

one's schools is from one's local community. So if one lives in a poor community, one is going to have less resources. If one lives in a rich community, there is going to be a lot more resources to educate one's child. That is why I got involved in politics, because I saw the disparity.

The gentleman from New Jersey is right. Most Americans a lot of times do not realize that the construction of that campus comes from only local resources. Just in the last few years has the State of Texas decided to help out a little bit. Prior to that, every single building in the State of Texas was only through local resources.

So it varies from district to district, from county to county in terms of how much they have and whether they can build more classrooms or not. Some decide to splurge and do things that they should not be doing.

But the reality is, yes, a lot of communities throughout this country need assistance. They need new technology. They need new wiring. I think it is going to be important for us to be there in the forefront to provide that technology and that infrastructure that will pay for the next generation and our future for this country.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Texas. I think we are running out of time so I want to kind of summarize and say that and I see that some of our colleagues are getting ready already for the State of the Union Address here tonight. But the bottom line is, with the State of the Union, is there is a real opportunity for us to work on a bipartisan basis on some of these issues.

I just hope that this year, unlike last year, we see the cooperation of the Republican majority in the Congress working with the President and with the Democrats to get some of these things done. Because if we do not, I think that the American people are going to be very disappointed.

They clearly want HMO reform. They want a prescription drug benefit for Medicare. They want the Federal Government to do more to help those who do not have health insurance. They want us to work on some of these education initiatives.

If we do not come through, we only have ourselves to blame. I am just really doing nothing more, as I am sure the President will do tonight, but to call on the Republicans and the majority in the Congress to work with us this year and not have the negative attitude toward the President's proposals that, unfortunately, we had in the last year.

RETURN ELIAN GONZALEZ TO HIS FATHER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Madam Speaker, I recently returned from Cuba with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and had the chance, while in Cuba, to talk with many people regarding Elian Gonzalez.

As a trained social worker, as a mother, and as a grandmother, my concern is that the child be in a loving environment, free of abuse. My concern is for his well-being, his mental and physical health and that he has a stable family environment.

We met with Mr. Juan Gonzalez, Elian's father, and his great grandmother and other members of his family. This meeting and discussions with many people in Cuba who know the family have convinced me unequivocally that Elian does have a loving, fit, and equipped family, and that he should be returned to his father immediately.

There is no way that a child should not be with his or her parents because of material things that we value in this country. In our own country, for example, 18.9 percent of our children under 18 live in poverty. In Florida, 22.3 percent of the children live in poverty. In my own home state of California, over 23 percent of California's children live in poverty. I say this to say that we cannot evaluate Elian's situation in material terms because there is nothing more valuable than the love of a father and the support of a family unit.

Now, I am greatly concerned that, in addition to the traumatic experiences of losing his mother, being shipwrecked, and nearly losing his own life, that Elian is now caught in an international custody battle. The constant barrage of questioning, interviews, protests, and the relentless exposure to the media, that has really only exacerbated the already extremely stressful and disorienting circumstances. Elian's health and his welfare must be our first priority. We must consider the potentially damaging and adverse impact of all of this negative activity.

I urge for Elian's expeditious return to his family, his father, his community, and his familiar environment. It is my fear that the longer that this battle continues, the more Elian and his family will be harmed emotionally. The decision of whether to return Elian to his family in Cuba should not be a political decision. It should be a decision that exclusively supports the best interest of the child and his need to be reunited with his father.

The time that I spent with Elian's father and his family has assured me in no uncertain terms that this reunification is a moral imperative and the right thing to do. I am appalled by the manner in which the rights of Elian's father, Mr. Gonzalez, continue to be threatened. To continue this policy which excludes Elian's father from participation in his son's life in his home sets a very dangerous precedent.

□ 1430

In no way would we allow our young people who do not have a lot of material things at home to be placed in homes that have more wealth. That is just unacceptable.

Please, let us do the right thing for Elian and please let us send him back home to his father and his family.

PRESIDENT'S STATE OF THE UNION ADDRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, tonight, as I sit in the Chamber with our colleagues, it will be my 14th opportunity and honor to sit in this room as the President of the United States delivers the State of the Union address for this Nation for the year 2000, the beginning of the new millennium.

I have had the pleasure of sitting through speeches by Ronald Reagan, by George Bush and, most recently, by President Clinton. We are going to hear a lot tonight, and I want to talk tonight about some of the things that we will likely hear and will not hear, and I want to talk about some foreign policy issues relative to a trip that I had the pleasure of leading with a bipartisan delegation of Members in November of last year to Russia.

Madam Speaker, what we know we are going to hear tonight, because of the huge surplus that is being generated with our economic upturn and the balanced budget that we are now in the midst of securing, we are going to hear the President basically recreate Christmas all over again. The American people will hear litany after litany of new programs, new ideas, new ways to spend money that has been generated because of our surplus.

And, believe me, Madam Speaker, there is going to be something for everyone. There will be a new program for everyone in the country. And Madam Speaker, it kind of amazes me because the American people have to understand, they can send us any amount of money they want, and we will find a way to spend it in Washington. But is that really what we are here for? Is our goal here to find new ways to create new programs with fancy sounding titles, with new bureaucracies, that are for the most part run by political appointees that are going to better tell the people locally how to run their lives or better solve the problems locally than if we gave the money back to the American people and then let them make those basic and fundamental decisions?

Believe me, tonight, if there is one thing we know we will hear it will be a

Christmas tree list of goodies that the President wants to give out all across this Nation. And he will try to hit every group in America there is. Every group.

Madam Speaker, we have done some good things over the past 6 years. And, yes, many of them have been with the bipartisan effort in this body and the other body. But, yes, some of the times we have had to fight the administration every step of the way.

I can recall when the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH), our distinguished Committee on the Budget chairman, first proposed balancing the budget 6 years ago. The President got caught and he did not know what to say. In fact, I remember the famous commercials where he would say we are going to balance the budget in 8 years, 7, 6, 5, 4. He really did not know because he had no plan. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KASICH) stuck his neck out and said we will submit a plan for a balanced budget, when no one else believed him, including some on the Republican side. The gentleman from Ohio persevered and eventually we accomplished what many thought was impossible.

Now, the President will take credit for the balanced budget. But in fact if we look back over the past 7 years, I can recall a couple of years where the President's budget he submitted to us got no votes in the House. Not one vote. Because no Member from either side would support the President's budget plan. Yet tonight President Clinton will take credit for the balanced budget that we are now enjoying which has helped to promoted our economic success.

Our Congress, our leadership here, with the support of some Democrats, has tried to give back as much money from the surplus as possible to the American people. But here the President has fought us every step of the way. He has rather desired to keep the money in Washington where the bureaucracy can better decide how to spend funds than allowing the American people to get that money back for themselves. There are some in this city who think that the money we collect from the taxpayers of America really is our money as opposed to their money.

Here tonight we will hear the President talk about welfare reform. What we will not hear about tonight, Madam Speaker, is the President saying that he made a mistake twice and vetoed the welfare reform bill. Because two times over the past 7 years the Congress, bipartisan, Democrats and Republicans, passed welfare reform in both bodies. Two times. And in both of those cases the President vetoed welfare reform.

It was not until he read the polls and he saw that the American people wanted welfare reform that he finally signed the welfare reform bill the third

time, and then announced after he signed it he was going to make substantive changes to the bill that we had passed that he signed in the following fiscal year. And then good things happened with welfare reform, as we said they would, for the past 5 years, 6 years, and the President now will take credit for that tonight. He will say look at how many people are working as opposed to being on welfare. Where were those President's comments when he vetoed both welfare reform bills that the Congress passed with bipartisan votes over the past 5 years?

We will hear the President talk about protecting Social Security tonight. But, Madam Speaker, we will not hear about the President last year wanting to use 60 percent of the Social Security surplus for other programs. We will not hear him talk about that. We will not hear him talk about the fact that Congress resisted and said, oh, no, Mr. President, we are not going to spend any of the Social Security Trust Fund money. We are going to protect all of that for our senior citizens. So the President will talk about protecting Social Security, but he will not talk about the fact that he originally wanted to use a significant portion of those dollars.

Now, we are going to hear the President talk a lot about education tonight, Madam Speaker. And being a teacher by profession, and one of the 25 Members of Congress who used to be a classroom teacher, education is very important to me. The President is going to come out with a lot of grandiose plans to spend a lot of money that is controlled by Washington, to keep those strings attached so that the bureaucrats in this city control how local school boards and how local superintendents decide how to best meet the needs of their people.

One of the things that this Congress has done for the past 5 years has been to allocate more resources to local schools, attempting every step of the way to remove the bureaucracy in Washington and allow local school boards and local parents to make decisions about where local education money could best be spent. Now the President will talk a good game there, but again it has been the Congress who has led the way, many times with the President finally signing our legislation into law to give local school boards and local taxpayers more control in terms of education. And that is where the focus should be.

As a classroom teacher for 7 years, I understand the importance of allowing local teachers to decide how to best motivate kids. As someone who worked in a chapter 1 and Title I program for 3 years, I understand the importance of allowing local school districts to set the policy priorities and objectives for local students to meet.

Now, we are going to hear the President make a few comments about defense tonight, Madam Speaker, but in last year's State of the Union I brought a stopwatch with me because I wanted to see if my hunch was correct regarding the President's focus on national security. My hunch was correct. The President spoke for 1 hour and 17 minutes last January. The amount of time he focused on security issues was 90 seconds. Ninety seconds out of an hour and 17 minutes. And part of that 90 seconds was when he looked up in the audience and thanked a B-52 pilot who was flying those bombing missions over in Iraq.

What he did not tell the American people, which was even more important, was that that B-52 pilot was flying an airplane that will be 75 years old because we do not have the money to replace it. And what he did not talk to the American people about, and I will guarantee he will not mention it tonight, is the fact that we have 20,000 young Americans who are on food stamps today, who are serving their country and yet who have to use food stamps to take care of their families' needs.

And what the President will not talk about tonight, Madam Speaker, is the fact that he has deployed our troops in more instances than any administration in the last century. In fact, Madam Speaker, if we take all the presidents who served from the end of World War II until 1991, all of those Presidents combined deployed our troops 10 times. This President has now deployed our troops for the 34th time. And none of those deployments were paid for. He has put the troops in harm's way and allowed the Congress to come up with a way to pay for those costs by cutting other parts of our already decreasing defense budget.

No, the President is not going to talk about the fact that our Navy is now going down to about 200 ships. He will not talk about the fact that a couple of our Army divisions have been declared not fit to handle the kinds of missions that they are being asked to perform. He is not going to talk about the fact that General Schwarzkopf and other generals have said we could not complete another Desert Storm if it occurred. He will not talk about the fact that morale in the military is as low today as it has been since the end of World War II; that our reenlistment rate for pilots is down below 15 percent; that none of the services, except for the Marine Corps, can get young people to join.

The President will not talk about any of that tonight, Madam Speaker, because in his mind that is not the State of the Union. In fact, Madam Speaker, his State of the Union is a Disney-like State of the Union, where we only talk about positive things, where there is room for both parties to

share, but not focus on the negative things that have come about in some cases by the Congress but in my opinion largely by the failure of leadership in the White House.

Madam Speaker, this President will not talk about security with any definitive plan in tonight's speech, we can rest assured on that. Because he took James Carville's advice very well when he was elected 7 years ago, when James Carville told him, "It's the economy, stupid. Focus on the economy and don't worry about anything else." So by not talking about threats around the world, by not talking about the realities of what is occurring in Russia and China and the Middle East, between India and Pakistan, by not talking about those areas where trouble is brewing on a regular basis, the American people do not think we have to spend any more money on supporting our military.

In fact, Madam Speaker, I would be surprised tonight if the President told the real story about our relations with Russia and China. Things were going well 7 years ago. In fact, we had a new era, with Russia becoming a free democracy. Both our government and the Russian Government declared the two countries to be strategic partners.

Where are we today, Madam Speaker? Russia's new strategic partner, as defined by the new President of Russia, Mr. Putin, is China, not the U.S. In fact, Madam Speaker, our relationship with Russia has never been worse than it is today. And in fact we have now seen over the past 12 months meeting after meeting between senior Russian leaders and senior Chinese leaders where they are now exchanging technology and both of whom are looking to the U.S. as their enemy. Why is that happening, Madam Speaker? It is happening because of our failed foreign policy.

Now, the President has had some successes. He deserves to take credit for his work in helping settle the situation in involving Ireland and Great Britain, and I will give him the credit for that. But I must say that, while taking the credit for those successes, he also needs to accept the blame for the failures of our policy in regard to China and Russia.

Madam Speaker, the delegation that I led to Moscow, in fact to Ukraine, Moldova, and Moscow this past November, saw firsthand the failures of this administration. Our delegation consisted of 10 Members of Congress, 7 Republicans and 3 Democrats. The purpose of our trip was threefold, Madam Speaker: It was to travel to Ukraine at the invitation of the Ukrainian Rada and President Kuchma, and to set up a formal relationship between the Rada, the parliament of Ukraine, and the U.S. Congress. This new relationship is to be modeled after the relationship that I started with Russia 6 years ago.

Because of late votes in November, we had to cancel the formal part of the trip to Ukraine. However, three members of our delegation broke away and went to Ukraine and did have the meetings to begin the process of this new relationship. And I am pleased and happy that the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) and my good friend, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SCHAFER), have agreed to co-chair this new inter-parliamentary relationship between the Ukrainian Rada and the U.S. Congress, and our trip solidified that relationship as we started the process off in November of last year.

And by the way we will have another trip of Ukrainian Rada members to the U.S. sometime in the first quarter of this year. We moved on from Ukraine to Moldova, a country that is strategically important to America's interest and to the future of Russia and to the people in that part of the world. We were there at the request and invitation of the President of Moldova as well as the Parliament.

It was heartwarming, Madam Speaker, that the Speaker of the Moldovan Parliament, because we could not arrive there during a weekday but had to postpone our visit until Saturday, convened a special session of the Parliament on Saturday morning. It was heartwarming to see every member of the Moldovan Parliament sitting in the chamber as our delegation walked in. And I had the high honor and privilege of addressing the session of the Parliament to talk about the relationship between the Moldovan people and the people of the United States.

While in Moldova, in meetings with the President, meetings with the leadership of the Moldovan government and the majority and opposition leadership of the Parliament, we also challenged them to establish an interparliamentary relationship with the Congress, which they have accepted. And I am pleased to announce, Madam Speaker, that the two cochairs of the Moldovan Parliament-U.S. Congress interchange are in fact the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PITTS) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

□ 1445

So again the Congress, in a bipartisan way, made significant contributions to improve relations with both of those nations.

Then finally, Madam Speaker, we traveled on to Moscow. Our trip to Moscow was a special trip because we were traveling to Moscow at the invitation of the Duma, the parliament in Russia. The Duma, back in September of last year, formally invited our inter-parliamentary exchange program, co-chaired by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and myself, to establish a bilateral relationship of elected parliamentarians to help the Russians uncover the scandal involving the fi-

nances of the Russian Government. We accepted the request of the Russians to bring a bipartisan delegation to Moscow to begin formal talks of how we could work with the Russian side to uncover the reasons and the causes of billions of dollars being stolen by Russian Government officials, by people surrounding the Yeltsin government and by Russian banking institutions, in some cases with the cooperation of American institutions. So our trip was to solidify that relationship that they had asked us to get involved with.

Madam Speaker, our meetings in Moscow were extensive. We met with everyone, from the mayor of Moscow, Mayor Luzhkov, who is himself a new party official in the fatherland party, which did very well in the Duma elections in December, to leadership of the Duma, the vice-speaker of the Duma, the number two person in the state Duma, all the faction leaders, as well as leadership of Russia involving housing, helping them with their mortgage programs, which is just starting out, meetings with former Russian officials who were responsible for programs like biological weapons, so that we can learn more about the instability that exists within Russia today.

But, Madam Speaker, I want to talk about one meeting that was especially important because I think this meeting and what happened around this meeting is symbolic of this administration's policies which I think have caused many of the problems that Russia is experiencing today and has caused the freezing of the relationship between the U.S. and Russia unlike at any time since the days of the Cold War.

Madam Speaker, knowing that our bipartisan delegation was going to Moscow at the request of the Russian Duma, the 26 members of the Duma anti-corruption task force, I thought in advance that besides meeting with the Duma our bipartisan delegation should also meet with a man by the name of Skuratov. Mr. Skuratov is roughly the equivalent to Janet Reno in our government, the top law enforcement official in Russia.

Mr. Skuratov is to weed out corruption, to investigate instances of abuse of power, and to find out if and where money is being used for illegal purposes that should have been going to the Russian people.

So, Madam Speaker, as I have done in the past on previous trips to Moscow, I officially asked our State Department to set up three meetings for us in Moscow with the rest of the meetings being set up through our own contacts.

The three meetings were with the defense minister of Russia, Mr. Sergeev, whom I have met before, with the new at that time the prime minister, and the new president of Russia, President Putin, who was out of the country when we arrived and we, understandably, could not meet with him. But the

third and perhaps most important meeting was the request that we made to meet with Mr. Skuratov.

Now, Mr. Skuratov is somewhat of a controversial figure. Besides being the chief prosecutor in Russia, he was found to have been involved in and, at least, filmed in what appeared to be on the Russian TV an escapade with a prostitute, or a woman, in a Moscow hotel. After that little bit of film footage was played by the Russian Government on national TV, Boris Yeltsin fired Skuratov.

Now, it just so happens, Madam Speaker, that he was fired the day before he was about to indict senior Russian elected officials who he had found were involved in ripping off hundreds of millions and billions of dollars that were supposed to go to the Russian people.

In fact, Madam Speaker, when Boris Yeltsin fired Skuratov the first time, the elected parliament in Russia, the upper council equivalent to our Senate, the Federation Counsel, overrode Mr. Yeltsin by a wide margin and said, you will not fire Skuratov; we, in fact, endorse him.

So then President Yeltsin fired Skuratov a second time, and the Federation Counsel reinstated Skuratov a second time. So Yeltsin fired him a third time, and the Federation Counsel reinstated him a third time.

Now, Yeltsin says all along the time period here that he kept firing Skuratov because he was an immoral person. Now, I do not know whether Mr. Skuratov is an immoral person or not, Madam Speaker, but I can tell my colleagues this, not only was he fired by President Yeltsin three times even though the Senate in Russia supported him, but over 25 deputy prosecutors that were working with Skuratov on the corruption in Russia were fired along with him.

Now, the hotel film footage only showed one man, it did not show 25 other prosecutors, involved in immoral acts. Yet all 25 of these prosecutors working for and with Skuratov were relieved at the same time.

Now, why would they be relieved? What was so significant that Yeltsin found it important to fire them? Well, that is why I felt it was important for us to meet with Skuratov and to hear what he had to say. So, Madam Speaker, we requested through our State Department the opportunity to meet with Skuratov.

Some strange things occurred, Madam Speaker, that I want our colleagues to hear, which is the reason why I have taken the floor tonight, which I am sure President Clinton will not talk about tonight in the State of the Union speech because it has been a part of our policy toward Russia for the past 7 years. We do not like to see or hear bad things coming from nations where our relationship is based on per-

sonalities, like President Clinton to President Yeltsin.

When we arrived in Moscow, my staff asked the State Department if the meeting had been set up with Mr. Skuratov. The State Department said, no, we could not arrange the meeting with Mr. Skuratov. We were very disappointed, to say the least.

The Monday morning we arrived at the Duma headquarters, equivalent to our Capitol building, we were brought into the committee room where the chairman of the security committee for the Duma was about to host us, Mr. Ilyukhin, and that was to be followed in a large hearing room for a public hearing hosted by the chairman of the anti-corruption task force involving over 20 members of the Russian Duma.

During our meeting with all the Members of Congress, both parties, and Mr. Ilyukhin, a couple of deputies said to him, do you think it would be possible for us to have a meeting with Mr. Skuratov? Upon which Mr. Ilyukhin said, sure, that is easy. We can set that up for you whenever you like.

I looked over at the State Department official in the room with us and I said, well, that is interesting because our State Department said they could not reach Mr. Skuratov. The members of the Duma said, no problem, we will arrange the meeting for you.

The irony of the request and the fact that the Duma members would set up the meeting was, Madam Speaker, that the State Department then requested of me if they could attend the meeting with Mr. Skuratov which they had failed to set up.

On Tuesday evening, after our meetings with the Russian leadership, with Mayor Luzhkov, with the leaders of the Duma, the Federal Counsel, and with agencies of the Russian Government, at 6 o'clock in the evening in a secret room in our hotel Mr. Skuratov was seated waiting for Members of Congress to arrive.

I was surprised when we arrived in the meeting room that there was a State Department employee at the end of the table. I asked him to identify himself, which he did; and he said he was there at the suggestion of our Ambassador Jim Collins.

So I began the meeting. It was ironic, Madam Speaker, that the State Department that could not set up the meeting for Members of Congress with Mr. Skuratov would want to have an official present at the table to monitor what was going to take place.

So I thought I would ask Mr. Skuratov how he found out about the meeting. I said, Mr. Skuratov how did you know to be here today? He said, some of my friends that you met with asked me to come over and meet with you, and I told them I was more than happy to meet with Members of the U.S. Congress.

I said, Mr. Skuratov, when did our State Department contact you to tell

you that Members of Congress wanted to meet with you? He said, Oh, Congressman, your State Department never contacted me. In fact, I did not know you wanted to meet with me until Monday night late there was a message on my phone machine at my home asking me to call the embassy back in Moscow.

That was the evening after we had gotten a commitment from the Duma members that we would get a meeting with Mr. Skuratov.

Madam Speaker, it is obvious what was going on here. Our State Department did not want the 10 Members of Congress on the trip to meet face to face with Mr. Skuratov.

Well, at that I was very upset, along with our colleagues who were with me. We asked the State Department official to leave because we felt he did not have a purpose in being at the meeting with us except to take notes and perhaps report back to the Yeltsin government.

Then something strange happened, Madam Speaker, almost like it was out of a James Bond movie. Here we are in Moscow, in the National Hotel on the third floor in a private room, and the Members of Congress, including myself, have just kicked out our State Department official who was in this meeting; and a woman knocks on the door and she has got a fur coat on and a fur hat and a purse. And she comes in; and I say, excuse me, this is a private meeting. Would you mind leaving, stepping out of the room? She said, oh, I was sent here by the U.S. State Department, by our American Embassy in Moscow. I said, well, this is a private meeting. Would you please leave?

Upon which, Madam Speaker, she took off her fur coat, took off her fur hat and placed her hat, coat, and pocketbook on the table we were meeting at and walked out of the room.

Now, Madam Speaker, I have met a lot of women in my life and I do not know of any women that go around leaving their pocketbooks in a room full of strangers. And I just wonder, Madam Speaker, if that pocketbook had something inside it that will allow someone else to listen or monitor what Skuratov was telling the Members of Congress that were in that meeting.

Sounds like a James Bond thriller. Well, sometimes I think this administration gets involved in James Bond types of activities, especially when someone is about to say something that might embarrass this administration in terms of our policy toward Russia.

Well, Madam Speaker, with the consent of the Members of Congress with me, I told the staff to remove the purse, remove the coat, remove the hat so that we could continue our meeting. And we did.

Madam Speaker, for 2½ hours Members of Congress and senior committee

staff from the Committee on Banking and Financial Affairs, the Joint Economic Committee, and the Committee on Armed Services sat and listened to Skuratov tell an unbelievable story.

Now, Madam Speaker, I have the notes from both the trip and the meeting, which are available to any Member of Congress who wants them, which we have already given to our FBI about what Skuratov said. Let me just give my colleagues a few highlights, Madam Speaker, because I think the American people would have liked to have heard this tonight as a part of the State of the Union, why our relationship with Russia has turned so sour.

It is because, while we were reinforcing Yeltsin, the Russian people knew that Yeltsin and his cronies were ripping off hundreds of millions and billions of dollars of money that was supposed to go to help the Russian economy. This is what Skuratov said. He said that he had evidence not just to indict Yeltsin's daughter, Tatianna, but to even lead to Yeltsin himself that Skuratov was about to indict the senior members of Yeltsin's family and the senior leaders of the Russian Government when he was brought down and when the prosecutors with him were fired.

He said he also had evidence that up to 700 senior Russian officials, 700, were involved in insider GKO bond trading, meaning they were making money off of Russia's economic problems. While the U.S. and the West were bailing out Russia's economy with money from the IMF and the World Bank, 700 Russian officials were reaping the financial benefits of insider trading of GKO bonds.

□ 1500

He gave us one example. He said the foreign minister in Russia during his investigation he found was making an annual salary of between 4 to 5,000 rubles a month. That is not much money when we convert it to U.S. dollars. The foreign minister was making 4 to 5,000 rubles a month. Yet Skuratov had evidence that he was involved in insider bond trading in the millions of U.S. dollars. We have to ask the question, how could a person making 4 to 5,000 rubles a month get access to millions of U.S. dollars? He said that was the norm in the Russian Government of Boris Yeltsin. He also told us that in the most recent IMF tranche of money that this country guaranteed to go into Russia, it was over \$4 billion, that he could only account for about \$300 million that went through the normal banking process in Russia, that over \$4 billion of that IMF money did not go through the normal banking process that IMF funds would go through.

Madam Speaker, Mr. Skuratov went through a whole litany of the details of the investigation that he was in the midst of when he was fired. He told us

that there is evidence in Russia and evidence available to document the ties to Russian criminal elements and in some cases U.S. institutions. We asked him, "Well, what kind of cooperation did you get from our government?" He said he had had one brief meeting with FBI Director Louis Freeh but no further subsequent meetings with the FBI. We have since met with the FBI, we have given them the information, and because I have the highest confidence in Director Freeh and his agency, we are convinced that he will use that information and pursue further information that Mr. Skuratov has identified for us. But, Madam Speaker, my point is a simple one. We will not hear that story tonight in the State of the Union. We will not hear the story about the instability in Russia. We will not hear the story, Madam Speaker, about the billions of dollars of U.S. money that has been ripped off while we sat back and reinforced Yeltsin every step of the way with the Russian people losing confidence in its relationship between Russia and the U.S. We also will not hear this story, Madam Speaker, that I would like to see the President tell, the story of Lieutenant Jack Daley, a 15-year naval intelligence officer who was lased 3 years ago by a Russian spy trawler called the Kapitan Man. Jack Daley was flying a surveillance mission monitoring Russian spy ships that were spying on our submarine fleet out in Puget Sound. During the mission where he was flying in a helicopter with a Canadian pilot, they both had a sensation in their eyes as they were taking photographs of this spy vessel. When they landed, they were taken to the base infirmary and were told that they had been lased by a high-powered laser generator.

Madam Speaker, what we will not hear the President talk about tonight is the fact that our State Department interfered with our Defense Department and would not allow our DOD personnel to go on board that Russian ship until we had notified the embassy in Moscow that they had done something wrong. In fact, Bill Gertz in his book "Betrayal" revealed for the first time the classified cables that were sent between our embassy and the Moscow embassy, our State Department and our Department of Defense. So instead of protecting our own naval intelligence officer who had been lased by a Russian spy ship, we were trying to make sure again, like we were with the money laundering, that Boris Yeltsin was not embarrassed. Then something terrible happened with Jack Daley's career. For 15 years he had been an outstanding sailor, given the highest awards that one can get in the Navy. But because he questioned why his government was not supporting him but instead protecting Russia and Boris Yeltsin's leadership, Jack

Daley's career was almost brought to a grinding halt. In fact, Madam Speaker, he was bypassed for a promotion until bipartisan Members of Congress, people like the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) and people like myself and others got involved, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), in Jack Daley's case and we said to this administration, "You can't get away with ignoring harm done to an American soldier because you don't want to embarrass Boris Yeltsin and his relationship with Bill Clinton."

When Jack Daley was bypassed this past summer a second time for his promotion, those of us in the Congress on both sides of the aisle following the case were livid and we demanded that our Defense Department protect our own military officer. In September of this year, finally, John Hamre, our Deputy Secretary of Defense, called me and he said, "Congressman, I think you'll be happy. We had a special Navy panel review the Jack Daley case and he is being given his promotion."

Madam Speaker, the point is that what we will not hear the President talk about tonight are the multitude of times that we have pretended reality was not what it is in Russia or in China, when we ignored arms control violations, 17 by the Russians, 20 by the Chinese over the past 7 years, when we had the hard evidence of deliberate arms control violations by both countries we pretended it did not happen because we did not want to upset the relationship between Bill Clinton and Boris Yeltsin or Bill Clinton and Jiang Zemin. We will not hear that story tonight, Madam Speaker, because the President will only talk about the glitz, he will only talk about the economy going well, he will pretend the world is safe, there are no problems.

He will not talk about the fact that he reversed himself on missile defense because the bipartisan Congress for 6 years every year passed overwhelmingly bipartisan measures demanding that this administration move to protect our troops and our people. He will not talk about the fact tonight that the day after last year's State of the Union speech when he did not talk about missile defense at all, he had Secretary of Defense Bill Cohen give a major foreign policy speech when he announced that we were in fact changing our position and now supportive of missile defense as a Nation. He probably will not talk about the fact that in last year's State of the Union speech he did not talk to any great length about the increasing threats from weapons of mass destruction or cyberterrorism but in fact the week after the State of the Union speech, he gave two speeches, one was on cyberterrorism and he said he would request billions of new dollars, and the second was on weapons of mass destruction and he again said he would request billions of dollars.

My point, Madam Speaker, is we are going to hear a good speech tonight. It is going to give the President a good bump in the polls. It is going to make the American people feel good because there is going to be something in it for everybody. We are going to praise people in the audience, we are going to applaud our troops as the best that have ever existed in the history of the country, we are going to talk about the economy and we are going to say everything is rosy, but we are not going to hear the kinds of things that I have outlined in my 1-hour special order today, Madam Speaker.

Again, there are things this President can take credit for and can share jointly with the success this Congress has had. But it is not just accepting success. He also has to be honest with the American people about problems we have not yet solved, about the failed relationships our country now has with China and Russia, about the fact that we are not properly funding the men and women serving our country and still have up to 20,000 young military men and women who have to receive food stamps because we do not pay them enough to take care of their families. These are the kinds of stories, as well as some of the others that I have talked about, that I would have hoped to hear from the State of the Union.

Madam Speaker, in going over these highlights tonight, I have focused every step of the way on the fact that our successes have been bipartisan in this body and the other body. None of our successes that I have outlined today, welfare reform, balanced budget, protecting Social Security, pushing education funds to local schools, trying to increase funds for our military, dignity in the way we enforce arms control agreements, none of those successes were Republican successes alone. Sure, the Republican majority allowed those bills to come to the floor, but in most cases, if not all, it was support from the Democrat side that helped those bills become reality and become the law of the land. We will not hear those stories tonight.

We are going to hear a one-word standup session about how great Bill Clinton has been for America for the past 7 years. And there are going to be those around the country who are going to say, if we just had control of the Congress, these are the Democrats now, we could do so much more.

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to remind the American people of a simple basic fact that is irrefutable. For the past 50 years, since 1952, the party of President Clinton, the Democrat Party, has had a chance to govern America time and time again. Let us look at the history of this country. Under JFK, we had a Democrat President and a Democrat Congress. Under LBJ, we had a Democrat President and

a Democrat Congress. Under Jimmy Carter, we had a Democrat President and a Democrat Congress. Under Bill Clinton, for the first 2 years, we had a Democrat President and a Democrat Congress. Madam Speaker, every American and every colleague needs to ask themselves, how many times in the last 50 years has the Republican Party had the President and the Congress? The answer, Madam Speaker, is zero. The Republican Party has not controlled the White House and the Congress since 1952.

Our message, Madam Speaker, is we have done good things over the past 5 years. Yes, the President will take credit for many of them tonight, from the balanced budget to welfare reform, to saving Social Security, to helping boost up our defense. He will take credit for all of them. But, Madam Speaker, imagine if the Republican Party for once in the next election cycle, after 50 years of not having a chance, had a chance to control the House, the Senate and the White House, something the Democrats have had time and again. Remember, Madam Speaker, when the Democrats controlled the Congress and the White House, they did not protect Social Security. They did not reform welfare. They created bigger programs, out-of-control programs. They had the opportunity time and time again, and they drove this country into a massive deficit because they always controlled the Congress until 6 years ago.

So I would only hope tonight as we listen to the President's last State of the Union, and I know my colleagues will give him the respect that he is due as our Commander in Chief and as our President, while I may disagree with his policies and may disagree with some of his decisions, I respect the fact that he is our leader and he is our President and so I would hope, and I know that our colleagues will give him that respect tonight, but I only wanted to share, Madam Speaker, some thoughts of things that maybe could have been said, should have been said but will not be said tonight in this State of the Union speech for America for the new millennium.

Madam Speaker, I will include one further item. During our trip to Moscow, the leader of the Kurchatov Institute and a good friend of mine, Yevgeny Velikhov, gave a speech in our honor at a luncheon he hosted. It is important to understand who Yevgeny Velikhov is. He is the director of one of the largest institutes in Russia called Kurchatov Institute in Moscow. It is the institute that developed all of Russia's nuclear programs, their nuclear technology. Yevgeny gave a speech about relations between the U.S. and Russia that is absolutely unbelievable. My point in placing this speech in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD at the end of my comments today, Madam Speaker,

is that Yevgeny Velikhov represents mainstream Russia. Russian people want to be our friends. Russian leaders want to work with us. But we cannot have a policy as we have had over the past 7 years of being so enamored with Boris Yeltsin, or a personality, that we ignore the reality of what is occurring in that country, because if we do that again, the Russian people will have the same feeling toward us then as they have toward us now.

They have seen us ignore the corruption, they have seen us ignore the involvement of Yeltsin's own family and his friends in stealing money from the Russian people. They have seen America turn its back when we had evidence of the selling off of technology from Russian criminal elements to foreign nations. We have got to change that policy. People like Yevgeny Velikhov understand that. The future of our relationship with Russia I think can be bright as I think our relationship with China can be bright. There, as this past weekend I had a chance to speak to the Mid-Atlantic Monte Gade Society of Chinese Scientists, I said it is an absolute tragedy that this administration is blaming the whole fiasco over the Chinese technology transfer on one man who they claim stole technology. Instead of focusing on a Chinese or Asian American, this administration should look to itself and to its failed policies of allowing proliferation to occur and technology to be transferred legally to anyone who would pay the price.

□ 1515

Madam Speaker, I would hope that as I close this special order today our colleagues will think beyond the rhetoric of what we are going to hear tonight and put our minds together to work, as we did in the last year of this session of the Congress, on some good initiatives, the kinds of things that we have passed, the kinds of foreign policy actions that we have taken, and drag the President along for the good of America into the new millennium and the 21st Century.

Madam Speaker, at this point I would enter into the RECORD another speech of Yevgeny Velikhov.

E.P. VELIKHOV'S SPEECH AT THE MEETING OF KURCHATOV INSTITUTE'S SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY WITH A GROUP OF USA CONGRESSMEN

Ladies and Gentlemen, we gathered in a memorable time when the ages are changing. This calendar event is being reinforced by one of the also important circumstance for the whole mankind: 2000 years of Christ's birthday.

His teaching changed our world. When the mankind was keeping to his commandments it progressed, but as soon as they were forgotten the mankind became sunken into deep crisis. And we, having achieved this century border, have got into this no way state.

Practically all the XX century beginning from 1917 and ending by 1990 year, we were living behind the "iron curtain" in the state

of ideological confrontation. And all these years the idea to conquer the world has dominated as in the Soviet Union as well in the United States of America. But reasonable people from both sides (and their number was not small) understood that there are on the both sides of the "iron curtain" the real alive people, who were ready for cooperation. And overwhelming ideological barriers we were going toward each other creating step by step a bridge of confidence and understanding.

When almost 10 years ago the "iron curtain" has broken we hoped for a strengthening of this bridge, for the sound forces going through it in both direction. Unfortunately this has not happened. The ideology has broken, but in the result of this powerful ideological burst a foam appeared, which has flowed from us to the USA and from the USA to us.

Americans have felt on themselves what is the Russian crime, corruption, they saw "new Russians", our bankers, oligarchs, who have "green cards", huge amounts of money for villa construction, wealthy holidays. Exactly they became to represent the Russian face in the West. And the West has shuddered.

But we also have shuddered. Flow of the people, representing wrong side of American life, started into Russia. We have seen here your expert—economists, whose ideas have not been accepted in the USA as they were not perspective and harmful, but they have found a fertile soil in the Russia. We have seen in our space also American businessmen, who tried to involve us into adventure projects. I personally confronted one of such so called businessman, who proposed to cooperate in a major project on unlawful ground.

Certainly, the roots of many vices such as corruption, stealing, unlawful privatization, drags, pornography, prostitution, are situated also in our ground, but in many respect the people's awareness connect them to America and the USA is not accepted in Russia now as a prospering and educated society.

It seems that we have forgotten 10 Christian commandments. It appears on the border of centuries that a huge charge of mutual good will, which we have had at the end of 80-ty years, has been almost used up. And instead of the "iron curtain" we begin to construct a "stinking trench" behind the rusted barbed wire. Lets look at today's time: as earlier we threaten each other by nuclear restriction and think up limitations, sanctions. We appeared to be in a situation dangerous for the world at the end of XX century.

Meantime the USA and the Russia are playing today a huge role in the establishment of a stable and secure peace, democratic order. It is clear, that being in confrontation we can only negatively influence as on our countries as well on the world as a whole.

I would not like to be a pessimist. We have way out and we can see it if we return with open face to our youth. It is a new growing force of Russia, it is that base on which we can build the world and the order.

"Junior Achievements of Russia" is gaining power by us. One million of young men and girls from 80 regions of Russia, who study economics, business and management are today in its ranks. After 5 years they will be 5 millions. And this is a great power, which is ready for democratic transformation in the country.

Altruism is laying in the base of their activity—one of the best features of Americans

which the Russian youth has accepted and absorbed. As many Americans members of "Junior Achievements" see the highest sense to serve to the society.

Finally, we can learn in our new construction against our businessmen, who are heading this movement. They are those people who a faithful to the principles of "pure business" and they are true to their duty. They are ready to invest into creation of new society.

The resume from my speech suggests itself: experience which has come from "the top" appears to be not quite satisfactory. It came to us with the people who have forgotten the Christ's commandments. But we have sound forces, who not only accept them but they are leaving in accordance with them. We connect the Russia's future with them and the future of Russian-American relations.

I call upon to support the people who have the life principle to serve to the society.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m. for the purpose of receiving in joint session the President of the United States.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 8:40 p.m.)

□ 2048

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 8 o'clock and 48 minutes p.m.

JOINT SESSION OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE HELD PURSUANT TO THE PROVISIONS OF HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 241 TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The Speaker of the House presided.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Jim Varey, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate, who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER. The Chair appoints as members of the committee on the part of the House to escort the President of the United States into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY);

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. WATTS);

The gentleman from California (Mr. COX);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT);

The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR);

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BERRY); and

The gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. SNYDER).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as members of the committee on the part of the Senate to escort the President of the United States into the House Chamber:

The Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT);

The Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. NICKLES);

The Senator from South Carolina (Mr. THURMOND);

The Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAIG);

The Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER);

The Senator from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON);

The Senator from South Dakota (Mr. DASCHLE);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI);

The Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY);

The Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN);

The Senator from Louisiana (Mr. BREAUX);

The Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN); and

The Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG).

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, His Excellency Jesse B. Marehalau, Ambassador to the United States from Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Deputy Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 9 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m., the Sergeant at Arms, Mr. Wilson Livingood, announced the President of the United States.

The President of the United States, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, and stood at the Clerk's desk.

(Applause, the Members rising.)

The SPEAKER. Members of the Congress, I have the high privilege and the