to your constituents about, and you were telling me about the seventh graders in your district that you were talking to. I think that is a really neat story you should share.

Ms. BEAN. I mentioned it on the floor briefly that I had been with some kids several weeks back. More recently I mentioned to my colleague we were talking about Internet safety. I am the parent of teenagers, my daughters are 13 and 15, so the issue of Internet safety has been an important issue. I have been visiting middle schools to talk about some of the challenges that they face.

So we went to talk about Internet safety with the middle schoolers; and whenever I talk with middle schoolers, we also have a little bit of a civics lesson.

Many seventh graders I know in Illinois, as well as around the Nation, are studying the Constitution. I was pretty impressed with the quality of education our children are receiving because they had not expected me to ask them about it. They thought we were just going to talk about Internet safety, and I asked them about the Constitution and the Preamble, and if any of them had the Preamble to the Constitution memorized, and they did.

□ 2215

And they did. And I asked them to come on up. All the hands went up to

be part of our little civics class. And they came up, and we took that pre-amble apart.

We talked about in order to form a more perfect union, you know, what does that really mean and they understood that that meant trying to make our Nation better. We talked about providing for the common defense, and how that meant that we not only needed strong national security, but we also needed to protect our citizens when natural disasters could come as well. And we talked about the general welfare and the economy and how their parents and their neighbors and their community needed a strong economic environment so that they could provide for themselves.

We also talked about domestic tranquility. Some of them admittedly did think that that meant, don't hit your sister, so we went through that.

But we also talked about fiscal responsibility. And one of the things that was alarming to them, and it was intended to be and to create a discussion with them, was to talk about the national debt, which is now over \$8 trillion. And I shared with these seventh graders that their share of our national debt is now over \$27,000 each. And they were very displeased to hear that that was their share of national debt and said, Well, why aren't you guys spending less?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I think you need to stress that again. How much is every American's share of the deficit?

Ms. BEAN. Every American's share of the deficit is over \$27,000 of our over-\$8 trillion of national debt; and as you now know, we are raising the debt ceiling so we can bring that up to \$9 trillion. And it was really frightening to these kids.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. We talk about the deficit quite a bit in our 30-something hour, and one of the ways that I sort of try to boil it down, because, you know, when you think about the number 8 trillion, especially, I mean, I imagine you were talking to seventh graders, and 8 trillion is a really big number. Even \$27,000 is a big number.

Ms. BEAN. It is a big number when you are talking to 12-year-olds.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. So when we are on the floor here, I often try to boil down what those numbers mean in more simplistic terms. I can tell you that we, what we do is we talk about how it relates to someone's household budget. And you know, of course, families, millions and millions of families across this country struggle every day to balance their budgets to make sure that they are not spending more than they take in. And they are hoping that they are not racking up credit card debt and trying to balance all the needs that their family has, plus, you know, hopefully buying a few things that maybe aren't necessarily a need, but are just a want. I mean, that is something that in America we all strive to be able to accomplish.

But unfortunately, in Washington, when we got here, we found that there seems to be, between the two sides here, an ongoing struggle over whether or not it makes sense, amazingly, to not spend more than you take in.

Ms. BEAN. Well it is interesting how these seventh graders demonstrated greater fiscal sense than this Congress has been able to demonstrate, because we talked to them about debt and how essentially what we have been doing, to your point, to put it in their terms, would be like me, as a mom, getting a credit card in my daughters' names, okay, and going out and buying things for myself and then saying to them as soon as they are old enough to work, now you get to pay for all the things I bought myself.

That is essentially what we are doing to future generations. And they said, Well, that is just not right. And they were right in understanding that.

I also asked them, What would you do to not have debt; and they said, Well, spend less than you have. Pretty simple answer, but one that without PAYGO budget rules, which we once on a bipartisan basis adhered to in this body and were able to get ourselves to the largest surplus in the history of this Congress, we have now gone, since we have thrown out PAYGO rules and we are not requiring ourselves as a body of Congress to be more fiscally responsible, we now have the largest deficit in the history of the Nation, and that is pretty unconscionable.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Just to further explain the concept of PAYGO, we, as Democrats, have repeatedly introduced amendments and other proposals that would reestablish those PAYGO rules, the pay-as-you-go rules, and we have supported them. We have put all of our votes up on the board here that shows where we are versus where our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are, and Democrats have consistently supported returning to pay as you go, returning to the time when we didn't have to talk about a deficit, where we had a surplus, which was just before this, the beginning of this administration's tenure. And it would be wonderful if we could get back to talking about how we were going to spend the surplus, which we wish we had, when now, unfortunately, we are mired in debt and mired in deficit.

Ms. BEAN. Very much so. I mean, what PAYGO really did is, it forced tougher decisions. It forced a greater degree of transparency and honesty with the public because it forced us to say, if we are going to spend more on a particular program, where was that money going to come from. And that has really gone away. And with the lack of that, there are a lot of false promises to the public about the reality of our false accounting.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You just can't have it all. I mean, the other story that I share with people when we are here on the floor during this 30-

something hour is it is like when we talk to our kids. You know, sometimes my 6-year-old twins will say, Mom, you know, I really want, we will be in the toy store and they want everything in every aisle. And, you know, gosh, I would love to buy them everything in every aisle. But often, I have to say "no," and then I try to explain to them, you know, our budget, the money that mom and dad earn really only enables us to afford to buy you some of these things. You can't have everything you want.

Ms. BEAN. Exactly. It is so fun to be here with you because this is my first time joining you in your 30-something colloquy, because at 44 I am a little outside of the age span, so I appreciate you inviting me today. But it is fun for us to be able to talk about our children on the House floor where we haven't done that before.

But I think there are some very strong parallels in what you are saying, in that oftentimes I think in our roles in Congress with the public, with our constituents, we have to bring a little bit of tough love to the equation the way we do with our children. We can't just tell people what they want to hear, but what they need to hear, which is the reality of our fiscal challenges.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And, boy, as moms, we certainly have a lot of practice at that.

Ms. BEAN. At the tough love.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Tough love is something that unfortunately the word "no" gets thrown around a lot more than I would like, than my kids would like to hear. "No" doesn't seem to exist in this body, at least under this leadership in the Congress.

Ms. BEAN. Well, that is why PAYGO is an important thing, because it creates an environment that forces those kind of tough decisions and forces a more honest dialogue with the public about what is affordable and what is not. Absolutely.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I want to go back if you don't mind. I want to go back to the chart that I was referring to earlier.

One of the things that we do try to do, and I am pleased to see that our colleagues from Florida and Ohio have joined us now. But when we talk about \$8 trillion, and when we talk about what a billion means, we have come up with a chart that kind of tries to boil that down. This chart will help people; it has helped people understand the notion of how much a billion is.

A billion hours ago, humans were making the first tools in the Stone Age. A billion seconds ago, it was 1975 and the last American troops had pulled out of Vietnam. A billion minutes ago, it was 104 A.D., and the Chinese first invented paper. And then, of course, under the leadership of this Congress, and this administration, a billion dollars ago was only 3 hours and 32 minutes at the rate that the government spends money today. That is a

startling contrast, and I have some excellent staff work that went into developing that, that figured that out and boiled down what a billion is.

But when you think about it that way, that means that we are spending money at a startling clip and that given how much in other definitions it took to get, it takes to get to a billion, it is really amazing when you look at it in these terms.

Ms. BEAN. I think you have another chart, if I am correct, that talks about what that means in terms of our spending priorities and that while we are spending so much on interest—you do have it—it essentially shows that we are spending more on interest on the debt that we have created than we are on education, on homeland security and on veterans' benefits. And I don't think the American public fully appreciate what those opportunity costs are, that that lack of fiscal discipline has consequences.

And, sadly, we are not moving in the right direction as we look at the 2006 budget, which only projects a \$423 billion spending deficit, but it is considerably more than that when we factor in AMT fixes, and when we factor in the cost of the war, which we stopped counting in October, even though that is running at \$6 billion a week, that we are not even projecting the real deficits, that this chart is going to look worse if we continue down this path.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You are absolutely right. And I would like to welcome my colleague, the gentleman from Ohio, Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. As you are talking about the interest on the debt, we have got to get the money from somewhere; and as we show, night in and night out, here on the 30-something group, we are borrowing a good deal of this money from China. And this is what has happened since President Bush took over, Madam Speaker.

In 2000, we borrowed \$62 billion from China, and in 2005 it grew exponentially to \$257 billion that we borrowed from China. So this is significant in so many ways, as the gentlewoman from Chicago, from Illinois stated, that we are paying the interest on the debt. And that is money that is not going to education. That is money that is not going to homeland security. That is money that is not going for health care, veterans, whatever the case may be.

So that is bad enough, but we are borrowing it from China, so now we are paying them interest on money and they are taking that and putting it into their state-owned companies and hurting American manufacturing and a lot of American small businesses that I am sure are in your district, as they are in mine. And all we are saying is, this is a competitive global economy. We can't have this disadvantage here of where we are going to borrow the money and they are going to take the interest out of the American economy and pump it back in, so they are winning twice.

Ms. BEAN. I think you make a valid point. Americans are very uncomfortable with that foreign debt, particularly that ratio, because it minimizes our leverage in other areas and I think even has national security implications over the long term that make us all uncomfortable.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely.

We have another chart that we talk about. The amount of debt that has been racked up in just the last few years, just in the last 4 or 5 years is actually greater than all of the 42 administrations before this one. I mean, that is a truly astonishing statistic. I was really incredibly surprised about that.

We also try to boil down the difference between the debt and the deficit. The deficit is related to the fact that we spend more than we take in.

Ms. BEAN. More than we are bringing in, absolutely.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Right. The debt is the amount of money we borrow from other countries in order to remain fiscally solvent. I mean, that is truly amazing that we have so much debt that is owned by foreign nations.

And I don't know if the gentleman from Florida is ready to jump in yet, but he has an amazing chart, as well, that shows the United States of America and the percentage of the debt that is owned by other nations.

Ms. BEAN. I have some of those figures in the meantime, while you get the chart. It is actually, four lenders currently hold a total of \$2.174 trillion of our public debt. Compare this to only 23 billion in foreign holdings in 1993. The top 10 current lenders are Japan at \$682 billion; China at \$249 billion; the UK at \$223 billion; Caribbean banking centers, \$115 billion; Taiwan, 71 billion; and it goes on and on.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It is just, we have got to get a handle on this. We have to restore some fiscal sanity. We have to put on some brakes and we need a little tough mother love. Maybe it is just that we need to bring a few more moms into this Chamber and we will have a little more tough love, because apparently the folks here are either out of practice, or I don't know, maybe the discipline around their homes isn't, you know, is not so strong.

Ms. BEAN. That is absolutely true. When I talk to the seventh graders and the middle schoolers and I say to them, Well, what would happen if your parents spend more money than they have? And they said, We will get debt. And I said, Then what would happen? And they said, Well, then people would start taking our stuff and then we might even go bankrupt.

□ 2230

And, again, they understand that we have not demonstrated more responsibility as a Congress, which, as I know, is frustrating for the American people.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Actually this is a little bit of a leap, but

you and I sit on the Financial Services Committee together, and I know that you have been very involved in the data security issue because, in addition to the concern that Americans have over our debt and our deficit, they are also very concerned, and I know my constituents talk to me about this all the time, about the financial information that is out there about them personally is being compromised on a regular basis. And I know that you have really been a leader in that effort, and it would be good for you to talk about it.

Ms. BEAN. It has been a big issue for constituents of all ages. We initially focused pretty much on seniors in the suburban districts that I represent because they have very much been a target; so what was done was we tried to introduce the legislation that is now moving through from our Financial Services Committee that we both serve on which will require, in addition to financial institutions, those database brokers that hold that personal financial data to have to let consumers know if there is a breach of that security information. But what we have found is there are other Internet challenges beyond data security in that regard. And I mentioned the Internet safety issue, and that has been a big issue that I have also been focusing on with both parents with some evening forums that we have done in our district and also with students themselves.

As I mentioned, when I was with those middle schoolers and I asked them, How many of you communicate on the Internet, not only with friends but with strangers on sites like the myspace.com and others out there, 75 percent of the hands go up, and we are talking 12-year-olds. And then you ask them, Do you appreciate the dangers? Only half of those hands went back up. So we were there to remind them of the things they have to be careful about.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. That is something that, with my 6-year-olds and 2-year-old coming up behind them, my husband and I are already talking about how to safeguard the information that they have access to and make sure we are aware and keep them and their computer in close proximity to us because there is so much out there. The Internet is an amazing thing, but there is so much out there. And whether it is data security or the security of our kids, we really have to make sure that we strike a balance, which is what you have been fighting for, and I have as well and other Democratic members on our committee. We have to strike a balance between making sure that business has the ability to operate and function and that we not unnecessarily restrict commerce on the Internet.

Ms. BEAN. That we inform families how to protect themselves and their communities. So I know we are not the only ones doing forums. I know many communities and schools on their own are beginning to roll out those kinds of educational awareness programs, and

we want to continue to support that, absolutely.

We should talk briefly about, since it is the end of Women's History Month, whom we just had dinner with.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You are absolutely right. One of the most amazing things about having the privilege that we have to represent our communities in Washington is the people that we get to meet and interact with. And you and I, along with the other members of the bipartisan Women's Caucus, had an opportunity tonight to have dinner with former Justice Sandra Day O'Connor, the first woman ever to serve on the United States Supreme Court.

Ms. BEAN. It was such an honor.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It was incredible. And I mentioned to her that I was 13 when she was first nominated by then-President Reagan and that my parents raised me to believe that young women, young girls could grow up and truly be anything they wanted to be and that was my first memory that that was the most clear example of that being true. And it was just a thrill to be able to share that with her tonight.

Ms. BEAN. It was so inspiring to hear you talk about how it affected you and how it affected all of us, regardless of all our ages, all these women Members of Congress who were so inspired by Sandra Day O'Connor and her leadership, her professionalism, and her dignity with which she served on the Supreme Court and what an inspiration to women she was. I was excited too that my daughters, who you know are here, not in the House Chamber at the moment, but who are here during their spring break vacation to join Mom out here in Washington and get a chance to meet her as well. I know for them that is going to be something they will remember for the rest of their lives. It was so exciting.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Absolutely. And I think it is only 70 women that serve with us in the House of Representatives out of 435 Members. You boil that down even further, there is only a handful of us who are moms with young children. There are only four of us that are younger than 40 years old. The thing that sticks in my mind from the time that we were elected 1½ years ago now is that story that they shared with us when we were at our orientation initially. If you recall, there is a statistic that they described there. There have been a little less than 12,000 people in American history who have served in the United States House of Representatives in all the 230-year history. And of that number, only 211 of them have been women and 70 are serving now.

So as we close out Women's History Month, Madam Speaker, and you are one of those women members in the Women's Caucus, and I remember talking with you, Madam Speaker, actually about when we heard that information. It was really astonishing.

Ms. BEAN. It was a number that reached out and grabbed you. Out of 12,000 total, only 200-plus were women.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. 211 women out of almost 12,000 people.

Ms. BEAN. Even with all that progress, I know it sometimes is shocking to some of those high school and middle school students that we do civics classes with. I know you do as I do, and I will say to them just out of curiosity, What percentage of the Congress do you think are women? And usually they will say 40 percent or 35 percent, and they are shocked to find it is still only 14 percent.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It shows you that we have really come a long way, but it really demonstrates why we need to continue to have Women's History Month and how it is so important to show young girls who are coming up behind us that they have the opportunity. They have to reach out and grab it. And it is our responsibility to pull other young women up on the platform with us now that we have been able to have an opportunity like this, not to be discriminatory against our male colleagues whom we are sharing the Chamber with this evening.

And actually the gentleman from Florida is the dad of a young girl who is a wonderful young woman and works hard in school, and I know that especially since you are the son of one of the House of Representatives' most revered women, former Congresswoman Carrie Meek, that surely you have something to add at the end of Women's History Month.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We definitely appreciate the contributions of women. If it weren't for women, there would be no men. And the way I look at it, being a mamma's boy, Madam Speaker, and I will admit to that even though I am a big rusty Congressman now, we appreciate all the contributions of women. And it is definitely good having women in the House, in this House, and in the U.S. Senate.

I think it is also important to reflect on the future, the opportunities. We talk about innovation here within our caucus. We look for a bipartisan way of approaching that to make sure that we can have more engineers. There are very few women engineers that are in higher education right now, and we have to make sure that they have access and opportunity. We do not want women or men to go overseas to work when we should have jobs here in the United States of America. So when I look at the opportunities and the success that women have had in the past, I know that in the future we still have to fight and make sure that we have inclusion, and that is important.

Madam Speaker, I am also proud to say that there are a number of individuals, younger girls, that are trying to develop themselves right now educationally, and we need to make sure that we provide them opportunities for the arts, opportunities in the area of physical education, and to allow a

childhood to be broader than just taking a standardized test. And that creativity is going to be important.

But I am so glad you and Congresswoman BEAN were really getting heavy, and I wanted to just jump in a little bit because I grew up in a household with three women, my mother and my two sisters; and, of course, you know I have my wife and my daughter and my son. So we look forward to making this celebration even greater and greater every time, but also we have to be mindful as policymakers of making sure that we allow women and young girls to be able to have opportunities greater than women before them.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. How about the amazing experience we had 2 weeks ago with the President of Liberia, the first woman president of an African nation who addressed the joint session?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Words are inadequate to even describe the way she explained to us her struggle as a woman, and it is hard for Liberia and the United States to be able to reflect on what her life was all about. She was sharing with us here, Madam Speaker, that you see the glory; but let me share the story with you and how she still has one foot in on the uneducated woman in Liberia and Africa and the Harvard-educated woman one foot in the United States. And I think it is important for us to remember that we have to remember when we have the opportunity to lead. And I think she is grounded in that, and I think Liberia is going to be better because of it.

And she shared with us that she didn't want our pity, but she wanted to be able to receive our assistance because they will perform. She talked about the reforms she has made in her administration, making sure that she has accountability, making sure that she wipes out and stamps out cronyism, and to make sure that children can smile again, and that is important. It is important to build an environment in a community where children feel safe of where they live and where they go to school and all of their contributions.

So I was excited about her visit. I got down here a little early so that I would get a chance to shake her hand; and I look forward, Madam Speaker, hopefully, that we can help Liberia, one of the true allies of the United States of America, and has been so for a very long time. As you know, Liberia is one of the countries where slaves, once they were freed, went back to Liberia, and many of them have American last names because they brought them back from slavery. So we do have a connection with that country.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It was incredibly moving for all of us. And she didn't mention it during her speech, but it was very fitting that she spoke during Women's History Month. And I am not certain of this, but she is certainly one, if not the only, woman leader to ever address a joint session of

Congress, unless Margaret Thatcher had previously addressed a joint session. I have not found anyone who actually could recall a woman addressing a joint session. So it was just really historic in so many different ways.

I really also thought about how we could take several pages from her lesson book because a lot of things that she talked about, making sure that you did not only look out for the privileged and making sure that you thought about the needs of young children and young girls in particular who needed to get an education and have hope and opportunity. In this country so often it appears as though the leadership in this body and in this country now has had a lot of disregard, quite a bit of disregard, for those things. And I am certainly hopeful that our colleagues were listening very carefully to her remarks and took them to heart.

Ms. BEAN. You remind me again of being back in the classroom with these kids and talking about that Preamble to the Constitution which talks also about the decisions we make for ourselves and our posterity and how they even understood that the decisions we make as Americans, whether in Congress or at home in our communities, affect generations of future Americans.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Just to shift gears a little bit, recently we have been talking about homeland security quite a bit, and I am not sure if you had a chance to talk about that with the seventh graders when you were in the classroom with them, but since we just came off a week, and, Mr. MEEK, I know that you spent some time talking to your constituents as well, I was really struck when I was home last week during our recess by how many more of my constituents appealed to me to come back to Washington and make sure that I continue to fight to improve our national security, that their confidence in this government's ability to keep them safe has really been shaken on so many levels, not just in terms of protecting them from terrorists and from outside actors, but just generally had their confidence shaken in their government's ability to function.

□ 2245

I mean, the culture of corruption that has been hanging over this institution, sadly, and this administration, really has shaken the confidence, I think, of our constituents to their core.

We really need to return to a time when we can restore that confidence, let them know that not all of the people in this government are in it for the wrong reasons, and that, in particular, we do put a very high priority on our national security.

Ms. BEAN. Absolutely.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And that the port deal that was recently proposed, and, seemingly, not had an

interest in even a 45-day security review with a country that had been implicated in some way, in the 9/11 attacks, that is the kind of thing I heard about when I went home.

I heard about how they are really deeply concerned about the lack of port security. I mean, we have invested now, we have third-party validators that we talk about here on this floor.

Mr. MEEK, when I went down to the port of Miami after the revelation came about the DPW port deal, the port personnel there, in our home port, talked to me about the \$18 billion that has been spent since 9/11 improving airport security, which is a good thing, and they are happy about that, and the less than \$700 million that has been spent to improve our port security, the less than 6 percent of U.S. cargo that comes through our ports that is physically inspected, 95 percent not inspected.

The general lack of confidence in our homeland security, in our government's ability to do the right thing on all fronts, is really, I think, at least from when I went home, something that is really disturbing them.

Ms. BEAN. Across the country, not just in Florida, but I think homeland security is a big issue across the board. I hear it in my town hall meetings and in the forums I had in my district as well.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, the way I look at this whole homeland security issue, and I am concerned, and I was over in the Senate, had an opportunity to sit down with some reporters, with Democratic Whip Steny Hoyer and also Senator SCHUMER from New York and some others, and I think it is important that we look at this for what it is.

The line is 95 percent of the containers that come into our ports are not checked. That is the real issue here. We can't really jump up and down about the 5, some say 6. I think it is important for us to remember, Madam Speaker, that this bipartisan effort that we should have as it relates to homeland security, I speak from the standpoint of being a member of the Homeland Security Committee, having the opportunity to serve on the oversight subcommittee and management and integration.

I can tell you right now, for us to go to 100 percent check is not a hard thing for us to do. But we have to set our priorities on what we want to do and how we want to do it, and when we want to do it.

I think the American people want to be protected, and I think it is important that we provide them that opportunity. As you know, we cry out for bipartisan support in this. I will tell you, Democrat, Republican, Independent, Green Party, you name it, any individual that is thinking about voting, I can tell you this right now. They believe in the security of our country. They don't care who brings about this security, who appropriates this money, they just want the job done.

We don't need a situation where a container is being shipped from the port of Mobile, Alabama, or through Illinois, what have you, and end up, God forbid, some sort of chemical agent is in this container because it was not checked.

Too many people in the world know that we don't check 95 percent of our containers, and that is dangerous on both sides of the ball. I think we are far beyond politics when we start talking about making sure that we increase our containers, container security and screening our containers. There are other countries that have 100 percent check.

I think that if other countries can do it, I know that the United States of America can do it. But it is all about our priorities. It is about how we set them, and it is about how we work together.

Unfortunately, we have some difficulty in that area right now, but hopefully we will be able to improve on that through pressure from the American people.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. MEEK, the thing that keeps coming to mind when I think about the comparison between the stress that has been put on airport security versus port security, if you ask, if you go out into the country and ask most Americans the difference that they have seen since 9/11 and in security in general, basically about the only thing that Americans could say that they could identify is they have to remove their shoes before they walk through a magnetometer at the airport.

I think most people really feel today that we should not be resting the sum total of our national security on taking your shoes off as you go through a metal detector. American people expect quite a bit more than that when it comes to homeland security, especially if you live near a port, like my district includes two, Port Everglades and the Port of Miami.

We have so many, so many potential openings around this country, and vulnerabilities. To focus all of our attention on only the ones that are most visible that provide the leadership here, the ability to say, see, we did that, we have taken care of that, and just provide surface reassurance about homeland security, that is the difference between words and action.

It is the difference between nice commentary in speeches and actually backing up those words with action.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If the gentleman would yield, I think the great example that we have used here a million times is Katrina.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Exactly.

Mr. RYAN of OHIO. You guys are from Florida. We are from the Midwest, so we don't have hurricanes.

Ms. BEAN. Absolutely.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We have a ton of snow, but no hurricanes. The fact that this government had days to prepare

for Katrina and couldn't figure out how to do it. Now, we are talking about something that may happen that we will not have 5 days' notice to plan for it. It is difficult for us to understand, but this needs to be addressed, and it needs to be addressed immediately.

Because the fact of the matter is, the American people were counting on us. Our first obligation here is to make sure that we are protecting the American people and to have 95 percent of the cargo not inspected, I think, is a dereliction of duty on our part. I will be happy to yield to our friend.

Ms. BEAN. I think I am going to yield back the balance of my time, if that is okay. But I want to thank you, my colleagues, for letting me join you during this 30-something hour, my first time joining you even though you let an older Member join you.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, you have two beautiful young daughters waiting in the cloakroom for you.

Ms. BEAN. That is exactly right. That is why I am yielding back my time. I appreciate you letting me join you today, in the interest of not only my kids, but the seventh graders we talked about today. It has been very important.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It was wonderful to have you join us. I will see you at home.

#### 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, this is 30-something Part 2 here. I am glad Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Ms. BEAN had the opportunity to claim the first hour. I see Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ is proudly wearing her Florida pin, her Gators pin.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Go Gators.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. They are in the money, and I believe Florida will be able to do some great things.

Let me just say, Madam Speaker, as you know, we come to the floor to talk about a number of things, talk about what we as Democratic Members here in the House have to offer the American people. We want to make sure that there is no secret about our plans, about our initiatives, and what we are trying to do to be able to make sure that this country gets back on fiscal discipline, track, be more physically, fiscally sound, I am sorry, I am trying to get it out, it is a little late, but also just to make sure we are accountable to the American people, not just accountable to the Democratic citizens of the United States of America, but to make sure that we are accountable to all Americans.

I think that is the approach that we are taking, through the polling that I am seeing and reading, not only in periodicals, but also that I am getting

individuals that are e-mailing what people are saying and how they feel. Madam Speaker, to my e-mail, a number of them, I am very pleased about how the Democratic Members of the House and Senate have stood up to this administration.

As you know, Mr. RYAN, there are a number of issues that have been unearthed through what we do here on this floor, by sharing with the American people, Madam Speaker, with third-party validators and making sure that we share our plans with the American people and make sure that they are not what we say in some parts of the country, hoodwinked, bamboozled, or what we say here in Washington DC to be a recipient of the Potomac two-step.

I believe now more than ever, Mr. RYAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. DELAHUNT that the American people should and deserve to be leveled with. I think that is what we are looking for. They are not looking for who is the greatest party on the face of the Earth, and who has the best mascot or who wears the best tie or the best dress or the best suit or whatever the case may be. They are looking for individuals that are willing to govern above the table and not under the table.

I know, with great confidence, that we are there 110 percent. On terrorism, we are there 110 percent. We are on the side of making sure that we track down the individuals who are responsible for 9/11. Not only track them down, but kill them if necessary. I think it is important that we lay that on the table right here, right now.

The bottom line is the fact that we on this side of the aisle have fought on behalf of increasing container security at the ports. We just had an example last week, Mr. RYAN. Mr. SABO had an amendment here on the floor. Another example that we are going to talk about a little later on is we tried to increase security at the ports on the heels of the whole lack of security at ports, Mr. DELAHUNT, and still the American majority voted it down.

I am excited about the fact that we are back. I am excited about the fact that we are going to talk about some of these issues tonight.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. One of the issues, too, is we are talking about this. We now have evidence where a recent report coming into our hands, through the United States Senate, that investigators smuggled in enough radio active material to build two dirty bombs into the United States, which calls into question this administration's efforts to secure our borders.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. RYAN, if you would just yield for a moment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I think it is important to recollect for a moment our friends from the other side of the aisle, part of the Republican majority of this House, tonight were on the floor and they were talking about how for this

Congress, this Bush Republican Congress, national security and homeland defense were a priority.

It would appear that simply by repetition, by saying it somehow it translates into meaningful national security in real homeland defense. Yet we find again and again and again that this country, as a result of the actions by this White House and this Bush Republican Congress, have failed to provide homeland defense that is meaningful for this country.

That report, by the way, it should be noted, was conducted by the Government Accountability Office. That is an independent arm of this Congress. This is not Democrats picking on Republicans.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. This isn't, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. MEEK, saying we are going to run a sting operation to check the ports and see how the borders are. This is the Government Accountability Office. This is their report, and they were able to sneak in, through the northern border and the southern border, enough radioactive material to build two dirty bombs in the United States of America.

We are not here because we want to pick on anybody.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If my friend would yield for a moment.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I would be happy to yield.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I want to commend a Senator, a Republican, that requested this particular GAO investigation and inquiry and commissioned that it be undertaken by this independent arm of the U.S. Congress. This is what that Republican Senator from Minnesota has to say about the findings and the conclusion of that report.

□ 2300

The Senator said, A report that investigators smuggled enough radioactive material to build two dirty bombs into the United States called into question the Bush administration's efforts to secure the borders.

Senator Norm Coleman, a Republican, a Minnesota Republican, who heads the Senate Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations which held a hearing said he was alarmed at the ease with which investigators brought the unspecified radiological material and transported it across the northern and southern U.S. borders.

Now, when I hear that this Bush Congress and this Bush White House have done something about homeland defense and national security, Madam Speaker, who is kidding who? Who is kidding who? Can't we have some honesty?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. You know what strikes me when you say that is that we talk about the culture of corruption and cronyism and incompetence that has existed for quite some time now and it is only getting worse with every passing day, it is interesting that the administration appears to think that just by changing out a

staffer, by swapping one person, a chief of staff, for another, that that is somehow going to magically transform this administration into a competent one.

It is amazing to me that they could get materials into this country if they have been supposedly stepping up their commitment and our ability to keep our Nation secure in the last 5 years. How is that possible if they are running a tight ship like they say they are?

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I can, there is a second report in addition to the one that we were just discussing. This second report, again, commissioned by the Republican chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on Investigations, its conclusions were this: The Homeland Security Department has placed 670 monitors at ports around the country. At the current pace the department will fail, let me repeat that, fail to meet its goal for installing 3,034 devices by September 2009. To reach the goal the department would need to install 52 monitors a month for the next four years, though its current installation rate is 22 a month, the report said.

Now, this is to determine whether radioactive material that could be used in a dirty bomb is being detected. Now, by the way, if you happen to live in Miami or if you are from Georgia, you should know that the ports of Miami and Savannah, Georgia are among those without the devices that they need. So if you should be living in those particular States, be aware that you are vulnerable to have from the sea, through the ports, material that could be used in a dirty bomb come into your neighborhoods.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I want to comment. This is the same article, from the GAO report, again, a third party validator, not from the 30-Something Group.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, that is a Blumberg news agency.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. This is a Blumberg news article. Thank you.

This quote is from a retired Coast Guard Commander who is now a Senior Fellow at the Council on Foreign Relations, Steven Flynn. "Both the opportunity for terrorists to target legitimate global supply chains remain plentiful and the motivation for doing so is only growing."

We are living on borrowed time. And all we are saying here is that the strategy from this administration is wrong. You cannot convince me, Madam Speaker, that we could not marshal the resources of the United States of America and focus this country's energy on the equipment, the technology, the research that needs to be done to develop the newest technologies, and put them where they need to be, you cannot convince me that we could not do that, Mr. MEEK. You cannot convince me that the United States could not do that.

What we are saying here, and we are not here to pick on anybody, we do not want to hurt anybody's feelings but it

seems that the end result can be tragic. And you know what, there may be a situation where we do do all we can and it may not be enough. But to sit here and see this haphazard garbage, lack of focus, this administration has the worst case of political A.D.D. we have seen in a long time and it is hurting the country.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Just put the facts out on the table. I just find it so amusing when I hear that national security and homeland defense is something that this side of the aisle, the Republican side of this aisle, the majority that runs this House in conjunction with the administration that is headed by a Republican President and a Senate that has a majority of Republicans are suggesting that national security and homeland defense are a priority, and yet study after study, committee after committee reports that we are ill prepared.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. RYAN, you talk about A.D.D. and lack of focus in terms of making sure we can keep this Nation safe. Lest people think that the DPW port deal was an isolated incident where we think that that was an anomaly and we are not continuing down that path of engaging foreign governments and the corporations they own to help us with our national security or to be involved in our national security, right after the withdrawal of DPW we learn, and through a third party validator again, the Associated Press, that the administration acknowledged that they issued a no-bid contract to Hutchinson Whampoa Limited which represents the first time a foreign company will be involved in running a sophisticated radiation detector at an overseas port without American customs agents present.

I mean, what is going on?

We are from Florida. The Bahamas is 30 minutes by plane. It is really unbelievable that there is an astonishing lack of concern about the gaping holes in our national security that this administration appears to have no qualms about leaving unprotected.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I think it was you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, that alluded earlier to the experience of Katrina and other national disasters. I mean, there was a report issued again by a subcommittee of this House that concluded that the response to Katrina was a failure of leadership. I mean, that cannot be said any more succinctly or simply.

A member of the committee, again, a Republican, let me repeat that, not a Democrat but a Republican, our colleague, CHRIS SHAYS from Connecticut, said this: The report is very tough on the President. It is very tough on the Department of Homeland Security. It is a blistering report but I think it is fair.

The panel found that Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff was detached, and that the then-FEMA Director Michael Brown was clueless,

Shays said. In one of the excerpts Chertoff was chided for executing critical responsibilities late, ineffectively or not at all, according to the report and to Mr. SHAYS.

□ 2310

Yet, when I turn on any of the stations and the issue is homeland security, the spokesman for the Homeland Security Department is often Secretary Chertoff. So let us just continue along that road, and you know what is going to happen? We are going to continue to find a failure of leadership in every instance that this administration is implicated in.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, last week, we had an opportunity, Mr. SABO from Minneapolis-St. Paul offered an amendment in this House to add over \$1 billion to port security, homeland security, in the supplemental, and it got shot down on pretty much a party-line vote.

Time and time again, the Democratic Party has offered amendments in committee to increase funding for homeland security, and the majority side, time and time again, shoots down those amendments to add additional funding. But if it comes to giving tax cuts to the wealthiest people in the country, they are all standing, saying we have got to go for it, but if we need an extra \$1 billion for homeland security, everyone heads for the hills, and they hide under the seats.

Here's a list, June 17, 2003, Mr. OBEY from Wisconsin, increase port and maritime security by \$500 million. Republicans defeated the amendment on a party-line vote.

June 24, 2003, another amendment by Mr. OBEY, increase port and maritime security again by \$500 million. We are not even addressing the problem. I mean, \$7 billion more we need, \$6- or \$7 billion more just to address what the Coast Guard is telling us we need. Mr. OBEY is only asking for \$500 million, Madam Speaker. Republicans block consideration of that amendment by a vote of 222-200. That is Rollcall vote 305, Madam Speaker, and this other one was in the House Report 108-169, page 97, for the Members, Madam Speaker, who would like to look it up.

We are not making this up. You people want to know what the Democrats want to do? We want to increase funding for port security, and the Republican majority will not let us.

September 17, 2003, Mr. OBEY, Mr. SABO and Senator BYRD tried again to increase funding to enhance port and maritime security, \$475 million. Guess what happened, Madam Speaker. Republicans defeated this amendment on a party-line vote. You want to know what the Democrats want to do, Madam Speaker? We want to increase funding for port security by half a billion dollars.

June 9, 2004, another amendment by Mr. OBEY of Wisconsin in the Appropriations Committee to increase port and container security by \$400 million.

We are not asking for an arm and a leg here. We are still \$6.5 billion away from where we need to be, but we are just trying to chip away. Throw us a bone. Help us out. We just want to get moving in the right direction here. What happened again? Republicans defeated the amendment on a party-line vote, House Report 108-541, page 128. Go look it up.

I am quite frankly tired of hearing that the Democrats do not have an agenda because every single day in committee, no matter what committee it is, Appropriations Committee, Armed Services Committee, Education Committee, Homeland Security Committee, we are trying to get things done, and the Republicans block us every single time. This is what the Democrats want to do and we are getting blocked.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, it comes down to who is telling the truth and who is not. I mean, just because I may put something behind me and say that I stand for homeland security, do I really stand for homeland security? We are in the minority. When you are in the minority, Madam Speaker, I think it is important for us to explain to Members and staff, in case someone did not get the memo, that when you are in the majority you set the agenda that comes to the floor. You raise your hand thumbs up or thumbs down for your caucus to vote in the way that you want them to vote, when I talk about the Republican majority.

I think it is important for us to understand that the White House has said, oh, we have a strategy for Iraq, and then we find out that they all along never had a strategy.

Oh, we do not know anything about outing CIA agents. Some folks forgot about that. We do not even know the lady's name. Later, we find out through an independent investigative counsel that they knew everything about it.

What are you talking about a port deal? We do not have any knowledge of this. What is going on on this, someone told me in the hall. I mean, they knew exactly what was going on and the reason why it is happening and the reason why folks are getting away with it.

Like Secretary Rumsfeld, I am on the Armed Services Committee. It is an outright joke, to come before an Armed Services Committee to tell us whatever they want to tell us, and so shall it be written, so shall it be done; why are you asking questions. Matter of fact, I am bothered to come to Capitol Hill and have to respond to the Armed Services that constitutionally you have oversight over the Department of Defense.

We have individuals that are in shirt and tie, have the look of frustration. I mean, you are going to ask us? Yeah, we have a war, and now, the President has just said, well, you know, as it relates to troop withdrawal, I guess that is up to another President.

Mr. RYAN was talking about it earlier. He represents Youngstown. Someone says, Congressman, are we ever going to have a strategy as it relates to education?

Mr. DELAHUNT. Madam Speaker, we never had a plan when we went in there, let alone a strategy to leave.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Let me say. Mr. RYAN and I were talking a little earlier, and it is like Mr. RYAN telling his constituents, well, I know we have to have an education strategy, but that is not my job; that is up to the next Congressman that represents Youngstown.

Madam Speaker, the reason why the President is saying whatever he wants to say, when he wants to say it, is because this Republican Congress has allowed him to say it and get away with it. Our job is not the day-to-day operation of the war in Iraq. It is our job to bring in this presidency, making sure that we are accountable to those troops that are on the ground and our mission.

The bottom line is, what is our mission? I mean, these are the individuals that gave this Congress bad information, and then the minute that they gave the Congress bad information got away with it.

There were weapons of mass destruction. Then apologize, well, we got bad information on weapons of mass destruction. I am sorry, you know, hey, it happens, but individuals have died. Now, we have Iraqi troops that are now being downgraded; they cannot even fight without U.S. troops backing them up.

Then the Secretary says, well, you know, there may be a civil war. There is a civil war going on in Iraq. Let us just say it. Let us put it out there.

The coalition, you do not hear anything about the coalition getting bigger and greater. No, it is not getting bigger and greater. Matter of fact, the Brits are leaving this year and a number of other countries have said, hey, you know, I am willing to take the training wheels off the Iraqi Army.

Let me just say this, Madam Speaker, because I think that Mr. RYAN laid it out so that everyone can understand. A new Member of Congress could understand what you just set out.

The bottom line is that trying is not good enough. We need the American people to chime in and make their Member of Congress stand up on behalf of the American people. Mr. RYAN said correctly, and backed it up with the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, the fact that we have a Republican majority that is more loyal to an individual riding around here making \$1 billion or \$1 million a year or record profits, or whatever their industry is, than they are committed to container security. It is not just what KENDRICK MEEK is saying. That is the fact, and Mr. RYAN laid it out, and yes, we do have a level of frustration.

Folks say you seem like you are upset. Well, we should be upset, and I

do not care if it is Democrat, Independent or Republican. Mr. DELAHUNT said it earlier, as far as ports. Containers come into a port. Guess what. There are trucks that they go on the back of and trains that they go on the back of. They go throughout America, and next thing you know, this issue makes it to the heartland or Sioux City, Iowa, or whatever the case. The people may say, well, that is a coastal issue. That is not a coastal issue. It is an American issue.

□ 2320

And they have been allowed to do whatever they want to do, whenever they want to do it because this Congress hasn't reined them in.

I am going to close in 1 second, but I just want to also point out, Madam Speaker, since we are pointing out a few things here, that we have turned on the lights here in the Chamber. This whole Dubai thing and the Republicans marching around, "We stopped that from happening; we blocked that deal." Well, guess what, there were a couple of votes before that where they tried to block it, but procedurally they blocked the Democrats from doing that. It is not who blocked it, it is about how we got there.

How did an under secretary level individual make this kind of decision; the outsourcing of American Security? It happens every day, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. And I can tell you this, "We are standing up to the President." No, you are not standing up to the President. But guess what? When all of America is standing on this side of the line and saying, are you representing us or who are you representing, are we standing up for Dubai?

What did the President say? I got a little confused there, Members. I am sorry. The President said, well, we have got to keep our word. What about keeping our word to the American people on security and health care and all those things he talked about during the campaign? And all the Republican Members won the majority because they said, trust us on security, trust us on fiscal responsibility.

Don't get me started on fiscal responsibility. It is almost like the guy running from the back of the class, who is an F student, who says I want to be the valedictorian of the class because I say that I am. Did not work, did not study, did not do the things that he needed to do to be the top person in the class, but better yet, because they say it, that makes it right.

What does this mean, Mr. DELAHUNT? This means if the American people see fit that the Democrats are in charge of the Congress, that the White House will not be making statements and saying, well, we have said it publicly so that means you can't do anything about it, Republican Congress.

And if folks want to talk about a Democratic plan in Iraq, it is accountability, it is making sure we take these no-bid contracts and put them on top

of the table and really get down to the reason why we are still in Iraq. I am just talking about what I am talking about, Mr. DELAHUNT. I am not saying there are some shady deals, but there are a number of articles that are out that are pointing to this.

Every day this stuff is coming out, Madam Speaker, and I think it is very, very important that we focus in on that.

Mr. DELAHUNT. If I can just make an observation, Madam Speaker, I asked my staff to count the number of hearings that the International Relations Committee has conducted in terms of the United Nations and the need to reform the United Nations, and also hearings that had a focus on the so-called Oil-for-Food program. Throughout Congress there were dozens of those hearings.

Do you know how many hearings we have had in the International Relations Committee on the issue of corruption that we know is going on in Iraq, Madam Speaker? Would you think maybe there have been 20 or 15 or five? No, there are none, despite repeated requests from Members of this House. Not a single hearing into the corruption that many different sources have acknowledged is rampant in Iraq in the past 3½ years. Not a single one. Because this Congress is afraid. This Congress is protecting the administration and is abrogating its responsibility.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Make sure we are clear about which part of the Congress is afraid and where the leadership has been exercised on our side of the aisle in terms of that oversight and where it has been shunned on the Republican side of the aisle, Mr. DELAHUNT.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Not a single hearing. Not a single hearing, Madam Speaker. Not one.

Can anybody, can any Member, Republican or Democratic, please respond and provide an explanation, when there have been reports after reports after reports, indictments, reports from the special Inspector General for Iraq reconstruction. It cries out for investigation. It cries out for oversight, Madam Speaker.

You know, when the CPA, the Coalition Provisional Authority, came in, and in the immediate aftermath of the fall of Saddam Hussein, and began to administer as a viceroy, if you will, for the nation of Iraq, there was \$8.1 billion left over from the United Nations Oil-for-Food program. There was an audit done subsequently. Not a single penny of that \$8 billion plus can be accounted for. That is outrageous.

Why haven't we heard from this Congress the need to conduct oversight hearings? If the American people were aware of the requests that have been made continuously to do the kind of work that we were elected to do and is not being done, there would be outrage, Madam Speaker.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I just want to piggyback on your observations. I am the least senior of the four of us. I am a freshman, and about 15 months into my first term. We have talked many times on this floor in our 30-something Working Group about the lack of outrage, the astonishing lack of outrage, the deafening silence on the other side of the aisle about all these things we are talking about.

Why no hearings? Where is the accountability? Why aren't they demanding some answers from this administration about the results in Iraq, about how we got into Iraq, about the leadup, about the fact there were no weapons of mass destruction? And how come we haven't had any hearings on the intelligence and whether that was manufactured, or was it shaped around the decision that was already made clearly by this administration? Not one hearing. Not one hearing on almost anything since I have been in the United States Congress.

And what I have noticed, the observation I want to make is that we have had a very slow but now more rapid deterioration of our system of checks and balances. This Congress, the Republican leadership in this Congress could care less about oversight. They would just cede the whole ball of wax to this administration. This administration has run amuck. That is how I really believe the American people feel. This administration has been allowed to go unchecked, unresponsive. No one asks any questions.

You know what was really ironic, what was really interesting, was that it appears as though the outrage has built on the Republican side of the aisle, our good friends on the Republican side of the aisle. I noticed there was a whole lot of outrage that was cropping up all over during the Dubai Worlds Port deal. That sense of outrage on that side appeared to be in direct proportion to the reduction in the President's polling numbers. The lower his numbers got, the more outrage there appeared to be.

I think that it probably would be a little bit more comforting for most Americans if the outrage was more consistent about Katrina and its aftermath, about the war in Iraq, about the deficit, about the debt, about the corruption, about the cronyism, and about the incompetence. This administration has veered so far off to the right. There is a stranglehold that the right has on the Republican leadership in this country. They are so out of the mainstream now.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Not the right, if I can correct my friend and colleague, but the far right.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. The far right.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Not the traditional conservative Republicans that have made an enormous contribution to this country and whom we respect, but the radical neoconservatives.

And it is so interesting now to hear from those that were there right after

the inauguration talking about how at the first national Security Council meeting, Madam Speaker, there was discussion about war and going to Iraq and changing the regime and making it a national priority.

□ 2330

Again, if you want to get into competence, put aside whether you supported going into Iraq. I happen to be opposed because this administration in my view never made a case. But that is irrelevant. Talk about lack of competence.

Let me refer you to a story that appeared in the New York Times about a month ago. It states that the American general in charge of training the new Iraqi military after Baghdad fell says the Bush administration strategy to use those forces to replace departing American troops was hobbled from its belated start by poor prewar planning and insufficient staffing and equipment. The account by Major General Paul Eaton on January 31, after 33 years in the Army, suggests that commanders in Iraq might by now have been much closer to President Bush's goal of withdrawing American forces if they had not lost so much time in the first year to begin building a capable Iraqi force.

I am quoting a decorated American hero: "We set out to man, train and equip an army for a country of 25 million with six men." Referring to General Eaton, he worked into the autumn with a revolving door of individual lone talent that would spend between 2 weeks and 2 months and never receive even half the 250 professional staff members he had been promised. The general's assessment of the problems he confronted was seconded by Walter Slocumb, sent by the Bush administration to Baghdad 6 months to serve as the senior civilian adviser on national security and defense.

Again, Mr. Slocumb, an Under Secretary in this administration said, "I have to agree with General Eaton that it was hard to get the resources we needed out there. There was not a broad enough sense of urgency in Washington."

And today we hear this President, this Secretary of Defense, talking about the need to train Iraqis. Why didn't they listen to their own military commanders, specifically the one that was in charge. He was calling on them to do something and they turned a deaf ear, and we are still in Iraq today because of their incompetence.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, the real issue is this. We want to talk about listening to the military commanders on the ground. I heard time after time again about oh, yes, whenever our commanders tell us what we need, we will give it to them. Well, if it has anything to do with America, if it had anything to do with Hurricane Katrina, and all of America saw the video that Michael Brown, of all people, said, Mr. President, we think that

the levees will break. We think that we need assistance immediately as it relates to evacuation. We need resources. Silence.

Afterwards we have a partisan committee appointed by the majority, and they have findings with no solutions.

Madam Speaker, I have a solution right here right now. The bottom line, if we were in the majority, and this is not make believe, this is a possibility, I believe those individuals who are not registered to vote are going to register to vote to bring about some sort of change from what is going on right now.

I feel very good Members coming to the floor and sharing with American people, not just Democratic folk because if I wanted to just share with Democratic folk, I would send some sort of blast e-mail out to a Democratic list of individuals, or I would go down to the Democratic National Committee and say I just want to do a Webcast and I just want to talk to Democrats.

No, Madam Speaker, we committed to the American people that we would uphold the Constitution and represent them, if they are Democrat, Independent, nonvoter, Republican, whatever the case may be. They are going to get representation. On this issue of national security and accountability, this administration has moved in an unprecedented way and is making history in the wrong areas, putting us in debt to foreign countries that we have never been in debt to, but putting us in debt to where it is going to be very difficult to get a plan to get out of debt.

We on this side want to pay as we go. Mr. RYAN knows. Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ knows, as does Mr. DELAHUNT. Once upon a time and youthful indiscretions, hey, I was a little loose with the credit cards. I will put my hand up. It happens. But I will tell you this, when those creditors call your house, they disrespect you from hello. They do not say, "May I speak to Mr. MEEK." They say, "May I speak to KENDRICK. Is KENDRICK home?" That is what is going to happen.

I want to talk about the third-party validators. Let me move my Republican rubber stamp; that is for later.

When we talk about this debt, it is wide open. I challenge, I will say it again, I challenge any Member of the majority to come over and take a mike and tell us how this can be positive for our country, for us to be in debt to foreign nations.

I am going to put Canada up here. They are our neighbor. They own \$57.8 billion of our debt.

Taiwan, toys are made there, and some American flags are made there, too. They own \$71.3 billion of our debt.

The U.K. has decided to take the training wheels off the Iraqi government and withdraw a number of their troops because they know it is time for the Iraqis to stand up for themselves. They own \$223.2 billion of our debt, and climbing.

Folks want to get all concerned, I know some folks who fought wars before, Germany owns \$6.57 billion of our debt.

Korea owns, and I know that is something to our veterans, too, \$66.5 billion of our debt, U.S. debt they own.

OPEC nations, and Mr. DELAHUNT, please name a few of the OPEC nations for us.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Well, there is Saudi Arabia. The gentleman remembers Saudi Arabia because 15 of the 19 hijackers were citizens of Saudi Arabia. Those are the 19 hijackers that were responsible for the deaths of in excess of 3,000 Americans. Saudi Arabia is part of OPEC, and how much money do we owe OPEC?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We owe OPEC \$67.8 billion, but let us not leave Iraq and Iran and other countries that we have concern about where our troops are getting sand in their teeth right now. Let us not leave them out of the OPEC nations and allies and people of interest.

We have China, Red China, Communist China, China where U.S. workers are training their replacements in China to take their jobs, to make them unemployed. They own \$249.8 billion of our debt.

And Japan, the island of Japan, they own \$682.8 billion of our debt.

Now let me just say real quick to the Members, the Republicans have voted to put this on a credit card. They voted to put us into debt with interest. The Republican majority says we want to cut the budget in half by, and I do not know what the new number is, 2010, 2020. We have balanced the budget. The Democrats have balanced the budget. There is no other party in this House that can claim that something has been accomplished.

The bottom line is when these countries call in the tab on the United States of America, what are they going to say? Are they going to say, sir, ma'am? Or are they going to say "pay me." They are going to disrespect not only our seniors and others, but they are going to disrespect future generations.

The bottom line is if the Republicans wanted to govern, they would have done it by now. They set up the atmosphere to allow this administration to be out of control.

□ 2340

What are the Democrats going to do? We are going to bring them back into control. We are going to make sure that we have accountability.

We are going to make sure that folks come to the Hill and talk about why Osama Bin Laden is still running free. And without any great deal of fear of U.S. troops bearing down upon him once upon a time, why is he still out? Why is he still releasing audiotapes and videotapes and recommending books for the American people to read to understand him more.

The bottom line, Madam Speaker, people like Osama Bin Laden long ago

should have been tracked down and killed, period. That is just where it is and that is what we need to move towards.

Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I appreciate that. And you know, as we are beginning to wrap up here, I think it is important to make this point, because I am sure you did, and you guys have experienced this too. There is a certain level of frustration that I have because I feel like our generation is getting dealt a pretty bad hand here.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Kicked in the teeth.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. As you just showed, we are mortgaging off our future. This is public debt held by China that has quadrupled. We went over that earlier in the evening. The debt limit has been increased by \$3 trillion just since President Bush has been in, \$450,984,800 and recently almost up to, almost up to \$9 trillion in publicly held debt.

The war, I mean, this administration is strapping our generation with debt, with war, with lack of investment, with increased tuition costs, increased energy costs, millions of our fellow citizens without health care. This administration and the Republican Congress is dealing our generation a pretty bad hand.

And I started telling a lot of these student groups that come in and out of here, we go to schools and talk, hey, it is going to be our generation's responsibility, our life's work in this Congress, or wherever we may end up, to try to fix this mess. And that is exactly what it is.

I yield to my friend.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you. And what just keeps striking me about all of what we are saying is that it feels enveloped by the stranglehold that is around this administration's neck by the far right and that ideology, that the stranglehold of the far right on this administration and this Republican leadership drives their incompetence, drives their decisions on Iraq, drives their decisions on Katrina, or lack thereof, drives their decisions on the deficit, on the debt.

We talk about incompetence. We talk about corruption and cronyism and incompetence, but you cannot detangle, disentangle their incompetence and their ideology because the two are intertwined.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. You are 110 percent right, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

We can't say it enough. The bottom line is the message that we are giving out to the American people and to all the Republican majority: As a matter of fact, we don't need permission from the Republican majority to lead; we just need the numbers in this House to lead. And we are leading in many ways.

We call the first play when it comes down to many of the pieces of legislation that move through this House of Representatives and bringing some

level of accountability to it. Sometimes we are successful, Madam Speaker, in getting an amendment or two onto a piece of legislation because it is so abundantly clear the reason why they are useful to a piece of legislation. But why does it have to be abundantly clear? Why can't it just be good governance? Why can't it just be a bipartisan approach?

I will tell you, and I commit, Mr. RYAN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DELAHUNT, when we get in the majority which—I believe the American people will start asking questions and will take action against those that are allowing this history in all the wrong ways to take place, and elect Democrats to be able to allow us to come here and run this House in the way that all the American people can be proud and feel accountable, we will not bow down to the strong special interests and say, well, wait, we have to take care of them and then we will take care of you. And when we come down to take care of you, we are going to question you about why you need this assistance. And so I think it is important that we go through that.

As we make closing comments here, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, I don't know if you closed but you can go ahead.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. I will close just by saying this. It would be one thing, and the American people, I know, are understanding this and have an ever-growing understanding with every day that passes and they observe this administration and the Republican leadership here.

It would be one thing if they had the confidence that, you know, they could just sub out the Republican individuals here and sub in another, a different Republican and get a more competent person. Unfortunately, it is not just that the individuals here are incompetent or that this administration is led by incompetence. It is that the ideology and the incompetence are so intertwined that it doesn't matter which Republican you swap in.

We have seen the board lit up here where you have moderate Republicans, arms wrenched behind their back when they are trying to express what is supposedly their conscience, and instead they are forced to vote according to the ideological stranglehold that is around the neck of the Republican leadership and the Republican Party. And so it doesn't matter who you swap in and out. If the ideology doesn't change, which it is clearly not going to, then you will just get more the same. Just like you will have more of the same in swapping the individual, one individual for another in the White House, as the President did today, and what you would see if we didn't make the change that is so necessary with the leadership in this country.

I appreciate the opportunity to join my colleagues here again in the 30-something Working Group.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. DELAHUNT, we are making closing comments, sir.

Mr. DELAHUNT. You know what I also find disturbing and it really provokes a certain, let me use the word "disgust." When the administration is criticized, particularly some individuals, rather than speak of the policy, they speak in a language that refers to "them" or "those" or "some," never identifying "them" or "those" or "some." It is a particular trait of Secretary Rumsfeld. Actually, in today's Washington Times, there is a story about a speech that the Secretary gave to military officers at the Army War College. Let me just quote from the story.

"Defense Secretary Rumsfeld delivered harsh words to war critics yesterday saying, 'Some view al Qaeda operatives as victims.'" That is really unfortunate, because I would call on the Secretary to have the courage to stand up and identify who those "some" are. I dare say there is not a single Member in this House, Madam Speaker, that would view an al Qaeda operative as a victim. That is just simply disingenuous and certainly I would suggest demeans the office of the Secretary of Defense.

Who are "some," Madam Speaker? Not any American that I know, Madam Speaker. None. But if an American wants to criticize this war, this policy, this mismanagement by this Secretary of Defense, not only are they entitled to do it, Madam Speaker, they are obligated if they embrace everything that America stands for.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. As we wrap up, [www.housedemocrats.gov/30something](http://www.housedemocrats.gov/30something).

□ 2350

All of the charts, Madam Speaker, that we used here tonight are on this Web site for the Members to review and check out.

And again, in closing, before my friend wraps this up, I think again this administration, this Republican Congress, has really put the next generation behind the 8-ball with the war, with the debt, with the income inequality that has not been at this level of separation of the richest to the poorest since before World War II, and all the other issues we talked about. And I think it is unfair to do that to the next generation.

America has always been about making the next generation better. And, hopefully, with our advice and counsel, this Republican majority will take that and move forward.

If I do not get a chance to tell you guys, Go Gators.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you. Go Gators.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. To the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts and also the gentleman from Ohio and the gentlewoman from Florida, I just want to say that our whole reason for coming to the floor is to be able to share with the Members what is happening right now under the Capitol dome, not what happened 6 months ago, but what is happening today or a

couple of days ago, and about how we can correct ourselves.

The other message is letting not only other Members know, Madam Speaker, but the American people know that we are ready to lead. I always use the football analogy by saying, I am going to buy DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ a mouthpiece because she is ready to go. And I can tell you, there are a number of people, Madam Speaker, who are ready to lead.

Have you ever heard of "lead or get out of the way"? We are willing to do that. Do you want to talk about plans? This is just one binder of plans. Do you want to talk about innovation? Do you want to talk about homeland security? Do you want to talk about Iraq? Do you want to talk about education? Do you want to talk about health care? Do you want to talk about respecting our veterans and giving them the health care that we said we would give them? Do you want to talk about military families being dealt with in a way that they should be dealt with; and the men and women who are in harm's way, equipment for our troops? Do you want to talk about those things?

Well, other folks can talk about it. We are ready to act.

The only thing that is stopping us right now, Madam Speaker, are a couple of votes on this floor. And we want the American people and we want the majority to know that we are not on their heels, we are in front of them on this issue. And that is the only thing that is stopping us.

Now, either one of two things is going to happen. Either there are going to be some of our friends on the other side of the aisle saying, I am going to join with the Democrats and we are going to be bipartisan and we are going to do what we have to do on behalf of this country, or some individuals on the other side of the aisle, with all due respect to the gentlemen and the gentlewomen on the other side, are going to be unelected and we will lead. And we will show the American people, Madam Speaker, how we want to govern.

With that, we want to thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us to be here.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 609, COLLEGE ACCESS AND OPPORTUNITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Utah (during the Special Order of Mr. MEEK of Florida), from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-399) on the resolution (H. Res. 741) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BOSWELL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of airline delays.

Mr. CAPUANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. GIBBONS (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of official business.

#### 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 Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MCCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BISHOP of New York, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GRIJALVA, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BUTTERFIELD, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCHENRY, for 5 minutes, today and March 29, 30, and 31.

Mr. BILIRAKIS, for 5 minutes, today and March 29.

Mr. DREIER, for 5 minutes, today and March 29 and 30.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today and March 29.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, today and March 29 and 30.

Mr. KELLER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, for 5 minutes, March 31.

Mr. KING of Iowa, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 29, 30, and 31.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. FOXX, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and March 29.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today and March 29.

#### SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table, and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 166. An act to amend the Oregon Resource Conservation Act of 1996 to reauthorize the participation of the Bureau of Reclamation in the Deschutes River Conservancy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

S. 1608. An act to enhance Federal Trade Commission enforcement against illegal

spam, spyware, and cross-border fraud and deception, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

S. 2447. An act to redesignate the White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of Vermont as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area"; to the Committee on Resources.

#### ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

Mrs. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled a bill of the House of the following title, which was thereupon signed by the Speaker pro tempore, Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 4826. An act to extend through December 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

#### SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. ADERHOLT, announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 2275. An act to temporarily increase the borrowing authority of the Federal Emergency Management Agency for carrying out the national flood insurance program.

S. 2320. An act to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes.

#### BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on March 17, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res 47. Increasing the statutory limit on the public debt.

H.R. 1053. To authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine.

H.R. 1691. To designate the Department of Veterans Affairs outpatient clinic in Appleton, Wisconsin, as the "John H. Bradley Department of Veterans Affairs Outpatient Clinic".

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House reports that on March 21, 2006, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 4826. To extend through December 31, 2006, the authority of the Secretary of the Army to accept and expend funds contributed by non-Federal public entities to expedite the processing of permits.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 29, 2006, 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:

6737. A letter from the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting Notification of intent to obligate funds for an additional project for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2350a(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6738. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Anthony R. Jones, United States Army, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6739. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6); to the Committee on International Relations.

6740. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an annual report required by section 655 of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, pursuant to Public Law 104-164, section 655(a) (110 Stat. 1435); to the Committee on International Relations.

6741. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

6742. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the report on Measuring Stability and Security in Iraq pursuant to Section 9010 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2006, Pub. L. 109-148; to the Committee on International Relations.

6743. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report pursuant to the Cooperative Threat Reduction Act of 1993 and the FREEDOM Support Act, pursuant to Public Law 103-160, section 1203(d) of Title XII Public Law 102-511, section 502; to the Committee on International Relations.

6744. A letter from the White House Liaison, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6745. A letter from the Director, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Commerce, transmitting a copy of two Bureau publications entitled, "Consolidated Federal Funds for Fiscal Year 2004 (State and County Areas)" and "Federal Aid to States for Fiscal Year 2004"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6746. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6747. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6748. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a

report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6749. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6750. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6751. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6752. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6753. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6754. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6755. A letter from the Political Personnel and Adv. Comm. Mgmt. Spec., Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6756. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Administration and Management, Competitive Sourcing Official, Department of Labor, transmitting pursuant to the provisions of the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-270), the Department's Inventory of Inherently Governmental Activities and Inventory of Commercial Activities for 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6757. A letter from the Deputy Director for Legislative Affairs, Office of the Director of National Intelligence, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6758. A letter from the Office of the District of Columbia Auditor, transmitting a report entitled, "Certification of the Fiscal Year 2006 Revised General Purpose General Fund Revenue Estimate in Support of the District's \$331,210,000 General Obligation Bonds (Series 2005A)"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6759. A letter from the President and CEO, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting in accordance with Section 645 of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and Section 641 of Division H of the Fiscal Year 2005 Consolidated Appropriations Act, Pub. L. 108-447, the Corporation's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004 and FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6760. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's annual inventory as required by Public Law 105-270, the Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act of 1998 and OMB Circular A-76; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6761. 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.

6762. A letter from the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Shallow-Water Species Fishery by Vessels Using Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 022406B] received March 22, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

6763. A letter from the Alternate Federal Liaison Officer, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Clarification of Filing Date Requirements for Ex Parte and Inter Partes Reexamination Proceedings [Docket No.: PTO-P-2006-0007] (RIN: 0651-AC02) received February 28, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

6764. A letter from the Acting Director, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded \$5 million for the response to the emergency declared as a result of the influx of evacuees from areas struck by Hurricane Katrina beginning on August 29, 2005 in the State of Oklahoma, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

6765. A letter from the Acting Assistant to the Secretary for Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Eligibility for Health Care Benefits for Certain Filipino Veterans in the United States (RIN: 2900-AM03) received February 13, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

6766. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—2006 Calendar Year Resident Population Estimates [Notice 2006-22] received March 16, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

6767. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's budget justification for the Office of Inspector General for fiscal year 2007, prepared in compliance with Office of Management and Budget (OMB) Circular No. A-11; jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

#### 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:

[Omitted from the Record of March 16, 2006]

Mr. BARTON of Texas: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 4943. A bill to prohibit fraudulent access to telephone records (Rept. 109-398). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Filed on March 28, 2006]

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 741. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965 (Rept. 109-399). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 4882. A bill to ensure the proper remembrance of Vietnam veterans and the Vietnam War by providing a deadline for the designation of a visitor center for the Vietnam Vet-

erans Memorial (Rept. 109-400). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

#### TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 3127. Referral to the Committee on the Judiciary extended for a period ending not later than March 29, 2006.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 5013. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to prohibit the confiscation of firearms during certain national emergencies; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself and Mrs. BIGGERT):

H.R. 5014. A bill to provide for fairness for the Federal judiciary; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself and Ms. SLAUGHTER):

H.R. 5015. A bill to prohibit securities trading based on nonpublic information relating to Congress, and to require additional reporting by Members and employees of Congress of securities transaction, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committees on House Administration, the Judiciary, and Agriculture, 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. KOLBE:

H.R. 5016. A bill to provide for the exchange of certain Bureau of Land Management land in Pima County, Arizona, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SHAYS (for himself and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 5017. A bill to ensure the implementation of the recommendations of the National Commission on Terrorist Attacks Upon the United States; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), Government Reform, Armed Services, the Judiciary, International Relations, Financial Services, Transportation and Infrastructure, Rules, Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Budget, 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. POMBO (for himself, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. YOUNG of Alaska):

H.R. 5018. A bill to reauthorize the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. WALDEN of Oregon:

H.R. 5019. A bill to authorize the Bureau of Reclamation to participate in the rehabilitation of the Wallowa Lake Dam in Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HOEKSTRA:

H.R. 5020. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2007 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Man-

agement Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Ms. BERKLEY:

H.R. 5021. A bill to amend the Energy Employees Occupational Illness Compensation Program Act of 2000 to provide for certain nuclear weapons program workers to be included in the Special Exposure Cohort under the compensation program established by that Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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. BROWN of Ohio (for himself, Mr. LEACH, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Ms. LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. McDERMOTT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. HOLT):

H.R. 5022. A bill to amend the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to provide increased assistance for the prevention, treatment, and control of tuberculosis, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 Mrs. CHRISTENSEN (for herself, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. NORTON, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS, Ms. LEE, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. HONDA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 5023. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to repeal the amendments made by the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 requiring documentation evidencing citizenship or nationality as a condition for receipt of medical assistance under the Medicaid Program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H.R. 5024. A bill to require annual oral testimony before the Financial Services Committee of the Chairperson or a designee of the Chairperson of the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Financial Accounting Standards Board, and the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, relating to their efforts to promote transparency in financial reporting; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (for himself, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. HOOLEY, and Mr. DEFAZIO):

H.R. 5025. A bill to protect for future generations the recreational opportunities, forests, timber, clean water, wilderness and scenic values, and diverse habitat of Mount Hood National Forest, Oregon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. FORTUÑO:

H.R. 5026. A bill to designate the Investigations Building of the Food and Drug Administration located at 466 Fernandez Juncos Avenue in San Juan, Puerto Rico, as the "Andres Toro Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 5027. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit against tax proportional to the number of million British thermal units of natural gas produced by a high Btu fuel facility; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LINDER (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DENT, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 5028. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve and expedite the assessment and determination of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material threats by the Secretary of Homeland Security under the Project BioShield program; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. LINDER (for himself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. DICKS, Mr. DENT, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H.R. 5029. A bill to establish in the Department of Homeland Security a Domestic Nuclear Detection Office to improve the ability of the United States to detect and prevent acts of nuclear and radiological terrorism and to enhance coordination of such efforts across Federal agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mrs. MILLER of Michigan:

H.R. 5030. A bill to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to establish vessel ballast water management requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on 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. MOLLOHAN:

H.R. 5031. A bill to extend Corridor O of the Appalachian Development Highway System from its current southern terminus at I-68 near Cumberland to Corridor H, which stretches from Weston, West Virginia, to Strasburg, Virginia; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. NEY (for himself, Mr. McNULTY, and Mr. CROWLEY):

H.R. 5032. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the income tax forgiveness for members of the Armed Forces who die as a result of wounds, disease, or injury incurred while serving in a combat zone to include forgiveness for the last taxable year ending before the wounds, disease, or injury are incurred; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. ROTHMAN:

H.R. 5033. A bill to permit access to certain information in the Firearms Trace System database; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SANDERS:

H.R. 5034. A bill to redesignate the White Rocks National Recreation Area in the State of Vermont as the "Robert T. Stafford White Rocks National Recreation Area"; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. SERRANO:

H.R. 5035. A bill to provide discretionary authority to an immigration judge to determine that an alien parent of a United States citizen child should not be ordered removed

from the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H. Con. Res. 365. Concurrent resolution urging the Government of China to reinstate all licenses of Gao Zhisheng and his law firm, remove all legal and political obstacles for lawyers attempting to defend criminal cases in China, including politically sensitive cases, and revise law and practice in China so that it conforms to international standards; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ANDREWS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 736. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that legal action in Afghanistan against citizens who have already converted or plan to convert to other religions is deplorable and unjust; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mrs. BIGGERT (for herself, Mr. HINOJOSA, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. BASS, Mr. DREIER, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. LEE, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. FEENEY, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. HOLT, Mr. OWENS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. BAKER, Mr. REICHERT, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. FORD, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. OXLEY, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. HONDA, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Ms. BEAN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CLAY, Mr. NEY, Mr. BACA, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. CAMPBELL of California, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. DENT, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. KANJORSKI, and Mr. ISRAEL):

H. Res. 737. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON (for herself and Mr. CARDIN):

H. Res. 738. A resolution congratulating Jason Kamras for his exceptional dedication to the students of John Philip Sousa Middle School in Washington, D.C., resulting in his selection as National Teacher of the Year, 2005092006, in recognition of his work; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SHAW:

H. Res. 739. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the President should declare lung cancer a public health priority and should implement a comprehensive inter-agency program that will reduce lung cancer mortality by at least 50 percent by 2015; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. CROWLEY, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. WALSH, Mr. McNULTY, and Mr. ENGEL):

H. Res. 740. A resolution calling on the Government of the United Kingdom to immediately establish a full, independent, public judicial inquiry into the murder of Northern Ireland defense attorney Pat Finucane, as recommended by international Judge Peter Cory as part of the Weston Park agreement and a way forward for the Northern Ireland Peace Process; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah:

H. Res. 741. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 609) to amend and extend the Higher Education Act of 1965.

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 11: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.

H.R. 23: Mr. SHAYS and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H.R. 47: Mr. BEAUPREZ.

H.R. 97: Mr. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 115: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 147: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mr. POE, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida.

H.R. 226: Mr. WOLF.

H.R. 282: Mr. TOWNS and Mr. MCKEON.

H.R. 284: Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 303: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.R. 341: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 354: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 356: Mr. CANNON.

H.R. 363: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 376: Mr. MOLLOHAN and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 378: Mr. HONDA and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 408: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 478: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 503: Mr. DOGGETT.

H.R. 517: Mr. MCKEON, Mr. BOREN, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 559: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 616: Mr. POMBO.

H.R. 633: Mr. HIGGINS.

H.R. 697: Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FARR, Mr. WYNN,

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. TOWNS, and Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 699: Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ROYCE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BARROW, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 735: Mrs. MALONEY.

H.R. 752: Mr. LYNCH and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 805: Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 807: Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 865: Mr. GERLACH.

H.R. 867: Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 881: Mr. MEBHAN.

H.R. 994: Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. JINDAL, and Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina.

H.R. 998: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. RENZI, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. SALAZAR, and Mrs. MYRICK.

H.R. 1059: Ms. MCKINNEY and Ms. CARSON.

H.R. 1175: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.

H.R. 1182: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1188: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

H.R. 1204: Mr. SIMMONS.

H.R. 1217: Mr. MICHAUD and Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 1227: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SPRATT, and Mr. HUNTER.

H.R. 1241: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.

H.R. 1249: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 1298: Mr. MCHUGH.

H.R. 1339: Mr. JINDAL.

H.R. 1356: Mr. CLEAVER and Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1366: Mr. FILNER and Mr. FEENEY.

H.R. 1408: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 1415: Mrs. CAPPS.

H.R. 1425: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 1471: Mr. LAHOOD and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.

H.R. 1505: Mr. FORD.

- H.R. 1546: Mr. SHAYS.  
H.R. 1558: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.  
H.R. 1578: Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 1582: Mr. FORD, Mr. McNULTY, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. CASTLE, and Ms. WOOLSEY.  
H.R. 1621: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 1634: Ms. HARRIS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. RAHALL, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. HYDE, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. BEAUPREZ.  
H.R. 1696: Mr. WALSH.  
H.R. 1792: Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SAXTON, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 1872: Mr. BONNER.  
H.R. 1951: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 2034: Mr. RAHALL.  
H.R. 2052: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.  
H.R. 2103: Mr. PETRI.  
H.R. 2177: Mr. LEVIN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. HALL.  
H.R. 2292: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.  
H.R. 2351: Mr. HONDA.  
H.R. 2369: Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. GERLACH.  
H.R. 2429: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD and Mrs. CAPPS.  
H.R. 2534: Mr. GERLACH.  
H.R. 2567: Mr. SULLIVAN and Mr. FOLEY.  
H.R. 2568: Mr. GORDON.  
H.R. 2635: Ms. HARMAN.  
H.R. 2669: Mr. RUSH.  
H.R. 2671: Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 2684: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, and Mr. WYNN.  
H.R. 2716: Ms. HARMAN.  
H.R. 2841: Mr. CASTLE.  
H.R. 2861: Ms. HERSETH, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 2943: Mr. CLEAVER and Ms. MATSUI.  
H.R. 2961: Mr. COSTA.  
H.R. 2962: Mr. KUCINICH and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.  
H.R. 2963: Ms. CARSON, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 3127: Ms. MATSUI, Mr. WU, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. GERLACH.  
H.R. 3131: Mr. DOYLE.  
H.R. 3164: Mr. SOUDER.  
H.R. 3255: Mr. MARCHANT.  
H.R. 3307: Mr. GERLACH, Ms. HART, and Mr. WELLER.  
H.R. 3358: Mr. BARROW.  
H.R. 3385: Mr. INSLEE.  
H.R. 3442: Mr. WAXMAN.  
H.R. 3476: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. FALOMAVAEGA, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.  
H.R. 3478: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SKELTON.  
H.R. 3502: Mr. KUCINICH.  
H.R. 3588: Mr. ANDREWS and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 3602: Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 3644: Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. WYNN, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Ms. HART.  
H.R. 3658: Ms. WATERS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 3701: Mr. RANGEL.  
H.R. 3715: Mr. MARSHALL.  
H.R. 3883: Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.  
H.R. 3888: Mr. WAXMAN.  
H.R. 3931: Mr. PLATTS.  
H.R. 4005: Mr. EHLERS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mr. FERGUSON.  
H.R. 4015: Mrs. SCHMIDT.  
H.R. 4025: Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. CARSON, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 4033: Mr. MARKEY and Mr. MELANCON.  
H.R. 4166: Mr. GORDON.  
H.R. 4188: Mr. LEACH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Ms. LEE.  
H.R. 4197: Mr. PALLONE.  
H.R. 4200: Mr. HALL and Mr. BOREN.  
H.R. 4211: Mr. OWENS, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.  
H.R. 4229: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.  
H.R. 4236: Mr. STRICKLAND and Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 4259: Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. CASE.  
H.R. 4264: Mr. POMBO.  
H.R. 4298: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. LEACH, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Mr. SERRANO.  
H.R. 4332: Mr. OBERSTAR.  
H.R. 4341: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CALVERT, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.  
H.R. 4372: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. CLEAVER.  
H.R. 4384: Ms. BALDWIN.  
H.R. 4390: Mr. CONYERS.  
H.R. 4399: Mr. GERLACH.  
H.R. 4403: Mr. AKIN.  
H.R. 4413: Mr. SAXTON and Mr. LOBIONDO.  
H.R. 4434: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 4435: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 4460: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 4517: Mr. PAUL and Mr. ALEXANDER.  
H.R. 4542: Ms. LEE, Mr. CLYBURN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Mrs. CAPPS.  
H.R. 4547: Mr. CARTER, Mr. MARCHANT, and Mr. PLATTS.  
H.R. 4548: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.  
H.R. 4562: Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. TANCREDO, and Mr. STARK.  
H.R. 4565: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCKINNEY, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.R. 4596: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 4619: Mr. CARNAHAN and Mr. HINCHEY.  
H.R. 4641: Mr. PAUL and Mr. BOEHLERT.  
H.R. 4672: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 4681: Mr. TURNER, Mr. VISCSLOSKY, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. KELLER, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BOREN, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. HOLT, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.  
H.R. 4685: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.  
H.R. 4694: Mr. STARK.  
H.R. 4712: Mr. VISCSLOSKY.  
H.R. 4715: Mr. CHABOT.  
H.R. 4736: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.  
H.R. 4740: Mr. LATOURETTE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, and Mr. CUMMINGS.  
H.R. 4741: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.  
H.R. 4751: Mr. SOUDER.  
H.R. 4755: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. HEFLEY, Mrs. BONO, Mr. MARCHANT, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Ms. CARSON.  
H.R. 4760: Ms. LEE, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mr. SCHIFF.  
H.R. 4761: Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. ISTOOK, and Mr. ADERHOLT.  
H.R. 4764: Mrs. BONO, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. FOLEY.  
H.R. 4772: Mr. CALVERT.  
H.R. 4774: Mr. SOUDER and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
H.R. 4775: Mr. ALEXANDER and Mr. BAKER.  
H.R. 4790: Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.  
H.R. 4810: Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. MARCHANT, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Ms. FOX, Mr. PENCE, Mr. CANNON, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. WESTMORELAND, and Mr. KINGSTON.  
H.R. 4843: Mr. MORAN of Kansas.  
H.R. 4844: Mr. MILLER of Florida.  
H.R. 4861: Mr. WAXMAN.  
H.R. 4867: Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.  
H.R. 4868: Mr. GOODE.  
H.R. 4882: Mr. DOOLITTLE.  
H.R. 4889: Mr. LINDER.  
H.R. 4898: Mr. EVANS, Ms. CARSON, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. SERRANO, and Mr. HINCHEY.  
H.R. 4900: Mr. OWENS and Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.  
H.R. 4902: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CASTLE, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. HOYER, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NUNES, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PORTER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SODREL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WU, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.  
H.R. 4904: Mr. FILNER and Mr. SAXTON.  
H.R. 4917: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.  
H.R. 4922: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.  
H.R. 4924: Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. EDWARDS.  
H.R. 4937: Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina and Mr. JEFFERSON.  
H.R. 4949: Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. TANNER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. PICKERING, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. BASS, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.  
H.R. 4953: Mr. MCCOTTER and Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 4962: Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. ISRAEL.  
H.R. 4976: Mr. BERMAN.  
H.R. 4988: Mr. TANCREDO and Mr. SHAYS.  
H.R. 5000: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MEEHAN and Ms. WATSON.  
H.R. 5007: Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. REYES, and Mr. FILNER.  
H. Con. Res. 235: Mr. SMITH of Texas and Mr. ALLEN.  
H. Con. Res. 282: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Ms. SOLIS.  
H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.  
H. Con. Res. 318: Ms. LEE.  
H. Con. Res. 342: Mr. MEEKS of New York.  
H. Con. Res. 346: Mr. STARK, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. WU, and Mr. SCOTT of Georgia.  
H. Con. Res. 348: Mr. MICHAUD.

H. Con. Res. 355: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. McCOTTER, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. NADLER, Mr. CHANDLER, and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.

H. Con. Res. 357: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. GORDON.

H. Res. 127: Mrs. CAPPS, Ms. MATSUI, and Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan.

H. Res. 316: Ms. BEAN.

H. Res. 490: Mr. WEXLER, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, and Mr. SCHIFF.

H. Res. 600: Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 605: Mr. KUHL of New Jersey and Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey.

H. Res. 680: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Ms. NORTON.

H. Res. 688: Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Mr. COOPER.

H. Res. 699: Mr. POMEROY.

H. Res. 700: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.

H. Res. 703: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.

H. Res. 709: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.

H. Res. 717: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H. Res. 720: Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. BERMAN, and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H. Res. 729: Mr. UPTON and Mr. FEENEY.

#### DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 4200: Mr. SAXTON.

#### AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 609

OFFERED BY: MR. BLUMENAUER

AMENDMENT No. 1: At the end of title IX of the Amendment add the following new section:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . SUMMIT ON SUSTAINABILITY.

No later than May 2007, the Secretary of Education shall convene a summit of higher education experts working in the area of sustainable operations and programs, representatives from the agencies of the Federal Government, and business and industry leaders to focus on efforts of national distinction that—

(1) encourage faculty, staff, and students at institutions of higher education to establish both administrative and educational sustainability programs on campus;

(2) enhance research by faculty and students at institutions of higher education in sustainability practices and innovations that assist and improve sustainability;

(3) encourage institutions of higher education to work with community partners from the business, government, and non-profit sectors to design and implement sustainability programs for application in the community and workplace; and

(4) identify opportunities for partnerships involving higher education institutions and the Federal Government to expand sustainable operations and academic programs focused on environmental and economic sustainability.

H.R. 609

OFFERED BY: MR. BURTON OF INDIANA

AMENDMENT No. 2: At the end of title VI of the Amendment, add the following new section:

#### SEC. \_\_\_\_ . CONDITIONS ON PROGRAM GRANTS AND CONTRACTS.

Title VI of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1122) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

#### “SEC. 632. GIFT REPORTS BY RECIPIENT INSTITUTIONS.

“(a) REPORTING BY INSTITUTIONS.—

“(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—The Secretary shall require, as part of the Integrated Postsecondary Education Data System (IPEDS) annual data collection, that each institution receiving funds under this title include the following data:

“(A) the total cost of establishing or operating a program or center assisted under this title;

“(B) the names and addresses of all State and private sector corporations, foundations, or any other entities or individuals that contribute cash or any other property for the institution, programs, or centers receiving funds under this title;

“(C) the amount of cash or the fair market value of the property that each contributor

contributes to the institution, programs, or centers receiving funds under this title; and

“(D) the use made of each contribution by each such contributor.

“(2) DEADLINE.—Any report under paragraph (1) shall be made no later than such date as the Secretary shall require.

“(3) CONSEQUENCES OF FAILURE TO REPORT.—In the case of any institution from which a report is requested under paragraph (1), if the Secretary does not receive a report in accordance with the deadline established under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall—

“(A) make a determination that the institution of higher education has failed to make the report required by this paragraph;

“(B) transmit a notice of the determination to Congress; and

“(C) publish in the Federal Register a notice of the determination and the effect of the determination on the eligibility of the institution of higher education for contracts and grants under this title.

“(b) REPORTS BY SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall annually prepare a report summarizing the information collected from institutions of higher education under subsection (a)(1), including all of the information required by subparagraphs (A) through (D) of such subsection. The Secretary of Education shall publish such report in the Federal Register and transmit a copy of such report to the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate.

“(c) RETROSPECTIVE INFORMATION.—The data collected from institutions of higher education under subsection (a)(1) in the first submission after the date of enactment of this section, and the Secretary's first report under subsection (b), shall include the information required by subparagraphs (B), (C), and (D) of subsection (a)(1) regarding contributions made on or after September 11, 2001, and before the end of the first reporting period under such subsection.”.

H.R. 609

OFFERED BY: MR. COLE OF OKLAHOMA

AMENDMENT No. 3: Page 129, beginning on line 13, strike subsection (c) of section 402 and redesignate the succeeding subsections accordingly.

Page 139, line 24, strike “as amended by section 402(c) and”.