

Mr. Speaker, I commend the tireless devotion that Jean Wortham has pledged to the advancement and success of our community. Jean's extensive volunteer endeavors combined with her exceptional professional political career have distinguished her as a committed individual, who is extremely deserving of such a salute.

NATIONAL FAMILY WEEK

HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize National Family Week and the importance of strong families to the future of our communities and our country.

The purpose of National Family Week, November 24–30, 2002, is to recognize that Connections Count when it comes to strengthening families and communities. Strong families are at the center of strong communities. Everyone has a role to play in making families successful, including neighborhood organizations, businesses, non-profits, policymakers, and, of course, families themselves.

Families thrive when they are connected to the opportunities, networks, support, and services that enable them to succeed. This includes everyday access to high-quality transportation, technology, education, and child care; opportunities to build solid financial foundations; and positive social relationships within and among families, as well as quality support from community networks and institutions.

National Family Week is a great time to honor the connections that support and strengthen families year-round. These connections can be as simple as the neighbor who watches the kids while parents work; the placement center that connects parents to new jobs; the place of worship or neighborhood organization that connects the family to others in the community; the community leader or policymaker who initiates policies, practices, and resources to better benefit families, and the parents who listen to their children and always have time for big hugs.

For 32 years, the Alliance for Children and Families and its non-profit members have promoted National Family Week throughout the nation. Every day these child- and family-serving organizations make a difference for families of all shapes and sizes.

National Family Week is a great time for all of us to recommit to enhancing and extending all families' connections. As we gather with our families this Thanksgiving, let us remember the special connections that help our families thrive, and encourage one another, our neighbors, our businesses, and our organizations to reach out to families in new ways, and honor the special gifts each can bring to our communities and to one another.

HOMELAND SECURITY ACT OF 2002

SPEECH OF

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, November 13, 2002

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, when the process of creating a Department of Homeland Secu-

rity commenced, Congress was led to believe that the legislation would be a simple reorganization aimed at increasing efficiency, not an attempt to expand federal power. Fiscally conservative members of Congress were even told that the bill would be budget neutral! Yet, when the House of Representatives initially considered creating a Department of Homeland Security, the legislative vehicle almost overnight grew from 32 pages to 282 pages and the cost had ballooned to at least \$3 billion. Now we are prepared to vote on a nearly 500-page bill that increases federal expenditures and raises troubling civil liberties questions. Adding insult to injury, this bill was put together late last night and introduced this morning. The text of the bill has not been made available and the only place members and their staff can access a copy of the bill is on the Rules Committee's website. Unfortunately, the location of the bill is not widely published: thus, many members and staffers are unaware of how to access a copy.

The last time Congress attempted to similarly ambitious reorganization of the government was with the creation of the Department of Defense in 1947. However, the process by which we are creating this new department bears little resemblance to the process by which the Defense Department was created. Congress began hearings on the proposed Department of Defense in 1945—two years before President Truman signed legislation creating the new Department into law! Despite the lengthy deliberative process through which Congress created the new department, turf battles and logistical problems continued to bedevil the military establishment, requiring several corrective pieces of legislation. In fact, Mr. Speaker, the Goldwater-Nicholas Department of Defense Reorganization Act of 1986 (P.L. 99–433) was passed to deal with problems steaming from the 1947 law! The experience with the Department of Defense certainly suggests the importance of a more deliberative process in the creation of this new agency.

H.R. 5710 grants major new powers to the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) by granting HHS the authority to "administer" the smallpox vaccine to members of the public if the Department unilaterally determines that there is a public health threat posed by smallpox. HHS would not even have to demonstrate an actual threat of a smallpox attack, merely the "potential" of an attack. Thus, this bill grants federal agents the authority to force millions of Americans to be injected with a potentially lethal vaccine based on nothing more than a theoretical potential smallpox incident. Furthermore, this provision continues to restrict access to the smallpox vaccine from those who have made a voluntary choice to accept the risk of the vaccine in order to protect themselves from smallpox. It is hard to think of a more blatant violation of liberty than allowing government officials to force people to receive potentially dangerous vaccines based on hypothetical risks.

While this provision appears to be based on similar provisions granting broad mandatory vaccination and quarantine power to governors from the controversial "Model Health Emergency Power Act," this provision has not been considered by the House. Instead, this provision seems to have been snuck into the bill at the last minute. At the very least, Mr. Speaker, before Congress grants HHS such

sweeping powers, we should have an open debate instead of burying the authorization in a couple of paragraphs tucked away in a 484 page bill!

H.R. 5710 also expands the federal police state by allowing the attorney general to authorize federal agency inspectors general and their agents to carry firearms and make warrantless arrests. One of the most disturbing trends in recent years is the increase in the number of federal officials authorized to carry guns. This is especially disturbing when combined with the increasing trend toward restricting the ability of average Americans to exercise their second amendment rights. Arming the government while disarming the public encourages abuses of power.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 5710 gives the federal government new powers and increases federal expenditures, completely contradicting what members were told would be in the bill. Furthermore, these new power grabs are being rushed through Congress without giving members the ability to debate, or even properly study, this proposal. I must oppose this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same.

TRIBUTE TO FARMINGTON FIRE DEPARTMENT

HON. SCOTT McINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, November 14, 2002

Mr. McINNIS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride that I rise today to recognize the Farmington Fire Department for their service and dedication during one of Colorado's most formidable fire seasons. Last summer, the Fire Department played an integral role in containing the Missionary Ridge forest fire that burned over 70,000 acres in Southwestern Colorado. Today, I would like to pay tribute to their heroic efforts before this body of Congress and this nation.

When the Missionary Ridge fire first erupted last June, the citizens of Durango, Bayfield and the surrounding communities called upon the Farmington Fire Department to protect their loved ones, homes, and communities from what would become the worst fire in area history. The fire began in a ditch beside Missionary Ridge Road just 15 miles northeast of Durango and grew to consume more than 70,000 acres, 56 residences, and 27 outbuildings.

Although the Missionary Ridge fire was a devastating reminder of how destructive forest fires can be, it also served to remind us of the men and women who risk their lives to protect their fellow citizens on a daily basis. The Farmington Fire Department has served its citizens and community since 1924 and serves the entire Farmington area. The department relies upon a personnel of 72 firefighters who remain on call, prepared to fight fires, conduct rescue operations, or provide medical assistance on a moment's notice.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere admiration that I recognize the Farmington Fire Department before this body of Congress and this nation. I want to commend the department's fire fighters for their determination, courage, and resolve during last summer's efforts on Missionary Ridge. Without the help of the Farmington Fire Department and others, the