

negotiations, I do not hear any discussion about the \$1.3 billion direct appropriation in the budget that the President proposed.

All I hear about is the \$25 billion that is being proposed in the Committee on Ways and Means to loan. We have a proposal that \$25 billion would be available. The Government is willing to pay interest on up to \$25 billion. So a local school district or the State can borrow money, and we will pay the interest. Rah, rah, rah.

We have a \$200 billion surplus, and all we are willing to do is to pay between \$3 billion and \$4 billion in interest or money borrowed by the local governments.

Will it help New York City and New York State? Not likely. Because you have to have a school bond issue on the ballot. People have to approve the borrowing of money to build schools before you can borrow the money. And there are other places in the Nation with similar problems.

I am all for what is now called the Rangel-Johnson school modernization bill. I am one of the cosponsors. And we should go forward with it. But it is only a small part of the problem. It can help districts which are able to use borrowed money and use it rapidly, but do not have to go through a process of taking it to the voters. We have turned down in the last 10 years two bond issues that might have helped schools.

So we need direct appropriation. The Congressional Black Caucus would like to specifically request that we have more direct appropriation to be allocated to the schools in crisis situations. That is the schools that are serving large numbers of low-income youngsters who qualify for the free lunch program and the schools that are being closed down because they are not functioning properly.

There is a crisis. There is a crisis out there, and we need to rally to meet that crisis. We should not allow future generations to look upon the situation we face now when we have a golden window of opportunity, a \$230 billion surplus and we are so blind, so hard-hearted, so mean-spirited, so whatever that we cannot see the need to invest in students and young people.

What other reason is there to not set aside a substantial portion of a \$230 billion surplus for education?

Substantial is conservative. We talked about we are asking for 10 percent. Ten percent of \$200 billion is \$20 billion. Ten percent of \$200 billion is \$20 billion. Over a 10-year period, 10 percent is \$200 billion for school construction and other education improvements.

Why are we going to pass up this opportunity and be guilty of history saying that we were no better than the great Romans? We had the technology. We had the economy. We had the military might. Rome was really a village

compared to the United States of America at this point in history. There is nothing that has ever existed like the United States of America colossus. We are a colossus.

Given all of this, how can we not make an investment in every human being out there? The human investment is the key now. Brain power drives everything. Brain power is obviously the kind of power that sustains us now and will carry us into the future. Let us at least have the vision to make the investment in the brain power.

There are alternative education proposals being proposed by the Republican candidate for President and the Democratic candidate for President, the leadership of the House. All of the general outlines and the general plans that are being set forth we cannot quarrel with; we applaud. Most of the approaches on both sides are approaches that address serious problems related to education in America.

The problem is priorities. The problems is seeing an emergency. The worst schools in America should not be deserted. The worst schools in America should not be abandoned as we prepare plans and we allocate resources for education. The worst schools have to be dealt with first.

If we solve the problems of the worst schools and we deal with the challenges that are faced by the worst school systems, then we are in a position to deal with all the others. They become much easier. If we solve the problems faced by the worst schools, we also recoup the lost resources that we face as those youngsters fail to enter into the stream that carries them through high school graduation into higher education institutions.

We need improvements of all kinds. The Congressional Black Caucus will be proposing to the leadership in the next few days as we move into the finality of the end-game negotiations that we examine not only the school construction, which is the first priority, but Pell Grants need to have more money. We need a technical research center for Historically Black Colleges and Universities. Teacher recruitment needs more funds. Training and the certification of teachers is still a major problem. The 21st century learning centers, the after-school centers, we need more of them. In our crisis, school districts, every district should have some of those learning centers.

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They should not be allocated on the basis of competitive grants but allocated on the basis of need. We should have more money, produce more centers and allocate them on the basis of need. We are firmly convinced that a demand of this kind is in the interest of all of America. If you address the

problems that are the worst problems, you will certainly be in a position to solve all the rest of the problems. Construction should not be pushed off to the side and abandoned as an undesirable activity because it might cost money. It will cost so much more to build prisons in the future, to build correction facilities in the future. It will cost so much more to have to compensate for the waste of human resources that will result from our failure to educate those who are in greatest need.

I would like to end by saying we are at the end of a process we started when we covered the Congressional Black Caucus alternative budget. Our priorities are the same. We would like to zero in and talk about specific dollar figures for school construction in the communities where they have the greatest need. If you are not going to do it for everybody, at least we should do school construction in the communities with the greatest need. At least we should have an aggressive program for teacher training, teacher recruitment and certification of teachers in the communities with the greatest need. If we are not going to address the education problem generally as we should address it, at least we insist that you focus the dollars that are available through the surplus on the schools which have the greatest need. We can do no less.

NIGHTSIDE CHAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STEARNS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. MCINNIS) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, again another nightside chat. I have two very important subjects that I want to address with my colleagues this evening. The first subject is going to be Wen Ho Lee. That is a name that is familiar to all of you. He is the gentleman, and I can tell you that I stretch the words when I utilize the word "gentleman," you will follow me a little later on, out of New Mexico who was arrested by the FBI at Los Alamos lab. I intend this evening to tell the other side of the story of Wen Ho Lee.

The second thing, of course, is a complete shift of agenda. I want to talk about Social Security and the obligations all of us have to the future generations on saving Social Security, on doing something about Social Security that is going to make a difference for these generations, on doing something about Social Security so that Social Security is there for these future generations, on doing something about Social Security so that those young people, the generations behind those of us who are midlife in our working careers, so that those people have some kind of voluntary choice, some kind of voice in

how their investments are made, so that they can get a return better than the 1 percent return that most of us on Social Security will experience under today's program.

But first of all let me begin with Wen Ho Lee. The last few days have been amazing to me in the press. In fact, the last month. I used to be a police officer. My district is in Colorado. I used to be a police officer out in Colorado. So I do have kind of a law enforcement slant. But through my years of law enforcement and also through my years in the practice of law, especially the areas where I did family law, I found out something pretty interesting in my early career. It is kind of like if you have a small child that comes up to you, you have two kids, two small children that have gotten in a fight with each other. The one child comes up to you and explains their side of the fight. They tell you what in their mind is the truth. Then the other child comes up to you and tells you their side of the story which is exactly contrary to the side of the story that you just heard but in their eyes that is the concept of the truth. In other words, the truth usually is out there and there are almost always, and I learned this time after time, when I would arrive at the scene of an accident or at the scene of a fight or at the scene of a domestic dispute, I always found that when I first got there, most of the time you better listen to the other side of the story because most of the time the facts are not as they appear upon first arrival. That is exactly what has happened here.

In the last few days or the last month, I have almost been sickened by reading some of the national media that makes Wen Ho Lee, this gentleman right here, sound as if he is a martyr, makes him sound as if he is a hero. And these news media reports and some of the people, one of the things they like to jump up and they play the race card. Forget it. It is not going to work in this one. They play sympathy. "Well, he was picked upon. The poor guy was abused." Forget it.

You better listen to the second side, the other side of the story. How easy it is to trash the FBI and trash the Attorney General. I can tell you I am no fan of the Attorney General, but in this case the Attorney General is right. In this case the Federal Bureau of Investigation is right. I stood on this floor in front of you as one of the harshest critics of the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a former police officer when they goofed up at Ruby Ridge which in my opinion was one of the darkest black eyes that the FBI has given to law enforcement in law enforcement's entire career in this country.

So I think I approach this from a fairly impartial view. I criticize the FBI when I think they should be criticized. I am not a fan of the Attorney

General, Janet Reno, but on the other hand when they are right, we ought to stand up here and talk about it. What we are doing is letting the media get away with what I think is one of the most atrocious incidents in recent history.

At the beginning of my remarks, I told you how I wanted to address today Social Security and future generations. If you want to talk about something that is going to have an impact on future generations, wait till you hear my story today about what this gentleman's contribution is to future generations.

The question is here, who is the victim? That is the newest concept. I used to practice law as I mentioned. There are a couple of ways that you defend a client who is guilty, who you know is guilty. First of all you try and point out that the client, really the defendant, the person that you are defending did not intend to commit the crime. And if that does not work, then what you do is you attack the witnesses. You try and show that the prosecution witnesses are biased or somehow they are crooks themselves or they are not worthy of their testimony. And then the third approach you do in trying to defend somebody is make your client look like the victim. My client is the victim here, not the person that got raped or murdered or shot or burglarized. My client is the victim. Look at how abused they were in their childhood, look at all of the things they did out in our society and this is what caused him to commit that kind of crime. That is exactly what has happened in the last few days or in the last month. This guy is being victimized. This is the victim.

Wait till you hear my story. I am going to bring you out the other side of the facts on this. My question, my comment is here, who is really the victim? Is it Wen Ho Lee? Or is it us, the United States? Is it us, the citizens, our future generations? I advance to you this evening that the victims in this particular case are not the defendant, the victims in this case is the United States of America and all future generations of the United States of America.

Let us start with some facts. First of all, as many of you know, Wen Ho Lee was a scientist who had access to the most secret nuclear information and material we have in this Nation. He had one of the most trusted positions that we divvy out, so to speak, in our government. He had access to the basics and the fundamental scientific knowledge and the construction knowledge and the practical knowledge of the most devastating weapons known in the history of mankind. We do not just willy-nilly give out that kind of access. Why? That is self-explanatory. We all know in this Chamber what will happen if that information gets into

the wrong hands. We know, too, that if that information gets into the wrong hands, that is one weapon, just one weapon is all it takes, but you can make numerous weapons. But that weapon alone is a weapon that could destroy the United States of America. It is the only weapon in existence we know of today, nuclear capabilities, maybe some biological but primarily nuclear capabilities are about the only weapon today that could destroy the destiny of the United States of America. I cannot emphasize on my colleagues enough the importance of the secrecy of this information that we have in the Los Alamos lab. And this gentleman, this guy right here, Wen Ho Lee, he was entrusted by the American people to keep those documents secret. And now some of the very people who, in my opinion, he has betrayed, and I use that word with some caution, I do not typically stand on the floor of the United States House of Representatives and talk about betrayal by a citizen but I am telling you today, that is what has happened.

Let us go into some facts, the other side of the story. As Paul Harvey would say, now it is time for the rest of the story. These quotes, by the way, are a direct testimony, given under oath, in front of the United States Senate by the Director of the FBI and by the Attorney General. Let us go over some facts about this scientist, Wen Ho Lee. It is critical to understand that Wen Ho Lee's conduct was not inadvertent. It was not careless. And it was not innocent. Over a period of years, Lee used an elaborate scheme to move the equivalent of 400,000 pages of extremely sensitive nuclear weapon files from a secure part of the Los Alamos computer system to an unclassified, unsecure part of the system which could be accessed from outside of Los Alamos, indeed from anywhere in the world.

Another additional fact here. At one point in time, this scientist, while he was overseas in Taiwan, tried to access this equipment. We have it on the computer. We traced it through on the computer. What are we talking about here? What this fellow did is that kind of information is highly classified obviously and on the computers there are indications that give you the different levels of classification. The classification for this material is highly top secret or whatever classification they use, they call it the X information, so it was classified as X information.

Wen Ho Lee used a very methodical method to move the classification as top secret or as an X file, to remove that from the designation and replace it with a nonclassified designation. So, in other words, he made top secret material look like it was not top secret, that it was regular material. Then he moved it onto his computer and then he accessed it and made copies of that kind of thing. To move a document

from highly classified or top secret to nonclassified, it does not happen by a bump of an elbow or you push the wrong button on the keyboard. It takes several coordinated, sophisticated steps.

We know that Wen Ho Lee, in fact, for a long period of time failed in his attempts. He had to work his way through, which he did by experimentation until he mastered how to take top secret classification heading, take it off the document and put a non-classified documentation on there so then you could move the documents without suspicion. And 400,000 pages. That is the equivalent of what he transferred out of top secret; 400,000 pages of the most sensitive secret nuclear weapon material that this government possesses. Yet some people are out there trying to make this guy look like some kind of martyr or that he has been picked upon by our government or that somehow it is abusive for us to go and accuse him of being a spy or make these kind of accusations.

By the way, he is a felon. There is no mistake about it. He is not an accused felon. He is a felon. Keep that in mind. In order to achieve his ends, Wen Ho Lee had to override the default mechanism. He had to override them, an intentional movement that required several steps that were designed to prevent any accidental or inadvertent movement of those files. His downloading process consumed nearly 40 hours over a period of 70 different days.

□ 1815

So do not let anyone tell you when they arrive upon the scene of an accident that this transfer of material was inadvertent, or that it was an oversight, or that this scientist did it by pushing the wrong button. These systems are built for fail-safe, so that that kind of thing does not accidentally happen.

Let us go on. Nor was this all. Wen Ho Lee carefully and methodically removed classification markings from documents. He attempted repeatedly to enter secure areas of the Los Alamos labs after his access had been revoked, including one attempt at 3:30 in the morning on Christmas Eve.

Now, imagine, every one of you in here, what were you doing at 3:30 in the morning on Christmas Eve? Were you trying to use a stairwell to get up to an office here in the Capitol? Those are what we call burglar hours. The only people up trying to gain access at that time in the morning, generally you have to be a little bit suspicious about what is going on. And on Christmas Eve, most people are home with their families on Christmas Eve.

It would be highly unusual to see somebody trying to enter into an area of which their access had been revoked, of which they were denied access to,

highly unusual to see them all of a sudden at 3:30 in the morning going up a stairwell trying to gain access to a top secret area.

Let us continue. He deleted files in an attempt to cover his tracks before he was caught.

I am going to go over that in a little more detail too. I have a chart here. We are going to go to this chart, and I will show you what happens when this fellow fails a lie detector test. I will tell you what happens when the FBI presents him with evidence.

Primarily what you are going to see is once he figures out they are on top of him, then he tries to get back in there and coverup his tracks by erasing files.

Let us go on. Wen Ho Lee created his own portable secret library of this Nation's nuclear weapons secrets. My gosh, do you see what I have just said? Look at this. A citizen creates his own library, his own personal library, of the Nation's most sensitive nuclear weapons secrets.

Now, does that sound like an innocent bystander to you, somebody is out on Saturday afternoon putting together a butterfly collection? This is serious stuff.

Let us go on. He stood before a Federal Court judge and admitted his wrongdoing and pleaded guilty to a felony. Contrary to some reports, there is nothing minor or insignificant about that crime.

It amazes me that the media and some of the people that I have talked to think that, well, he just pleaded guilty to something totally insignificant, that this poor guy is being picked upon.

The restricted data that Wen Ho Lee downloaded into 10 portable computer tapes included, listen to this, included the electronic blueprints of the exact dimensions and geometry of this Nation's nuclear weapons.

Does that sound like a guy that has been picked on to you? That does not sound that way to me.

There are always two sides to a story. Let us go on with this side of the story.

Here are the steps that are required to download and create tapes. So any of you out there that think, well, this was innocently done, or, you know, it was a distraction, or, you know, he just wanted to experiment, keep in mind 400,000 pages, that is what the equivalent is. Let us talk about the steps to move this over, partition it from classified to nonclassified, download and create tapes.

First of all you have to log into a secure computer system by entering a password and a Z number. You then need to access data in red, which means secure, partition, then hit save, and then CLU equal U, classification level equals unclassified. Then you need to access the C machine and type

commands. There are numerous commands that you have to type in to down partition from a secure partition to an open, unsecure machine. You then access that machine to save the data into a green unsecured directory. Then you have to log on to a colleague's computer outside of the X division. Remember, X division is top secret. That is the highest secrets of the Nation. You have to then access outside the X division and insert a tape into the tape drive. Then you access the open directory and copy files on to the portable tape.

In other words, the purpose of that chart right there simply is to tell you, hey, this guy knew what he was doing. This was not some country bumpkin in there playing games on a computer. He knew exactly what he was doing. Not only did he know what he was doing before he was caught, he built his own library. By the way, you will find out later in my discussion a good portion of this library is missing. It is gone.

Now, the guy who lied to us, the guy who tried to evade the truth and who tried to cover his tracks, now tells us, "There is nothing to worry about, I erased them. They are erased. You don't have to be concerned about this."

This gives you an idea of what intentionally was required for him to complete his mission.

Let us continue. Wen Ho Lee worked for the X division, which I explained earlier as the top secret division at Los Alamos Laboratory. The X division is responsible for the research, design and development of thermo-nuclear weapons and requires the highest level of security at any division at Los Alamos.

X division scientists most familiar with the downloaded information, so we went to other scientists and said you are familiar with this information that has been downloaded by Wen Ho Lee. Let us talk about it. These scientists would have testified that Wen Ho Lee took every significant, every, he did not miss anything, every significant piece of information to which a nuclear designer would want access, every key piece of information.

He did not just pull up one little piece of information that looked cute and thought this would be kind of fun to experiment with. Every piece of information that was necessary for research, design and development of thermo-nuclear weapons, he changed classification and he downloaded it into his own personal library. And not only did he download into his own personal library, he tried to access the official computers from overseas, and he took copies of his library, and now he claims he has lost it or the files were deleted, he went ahead and erased them because he did not want people to get access.

Before Wen Ho Lee created these tapes, and this is so important, this is so important, before Wen Ho Lee created these tapes, only two sites in the

world held this complete design portfolio. Only two sites in the entire world had that information; the secure computer inside the highest security division at Los Alamos and the secure computer system inside the highest security division of another one of our national laboratories. We only had that information in two places in this country.

Now, somewhere, we have got three locations, thanks to Wen Ho Lee, who some people out there are calling a martyr. Some people are saying he has been victimized by an overzealous FBI or an overzealous Attorney General. You are going to get to make the decision.

The first poster I put up had a question mark on it, because I wanted my colleagues at the end of my comments today, you decide, is he the victim, or is the United States of America the victim?

Let us go on. It was not a simple task for Wen Ho Lee to move files from the closed to the open system. The CFS tracking system reveals that Wen Ho Lee spent hours unsuccessfully trying to move classified files into unclassified space, meaning he could not quite get it down. So he worked on it. You know, practice makes perfect.

He practiced on it, and he practiced on it. He would get a step, and over time he got these steps down so he could figure out to a very calculating move how to move material that has been labeled classified to material that is now labeled unclassified.

Wen Ho Lee eventually worked his way around what was designed to be a cumbersome process. By design it is complicated, so this kind of thing is very tough to do. Wen Ho Lee had to command the computer to declassify the files, when he was well aware that the files contained some of the most sensitive classified information at Los Alamos.

Nuclear weapons restricted data downloaded by Wen Ho Lee into portable tapes. Let us go through it again very quickly.

These weapons restricted data downloads, input deck, input file information, so this is some of the material that he downloaded. This is material that this scientist downloaded, switched from classified to nonclassified. The electronic blueprint of the exact dimensions and geometry of this nation's thermo-nuclear weapons, including our most sophisticated modern weapons or warheads; data files including, these are some of the files that he took, nuclear bomb testing protocol, libraries reflecting the data collected from actual tests of nuclear weapons. Next, data concerning nuclear weapons bomb test problems, yield calculations and other nuclear weapon design and detonation information.

Next, information relating to the physical and radioactive properties of

materials used to construct nuclear weapons. Source codes that he downloaded. Data used for determining by simulation the validity of nuclear weapon designs and for comparing bomb test results with predicted results.

Let us move on. There is more to the story to come.

This is a quote. Of everything I say this evening to you, this is probably the most important. "And make no mistake about the scope of this offense and the danger it presents to our Nation's security." As an expert from Los Alamos testified in this case, "The material downloaded and copied by Wen Ho Lee represented the complete nuclear weapons design capability at Los Alamos at that time, approximately 50 years, approximately 50 years of nuclear development."

Fifty years, the most sophisticated data we have and 50 years of accumulated data. We had an expert to come in, his name was Dr. Yungler, listen very carefully. I will read it very slowly, because each word has its own meaning in a very substantive way.

"These codes," the codes that he downloaded, "these codes and their associated databases and the input file, combined with someone that knew how to use them, could, in my opinion, in the wrong hands, change, "change, the global strategic balance." Change the entire global strategic balance.

That information that this so-called picked-upon scientist, that this scientist that people are trying to point out as a victim, the information he moved out of our top secret laboratories could change the global strategic balance.

This is serious stuff. You talk about the next generation and future generations? Tell me how much you want to thank this guy for what he has done for our future generations in this country.

They enabled the possessor to design the only objects, and let me repeat this, they enable the possessor to design the only objects that could result in the military defeat of America's conventional forces. They enable the possessor, whoever has this material, can now design the only weapon known that could completely destroy the American conventional forces.

Let us go on. The only threat, for example, to our carrier battle groups. They represent the gravest possible security risk to the United States, what the President and most other Presidents have described as the supreme national interests of the United States. The gravest security risk to the United States of America, and we have newspapers in this country saying, well, this guy was picked upon.

Let us move on, because we got more of the story. Let us talk, for example, about what chronological events concerning this individual occurred.

Let us, for example, take a few days, significant events between December

23, 1998, and February 10, 1999. On December 23, two days before Christmas, 1998, at 2:18 in the afternoon, the Department of Energy polygraph of Lee is completed. They gave him a polygraph that day. They completed that polygraph.

At five o'clock, he was advised by his superiors that his access to the secure areas of the X division, in other words, the top secret compartments at Los Alamos, his access was yanked to both his secure and open X division computer accounts. They suspended it. They said you cannot go in the X area any more. Your computer files, you are not to access them any more. Pretty plain English. Very understandable. Your rights to go in there are suspended. Do not go in there.

At 9:36 that evening, mind you, he worked all day, at 9:36 he reappears at the lab. He makes four attempts, four attempts, to enter the laboratory, the secure area of X division, through stairwell number two. Apparently they have caught him on camera. At 9:39, three minutes later, he again attempts to enter the secure area of X division, but this time trying the south elevator. So he tries four attempts one direction, cannot master it there, so he comes up and now tries it through a different approach.

The next day, December 24, this is Christmas Eve, at 3:30 in the morning on Christmas Eve, 3:30 in the morning on Christmas Eve, he again shows up at the laboratory. He again attempts to enter a secure area of the X division through the south stairwell, number two. December 24th through January 3rd, Thursday through Sunday of that week, Thursday through Sunday of that week, Los Alamos is closed for the holidays.

□ 1830

So the entire laboratory is closed down for the holidays. Remember, Christmas Eve morning, 3 o'clock in the morning, here he is trying to gain access to an area from which he was specifically instructed he was suspended. He was not allowed to enter that area. So during these few days that the lab is closed for the holidays, look what Dr. Lee does.

On January 4, 1999, Monday, he succeeds in having his open computer account reactivated and deletes three computer files. On January 12, he deletes another computer file. January 17, the FBI conducts an interview of Lee at his residence. On January 20, from 11:00 to 12:00, he attempts to delete 47 computer files after the FBI interview. He immediately goes and deletes 47 computer files.

On January 21, he asks the computer Help Desk why files he is deleting are not going away. On many computers, on those computers down there, they have kind of a Help Desk where they can log into and ask for directions how

to work the computer. Any who are computer literate know what I am talking about. It is a service there to help them work their way through it. So he asks the computer help desk, he is trying to delete these files, why they are not deleting.

At 10:46, he attempts to enter the secure area of the X Division through Stairwell 3. On January 30, at 2:54 in the morning, almost 3 o'clock in the morning, Los Alamos officials deactivate Lee's open computer account in the security area of X Division after discovering that it has been improperly reactivated. At 4:52 in the afternoon, Lee attempts once again to enter the secure area of the X Division through the south door.

On February 2, Lee attempts to enter a secured area of the X Division through the south door, 9:42 in the morning. In the afternoon, he attempts to enter the secure area of the X Division through the south door. At 1:46 that afternoon, he makes four more attempts to enter the secure area of the X Division through the south door.

On February 8, the FBI contacts Lee and asks him to meet with them to discuss conducting an interview and another polygraph. Right after that, Lee attempts to enter a secure area of the X Division once again. At 4 o'clock, the FBI meets with Lee and arranges for an interview and a polygraph over the next 2 days. 6:30 that evening, he attempts to enter the secure area of the X Division once again.

On February 9 from 11:30 to 12:00 Lee deletes approximately 93 computer files. At 1 o'clock, FBI interviews Lee and obtains his agreement to undergo another polygraph. At 5:03, Lee attempts to enter the secure area of the X Division once again.

February 10, Lee undergoes the polygraph from 9:00 to 4:00. Right after he is done with the polygraph, he immediately goes over and deletes 310 computer files. He then at 5 o'clock attempts once again to get to the X Division through the south door.

Does this sound like somebody who inadvertently or just kind of a country bumpkin walks into the highest most sensitive secrets of this Nation and moves them from classified Top Secret to unclassified then copies them on to his own computer? He lies to the FBI, by the way; and as soon as he is done being interviewed with the FBI, he goes up and starts deleting computer files.

This guy has some history to him. And it is history that he ought not to be proud of.

By the way, when he was first arrested, we should point out that through his lawyers he denied any knowledge. He denied that he copied any of these files. It was only later when the evidence was laid down in front of him that his lawyers thought it was best, probably, to advise him maybe that he ought to tell the truth.

Let us just very quickly summarize. One other thing I guess I should bring up, because I read this in the media. Oh, my gosh, this guy was put in isolation. He was shackled. He did not get to see other people. That is on its face patently false.

They built a special facility for him. They built a special facility for him so he could spend time privately with his lawyers. In the 90 days or so that he was in prison there, 6 hours a day he spent in that special facility with his lawyers. The only time that he was shackled was when he was transferred from one facility to the other, the same as any other prisoner.

If anything, this guy got better treatment than any other prisoner that we had down there. My colleagues should not let these lawyers, or do not let some of these fans of this Wen Ho Lee, or do not let his daughter who understandably has a love for her folks, just like I do, do not let them buffalo them. This Wen Ho Lee is not an innocent guy. He is a convicted felon.

Some people say, well, the FBI filed 59 cases against him or 59 charges against him. Why did the FBI drop 58 of the 59 charges against him? Well, it is pretty simple. We had a Federal judge and the Federal judge said, Okay, we are going to allow you to go ahead with these 59 charges against him. But in order to do it, we are going to have to require you to release some of your secrets. We are going to make this public information.

So the FBI did not drop these charges because they could not prove them. The U.S. Attorney General, Janet Reno, did not instruct the FBI to drop these charges because they could not prove them. The reason they dropped those charges is because they did not want to release further U.S. secrets on thermonuclear weapons.

It is interesting what happens in an election year. As soon as the newspapers start editorializing about old poor Wen Ho Lee and how he has been victimized, and it sounds just like a defense attorney, guess who jumps in? The President of the United States, he makes a comment. He said he is discouraged by this prosecution. That is his policy. He cannot understand this.

What happens this quickly, we can lose control of this quickly. The fact is Wen Ho Lee still has or has the knowledge of where the many, many secrets of the United States of America on our thermonuclear weapons are, and we have every right to go after this guy. He has jeopardized every living citizen in America. In fact he has jeopardized the entire world by accessing and taking out of that laboratory some of the highest level secrets every known to mankind.

He has, in my opinion, put at risk every future generation of every country in this world. And yet he refuses to cooperate up until the time, and we

hope we get a little cooperation now, using as his front these defense attorneys.

Then they go out and put together this massive public relations effort. To me it is almost like having a cheer leading conference on the day of impeachment. They have a pep rally when this guy gets out of prison when the judge orders that he be released, and then the people cannot wait to stomp on the FBI or criticize Attorney General Janet Reno. Why did they prosecute this poor guy? Why are they picking on Wen Ho Lee? He is an innocent guy. He has been victimized. Maybe by accident he copied some files. It was inadvertent. He did not know what he was doing.

Of course some of the other groups are playing the race card, saying the only reason he was arrested is because of his ethnic background, whatever that background was.

We ought to take a look at what has happened to this Nation. Take a look at what our losses are. By the way, we cannot really calculate what our losses are because we do not know who has that material.

We do know this: we do know that some of the countries in this world have information that was provided for them from the laboratories out of the United States. We know this: we know that somehow there has been a leak somewhere down in that laboratory.

Mr. Speaker, I am saying to all of my colleagues tonight, I know that my speech has been somewhat impassioned; but I cannot imagine that any one of us who has a fiduciary duty to the people of this country that we would simply nod and turn our face the other way. Or that we would stand here and criticize the Federal Bureau of Investigation. Not that they are above criticism, as I said earlier. That Ruby Ridge was a disaster. Waco, Texas, was a disaster. The FBI deserves plenty of criticism.

But on this case, we too will be contributing, in my opinion, to this huge massive injustice to all future generations of this world by turning eyes the other way and thinking that this Wen Ho Lee was some innocent guy that we decided to victimize or pick on him to find a spy for the FBI Chronicles.

Let me wrap this portion of my comments up by saying, I cannot think of anything in my entire political career, I cannot think of anything in my adult life that I consider of more serious consequence from a national security interest point of view than the compromise of these thermonuclear secrets. These secrets were compromised by one individual. We know who he is. We have got the facts. We have just heard the other side of the story.

Now, what I would say is all my colleagues should go home tonight, have discussions with their families and let

me know tomorrow who is the victim. Is the victim Wen Ho Lee, or is the victim the United States of America?

Mr. Speaker, I really should have made this chart a little different. I should have put United States of America, the rest of the world, and all future generations.

Mr. Speaker, at this point in time I would like to yield to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. EHRlich).

A TRIBUTE TO DR. NANCY S. GRASMICK

Mr. EHRlich. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. McINNis) for yielding me this time, and I thank the gentleman for his leadership on such an important issue, nuclear security. He is a good friend and a great colleague and a fine Member of this House.

I intend to yield back, but what I would like to do, Mr. Speaker, for a few minutes is truly switch gears.

We talk about education, education policy in this country an awful lot. It is an important debate. It is a debate in the presidential campaigns and a debate on this floor almost every day. And there are special people who stand for educational excellence in this country, and one happens to be a friend of mine, and she happens to be from Maryland.

So for a few minutes I would like to pay tribute to a lady by the name of Nancy S. Grasmick.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in proud recognition of Dr. Nancy S. Grasmick, superintendent of Maryland State Schools, for having been recently named recipient of this year's Harold W. McGraw, Jr. Prize in Education.

Dr. Grasmick is one of only three individuals nationwide to receive this distinguished award, which annually recognizes outstanding commitment to education in our country.

Dr. Nancy Grasmick defines education reform and excellence in America today. Dr. Grasmick has devoted her entire life to helping young people achieve the American dream. Her beginnings as a special education teacher in Baltimore County Maryland only hinted at what lay ahead for Maryland schools and indeed the entire State.

She advanced through the country school system and constructed a legacy that can be felt in every classroom in Maryland today. Thanks to her leadership and participation in countless school reform efforts in other States, that legacy is also felt across the Nation.

Dr. Grasmick's reform efforts were well under way when she was named Maryland Superintendent for Schools in 1991. At that time I was in the Maryland General Assembly. Her immediate goal was to establish accountability standards for teachers, administrators, and individual schools.

She challenged the status quo by proposing and successfully establishing teacher standards, students standards, and annual school-by-school evaluations.

She fought for unprecedented increases in State funding for education and school construction. At times, and I know this for a fact, Mr. Speaker, her plans met resistance and criticism. But she backed up her reform efforts with real progress in student performance. And is that not what really counts? She exhibited courage by forcing State takeovers of underperforming schools and has used her pulpit to bring every county school system into her reform initiatives.

Nancy Grasmick has simultaneously served as the Maryland Special Secretary for Children, Youth and Families also since 1991. At her urging, the position was established to bring together the myriad components of what she knew then was required to educate our young people: quality schools, stable family lives, and responsible health care.

I am proud to have known and worked with Dr. Nancy Grasmick for more than 10 years. Receiving the McGraw Prize in Education is simply the latest in a series of her professional achievements. In my opinion, Mr. Speaker, she is the leading educator and reformer in America today.

By every measure—student performance, school achievement, and teacher certification—she deserves this great recognition; and we in Maryland are quite proud of her. And, I should add, we in the Ehrlich family are equally quite proud of her.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend who I know also has very serious views on education, education reform and probably enjoyed hearing about this great lady in Maryland, who has brought standards and true reform to Maryland schools, and I yield back.

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Mr. McINNis. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments. Not that this is jumping on media day, we have heard my previous comments about the fellow out of Los Alamos labs, it is interesting in our society today, we can go back to the Roman Empire where the Gladiators get all the attention, and a woman who is outstanding as this woman is, who has devoted her entire life to education, whose entire hope was not for her but for the next generation and the following generation, would probably capture maybe one column in a local newspaper, while the sports section, it is amazing to me, we can pull out a newspaper and take the middle 20 pages or 30 pages or 40 pages out on the sports section, and yet a little paragraph about someone who is as outstanding as your friend.

Mr. EHRlich. If the gentleman would continue to yield for one second,

it will not surprise the gentleman to learn, because she is a true reformer and has demanded accountability, she has taken quite a few hits in Maryland, and she has survived, because she has the factual and the moral high ground on this issue. That is why I wanted to come to this floor and congratulate her in front of the entire country.

Mr. McINNis. Of course, as the gentleman knows, the person that has enough guts to get out of the fox hole usually draws the fire but somebody has to get out of it and somebody has to lead the charge. I commend the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. Speaker, I want to continue, I have about 16 minutes left. I am just going to comment for a few minutes about a speech that I want to make next week in regards to Social Security. It is unfortunate. It is reality, I face it, and it is just natural. It is inherent with the system that we have, but we have a general election coming up here in about 5 weeks or 6 weeks, and unfortunately, a lot of the good ideas, ideas that require bipartisan support, bipartisan coalition building get drowned out by some of the impacts of an election and by the advertising.

I want to tell my colleagues that several months ago, I had the opportunity to go down to Texas. I went to law school in Texas. I have a great fondness for that state, and I was able to sit down with their governor, George W. Bush, and we talked a little about Social Security.

We talked about the threat to future generations. And next week, I intend to expound on what I think is a solution, a solution that has been drowned out in this election process, a solution that George W. Bush parallels, a commitment that he feels very importantly about, because of the fact he is running for President, because he has proposed it as a part of this program instead of a methodological analysis and thoughtful analysis of what he is saying, people say it is a risky scheme. We hear people that say stay with the status quo.

Mr. Speaker, I am here to tell my colleagues that tonight we cannot stay with the status quo of Social Security. Social Security is in trouble. It is not in trouble today. It is not going to be in trouble for my generation, my generation and the generations ahead of me, they are okay. We are going to get our benefits.

Mr. Speaker, where it is going to be in trouble is the generations we ought to be worrying about, the generation behind me, my children. And at some point in time, my children's children. And we have a fiduciary responsibility to make Social Security a system that is sound from a fiscal point of view.

Today Social Security has more cash coming in than it has going out; that is called a cash basis. It has a positive