

Madam Speaker, before the war, Iraq was about oil. As the war continues, it is about billions in unaccounted-for oil revenues which the U.S. had custody of, responsibility for; and now nobody knows nothing.

#### MODERNIZING SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, 1 week ago in this Chamber the President of the United States began a national conversation about modernizing Social Security. I think there are a few things every American needs to know about Social Security reform.

First and foremost, if you are over the age of 55, Social Security reform will not affect you.

Secondly, to every working family, small business and family farm, we will bring about this reform without raising payroll taxes on working Americans.

The third thing we need to know is, the current system cannot afford to pay promised benefits to younger workers, so we have to bring the new and powerful idea of personal retirement accounts to give Americans the opportunity to make the same amount of dollars work harder for them in the future.

President Franklin Roosevelt, on January 17, 1935, said in a speech to Congress about Social Security that its second wave would be "compulsory, contributory annuities which in time will establish a self-supporting system for those now young and for future generations." President Roosevelt's vision for Social Security was right for the 20th century, and his second vision is right for the 21st.

#### \$750 BILLION "ROUNDING ERROR"

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, we have all done it. We all make mistakes. They are unavoidable. Yesterday we learned that the White House budget made a tiny little mistake, a \$750 billion "rounding error."

According to the President's budget, the new Medicare prescription drug benefit is now going to cost the taxpayers \$1.2 trillion, not the \$400 billion they told us just last year. That is quite a difference from last year when the White House budget director, the man responsible for the money, assured everybody, "The Congressional Budget Office estimate for the prescription drug bill was and remains \$395 billion."

And lest we forget, last year during debate on the Medicare benefit, our distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Mrs. JOHN-

SON), chairman of a House subcommittee on Ways and Means, "I am pleased that the President has proposed to strengthen Medicare with a \$400 billion plan which adds prescription drug coverage."

Well, the joke is on the taxpayers and the senior citizens of America. Rather than funding \$400 billion, it is a \$1.2 trillion "rounding error." What is worse, this mammoth new program does nothing to reduce the cost of prescription drugs. We need reimportation legislation to deal with the affordability and cost of prescription drugs.

These are the same individuals who are now trying to sell Americans on their fix for Social Security.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY NEEDS BIPARTISAN REFORM

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, last week the Democrats booed when the President laid out his plan for Social Security. I promise one thing: I will not boo when and if they lay out their plan.

I welcome the Democrats' ideas on Social Security. I think it is very important to make a bipartisan reform. We need to protect and preserve Social Security not just for the next election, but for the next generation. I beg my Democrat colleagues to put a plan on the table. We will not boo. We will look at it and take the best of your ideas and combine them with the best ideas of the Senate, the House and the White House.

We all seem to agree, in the year 2018, more money will be going out of the trust fund than is going in. We all agree in the year 2042, if we do not whack benefits 27 percent, the program will be going bankrupt. We all agree that in the 1950s, there were 16 workers for every one retiree, and today there are 3.3 workers for every retiree. And we all know this because the Democrats participate in the Federal Employee Thrift Savings accounts, which allow them to choose interest-earning accounts similar to the personal accounts the President has proposed.

Madam Speaker, I again ask the Democrats, Please put your ideas on the table; we will not boo.

#### HONORING RALPH LOPEZ

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

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the many accomplishments of Ralph Lopez as the sheriff of Bexar County. Sheriff Lopez was reelected to serve the people of Bexar County for a fourth term this

past November, 2004. He has dutifully served the people as sheriff since 1993, and continues to excel as one of Bexar County's most memorable sheriffs.

Before serving as sheriff, he was a decorated member of the San Antonio Police Department for 35 years, and was a cofounder of the Crime Stoppers Program in 1983.

While a member of the San Antonio Police Department, Sheriff Lopez worked towards receiving a bachelor's degree and a master's degree from St. Mary's University in San Antonio.

Since the early 1990s, Sheriff Lopez has received numerous awards, including the Outstanding Political Service Award from the Texas Public Workers Association in 1996 and the Barbara Jordan Award for Excellence in Public Service in 1995.

Along with his many accomplishments for the people of Bexar County, Sheriff Lopez has been married to his lovely wife, Nancy, for 46 years. I ask that we honor Sheriff Lopez, who exemplifies what is the best of San Antonio.

#### YUCCA MOUNTAIN PROJECT RIDDLED WITH PROBLEMS

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

Ms. BERKLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the \$651 million included in the President's budget for the Yucca Mountain project. An increase in funds for the Yucca project that is consistently riddled with problems is ridiculous.

Last year the Department of Energy faced insurmountable hurdles it was unable to overcome, resulting in its failure to submit its license application on time. The second highest court in the United States ruled that the Yucca Mountain radiation standards were inadequate to protect the health and safety of the American people and that the EPA knowingly ignored the scientists' recommendations. We are talking about the harmful effects of radiation being underestimated by a mere 290,000 years.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission, to its credit, refused to rubber-stamp an electronic database required for licensing the Yucca repository, and expressed serious concerns about the lack of information supplied in the license application.

Instead of dumping even more money into a \$9 billion hole in the Nevada desert, we should be investing in clean, renewable energy sources and moving toward energy independence. Instead, the President is slashing critical funding for renewable energy while adding \$651 million to the Yucca Mountain debacle.

Fraud, waste and abuse in government, look at the Yucca Mountain project. It is the poster child.

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**RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. EMERSON) laid before the House the following resignation from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR SPEAKER HASTERT: Effective immediately I am resigning my position on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

It has been a pleasure to serve on the Committee, and I will continue to support the Committee to achieve its legislative goals. However, because of my recent appointment to the House Financial Services Committee and the House Homeland Security Committee as well as my continued service on the House Resources Committee, it is necessary for me to resign from the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for appointing me to the House Financial Services and Homeland Security Committees. I look forward to these new Committee assignments and working to advance the Majority agenda. Your help was critical and I greatly appreciate your effort on my behalf.

Thank you for your support and for accepting my resignation from the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee. If you have any questions, please contact me.

Sincerely,

STEVAN PEARCE,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

**RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT REFORM**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the Committee on Government Reform:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 8, 2005.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Office of the Speaker,  
U.S. Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I respectfully resign from the Committee on Government Reform, effective immediately.

Sincerely,

KATHERINE HARRIS,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

**ELECTION OF MEMBERS TO COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY**

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Republican Conference, I offer a privileged resolution (H. Res. 73) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 73

*Resolved*, That the following named Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committee of the House of Representatives (with previously elected members restated for the purpose of ranking):

Committee on Homeland Security: Mr. Young of Alaska; Mr. Smith of Texas; Mr. Weldon of Pennsylvania; Mr. Shays; Mr. King of New York; Mr. Linder; Mr. Souder; Mr. Tom Davis of Virginia; Mr. Lungren; Mr. Gibbons; Mr. Simmons; Mr. Rogers of Alabama; Mr. Pearce; Ms. Harris; Mr. Jindal; Mr. Reichert; Mr. McCaul; and Mr. Dent.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on each motion to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas or nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record vote on postponed questions will be taken later today.

**EXPRESSING SENSE OF CONGRESS THAT DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONTINUE TO EXERCISE ITS AUTHORITY SUPPORTING ACTIVITIES OF BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA**

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 6) expressing the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 6

Whereas the Boy Scouts of America was incorporated on February 8, 1910, and received a Federal charter on June 15, 1916, which is currently codified as chapter 309 of title 36, United States Code;

Whereas section 30902 of title 36, United States Code, states that it is the purpose of the Boy Scouts of America to promote, through organization, and cooperation with other agencies, the ability of boys to do things for themselves and others, to train them in scoutercraft, and to teach them patriotism, courage, self-reliance, and kindred virtues;

Whereas, since its inception, millions of Americans of every race, creed, and religion have participated in the Boy Scouts, and the Boy Scouts of America, as of October 1, 2004, utilizes more than 1,200,000 adult volunteers to serve 2,863,000 youth members organized in 121,051 units;

Whereas the Department of Defense and members of the Armed Forces have a long history of supporting the activities of the

Boy Scouts of America and individual Boy Scout troops inside the United States, and section 2606 of title 10, United States Code, enacted in 1988, specifically authorizes the Department of Defense to cooperate with and assist the Boy Scouts of America in establishing and providing facilities and services for members of the Armed Forces and their dependents, and civilian employees of the Department of Defense and their dependents, at locations outside the United States;

Whereas sections 4682, 7541, and 9682 of title 10, United States Code, authorize the Department of Defense to sell and, in certain cases, donate obsolete or excess material to the Boy Scouts of America to support its activities; and

Whereas since Public Law 92-249, enacted on March 10, 1972, and codified as section 2554 of title 10, United States Code, the Department of Defense has been specifically authorized to make military installations available to, and to provide equipment, transportation, and other services to, the Boy Scouts of America to support national and world gatherings of Boy Scouts at events known as Boy Scout Jamborees: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring)*, That it is the sense of the Congress that the Department of Defense should continue to exercise its long-standing statutory authority to support the activities of the Boy Scouts of America, in particular the periodic national and world Boy Scout Jamborees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUTTERFIELD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the concurrent resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Colorado?

There was no objection.

Mr. HEFLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, once again we find the Boy Scouts of America under attack from the American Civil Liberties Union. This time the ACLU has set its sights on the Department of Defense, challenging its longstanding support of the Boy Scouts.

In 1999 the ACLU of Illinois sued the DOD, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the Chicago Board of Education for sponsoring Boy Scout programs because participation in Boy Scouts includes an oath to God. Ultimately, the Chicago Board of Education suspended its sponsorship of scouting activities, and on Tuesday, November 16, 2004, the Department of Defense agreed to issue a worldwide directive to all its military facilities that the Department and its personnel may not sponsor Boy Scout units in an official manner.