

George Tenet is the right thing to do. We need him in the Middle East. We need United States involvement in the Middle East, and we need to use the Mitchell Commission as the pathway to peace. This violence has to stop.

#### CONGRATULATIONS TO 2001 GRADUATING CLASS OF CITY COLLEGE

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate the year 2001 graduating class of City College. This four-year private, nonprofit institution has its roots back in Kentucky more than 70 years ago. Today it is located in Fort Lauderdale with three campuses in Florida, including one in Miami.

This year City College is sending 140 new graduates into the working world who will bring with them skills and training in a variety of disciplines. The program of this small but ambitious college includes majors in business, hospitality management, broadcasting, legal assistance, private investigation and allied health, which covers an excellent EMT paramedic program along with medical office administration and medical assisting.

The City College graduating class is small but diverse and includes international students. I wish them all the best of luck and extend my most sincere congratulations on their individual accomplishments.

#### BUSH ENERGY PLAN AND EMINENT DOMAIN

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, we have had a couple of weeks now to digest the Bush administration energy plan. My stomach is as uneasy today as it was when it was released. For starters, the administration seeks to reduce regulations to encourage more oil, gas and nuclear production, along with tax incentives to boost coal output.

Mr. Speaker, the President says the Nation needs 1,300 to 1,900 new power plants over the next 20 years. That is one a week. The administration calls for 38,000 additional miles of natural gas pipelines, and 263,000 miles of distribution lines.

Well, that certainly does not sound good to me. I would like to know where they plan on putting these thousands of facilities and all these miles of infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, imagine living in one's home for many years, only to find out one day that distant bureaucrats have decided to take that land in order to

build pipelines; and they have the power, the power of eminent domain, and now they want the same thing. FERC wants to do the same thing with electrical lines as they have done with pipelines.

Mr. Speaker, the Bush proposal would expand that authority to include land for electricity power lines. If this plan goes into effect, we will have to keep our eyes open for 100-foot towers, high-voltage electrical that may be going through backyards and parks and communities near you.

#### THOUSANDS OF AMERICAN FARMERS EACH YEAR ARE LOSING THEIR FARMS

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, thousands of American farmers each year are losing their farms. Bankruptcy, unfair imports, estate taxes, government regulations, IRS, EPA, you name it. American farmers are literally biting the dust. Yet Uncle Sam is allowing imported ground beef to cross our borders without even being inspected. It is unbelievable. If that is not enough to milk your holstein, the American people know more about the origin of their BVDs than their food supply. With mad-cow disease and foot-and-mouth disease rampant over in Europe, there is not even a country-of-origin label on American food. Beam me up.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the fact that mad-cow disease is not a name for a rock group.

#### AMERICA NEEDS TO MOVE FORWARD ON AN ENERGY PLAN THAT IS CONCISE AND RESPONSIVE TO ALL AMERICANS

(Mr. RODRIGUEZ asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, the President has released his long-awaited energy plan. The President has proposed nothing that deals with the immediate energy crisis in California and the Pacific Northwest, or the crisis that may be looming in the New England area or the rising gasoline prices.

Instead, he said that the tax cut proposal will help consumers with the increased energy situation. However, these tax cut reductions will not take place until the year 2006. In addition, the tax cuts when you look at the 45 percent of the \$1.6 trillion tax cut, will benefit 1 percent of the richest in the country. Middle America that makes \$44,000 a year, 60 percent of Americans that make \$44,000, are going to receive less than 13 percent of this tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, so when we look at the President's proposal in energy, it does not take into consideration conservation activities that need to take place by all Americans, including the Federal Government; not to mention the

fact that we need to make sure that as we look in terms of our energy situation, we plan for the future by investing in America. We believe that the balanced energy policy is ill advised, and we need to move forward on an energy plan that is concise and make sure that it is responsive to all Americans.

#### PRESIDENTIAL TASK FORCE ON VETERANS' HEALTH CARE

(Mr. SHOWS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SHOWS. Mr. Speaker, on Memorial Day President Bush established a task force he says that will improve health care delivery for our Nation's veterans. This task force will take 2 years to study veterans and military retiree health care. With all due respect, Mr. Speaker, the last thing veterans and military retirees need is another study. They need health care now.

President Bush told veterans and military retirees that "promises made will be promises kept." Instead, he has given them 2 more years of who knows what while almost 1 million veterans will die.

Mr. Speaker, my bill, the Keep Our Promise to America's Retirees Act, has over 300 cosponsors and will go a long way towards restoring faith with them. Tricare, the military health care program, does not work for many military retirees. Veterans and military retirees are tired of empty words and broken promises. Let us think about it. For the last 20 years we have been telling the military retirees and veterans about health care saying when we get some money, we are going to help them with their health care. We have not delivered. Let us not wait another 2 years and let another million veterans die in disgrace.

□ 1015

#### BUDGET AN INSULT TO VETERANS

(Mr. FILNER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, as we speak, the Republicans are celebrating over at the White House their big tax break plan. These same folks who are celebrating gave great speeches on Memorial Day last week saying how much they supported our veterans. Yet they voted for a tax break plan and they voted for a budget which is an insult to our Nation's veterans.

This budget barely keeps pace with inflation from past years. We will have veterans waiting years to adjudicate their claims and 10,000 cases a week are being added to the backlog. Veterans will have to wait months and months