

weapons lab as detailed by the Rudman report. Instead, I agree with the conclusion of the Rudman report which states that the Department of Energy is, quote, "incapable of reforming itself, bureaucratically and culturally, in a lasting way even under an activist Secretary," end quote.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, the only way to protect our Nation's nuclear weapons is through the abolishment of the Department of Energy itself and placing all of its offices in other Federal agencies. I believe the management of our Nation's nuclear weapons and all classified related functions of the Department of Energy should be transferred to the Department of Defense. All other nonclassified functions should be transferred to a semi-independent agency within the Department of Commerce.

The bureaucratic stranglehold that has become the Department of Energy has placed our Nation's security at risk, and the only way out of effectively ending this ineptitude is through the ending of the Department of Energy.

#### A DAY TO MAKE OUR VOICES HEARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized during morning hour debates for 4 minutes.

Ms. DELAURO. Madam Speaker, I want to take a moment to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for helping to organize today's morning hour. This week Americans will honor working men and women who help others to organize, who help people take those first difficult steps toward forming a union that protects their right to a livable wage, affordable health care, a secure retirement and a safe workplace.

United employees are a powerful balancing force against runaway corporate power. United employees win better working conditions, pay and benefits for all workers, not just those who belong to unions.

I have always been unapologetic about working arm in arm with Americans who fight for the values that make this Nation great: respect, fairness, security and an opportunity to give our families a brighter future. As we all know, today's battles are infused with these values.

We have come a long way since the days when the United States did not know the meaning of employee rights. We have a labor movement to thank. Unions fought to free their members from back-breaking labor, unsafe conditions and from low wages. Unions fought for basic rights. Many a union worker gave their lives for these gains and these principles.

My own mother worked in a sweatshop in New Haven, Connecticut, during the early part of this century, slaving over a sewing machine. She worked long days in awful conditions for only pennies a dress. No one should ever have to return to these days.

But we do not need to refer to the history books to understand the need for unions today. Organized labor is as relevant and as important today as during those first organizing drives. We do not have sweatshops on the same scale, and there are a litany of labor laws on the books, but attacks still continue. Workers' rights are eaten away at constantly. Employees are losing leverage and their say in the workplace and in the larger community every day.

Over the past 3 years, with the blessing of the Republican majority, the business lobby has encouraged efforts to cut enforcement of worker protection laws and blocked development of programs to improve worker health and worker safety.

I want to talk about a victory in the movement to organize that happened last year in my own district, the Third District of Connecticut, and honor the hard-working men and women who fought for that victory. Last spring, 230 employees at the New Haven Omni Hotel won the right to openly choose their own union. This was a victory over the hotel's long-standing insistence on a secret ballot election. In a fight for the basic right to choose their own union, the employees were supported by elected leaders such as myself, local clergy, academics, students and civil rights groups.

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These groups held hearings, they met with hotel managers, and they even threatened to boycott the hotel. Such support should be the rule, not the exception, but sadly it is not. According to a Cornell University study, one in four employees who are active in union campaigns are fired each year for exercising their right to choose a union. Ninety-one percent of employers, when they learn that their workers want to form a union, force employees to attend closed-door meetings, to listen to anti-union propaganda, and once they have organized, working men and women still have to fight for basic rights. At the Stratford Army Engine Plant, Yale and Sikorski employees have had to fight for livable wages, health care, and adequate retirement policies. These are not only assaults on unions, they are assaults on the integrity of our communities.

Since the beginning, working men and women have fought for the values that make this Nation great, equality, fairness, security, and an opportunity to give one's family a bright future. The battle has not been easy, but together we will turn the tide and once

again help improve working American's lives and set new directions for this country.

I thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) for inviting me to join this morning. It is an honor to be here every day and every day in the fight to uphold American basic values. The fight is worth it, especially on behalf of American families.

#### IF NOAH LIVED IN THE UNITED STATES TODAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 19, 1999, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Mrs. MYRICK) is recognized during morning hour debates for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MYRICK. Mr. Speaker, this is not original. It was sent to me by someone else, but I thought it was very apropos for our life today. It is called If Noah Lived in the United States Today.

And the Lord spoke to Noah and said, "In 1 year I'm going to make it rain and cover the whole earth with water until all flesh is destroyed, but I want you to save the righteous people and two of every kind of living thing on the earth. Therefore I'm commanding you to build an ark." In a flash of lightning God delivered the specifications for an ark, and fear and trembling, Noah took the plans and agreed to build he ark.

"Remember," said the Lord, "you must complete the ark and bring everything aboard in 1 year."

Well, exactly 1 year later fierce storm clouds covered the earth, and all the seas of the earth went into tumult. The Lord saw that Noah was sitting in his front yard weeping. "Noah," he shouted, "Where is the ark? Lord, please forgive me," cried Noah "I did my best, but there were big problems.

"First, I had to get a permit for construction, and your plans did not meet the codes. I had to hire an engineering firm to redraw the plans. Then I got into a fight with OSHA over whether or not the ark needed a fire sprinkler system and floatation devices.

"Then my neighbor objected, claiming I was violating zoning ordinances by building the ark in my front yard, so I had to get a variance from the city planning commission. Then I had problems getting enough wood for the ark because there was a ban on cutting trees to protect the spotted owl. I finally convinced the US Forest Service that I needed the wood to save the owls.

"However, the Fish and Wildlife Service won't let me catch any owls, so no owls. The carpenters formed a union and went on strike. I had to negotiate a settlement with the National Labor Relations Board before anyone would pick up a saw or a hammer.

"Now I have 16 carpenters on the ark, but still no owls. When I started rounding up the other animals, I got sued by