Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, it is with a heavy heart that I rise today to pay tribute to the memory of a true leader and my friend, Anne Lois Britt. On June 4, just 3 weeks ago, Lois Britt passed away in her sleep. Not only did her family lose a devoted and caring matriarch but Lois’ passing marked a serious loss for our State. Lois’ first love was to her family and grand-children, Ralph and Luke, but she loved and treated the betterment of rural North Carolina like it was her second family. She touched the lives of so many, and words cannot express what she meant to those around her. Throughout her nearly 50-year career, Lois was able to work for, and with, the things she loved—her family, people, education, agriculture, and Duplin County.

Lois was born and reared in Duplin County, North Carolina. Duplin County is in the rural eastern part of North Carolina. However, Lois could see from an early age, if given just a few resources, the citizens she could do and achieve wonderful things. She was determined to improve the lives of everyone she knew, and she knew almost everybody. So after earning her bachelor’s degree from East Carolina University, while attending from North Carolina State with a master’s degree in adult education, she returned home to begin her life’s work.

Once back in Duplin, she started with the extension service, working in 4-H, home economics and community development. For more than 33 years, she helped mold 4-H’ers, families, and co-workers into positive, productive citizens. To put into perspective how much she meant to the 4-H community, I would like to tell you a story I heard from one of her closest friends. It is customary in North Carolina to have one large family Bible that you keep records, newspaper clippings, and any good memorabilia about your family. One common item usually found in Duplin County family Bibles was the children’s 4-H certificates. For 33 years, Lois Britt signed every single 4-H certificate awarded. You see, Lois was a part of everyone’s family in some way or another. Countless people in Duplin County credit Lois and the skills they gained under her 4-H and extension leadership for the success they have enjoyed in life.

While she was doing what God had put her on earth to do, helping others, Lois’ career began to take off. In 1976, she was promoted to county extension director. She held this position for 14 years and was the first woman in North Carolina’s history to serve in that capacity.

After leaving the county extension in 1990, she worked until 2000 with Murphy Family Farms as vice president for public relations. Additionally, she was a member of the board of the North Carolina Pork Council and was vice president of the National Pork Producers Council. It was through her work in pork and agriculture that Lois and I first became friends. We worked together in the North Carolina State Senate and here in the House of Representatives on a number of projects to improve and bolster the pork industry in our home State. We did not always see eye to eye on every issue, but I always knew where she stood and I admired her for that.

It was during her time with Murphy Brown Farms and the North Carolina Pork Council that Lois became a national spokesperson for her industry. She gained national notoriety in her field as an effective and creative leader. People looked up to Lois and respected what she had to say. Although she never ran for public office, I suspect Lois could have held any elected position she wanted due to her leadership, compassion, and understanding of complicated issues.
Mr. Speaker, before I begin my comments this evening, I would like to just pause for a moment and commend our colleagues from the aisle as they have stood tonight to remember and to commemorate those men and women who have given their lives in the fight for freedom. We can never begin to explain to our citizens our gratitude to the men and women who fight to preserve freedom. Our country has a long, storied, noble history in the fight for freedom and democracy. I want to commend them for reminding and for remembering that there are those who have given their lives. We need to remember each and every individual.

This Nation has been being attacked by terrorists now for a couple of decades. We need to go back and as we remember these men and women who have lost their lives in Iraq, we need to also remember those that lost their lives with the Khobar Towers, with the U.S. Embassy while we were there during the Kufra bombing, those in Afghanistan and those that currently serve in Afghanistan as well as all of our men and women who are currently deployed. In Tennessee, in my district, we have men and women who are members of the National Guard who are deployed in both Afghanistan and Iraq. To those families, we say we stand with you so solidly, so totally in this fight for freedom.

We have men and women from Fort Campbell, which primarily sits in the Seventh Congressional District of Tennessee, who are preparing to redeploy with the 101st or the 160th, who are in the process of being redeployed. We thank each and every one of them for their service, for their sacrifice, their families we thank for their service and their sacrifice, those precious children who are at home for the summer with their parents, but who are both concerned and afraid or who are taking the risk to come to the ball field to watch them or to take them to swimming lessons or to hold them tight at night when they are worried and have fears and concerns. We stand with you in this fight for freedom.

We are talking a good bit about what our agenda has been and being in touch with the desires of the American people. I want to call attention to a couple of things that have been in the press lately. We had some House Members yesterday who wrote a letter to Minority Leader Pelosi saying that they were shocked by a statement in which she said the war in Afghanistan was over, and I am quoting from the letter. They said, "Ms. Pelosi, you could demoralize our troops and undermine our efforts to fight terrorism in Afghanistan and around the world." That was in their letter, and reminding her that we have known all along this is going to be a long, long war, it is not going to be an easy war. It is going to require some sacrifice on all of our parts, on each and every single individual's part.

And then I pulled another article from today's press. It was talking in detail about the fighting in Afghanistan. It just goes to show us, those who wish us harm, those who would do evil are still out there and they are fighting and fighting against freedom.

But much of this has to do with focus and where we put our focus and where this 109th Congress chooses to place its focus. We were here this week talking about the agenda, the Republican agenda, and some of the things that we have accomplished. We are in our 69th day, I believe it is, of our session. There are many strides that we have made for the American people. As we have talked about this, and I know the gentlewoman from North Carolina is certainly aware of this, every time we pass a bill here, it does not mean we have added another law or added another layer of government, it means that what it means is that we are removing or repealing something and that is the way it ought to be, because being committed to freedom, being here to defend the individual freedoms that each and every person holds dear, means that one of the things we are doing is trying to roll back that long reaching arm of government, roll it back and send that power and send that money and send that authority to the State and local levels. That is something that as a majority feel is very important: individual freedoms, local control, moving forward on an agenda that is a conservative, well-placed agenda, rooting out waste, fraud and abuse, looking for ways to shrink some of these government programs.

These are some of the things that we have been able to make progress on over the last few months: bankruptcy reform, which we passed with 302 votes in the House and 93 votes in the Senate. We had Democrats cross over and vote with us to pass that. The reason they do that, most of America agrees with the majority's agenda, things that are going to strengthen families, things that are going to strengthen small business.

Class action reform. We have all heard the stories of how trial lawyers go out and make $20, $30 million off of different class action cases and then the members of the class end up with a coupon for 50 cents off, a free movie, a free bottle of juice, a free packet of some commodity. Class action reform passed in this body with 279 votes. Fifty of those votes were Democrats.

REAL ID Act. Addressing illegal immigration and the impact illegal immigration has on this great Nation. We passed the REAL ID Act which is the first step in this, working in concert with many of our State legislatures. They were supporting us as we moved forward with the REAL ID Act to be certain that we had valid documents, immigration documents, used for driver's licenses. The
I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me and for inviting me to join her on the floor. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. Blackburn).

Now I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. Marchant), who has come into this Congress along with me and whom I have come to appreciate so much for his leadership and insights.

Mr. Marchant. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) for yielding to me. It is a rare privilege for me to be on the floor with her tonight, and it was a privilege for me to spend the last hour listening to the names of men and women who have given their lives so that we would have the opportunity to hear tonight and to state our views and debate and pass laws that will affect this country.

But this evening I would like to commend the leadership of the Republican 109th Congress, which at its halfway point has indeed marked major legislative achievement. The Democrats have responded to our party’s ideas and vision with a lack of ideas and a lack of vision. They have continuously criticized the actions of the majority, but remain unwilling to put forward any constructive plan on Social Security, energy, or illegal immigration.

I am proud of the many initiatives already passed by House Republicans this year to strengthen this great Nation. This includes class action reform. This reform addresses the most serious cases of class action abuse by allowing large interstate class action cases to be heard in Federal court. The measure unclogs courts, very specific, overused courts and ends harassment of local businesses through forum shopping and limits the thousands and thousands of frivolous lawsuits that are being filed every day.

Another example is the READ ID Act. The READ ID Act completes the mission and recommendations of the 9/11 Commission. It closes asylum loopholes and implements driver’s license reforms, strengthens deportation laws, and defends our borders. This bill is necessary to secure our borders and our homeland.

This majority has also passed the permanent repeal of the death tax. The death tax is the leading cause of dissolution for most of our small businesses in America. This unfair tax hampers economic growth. Permanently killing the death tax creates a tax policy that supplements economic growth and opportunity and gives hope to future generations. Our small farmers, our Realtors, our small businesses in America only want to pass on what they have spent generations earning to their families; yet we have a death tax now that robs them of that ability.

America needs a comprehensive energy policy. This Republican Congress passed an energy bill that creates ½ million new jobs and a whole range of industries. The initiative provides incentives for renewable energies and leadership in energy conservation. The Energy Policy Act allows for increased domestic oil and gas exploration and development. It aims to decrease America’s dependence on foreign oil and therefore make our country safer and more self-reliant.

Republican Members of Congress are also currently hammering out solutions to the looming Social Security crisis, as well as negotiating a highway bill that will improve driver safety, traffic congestion, and create millions of new jobs across America.

Such progress and achievement for this well-being of this Congress can only be attributed to the leadership and effectiveness of congressional Republicans. I am disappointed that our opposing party continues to hinder progress and relies on its legislative obstructionism.

I am proud of what we have accomplished thus far in the 109th Congress for the American people.

Ms. Foxx. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

I now yield to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. Drake), who also came in with this freshman class and represents the Second District of Virginia.

Mrs. Drake. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. Foxx) for her leadership tonight and for allowing us to participate here with her in this hour.

We have heard from the gentleman from Texas and the gentlewoman from Tennessee that we are right at our halfway point for the first year of the 109th Congress. I think that the gentlewoman from North Carolina would agree with me that it is a very exciting time to serve in Congress. There are very many major issues that face our Nation, and the existing thing is that this Congress is committed to dealing with those issues.

We have begun the debate on Social Security. We will begin the debate on Medicaid reform with the commission that is being formed, a bipartisan commission on health care reform. We will work on the total issue of health care, Medicare reform, illegal immigration. There are just many issues that this Congress must deal with and is committed to dealing with.

We have heard tonight about some of the major pieces of legislation that have already been passed by both bodies and enacted into law, from bankruptcy reform to class action lawsuit reform to the READ ID Act and the Continuity of Government Act.

We have also heard about pieces of legislation that were in the works for a very long time and have now passed over to the Senate and we are awaiting
June 23, 2005

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE
13957

their action. On a national energy plan, our country knows today how critical it is that we have a national energy plan. We can no longer be reliant on foreign oil, which today is 62 percent of the energy of the oil that is used in this country.

Other key things that this Congress has sent to the Senate is the Child Interstate Abortion Act, a critical piece of legislation for our parents and our families; Gang Violence Deterrence and Protection Act, critical for our safety in our communities; the flag protection amendment; U.N. reform; and the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. Also, both Houses have acted on our highway bill, and that bill is currently in conference and there will be a compromise at approximately somewhere around $284 billion for highways. I want to address a heavy heart and a very heavy heart of June 23, 2005, creating countless new jobs and addressing many transportation needs.

The American people need to know that Congress is hard at work and dealing with problems that have not yet been addressed by bankruptcy reform and class action lawsuit alone were at least 6 years before those bills were passed. Last year Congress did not pass a highway bill; and this year, as we have heard, we are very close to finalizing that.

The people of this Nation have expressed that Congress needed to demand and require commonsense reform in regards to our participation and financial support of the U.N. I commend the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman Hyde) and the House Committee on International Relations for their hard work. Now the U.S. can require accountability and tie payments to it.

And we now have figures to show how well the tax cuts are working. Current numbers reflect an additional $100 billion in revenue. It shows that that economic model of allowing people to keep more of their hard-earned money means that they will create new jobs, they will invest it, and they will grow tax dollars for us.

But to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX), who has organized this, Mr. Speaker, as pleased as I am with the progress and accomplishments of this Congress, I stand here today with a heavy heart and am very concerned about the deficit. We know that the President has said, and he has said it is very concerned about the deficit. We have to reduce the size of the deficit. Now, that is just true. But I want to thank her for yielding to me.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) for her comments, and I want to tell her that I am as distressed about this ruling as she is. I think that the people of this country are very concerned with activist courts and are very concerned at where the country is going as far as judicial rulings, and I want to join her in doing whatever we possibly can legislatively to stop this kind of action from being taken. She is absolutely right. It is one of our most fundamental rights, the right to private property, and it is one of the things that has made this country so great. So I look forward to her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. DIAZ-BALART), someone I have come to know and admire tremendously, who represents the 25th District of Florida, for his wisdom on the issues we are discussing tonight.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is very kind, and I thank her for yielding to me.

I too want to join the many who have expressed their gratitude for what she is doing here tonight. But really more importantly, if I may, I want to thank her for her incredible, passionate leadership particularly on fighting waste, fraud, and abuse that is, unfortunately, still rampant in the Federal budget. She has been such a champion, and it has been a privilege for me to learn from her, see how she does it, and she has been extremely effective. So it is just true. I want to see how she works, and it is wonderful that she is giving this Special Order to speak about issues that are important to the United States of America.

□ 2030

I was listening to the honorable gentlewoman from North Carolina, and she was talking about things that have happened in this Chamber. One of the things that is important is to highlight the fact that not only legislation that we have passed here, but it is legislation, not for the sake of passing legislation, it is legislation that has had real, concrete, positive results for the American people. Let us look at some of the recent legislation that has been passed, but the results of that legislation.

Look at, for example, the growth in the GDP, the gross domestic product. This is after 9/11. This is after the Internet bubble burst. This is after the recession that President Bush inherited when he first got elected. Despite all that, because of legislation that the President led on and that this Congress passed, the GDP, the growth of the economy, has been spectacular. Mr. Speaker, again, that is because of a few quarters of real growth in the economy, a 3.5 percent increase in the GDP. Again, 14 consecutive quarters of real growth, despite this Congress and our President found itself dealing with after 9/11.

Look at payroll employment. It rose by 2.2 million jobs during 2004; 2.2 million jobs that would be unemployed if it was not for the policies of this Congress, of this majority, and of the President of the United States. Mr. Speaker, 3.5 million jobs over the past 24 months. Ask those hard-working Americans who now have jobs if the policies that this Congress has pursued and passed have not worked for them.

They have worked for them, and we are grateful for the President’s leadership. I think we have to always remind ourselves that with a little bit of help, with a few Democrats, but with the leadership of the Speaker of the House and the Majority leader, things have happened for our country, for our working men and women in our great country.

Look at, again, the fact that unemployment today, right now, is lower than it was, than the average of the 1970s, the decade of the 1980s and, yes, even lower than the decade of the 1990s. Hard to believe that that is possible, after 9/11, after the scandals on Wall Street, after the bubble-burst of the Internet. Again, that is because of the leadership of our President and because of the leadership of this House.

The homeownership rate is at record levels. More people own homes than ever in the history of our country and, by the way, if we look at minority homeownership also, that is at record levels.

Now, we have more to do. We have more to do, still, and we are working hard to do even more. All of us are concerned about that, to reduce the size of the deficit. We know that the President has said, and he has pledged to cut the deficit in half over the next five years. The budget that

The exact words of the dissenting opinion are: “Under the banner of economic development, all private property not provisionally taken for public use so long as it might be upgraded, i.e., given to an owner, who will use it in a way that the legislature deems more beneficial to the public in the process.”

Mr. Speaker, this decision today effectively removes the requirement of public use from the takings clause of the fifth amendment. With this decision all property owners are at risk. My office is currently exploring what legislative remedies are available to ensure that Americans do truly own their property.

I would like to thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. I look forward to continuing to work with her and adding this additional item to our plate to make sure that the people of our country express the right that our forefathers came here for, to own private property.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. DRAKE) for her comments, and I want to tell her that I am as distressed about this ruling as she is. I think that the people of this country are very concerned with activist courts and are very concerned at where the country is going as far as judicial rulings, and I want to join her in doing whatever we possibly can legislatively to stop this kind of action from being taken. She is absolutely right. It is one of our most fundamental rights, the right to private property, and it is one of the things that has made this country so great. So I look forward to her leadership on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. DIAZ-BALART), someone I have come to know and admire tremendously, who represents the 25th District of Florida, for his wisdom on the issues we are discussing tonight.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman is very kind, and I thank her for yielding to me.

I too want to join the many who have expressed their gratitude for what she is doing here tonight. But really more importantly, if I may, I want to thank her for her incredible, passionate leadership particularly on fighting waste, fraud, and abuse that is, unfortunately, still rampant in the Federal budget. She has been such a champion, and it has been a privilege for me to learn from her, see how she does it, and she has been extremely effective. So it is just true. I want to see how she works, and it is wonderful that she is giving this Special Order to speak about issues that are important to the United States of America.
this House passed does just that in a responsible fashion. It gets a handle on the deficit. It is going to reduce the deficit in half. We do that by controlling spending.

Hey, folks, this is not rocket science. If you are spending too much money, that is why you have a deficit, hey, what do you do? Spend less. Not rocket science. Well, that is what we are doing.

But let me tell my colleagues what our friends in the Democratic Party have proposed as their solution to control the deficit. We hear them here on the Floor of the House continuously, and even in the Senate, talking about, oh, the deficit is too high. But then, what do they propose? They propose billions and billions of dollars in additional spending, which would directly increase the size of the deficit. They have done so publicly. They have done so with an amendment in the Committee on the Budget on which I have the honor of serving and also here on the Floor of the House. We cannot have it both ways. They cannot be concerned about the deficit and then propose billions and billions of dollars of additional spending in the Federal budget, spending of Federal dollars.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.

The President, by the way, has done a great job in looking for programs that are not working. I do not think again it takes a rocket scientist to understand that there are Federal programs that frankly are just not doing that well, that are just wasting the taxpayers’ money. Once again, I have to repeat what I said in the beginning. I want to thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for her efforts, particularly in trying to fight waste in the Federal Government.
Democrats are proud of their transformation and proclaim it loudly. At a DNC gathering in New York, the chairman of the party said, “I hate Republicans and everything they stand for.”

Well, Mr. Speaker, I do not hate Howard Dean and I have never heard another single Republican say that they hate Democrats. I do feel sorry for him. I feel sorry for those whom he has let down, the millions of Democrats across the country whose party he leads. Mr. Speaker, unlike Mr. Dean, I do not lump all members of the opposition party together. I know there are good Democrats who possess bright ideas and patriotic souls. Some of them might even live and work in this town. And I feel for them. Their leader believes that the louder he screams, the better. They will somehow be able to hear him. But I tell my colleagues this: soon, people will stop listening.

Mr. Speaker, our two-party system works best when both sides bring ideas to the table and hash them out. Yes, the 30-year debate tends to win out, if not all the time, but that is what the voters intended. I understand this better than most, because I spent 10 years in the North Carolina General Assembly in the minority party.

What is most important is that the marketplace of ideas is routinely stocked with the freshest and most visionary policies each side has to offer. I am happy to say Republicans are doing their job, but I am sorry I cannot say the same about the Democrats’ leadership.

Instead of policy proposals, we get blank stares. Instead of negotiation, we get obstruction. Instead of dialogue, we get rhetoric.

I am happy to say that on many of the most important issues of the day, a large number of rank-and-file Democrats have joined us, despite the reluctance of their leadership.

In 5 short months, the House has passed landmark legislation addressing everything from our roads and highways to the war on terror. Mr. Speaker, we have heard on numerous occasions from the minority leadership that bills are being railroaded through, that substitutes are not being allowed, that rules are closed too often.

You have heard already how most of our bills have had Democratic votes. And nothing could be further from the truth that our rules are closed. And I might also add that Democrats are being treated a great deal better than they treated Republicans when we were in the minority.

When Democrats controlled the House, Republicans were often denied the right to offer motions to recommit. For those unfamiliar with that term, it is the last chance for the minority to attach an amendment to a bill under consideration by the full House.

When Republicans took control of the House, we changed the rules so that the minority always has the opportunity to offer the motion to recommit.

We have enacted rules governing debate on legislation that have allowed for numerous Democratic amendments and substitutes. We responded to demands for greater access to legislative information and have granted nearly every request of the minority. Yet the Democratic leadership continues to use abuse of power as a campaign issue.

I ask the American people to examine the facts, and I also ask the American people to contrast the Republican record of achievement with the Democratic record of inaction, obtuseness, and obliviousness.

I mentioned earlier that when I last took to the floor to discuss these matters, I thought the Democratic leadership could not be further out to sea when it comes to the most important issues facing the Nation.

I believe they are somewhere between the Bermuda Triangle and the Lost City of Atlantis. You know, Mr. Speaker, I just do not think the leaders of the Democratic Party here in Washington get it. It has been 4 years since our homeland was attacked, and they still cannot distinguish friend from foe, and patriot from terrorist.

From the comments made by members of the Democratic leadership in both bodies, it is clear that they are not connected with the realities of the war on terror. One said, and I quote, “the war is unwinnable.” Another compared our men and women in uniform to Soviets and their gulags, unquote. And yet another, perhaps most egregiously compared Operation Iraqi Freedom which brought an end to Saddam’s ethnic cleansing to the Holocaust. He said, the war, and I quote, is the biggest fraud ever committed on the people of this country. This is just as bad as the 6 million Jews being killed, unquote.

Mr. Speaker, I struggle for the words to respond to such comments. The Washington Democratic establishment is simply adrift at a time when our Nation is at war and preparing for the next great American century. It is sad that they are not a part of that preparation. And it is deplorable that in some cases they are actively campaigning against it. I hope that soon things will change. And I hope it happens before the Democratic Party is lost once and for all.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate all of the comments that were made by my colleagues tonight outlining the very real successes that have occurred in the 109th Congress already. Along with my colleagues, I came to Washington to get things done. I long for a time when the Democratic leadership will come to the table and work with Republicans to make policy that has the best interests of the American people at heart.

DEMOCRATS ARE IN TOUCH WITH THE PEOPLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. POE). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I was not expecting to come down here tonight. I did because I was very upset by some of the comments that were made by my Republican colleagues. And I believe that they were not here tonight to attack the Democrats and the Democratic Party. In reality, that is exactly what they did. And the negative comments that they