Today, our thoughts and prayers are with the Starnes family, the Morgan County Sheriff’s Department, and the entire Morgan County community for their loss. While words alone may not console Sergeant Starnes’ family and friends, I hope that the knowledge that he is now with Our Father in heaven gives us some comfort and gives them comfort as well.

During times like these, it is only natural to ask why, why do we have to lose such an outstanding person and an officer? While I cannot begin to answer such questions, I can only say that I find collective strength in my faith, and I pray that God grants the Starnes family and their friends both comfort and strength during this time of mourning.

**DEBT RELIEF**

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, this coming weekend, from July 20 to July 22, President George W. Bush will be meeting with the heads of government at the G-8 Summit in Genoa, Italy, to discuss international economic issues. I urge the President to support the complete cancellation of the debts that the world’s poorest countries owe the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank.

The Enhanced Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative, referred to as HIPC, was developed in 1999 to provide debt relief to the world’s poorest countries. The HIPC Initiative requires countries to invest the savings from debt relief in HIV-AIDS treatment and prevention, health care, education, and poverty reduction programs.

Unfortunately, the IMF and the World Bank have not provided their fair share of debt relief. While the United States agreed to cancel 100 percent of the debts owed by poor countries, the IMF and the World Bank have agreed to reduce these countries’ debts by less than half. As a result, the countries that have begun to receive debt relief have seen their debt payments reduced by an average of only 27 percent. Most of these countries are still spending more money on debt payments than they are on health care.

Zambia provides an excellent illustration of what is wrong with the approach of the IMF and the World Bank. Zambia is a deeply impoverished country with 50 percent of the population living on less than $1 a day. The IMF has cancelled 10 percent of the population is in- of Zambian children under 5 are mal-

1 percent of live births, and 27 percent try with a per capita income of only

Zambia is a deeply impoverished coun-

try. Nevertheless, the IMF and the World Bank urge the President to support the construction of what is wrong with the ap-

proach. The IMF and the World Bank to

allow these countries to participate in the HIPC Initiative. Furthermore, the bill would prohibit the use of user fees for education and health services and other structural adjustment programs as conditions for debt relief. Seventy-six Members of Congress representing both political parties have cosponsored this bill.

The IMF and the World Bank have sufficient resources to completely wipe away poor countries’ debts. It is time for the IMF and the World Bank to do their share to make debt relief a reality for poor countries and their people. It is time for the IMF and the World Bank to allow these countries to invest their resources in health, education, and the elimination of poverty.

I urge President Bush and the world leaders who attend the G-8 Summit to tell the IMF and the World Bank to completely cancel 100 percent of the debts of the world’s most impoverished countries once and for all.

**ELECTION REFORM**

(Ms. WATSON of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. WATSON of California. Mr. Speaker, it has now been almost 9 months since the election fiasco of the year 2000, and for 9 months America’s leaders have talked about election reform, but little has been done.

This week yet another report was released detailing the breakdown of our voting process in America. A joint study by CalTech and MIT found that 4 to 6 million Americans lost their right to vote because of outdated or faulty voting equipment and a flawed process.

This might come as a shock to some people, but it should not. Last week my colleagues and I on the House Committee on Government Reform released another study detailing the same problem. Too many Americans are forced to use outdated or faulty voting equipment and too many of these faulty ma-

chines are concentrated in the commu-

nities of the poor and minority voters.

Mr. Speaker, we have had 9 months of study, 9 months of research, 9 months of reports. Now the American people want and deserve action. Mr. Speaker, please make election reform the number one priority of this House in time to make real lasting changes before next year’s election.

**BRINGING SOCIAL SECURITY INTO THE 21ST CENTURY**

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

Mr. DeFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today the scare tactics began. A year ago today we had in hand a Social Security Trustees’ report that was truly kind of optimistic. Things were looking up for the system. The day in which it would not be able to pay 100 percent of benefits was put off until the year 2039. That is, Social Security had in hand, under conservative estimates, enough money from our taxes over the next 75 years in addition to the payroll taxes of working people, not the wealthy, because they do not pay on any income over $80,000, but the working people had put enough money in the trust fund to secure it through the year 2039.

No question. After that, with no changes, under pessimistic assumptions, it would only be able to pay 73 percent of the benefits. But here comes the Bush administration and the so-called Bipartisan Commission on Social Security loaded with people who have been trying to destroy the system, including, sadly, a couple of Members of Congress who are ostensibly Democrats for more than a quarter of a century. They are doing the work of Wall Street.

Wall Street cannot wait to mandate that individuals put money into individual accounts. When they can charge 250 million people a little bit of money to maintain accounts, they make tens of billions of dollars. Guess where the tens of billions of dollars comes from? It comes from future benefits that people would have realized under the current system.

This document is extraordinary in that it echoes Treasury Secretary O’Neill. It says that the United States government might not honor the trillions of dollars of obligations it has in special bonds to the Social Security Trust Fund. They are saying the crisis starts the day Social Security has to begin drawing on the funds, the savings we have put aside for our retirement.

The Bush administration is question- ing whether the full faith and cread- it of the United States government will be delivered on those debts, those obli- gations. If that is true, everybody around the world and across the United