

really buy in terms of our security here in the United States of America.

Five billion dollars would give our ports and waterways the protection they need from attacks.

It would cost only \$1 billion to screen all air passenger cargo.

Just \$2.6 billion would allow our rail and public transit systems to meet important security requirements.

Just think of what we could do at home for \$200 billion: universal preschool education, comprehensive health coverage for every American, a safe child care system that will give peace of mind to all working families.

There would still be plenty left over to implement a SMART security agenda that would be about preventing war, not preemptive war; that would eliminate wasteful programs like missile defense and the many Cold War relics that are doing nothing to keep us safe.

SMART security would mean robust multilateral alliances to stop the spread of terrorism, vigorous inspection regimes to stop weapons of mass destruction proliferation, and an ambitious humanitarian development program that tackles the poverty and despair that foster terrorism in the first place.

\$200 billion, that is about \$675 for every American man, woman and child, which is not to say that the sacrifices of this war have been spread evenly throughout the population.

The well-connected and the wealthy have not been asked to sacrifice, even though rolling back the Bush tax cuts would go a long way toward paying this enormous bill.

No, the ones who have sacrificed are coming home in flag-draped coffins because they were sent to depose a regime that represented no imminent threat to our security. Their families did not get a tax cut. The only thing they got from the government was a devastating letter that Donald Rumsfeld did not even bother to sign personally.

The most disturbing thing about the President's request for more Iraq funding is the lack of accountability. Why are we writing another check for a mission that has been so badly botched? Who is being held responsible for the misuse of the money we have already approved?

If Secretary Rumsfeld and the Pentagon could not manage to get body armor to our troops with the first \$100 billion we gave them, why would we trust them with even more hard-earned American tax dollars?

Where is this money going? How much of it is enriching war profiteers? Why did the Army waive its usual procedures and make full payment to Haliburton, despite legitimate questions about overbilling and financial mismanagement?

Why can we not get a congressional investigation into the \$9 billion that

mysteriously disappeared from the books at the Coalition Provisional Authority?

If the President wants more money for this war, he can take it out of something he cares about instead of taking it out of the hides of the American people.

No more blank checks. I will vote against this supplemental, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS AND OUR NATION'S VETERANS

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

Mr. FILNER. Madam Speaker, I want to explain to my colleagues and to Americans across the country what happened here today on the floor of the House, especially what happened to the veterans of these United States, veterans of past wars, veterans of the current war in Iraq and Afghanistan. Iran may be next.

We had a supplemental budget, they call it, on the floor today, a budget for \$81 billion to fund our war in Iraq and Afghanistan; and they called it a supplemental so they could do it over and above the regular budget so they do not have to pay for it in ways that you and I have to pay for things or our businesses have to pay for things. They just create a bigger deficit without accountability.

So they are on their way to passing an \$81 billion supplemental bill for our active duty troops; and yet when I brought on to the floor an amendment to that \$81 billion that said let us put \$3 billion into care for our veterans, those coming back from the wars today and those who have been in wars previous to this, I asked for a figure of \$3 billion because that is what the veterans service organizations in this Nation said is what we need more than what the President requested in his recent budget proposal. So I brought on to the floor a \$3 billion amendment to an \$81 billion supplemental.

Keep in mind that we have a \$2.5 trillion budget. We have this year at least a \$400 billion deficit. We have an existing debt of \$7.5 trillion. We are spending \$1 billion every 2 or 3 days in the Middle East, and yet they say we do not have the \$3 billion for our veterans.

That is what happened on the floor of the House today, my fellow Americans. They voted down the ability to deal with our veterans.

Those who are coming back today from Afghanistan and Iraq, the vast majority have the potential of having post-traumatic stress disorder, PTSD; and yet when they will need the services in the coming year, we will have reduced those PTSD services because of the cut in the budget that the President has proposed and this Republican Congress will approve.

We will cut nursing care. We will cut research. We will cut prosthetic devices. But we will add more waiting time for those who want a mental health examination or a dental examination. We will add months and months and months to the waiting time for those who want their claims established. Yet when I asked today for \$3 billion, the majority of this House said no.

We can afford the \$81 billion. It was for our active duty. We can afford a \$7.5 trillion debt. We can go into deficits for \$400 billion this year, but no, no, let us not pay that \$3 billion for our veterans.

I thought that was disgraceful. I thought that was unconscionable. I hope that when the Republican Members of this House go home, all the veterans across this country will say, how come you voted against that amendment to give \$3 billion more for our health care? How come you did not respect our active duty, when they come home will not find the services? How come they negatively influenced the morale of our troops, because they know that they are not getting proper treatment back home?

I hope people ask that to those Republican Congressmen who voted down my motion on a technicality, when we have veterans from World War II and since and coming back today who are suffering.

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Madam Speaker, I think that is disgraceful. I think the American people had better question this Congress about why they do not support the veterans of this United States.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. LEACH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of a family emergency.

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. FILNER) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCGOVERN, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. KOLBE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and March 16 and 17.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, March 16, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1159. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area [Docket No. 02-096-4] received March 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1160. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oriental Fruit Fly; Removal of Quarantined Area [Docket No. 04-106-2] received March 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

1161. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 97-02, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1162. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting a letter reporting a violation of sections 1341 and 1517(a) of Title 31, United States Code (the Antideficiency Act); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1163. A letter from the Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral Phillip M. Balisle, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1164. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Major Systems Acquisition [DFARS Case 2003-D030] received March 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1165. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Provision of Information to Cooperative Agreement Holders [DFARS Case 2004-D025] received March 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1166. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report pursuant to Section 9010 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Pub. L. 108-287); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1167. A letter from the Director, U.S. Mint, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a

report describing how the agency is implementing the Public Enterprise Fund (PEF) and using its flexibilities to become a market-driven public enterprise, covering the 1st Quarter of FY 2005, which ended on December 31, 2004; to the Committee on Financial Services.

1168. A letter from the Regulatory Specialist, Legislative and Regulatory Activities Division, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—OCC Guidelines Establishing Standards for Residential Mortgage Lending Practices [Docket No. 05-02] (RIN: 1557-AC93) received February 4, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1169. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Community Planning and Development, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Community Development Block Grant Program; Small Cities and Insular Areas Programs [Docket No. FR-4919-F-02] (RIN: 2506-AC17) received March 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1170. A letter from the President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a report involving U.S. exports to Chile, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3)(i); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1171. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Investment Management/Office of Regulatory Policy, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's "Major" final rule—Mutual Fund Redemption Fees [Release No. IC-26782; File No. S7-11-04] (RIN: 3235-AJ17) received March 15, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

1172. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-Employer Plans; Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing and Paying Benefits—received March 8, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

1173. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report entitled "A Healthier, Safer America, 2001-2005"; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1174. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Acacia (Gum Arabic) [Docket No. 2003F-0023] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1175. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses, as required by Section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6032; to the Committee on International Relations.

1176. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as re-

quired by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), section 505(c) of the International Security and Development Cooperation Act of 1985, 22 U.S.C. 2349aa-9(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12957 of March 15, 1995; to the Committee on International Relations.

1177. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, Department of Defense, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 05-17, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Iraq for defense articles and services; to the Committee on International Relations.

1178. A letter from the Secretary, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution of 2002 (Pub. L. 107-243), the Authorization for the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution (Pub. L. 102-1), and in order to keep the Congress fully informed, a report prepared by the Department of State for the October 15-December 15, 2004 reporting period including matters relating to post-liberation Iraq under Section 7 of the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998 (Pub. L. 105-338); to the Committee on International Relations.

1179. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 565(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act for FY 1994 and 1995 (Pub. L. 103-236), certifications and waivers of the prohibition against contracting with firms that comply with the Arab League Boycott of the State of Israel and of the prohibition against contracting with firms that discriminate in the award of subcontracts on the basis of religion, and accompanying Memorandum of Justification; to the Committee on International Relations.

1180. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting consistent with the resolution of advice and consent to ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling, and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, adopted by the Senate of the United States on April 24, 1997, and Executive Order 13346 of July 8, 2004, certification pursuant to Condition 7(C)(i), Effectiveness of the Australia Group; to the Committee on International Relations.

1181. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Capital Management, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1182. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Public Information Regulations; Withdrawal [Docket No. 2004N-0214] received January 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1183. A letter from the Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the budget request for the Office of Inspector General, Railroad Retirement Board, for fiscal year 2006, prepared in compliance with OMB Circular No. A-11; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1184. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting a