Now, we did something very phenomenal last week; and we recognized this in the House of Representatives. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration, in the administration and the Congress, is in our national interest to build a missile defense system, because it is the United States Government that has a constitutional responsibility to its people to provide for national security. National security must now and forever include defense against incoming ballistic missiles.

So, Mr. Speaker, I would hope that the administration would work overtime to try to increase this defense budget. Let us not look back on this era of relative prosperity when the American people are doing well as an era that was similar to the era immediately preceding Korea, when we decided that there would not be any more wars and that we did not need to have a military that was ready to go. Then, on June 6 of 1950, we found ourselves pushed down the Korean peninsula by a third-rate military; and when the dust had cleared, over 30,000 Americans lay dead because we had underestimated the danger of the world; and we had also underestimated the drawdown of the American military that took place after World War II.

Mr. Speaker, we must keep a strong military. That is the underpinnings of our foreign policy, which is ultimately our foreign policy, which is ultimately our military. That is the underpinnings of our economic policy. So let us try to get that $18 billion, Mr. Speaker. It is crucial to everybody that wears a uniform in the United States and it is crucial to every American.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CRANE (at the request of Mr. ARMY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. GRAVES (at the request of Mr. ARMY) for today on account of traveling with the Vice President.

Mr. THOMAS (at the request of Mr. ARMY) for today on account of traveling with the Vice President.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. BROWN of Ohio) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material): Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DIAZ-BALART) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material): Mr. KERNS, for 5 minutes, today.

(For the following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material): Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.