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House of Representatives

The House met at 12:30 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. ADERHOLT).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 7, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ROBERT B. ADERHOLT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a bill and a concurrent resolution of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 2152. An act to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to extend for an additional 5 years the special immigrant religious worker program.

H. Con. Res. 282. Concurrent resolution honoring the life of Johnny Cash.

The message was announced that the Senate has passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1642. An act to extend the duration of the immigrant investor regional center pilot program for 5 additional years, and for other purposes.

S. Con. Res. 66. Concurrent resolution commending the National Endowment for Democracy for its contributions to democratic development around the world on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 103-296, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, and in consultation with the Chairman and the Ranking Minority Member of the Finance Committee, appoints Sylvester J. Schieber, of Mary-

land, as a member of the Social Security Advisory Board for a six-year term.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 99-498, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, appoints Rene Drouin, of New Hampshire, vice Charles Terrell, of Massachusetts, to the Advisory Committee on Student Financial Assistance for a three-year term.

MORNING HOUR DEBATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 7, 2003, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning hour debates. The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with each party limited to not to exceed 30 minutes, and each Member, except the majority leader, the minority leader, or the minority whip, limited to not to exceed 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) for 5 minutes.

THE HARM OF MEANS TESTING THE MEDICARE PROGRAM

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the House floor to express my concern regarding an agreement that is being sought by the Medicare conference committee on means testing the Medicare program. Accepting a provision that will allow means testing of Medicare beneficiaries will in time only lead to the destruction of the Medicare program that seniors rely on and that we as Democrats have worked on preserving since its days of inception nearly 40 years ago.

The House Republican bill means tests the protection against high drug costs. Seniors who earn more than \$60,000, or \$120,000 for couples, will not have the \$4,900 catastrophic protection, and instead they will have to pay more out of pocket before they get cata-

strophic protection because of their income. Means testing the catastrophic protection will force many seniors to pay more for their drug coverage.

This provision in the House Republican Medicare legislation for the first time in the history of Medicare taxes middle class, or I should say the middle class seniors, twice for their benefits. Today Medicare is available to all who are eligible. Everyone pays the same percentage in payroll taxes and gets the same benefits out. Universality is the central theme of the Medicare program, and all Americans who contribute taxes during their working years are eligible for the full package of Medicare benefits when they retire.

The House Republicans, however, are taking the first steps to turning Medicare into what is essentially or what could become a welfare program, making higher-income seniors pay more for their Medicare benefits. What this amounts to is an additional Medicare tax on higher-income seniors who have already paid more money in Medicare taxes because of their higher earnings. Now they are getting hit again through this drug benefit and are being asked to pay another tax to pay more money for their drugs than other seniors. They basically are paying twice for their benefits. Keep in mind that in many localities a \$60,000 income does not make you wealthy, and that once the precedent is set, there will likely be a domino effect with the cutoff reaching lower and lower, affecting more and more middle class seniors. Right now the Republicans are talking \$60,000, but that could change to \$50,000 or \$40,000; and as it goes down, more middle income seniors will be impacted.

It is unclear how the provision in the House Republican bill is going to work, or whether it will even work. The Medicare administrator will send the names of seniors to the IRS, and the IRS will send back the senior's income for the previous year. Medicare will

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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then send this very private information to private health insurance companies, and seniors' confidential information will be sent all across the country, a situation ripe for abuse.

Medicare currently does not means test benefits, and it does not have staff to deal with this complicated matter. The Republican bill will increase government bureaucracy in both Medicare and the IRS to administer the provision. And under the Republican bill, Medicare is supposed to have a process for seniors who have seen their incomes decline to come in and get an adjustment; and because we know seniors' income declines as they age, Medicare would need to be able to deal with millions of people coming in every year to have their income information reevaluated.

Mr. Speaker, private plans will have a hard time administering this means test provision as well. They will have different catastrophic levels for every senior making above \$60,000 in income. More importantly, with this income information, the provision to allow means testing of catastrophic levels will also enable plans to risk-select and pick out other seniors to be in their plans. Private insurance companies will have incentives to seek out only higher-income seniors to make their premiums lower. Because higher-income seniors will have a higher catastrophic level, plan premiums will be lower because the plan will be paying less of beneficiaries' drug costs. And seniors living in low-income areas may find that plans do not want to come there because these seniors will make the plan premiums more expensive.

Mr. Speaker, all in all the provision in the House Republican bill is a bad idea for Medicare. It increases government bureaucracy, injects the IRS into Medicare, and it will be unworkable for plans and seniors. The approach taken in the Republican bill is wrong. We should not be taxing middle class seniors twice for Medicare benefits or because they have retiree coverage. This threatens the program's broad support and popularity, fragmenting public support and confidence in the Medicare program and making it easier to end the program once and for all.

I urge my colleagues on the conference committee to eliminate the means testing of catastrophic drug coverage and all Medicare benefits. Means testing will destroy the universality of Medicare and will destroy the Medicare program altogether.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 37 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Blessed are You, Lord, God of mercy. Throughout the ages You have sustained and guided Your people. In the darkest hours You have come to our aid. In the bright shining moments of our history Your love and goodness have flourished.

Guide the Nation at this moment in history. Strengthen the Members of this, the people's House. May they be forthright and defiant against evil and accomplish what is best for Your people.

In time of need may they prove themselves Your servants.

This we pray, in this we trust, now and forever.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

SUPPORTING ISRAEL'S FIGHT AGAINST TERRORISM

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Israel's actions to destroy terrorist training camps in Syria, sending a message that terrorists cannot hide and will be destroyed wherever they are found. As the United States has defended itself against terrorism in Afghanistan and Iraq, Israel is defending itself against further attacks by the terrorist group Islamic Jihad. This violent group's latest attack came on Saturday, before Yom Kippur, at a Haifa restaurant, killing 19 innocent people and injuring 55.

As President Bush has said, "Israel's got a right to defend herself, that Israel must not feel constrained in

terms of defense of the homeland." No nation would sit by as their civilians are killed and terrorized, and Israel has a duty to protect its people. Palestinians that desire peace must work to dismantle the terror networks, and so must the people of Syria. As United States U.N. Ambassador John Negroponte said, "Syria is on the wrong side of the War on Terrorism." Syria has harbored and supported terrorists and this must end.

Israel is in the midst of a battle in the War on Terrorism and America stands with her.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

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

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, when I was a college student over 40 years ago, I was one of the first Freedom Riders in Mississippi. With fellow students, we went to jail to spotlight for Americans the injustice and inhumanity of racial segregation.

Last week as a Congressman, I was able to meet and make personal the historical connection with the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. Tens of thousands of immigrants rode across our great Nation to spotlight for Americans the injustices and inhumanity of our current immigration laws.

The Freedom Rides in the early 1960s did lead to the elimination of the laws of segregation. Let us work today to protect the rights of immigrants in the workplace, to ensure their civil liberties and civil rights, to reunite immigrant workers with their families, and to create a path to citizenship for those who work hard every day, pay their taxes, and support their families.

Let us truly salute the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride with real congressional action.

IN MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE DONALD MITCHELL

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the Honorable Donald J. Mitchell passed away on Saturday, September 27, 2003. He is gone, but his life's work and patriotism will never be forgotten.

The life of Donald Mitchell is that of an all-American patriot. In times of war, he served his country as a carrier-based naval aviator in World War II and as a flight instructor during the Korean War.

In times of peace, he served his community. He was an optometrist by profession, but a public servant at heart as a Herkimer town councilman from 1954 to 1957, as mayor of the village from 1957 to 1960. From 1964 to 1972, during times of great change, he served as a New York State Assemblyman. Always

a leader, he was there too as the majority whip. And from 1972 to 1982, during times of great debate and political uncertainty, he served his country once again as one of the most effective members of this great institution, the people's House.

While in Congress, he was progressive and steady. He always took the high road and served his constituents with honor. I should know. During those 7 years, I proudly served as a member of Congressman Don Mitchell's staff. And after his retirement, I was elected to the seat he held.

For me, he was always a role model. Every day since, I have made it my goal as Representative Mitchell's successor in Congress to serve my constituents with the honor and dignity that Don Mitchell brought to the job. Don Mitchell left an indelible mark on the fabric of our society.

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 motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

E-GOVERNMENT ACT OF 2002 AMENDMENTS

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1303) to Amend the E-Government Act of 2002 with respect to rulemaking authority of the Judicial Conference, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1303

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. RULEMAKING AUTHORITY OF JUDICIAL CONFERENCE.

Section 205(c) of the E-Government Act of 2002 (Public Law 107-347; 44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended by striking paragraph (3) and inserting the following:

(3) PRIVACY AND SECURITY CONCERNS.—

“(A)(i) The Supreme Court shall prescribe rules, in accordance with sections 2072 and 2075 of title 28, United States Code, to protect privacy and security concerns relating to electronic filing of documents and the public availability under this subsection of documents filed electronically or converted to electronic form.

“(ii) Such rules shall provide to the extent practicable for uniform treatment of privacy and security issues throughout the Federal courts.

“(iii) Such rules shall take into consideration best practices in Federal and State courts to protect private information or otherwise maintain necessary information security.

“(iv) Except as provided in clause (v), to the extent that such rules provide for the redaction of certain categories of information in order to protect privacy and security concerns, such rules shall provide that a party that wishes to file an otherwise proper document containing such protected information may file an unredacted document under seal, which shall be

retained by the court as part of the record, and which, at the discretion of the court and subject to any applicable rules issued in accordance with chapter 131 of title 28, United States Code, shall be either in lieu of, or in addition to, a redacted copy in the public file.

“(v) Such rules may require the use of appropriate redacted identifiers in lieu of protected information described in clause (iv) in any pleading, motion, or other paper filed with the court (except with respect to a paper that is an exhibit or other evidentiary matter, or with respect to a reference list described in this sub-clause), or in any written discovery response—

“(I) by authorizing the filing under seal, and permitting the amendment as of right under seal, of a reference list that—

“(aa) identifies each item of unredacted protected information that the attorney or, if there is no attorney, the party, certifies is relevant to the case; and

“(bb) specifies an appropriate redacted identifier that uniquely corresponds to each item of unredacted protected information listed; and

“(II) by providing that all references in the case to the redacted identifiers in such reference list shall be construed, without more, to refer to the corresponding unredacted item of protected information.

“(B)(i) Subject to clause (ii), the Judicial Conference of the United States may issue interim rules, and interpretive statements relating to the application of such rules, which conform to the requirements of this paragraph and which shall cease to have effect upon the effective date of the rules required under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) Pending issuance of the rules required under subparagraph (A), any rule or order of any court, or of the Judicial Conference, providing for the redaction of certain categories of information in order to protect privacy and security concerns arising from electronic filing or electronic conversion shall comply with, and be construed in conformity with, subparagraph (A)(iv).

“(C) Not later than 1 year after the rules prescribed under subparagraph (A) take effect, and every 2 years thereafter, the Judicial Conference shall submit to Congress a report on the adequacy of those rules to protect privacy and security.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1303 currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1303 amends the E-Government Act to require the Judicial Conference of the United States to promulgate national rules to address privacy and security concerns relating to the electronic filing of court documents and the public availability of documents filed electronically.

To the extent any rules provide for the redaction of certain information in

order to protect privacy, this bill requires that the rules allow litigants to file and access unredacted documents under seal for evidentiary purposes in addition to a redacted version for public use.

H.R. 1303 addresses the concerns of both the Department of Justice and the judiciary. The Department of Justice was concerned that the privacy policy of the Judicial Conference could impede the legal introduction into evidence of information it deemed necessary to prove the elements of certain cases, such as bank account numbers in a fraud prosecution. The judiciary was concerned that a privacy policy allowing parties to file unredacted and sealed documents and a redacted public version could result in confusion, error, privacy risks, and reduction in access to public documents. H.R. 1303 requires the enactment of national rules to protect privacy and security concerns. However, such rules permit the filing of one “reference list,” to be kept under seal, that would include a complete version of each personal data identifier and a corresponding partially redacted version of each identifier. Only the partially redacted version may be used in future filings.

The bill encourages uniformity in all jurisdictions and empowers and Department of Justice to access the information necessary to prosecute crimes. The Judicial Conference will retain the authority to enact rules that comply with case law, provide the greatest public access to information possible, and protect the privacy of all participants in the Federal judicial system.

This is a good bill and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1303, and ask my colleagues to vote for it. H.R. 1303 will address serious concerns expressed by the U.S. courts about the E-Government Act of 2002. I believe the legislation will address these concerns while still serving the worthwhile purposes of the E-Government Act.

In the wee hours of the last day of the 107th Congress, the House and Senate both passed the E-Government Act of 2002 by unanimous consent. The President later signed the act into law as Public Law 107-347.

Section 205 of that legislation required the U.S. courts to establish and maintain Web sites containing a variety of information. Required information includes access to docket information for each case, access to the substance of all written opinions issued by the court, and access to documents filed with the courthouse in electronic form.

The legislation wisely recognized that the public interests in access to court documents and the protection of privacy must be balanced. Many court

documents contain a variety of personal information, including bank account numbers, tax returns, and home addresses. Unrestricted Internet access to all court documents in their entirety might, therefore, seriously compromise the privacy of certain individuals.

In acknowledgment of these serious privacy concerns, section 205 requires the U.S. Supreme Court to prescribe rules "to protect privacy and security concerns relating to electronic filing of documents and the public availability under this subsection of documents filed electronically." The Supreme Court is required to submit its prescribed rules to Congress, and the prescribed rules would be adopted if Congress failed to act to amend or reject them within 6 months.

Section 205 also further dictates the substance of the rules that the U.S. Supreme Court must prescribe. Most relevant to the legislation before us, section 205 requires that the privacy rules adopted by the courts allow parties to file unredacted versions of court documents under seal.

□ 1415

This language addressed Justice Department concerns that the privacy rules could impede the introduction into evidence of information it deemed necessary to prove the elements of certain cases.

Because of the last-minute nature of the E-Government Act, neither the Committee on the Judiciary nor the U.S. Courts had adequate opportunity to review the final text of Section 205 before passage. Having now reviewed and reflected on Section 205, the Committee on the Judiciary had some concerns about the language. It is those concerns that H.R. 1303 addresses today.

In allowing parties to file both redacted and sealed, unredacted sets of court documents, the U.S. courts believe Section 205 creates needless potential for confusion and error. In particular, the Courts assert Section 205 will needlessly complicate the process of making appropriate versions of documents available to juries and to the public, and for certifying appropriate versions of the documents for purposes of appeal.

These concerns have been addressed in the legislation before us today. H.R. 1303 addresses the concerns of the courts, while accomplishing the objectives of the Department of Justice. In fact, H.R. 1303 as adopted by the Committee on the Judiciary represents a negotiated compromise between the Department of Justice and the U.S. courts.

H.R. 1303 requires the courts to prescribe rules that allow parties to file a reference list with the court. This reference list would include both a complete and partially-redacted version of each personal data identifier. The redacted version would be used in lieu of, and be construed to refer to, the com-

plete version in subsequent filings in the case. The list, which would be maintained under seal, would, therefore, serve as a type of key.

This approach resolves the concerns of the courts by eliminating the need to file two versions of a court document. It meets the needs of the Department of Justice by allowing for the filing of unredacted identifiers where necessary to accomplish the elements of a case.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I believe this legislation is a proportionate cure for a previously-overlooked defect in the E-Government Act of 2002. Therefore, I ask my colleagues to support this legislation today.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SMITH) who is the chairman of the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. SMITH of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER), the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, the E-Government Act I introduced improves the information management of the Federal Government by authorizing upgrades to enhance systems management, information technology, and security. It also includes provisions that ensure greater citizen access to Federal Government information.

Section 205 of the Act instructs the Federal courts to establish and maintain a Web site with information such as courthouse locations, relevant telephone numbers, court rules, docket listings, written opinions, and case filings.

In addition, it requires the Judicial Conference to prescribe rules to protect privacy and security concerns relating to electronic filing of documents and the public availability of documents filed electronically.

After the Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property marked up H.R. 1303, the Department of Justice raised concerns that under H.R. 1303, the Judicial Conference could adopt rules that might prevent the Department from using certain information necessary to prosecute cases, such as credit card numbers in a fraud prosecution.

At the Committee on the Judiciary markup of H.R. 1303, I offered an amendment in the nature of a substitute that addressed the concerns of both the Department of Justice and the Judiciary.

H.R. 1303 will protect privacy of Federal litigants, provide for public access to information, limit party error, and ensure the introduction of evidence necessary for the prosecution of certain cases.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1303 is a good bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1303 which will amend Section 205 of the existing and codified "E-Government Act." The operative language of the bill with the Amendment offered by Representative Howard L. Berman and adopted by the Judiciary Committee will restore order to the electronic infrastructure that serves the federal court system.

The primary goals of the "E-Government Act," namely to (1) improve the "information management" of the Federal Government by authorizing upgrades to improve systems management, information technology, and security, and (2) to insure greater citizen access to Federal Government information serve the interest of the public by way of making the government's electronic infrastructure more "user friendly and useful overall. However, in light of the import of the existing codified language of the relevant provision, Section 205 of the E-Government Act," namely the hortatory "shall" reveals a problem that is addressed by H.R. 1303:

"[t]he Judicial Conference of the United States shall prescribe rules . . . to protect privacy and security concerns relating to electronic filing of documents and the public availability under this subsection of documents filed electronically."

While the overt intent of the hortatory language suggests a legislative benefit to the public and to the electronic infrastructure, by implication, the provision waters down the discretion of the Federal Courts to determine the sealability of court documents as well as restrict public access to certain case information.

In the wake of 9/11 and the mounting death toll that is ever-escalating even in the aftermath of war, it is vital that we keep our secure information secure and less vulnerable to negligent or abusive acts, as the net effect could lead to larger problems. Allowing carte blanche access to certain court electronic court documents allowing the manipulation of the sealability of those documents is a disaster waiting to happen. The type of crimes to be controlled by the bill introduced in the Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, namely H.R. 1678, the "Anti-Hoax Terrorism Act of 2003" could create an administrative nightmare for the federal court system. The cost, time, and energy expenditure that could come about absent the protections of H.R. 1303 would only make our government even more vulnerable to real terrorist attacks. As a Member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, I am particularly interested in preventing terrorism hoaxes and holding criminal transgressors accountable. Allowing parties access to freely manipulate certain electronic litigation documents will lead to severe administrative backlog and the concomitant vulnerability of other areas of our critical infrastructure. Problems never stop where they begin. Homeland security funds and resources are both scarce and precious. During my work on the Select Committee on Homeland Security, I have spoken with numerous fire departments, police departments, hazardous materials teams, and other first responders across the country that are not receiving the funding, equipment, and other resources they need to adequately protect their communities.

Mr. Speaker, for the reasons set forth above, I support H.R. 1303, the "E-Government Act of 2003" and thank you for this opportunity to consider it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further request for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1303, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDEMNING BIGOTRY AND VIOLENCE AGAINST ARAB-AMERICANS, MUSLIM-AMERICANS, SOUTH ASIAN-AMERICANS, AND SIKH-AMERICANS

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 234) condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 234

Whereas all Americans are united in supporting American men and women who protect our Nation abroad and at home;

Whereas thousands of Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans serve in the military and in law enforcement, working to protect all Americans;

Whereas the Arab-American, Muslim-American, South Asian-American, and Sikh-American communities are vibrant, peaceful, and law-abiding, and have greatly contributed to American society; and

Whereas all Americans, including Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans, condemn acts of violence and prejudice: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) is concerned by the number of bias-motivated crimes against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans, and other Americans in recent months;

(2) declares that the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans, including Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans, should be protected;

(3) condemns bigotry and acts of violence against any American, including Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans;

(4) calls upon local, State, and Federal law enforcement authorities to work to prevent bias-motivated crimes against all Americans, including Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans; and

(5) calls upon local, State, and Federal law enforcement authorities to investigate and prosecute vigorously all such crimes committed against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 234.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), House Resolution 234 condemns bigotry and violence against individuals of Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Sikh-Americans dissent. It was introduced in response to concerns about an increase in discriminatory backlash crimes following the commencement of military action in Iraq in March 2003. Specifically, House Resolution 234 recognizes the many contributions of Arab-, Muslim-, South Asian-, and Sikh-Americans to our culture and society, calls upon law enforcement authorities to work to vigorously prevent, investigate and prosecute discriminatory backlash crimes, and reaffirms the House of Representatives' commitment to assuring that the civil rights and civil liberties of all Americans are protected.

The weeks and months following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, saw a significant increase in the number of crimes committed against those perceived to be of Arab- Muslim-, South Asian-, and Sikh-American descent. Take, for example, the FBI's hate crime statistics for 2001. According to this report, the number of anti-Islamic incidents grew 1,600 percent between 2000 and 2001 taking such incidents from the second-least reported category of reported religious-bias incidents in 2000 of the second-highest reported category of religious-bias incidents in 2001.

The oversight work of the Subcommittee on the Constitution has revealed a significant effort on the part of the Department of Justice to address this alarming increase in discriminatory backlash crimes. Shortly after the September 2001 terrorist attacks, former Assistant Attorney General for the Civil Rights Division, Ralph Boyd, instructed the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division's National Origin Working Group to help combat violations of federal civil rights laws involving individuals perceived to be of Arab-, Muslim-, South Asian-, or Sikh-American origin.

Specifically, the Working Group now receives reports of violations based upon national origin, citizenship status, and religion; conducts outreach to

vulnerable communities; and works with other Civil Rights Division components and governmental agencies to ensure accurate referral, effective outreach, and provision of services to victims of civil rights violations.

In addition, the Civil Rights Division continues to spearhead the criminal investigations and prosecutions of hundreds of backlash crimes. In April, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced that approximately 400 incidents of backlash discrimination have been investigated since September 2001 by the Civil Rights Division, the FBI and the U.S. Attorneys' Offices. Of these investigations, approximately 70 State and local criminal prosecutions were initiated and Federal charges were brought in ten cases. It is my hope that the Civil Rights Division continues to vigilantly investigate and prosecute those crimes.

Similar to House Concurrent Resolution 227, which was approved by the House just days after the terrorist attacks of 2001, House Resolution 234 will again express this body's appreciation for the contributions of Arab-, Muslim-, South Asian-, and Sikh-Americans to the Nation and condemnation of all actions of bigotry and violence towards such individuals. I applaud the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) for his leadership on this issue and urge my colleagues to strongly support this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 234. H. Res. 234 condemns bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans and Sikh-Americans, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it.

This resolution condemns bigotry and violence against individuals of Arab-American, Muslim-American, South Asian-American, and Sikh-American dissent. It was introduced in response to concerns about an increase in discriminatory backlash crimes following the commencement of military action in Iraq in March of 2003. Specifically, House Resolution 234 recognizes the many contributions of Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans to the Nation and calls upon law enforcement authorities to work vigorously to prevent discriminatory backlash crimes against such persons and to investigate such crimes that do occur and reaffirms the House of Representative's commitment to assuring that civil rights of all Americans, including individuals of Arab-American, Muslim-American, South Asian-American, and Sikh-American dissent, be protected.

In the weeks and months following the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, this Nation saw a significant increase in the number of crimes committed against those perceived to be Arab-Americans, Muslim-American,

South Asian-American, and Sikh-American descent.

According to hate crimes statistics compiled by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, criminal acts motivated by bias against ethnicity/national origin were the second-most frequently reported bias in 2001, more than doubling the number of incidents, offenses, victims and known offenders from 2000 data and the anti-other ethnicity/national origin category quadrupled in incidents, offenses, victims, and known offenders.

Similarly, the number of anti-Islamic incidents grew 1,600 percent between the year 2000 and 2001, taking such incidents from the second-least reported category of reported religious-bias incidents in 2000 to the second-highest category of religious-bias in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, there can be no room for hatred and bigotry in America. Our history has taught us that when we rise above such hatred, we are stronger as a Nation. Too often in our history, fear and panic have resulted in discrimination and even oppression by our government of groups perceived to be a threat. Invariably, when things calm down and cooler heads prevail, there is a great sense of national shame at the injustices perpetuated against innocent people whose only crime was their race, religion, national origin or ethnicity.

It is important that this House go on record as condemning these reprehensible acts which betray what is best about our Nation. We are a diverse Nation, and we are the stronger for it. We are we cannot permit blind hatred to destroy that.

In addition to this resolution, I would hope that this House will also turn its attention to the extent to which the government has assaulted the rights of innocent individuals simply because of their race, religion or national origin. In addition to the hate crimes perpetuated by individuals, we must be vigilant that the power of government not be abused and that people not be targeted by law enforcement even if they have done nothing wrong.

The right to live free from violence and discrimination is a fundamental right of all Americans. So long as one American is denied that right, no one can truly be free. I urges all my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON).

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), to sponsor this important resolution in condemning violence against South Asians in America.

As the Republican co-chair of the caucus on India and Indian Americans,

I am very concerned about the weekly occurrences of violence committed against Indian Americans, especially Sikhs. Every week in national newspapers like *India Abroad* and *News India-Times*, I read reports of violence and even homicides committed against Indian Americans working in gas stations, convenience stores, food delivery positions, or driving taxis. I am concerned some of these attacks are motivated by ignorance and fear. These hardworking citizens perform some of the most thankless jobs in America. They are also vulnerable to physical harm due to their solitary conditions and late work hours.

There can be no justification for attacking a fellow American simply because of their skin color or religion. Americans understand we feel anger toward the terrorists who murdered our countrymen on September 11. However, we must not rush to judgment and display prejudice or bias against those Americans of South Asian descent, people who are just as angered about the attack on our country and just as eager to defeat terrorism. We must rally together as a Nation to prevent bias-motivated crimes against Indian Americans.

Schools must continue to educate student bodies so that harassment and violence against Sikh boys no longer occur. Further, we must vigorously prosecute these crimes when they do happen.

I want to commend Attorney General John Ashcroft because he is taking the necessary steps to aggressively root out those who seek to harm this Nation, yet maintain the civil rights of those citizens who are here legally and abide by our laws.

I want to again thank the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) for his leadership in introducing this important resolution, and I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of it.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE).

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 234, a resolution to condemn bigotry and violence against many vital ethnic communities in the United States; and I want to say, unfortunately, many individuals including South Asian Americans, Arab Americans, Sikh Americans, and Muslim Americans have been targets of hate crimes for decades, being subject to assault, verbal slurs and property damage; but since the 9/11 attacks, there has been a significant backlash against men and women from all of these communities.

In my own district in New Jersey, I represent a number of Indian Americans, both Hindu, Muslim and Sikh, who have been targets of violence and discrimination. To my knowledge, eating establishments and places of worship have been damaged and vandalized as a result of systematic bigotry and racism. Moreover, South Asian Ameri-

cans are specifically being targeted with violence because in the minds of some they had been inaccurately associated with those responsible for the 9/11 attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I wanted to mention specifically the Sikh American community because at several forums that I held after 9/11 two years ago, they in particular came to the forums. I remember one specifically at Rutgers University in my district where many of them had talked personally about the problems that they had. The Sikhs, as many of my colleagues know, wear the turbans usually, and they also carry a symbolic, although it is not a real knife, a symbolic sort of something that looks like a knife; and they in particular I know have been the subject of many of these attacks. We need to be very clear about the fact that the Sikh American community in no way was responsible for anything related to 9/11.

In addition to that, I know that the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) and I at the time of 9/11 two years ago, just a few days later, there was one of our constituents from Milltown, I represented Milltown at the time. My colleague represents Milltown now, but we had one of the most reprehensible of these attacks that was perpetrated on Waqar Hasan, a resident of Milltown who had recently moved to Texas. This was only 4 days after 9/11 on September 15. He was shot to death in his Texas grocery store in the most extreme form of misplaced revenge since the 9/11 tragedy.

Mr. Hasan, his wife and four daughters are Muslims who emigrated to the United States in 1990, full of the hope and excitement that many new immigrants feel as they begin their lives afresh in America as Americans. But that happiness was cut short not by terrorists a million miles away but by a fellow American who felt justified in taking the life of an innocent man and destroying the lives of a wife and four children out of bigotry and hatred.

This spate of attacks on innocent Americans like Mr. Hasan around the country is a reprehensible reaction to a tragedy that befell all of America on 9/11, and they must not be tolerated.

Let me just say, Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution. It condemns such acts of hatred against innocent individuals. I also believe that Congress must support the enforcement of hate crime laws, provide support and protection to targeted ethnic communities, and reject policies that are inherently biased against South Asian Americans and Arab Americans.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LAHOOD).

Mr. LAHOOD. Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of this resolution and congratulate the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), who could not be here this afternoon for consideration of the resolution. I know it was his idea to have this resolution offered. As someone who represents a district with a

large Arab American population, I can tell my colleagues that they contribute mightily to our community in so many different ways.

My grandparents came to Peoria, Illinois, in 1895 from a region of Lebanon and settled in Peoria; and as a result of their being the first Lebanese Americans to settle in our neck of the woods, they were able to persuade others to come over. In those days, I am sure they were not known as Arab Americans. They were known as immigrants who came to America seeking the American Dream, and I think that has been true for decades of Arab Americans who have come to this country and contributed an awful lot to our society and contributed a lot to the growth of our country and the stability of our country.

It was not till 9/11, I think, until maybe people had a different point of view about Arab Americans and also perhaps Muslims; but these people have contributed so much, and I think it is important for Congress to speak out in a way that says that these folks are good Americans, they are good citizens. They contribute a great deal to our country.

I might make note, too, of the fact that there are Arab Americans serving in this body, including the gentleman from West Virginia (Mr. RAHALL), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHN), John Sununu who once served in the House and now is in the other body, and of course, the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA), and also in the administration Spencer Abraham who was also a member of the other body. So not only have Arab Americans contributed a great deal to the country and to the greatness of this country but have contributed also to the great body that we call the House of Representatives and to the other body.

So I think it is worth noting the contribution of Arab Americans and the fact that 9/11 has made a little different way of life for them and that Congress recognizes their contribution; and I appreciate the fact that this resolution recognizes that and appreciate the fact that the chairman has allowed me to recognize their contributions.

I thank the chairman for his indulgence.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas for yielding me this time.

I rise today to speak in strong support of this resolution. We have all seen the rise in violence against our fellow Americans, whether they are of Arab, Muslim, South Asian or Sikh descent, since the September 11 attack upon our Nation. Our Nation must not allow these attacks to continue. We need to work together to ensure that these types of crimes no longer occur.

A family in my district in Queens fell victim to a hate crime of this nature in

August of this year. The Singh family, a proud Sikh American family of Woodside, Queens, my hometown, was attacked simply because of the way they looked. I am proud that the neighbors of the Singh family called the police when this hate crime was occurring and even came to their assistance during the attacks. That is the neighborhood of Woodside that I know and love.

A strong community is what it will take to stop these horrendous crimes from occurring in the future. It is hard for all of us to understand how people have so much hate in them, and we need to all work together to ensure that hate crimes stop. Whether they are against Sikhs, Blacks, Muslims, Jews or gays, hate crimes need to be stopped.

The best way, I believe, to stop hate crimes is through education. By bringing this problem out in the open, we can start to solve it by educating our population.

During July, I held a congressional briefing as the co-chair of the Caucus on India and Indian American Affairs about the rise of hate crimes against the South Asian population here in the United States. A representative of Sikh Mediawatch and Resource Task Force, also known as SMART, attended this briefing and spoke with Members of the Congress on the importance of educating people so they understand the culture and will be less likely to participate in hate crimes. I commend SMART's efforts to work not only within the Sikh community but with all communities affected by hate crimes. We all must work together to ensure that these types of crimes no longer occur.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas for the time.

I rise today to voice my strong support to House Resolution 234, introduced in a bipartisan way by the gentleman from California (Mr. ISSA) and the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR). House Resolution 234 condemns bigotry and violence against Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, South Asian Americans, and Sikh Americans at a time when Americans in these communities are facing unprecedented levels of discrimination and abuse.

We cannot stand by and allow the ignorance of a few to overcome the tradition of tolerance in this Nation of Nations. I urge my colleagues to vote unanimously for this important resolution and, in so doing, send a clear and bipartisan message to all Americans that Congress will not accept, condone, or ignore acts of hatred.

Although the tragic events of September 11, 2001, united most Americans, some misguided individuals in our society have taken their anger and

directed it at their neighbors because they look different or subscribe to a different religion.

We Americans have struggled throughout our history to purge ourselves of crippling stereotypes that spread a cloud of ignorance and despair on our otherwise great society. Members of this Congress and of the larger American community fought valiantly in the 1960s to end legal racial discrimination against African Americans. We have come a long way since the days of sanctioned racism, but we still have miles to go to eradicate the vestiges of bigotry that from time to time consume the ignorant among us.

In my home State of New Jersey, many of my constituents of Asian descent, many of Muslim religion or Sikh religion have suffered acts of violence simply due to their religion or the color of their skin. One of the most tragic cases involved the murder 4 days after September 11, 2001, of Waqar Hasan who was shot to death in his convenience store by a man who said he did it to retaliate against "Arab Americans or whatever you want to call them." Hasan was a Pakistani immigrant who was murdered for no other reason than that he was a Muslim with a Middle Eastern face.

When Mr. Hasan was murdered, the visas and applications for permanent residency of his wife and four daughters died with him. After building lives in America for 9 years, the Hasan family has gone from being one step away from permanent residency to one step away from deportation.

Earlier this year, I introduced legislation, H.R. 867, to prevent the deportation of Waqar's wife and four daughters, who without this would be forced to leave America. I have been working closely with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, and I am grateful to the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary and its Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims for their bipartisan support of the Hasan family. I look forward to continue to work with them in the coming weeks to pass H.R. 867.

Today, Congress can take a step to help the Hasan family and immigrant families like them and any other families who are victims of racism and bigotry by passing House Resolution 234. We will be making a promise to the American people and all who seek a new life of opportunity on our shores that here in America we treat each other with dignity and respect.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans and Sikh-Americans are a vital part of America. These communities join other ethnic and religious groups as they and their ancestors came to this nation in search of political freedom and economic opportunity. They have flourished in this nation and have made great contributions to our society. They have joined the ranks of service-members, law enforcement officers, teachers, doctors, lawyers, and business people. They also hold positions of

leadership in this society, including members of Congress and Cabinet members.

But, tragically in the aftermath of the September 11th terrorist attacks, some bigots turned against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, Sikh-Americans, and South Asian-Americans, and singled them out as targets for violence and threats of violence. Hate crimes against these communities, including violent physical assaults, increased sharply. The FBI reported that the number of anti-Muslim incidents increased by 1600 percent from 2001 to 2002, largely in response to this post 9/11 backlash. Obviously this kind of increase has only added evermore to the awesome responsibilities facing law enforcement offices. Therefore, it is unfortunate that their resources must be directed to the unreasonable few rotten apples that take out their vengeance on the unsuspecting innocent.

Most Americans all over responded and came to the support of Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, Sikh-Americans, and South Asian-Americans, condemning the attacks and embracing these communities. A resolution at that time, which I cosponsored, was passed that condemned violence against these groups.

But, now again Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, Sikh-Americans, and South Asian-Americans are suffering, and it is again time to express support for them. Since the time when the war in Iraq began, hate crimes have seen another hike. There was a man who law enforcement believes was motivated by anti-Arab sentiment, when he allegedly shot four people to death in New York City during February and March. Even after President Bush declared that major combat operations had ended, the hate crimes against Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Sikh-Americans have continued.

These crimes are wrong and are opposed to the values of American society. We must condemn them in the most serious and strongest terms, and law enforcement must investigate and vigorously prosecute the perpetrators.

By the same token, we must pay close attention to the concerns of Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, Sikh-Americans and South Asian-Americans, that the federal government views them with suspicion, and they are being subjected to grossly heightened levels of surveillance as a result of their national or religious origins. Counter-terrorism efforts must not discriminate on the basis of national origin or religion or violate the civil liberties of innocent Americans. The government's efforts to combat terrorism must focus on criminal or terrorist behavior, not ethnicity or creed.

Discriminatory counter-terrorism tactics and those that violate civil liberties are wrong and do not make the country safer. We must look to history, which has shown us that respect for individual rights enhances our stability and security. Singling out mostly innocent Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Sikh Americans runs counter to the principle of rejecting the use of racial and ethnic profiling, while we need to focus on building trust and respect by working cooperatively with community members.

The resolution before us today, H. Res. 234, recognizes that Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, Sikh-Americans, and South Asian-Americans greatly contribute to American society and serve honorably in the military or law enforcement and it urges respect for civil rights and liberties, condemns bias-motivated crimes against members of these commu-

nities, and calls upon federal and local law enforcement to prosecute such crimes vigorously. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support it.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise to today in support of H. Res. 234—legislation condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this important legislation.

After the tragic events of September 11th, the Muslim community became the target of a major upsurge in hate crimes and discrimination. In just the first nine weeks after the attacks, over 700 violent incidents occurred targeting Arab Americans, Muslims, and others perceived to be such. These same citizens faced a four-fold increase in employment discrimination.

Crimes and incidents driven by bias and hatred must not be tolerated in a peaceful democracy. Our position of power and influence also brings a responsibility to celebrate our diversity and protect the rights of all in our nation.

As we continue to fight a war against terrorism and hatred, we have a golden opportunity to show the world that we celebrate our diversity; that every American citizen and everyone who visits here will not be in danger because of their national origin or religious faith; that we will not stand for bigotry and other divisive actions; that we are a Nation united as one.

Mr. Speaker, this important legislation received unanimous support from the Judiciary Committee, on which I sit, and I urge my colleagues to overwhelmingly support its passage by the full House.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 234 concerning the condemnation of bigotry and violence against Arab, Muslim, South Asian, and Sikh-Americans. As a co-sponsor of this resolution, I won't hesitate to vocalize my support for it and echo its import.

RACIAL PROFILING AND TERRORISM

The events of September 11, 2001 have had a profound impact on racial profiling. Following the terrorist attacks, law enforcement agents have subjected individuals of Arab or South Asian descent, Muslims, and Sikhs to racial profiling. While national and local statistics are not yet available, anecdotal accounts of how Arabs, Muslims, and Sikhs have endured racial profiling abound the informational resources.

For example, in the months following September 11th, a new type of racial profiling has developed: "driving while Arab." Arabs, Muslim, and Sikhs across the country were subjected to traffic stops and searches based in whole or part on their ethnicity or religion. On October 4, 2001 in Gwinnett, Georgia an Arab motorist's car was stopped, he was approached by a police officer whose gun was drawn, and he was called a "bin Laden supporter" all for making an illegal U-turn. On October 8, 2001, two Alexandria, VA police officers questioned the motorists about a verse of the Koran hanging from the rear view mirror, and asked about documents in the back seat. The police officer confiscated the motorists' identification cards and drove off without explanation. He returned 10 minutes later, and claimed he had had to take another call. On December 5, 2001, a veiled Muslim woman in

Burbank, Illinois was stopped by a police officer for driving with suspended plates. The officer asked the woman when Ramadan was over, asked her offensive question about her hair, and pushed her into his patrol car as he arrested her for driving with suspended plates. The woman was released from custody later that day.

A particularly egregious form of terrorism profiling occurs when Arab men and women are detained and deported without due process. Since September 11th, hundreds of Arab and Muslim individuals have been detained on suspicion of terrorist activity. Practically none of these individuals was involved with terrorism. However, many were detained for weeks and eventually charged with minor immigration violations. Based on these minor immigration violations some were deported. In one case, two Pakistani immigrants were arrested and detained 45 days for allegedly overstaying their visas. In another case an Israeli was detained for 66 days before being charged with entering the United States unlawfully. In a particularly shocking case, a French teacher from Yemen, who was married to an American citizen and therefore eligible to become a citizen himself, was reporting for duty as an army recruit at Fort Campbell, Kentucky on September 15, 2001. The man was apprehended by federal agents, separated from his wife and interrogated for 12 hours. The agents accused him of violating immigration laws, conspiring with Russian terrorists, spousal abuse, and threatened him with beatings. The man was given a lie detector test which proved he was telling the truth when he denied being associated with terrorists.

Expounding upon the above issue is a trend of ethnic profiling against South Asian-Americans relative to the SARS pandemic. People have been treated with indifference and hostility because of their racial background. This treatment is simply founded upon ignorance. Human rights and the principles of due process, freedom of expression, and freedom of association should not be compromised by ignorance.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF RACIAL PROFILING

The consequences of racial profiling for minority groups in the United States, for Arab, Muslim, South Asian, and Sikh groups, and in the immigrations context are dire for individuals who are both innocent and guilty of criminal activity. In the case of the innocent, for every person in possession of drugs apprehended through profiling, many more law-abiding minorities are treated as if they are criminals. A 1999 Gallup Poll revealed that 42 percent of African Americans, and 72 percent of African American males between the ages of 18 and 34, believe they have been stopped by police because of their race. In fact, many minorities choose to drive certain cars, on certain routes, wearing certain clothes, to avoid drawing attention from police.

For those individuals who have been convicted of felonies, racial profiling contributes to the disparity in arrest and crime rates that leads to the minority-majority prison population. Blacks are just 12 percent of the U.S. population and 11 percent of drug users, but Blacks are 38 percent of those arrested for drug offenses and 59 percent of those convicted for drug offenses. Hispanics make up 13 percent of the population and 10 percent of illicit drug users, but they are 37 percent of the overall prison population. Racial profiling increases the stops and arrests of minority

groups. Frequent stops and arrests of minorities generate more extensive criminal histories, and result in longer sentences. Nearly one in three Black males aged 20–29 on any given day is either in prison, on probation, or on parole. As of 1995, one in 14 adult Black males was in prison or jail on any given day. A Black male born in 1991 has a 33 percent chance of spending part of his life in prison. A Hispanic male has a one in six chance.

Racial profiling results in increased arrests and convictions of minorities. In many States, a felony conviction can impact a person's ability to exercise their basic social rights. In 46 States and the District of Columbia, convicted adults cannot vote. Thirty-two States disenfranchise felons on parole, while 29 States disenfranchise felons on probation. In part due to racial profiling, 1.4 million Black men, 13 percent of all adult Black males, are denied the right to vote. In two States, 31 percent of all adult Black males are permanently disenfranchised.

For the reasons stated above, Mr. Speaker and Ranking Member, I support the Resolution condemning bigotry and violence against Arab, Muslim, South Asian, and Sikh-Americans that I have co-sponsored. I would ask that my Colleagues join my fellow sponsors in fighting bigotry with H. Res. 234.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, There is no room for bias-motivated or hate crimes against fellow Americans. As America fights to defend the values of tolerance and freedom abroad, we must also work vigorously to ensure these values are protected at home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 256, condemning bigotry and violence against Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, South Asian Americans and Sikh Americans.

I want to thank Congressman ISSA, along with Congressman LAHOOD, Congressman CONYERS, Congressman DINGELL, Congressman RAHALL and Congressman HONDA for their help on this legislation, along with approximately 50 other colleagues—from both sides of the aisle and all parts of the country—who co-sponsored this measure.

The resolution is straightforward. It acknowledges the contributions to our Nation that have been made by Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, South Asian Americans, and Sikh Americans.

This measure notes that members of these groups have served honorably in our military and in law enforcement, working every day to protect the American people.

The measure also affirms that we as a Congress are concerned by the incidents of bias-motivated crimes against Muslim Americans, Sikh Americans, Arab Americans and South Asian Americans.

And we condemn any acts of bigotry or violence directed against Americans of these groups.

We call upon law enforcement officials throughout America to investigate thoroughly and prosecute vigorously any crimes committed against Arab Americans, Muslim Americans, Sikh Americans or South Asian Americans.

There is a place in America for people of all races, creeds and colors.

There is no place in America for bigotry, prejudice and violence.

Mr. ISSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for H. Res. 234. I am delighted to have had the honor of authoring this

resolution with my friend and colleague, the gentle lady from Ohio, MARCY KAPTUR. I also am grateful to the gentleman from Wisconsin, Chairman JIM SENSENBRENNER, for his fine work in moving this bill through his Committee to the House floor.

I am pleased to be joined by over 52 Members who co-sponsored this resolution. Twenty other Members have also expressed their strong support for the resolution since it passed out of the Judiciary Committee on the 25th of July. ALCEE HASTINGS, JAN SCHAKOWSKY, BOB FILNER, MARTIN SABO, MAURICE HINCHEY, DENISE MAJETTE, CHRIS SHAYS, NEIL ABERCROMBIE, LEE TERRY, HENRY WAXMAN, JOHN OLVER, JUDY BIGGERT, ROD KIND, LLOYD DOGGETT, CIRO RODRIGUEZ, BILL PASCRELL, and ROBERT MATSUI have all told me that they would like to be formally recognized for their support of this resolution. I thank them for their support.

This is an important moment for Arab-American, Muslim American, Sikh-American, and South Asian American communities throughout the United States. These communities have experienced increased levels of bigotry and violence since the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

In the first nine weeks following the September 11 tragedy, there were about 700 violent incidents directed at Arab-Americans or those perceived to be Arab-Americans, like Sikh Americans and South Asian Americans. Fortunately, this rate dropped very quickly after those first nine weeks, thanks in large part to President Bush's repeated calls for tolerance.

The President's leadership on this issue prompted thousands of state and local officials, community leaders, and private citizens across the country to reach out to these minority groups with voices of compassion and support. I am delighted that Congress can now formally join them in standing by our fellow Americans who have unfairly had to live a cloud of suspicion.

Arab-Americans, Muslim Americans, Sikh Americans and South Asian Americans have all contributed greatly to this nation. Many serve in elected office, law enforcement agencies, or the military. The Commanding General of CENTCOM, John Abizaid, is an American of Arab ancestry. These men and women are part of the kaleidoscope of cultures that makes up this country. While they come from many diverse backgrounds, all of them traveled to America for one main reason: to taste freedom. We treat them as brothers and sisters because they share our desire to live in a nation that is tolerant, just, and free.

Again, thank you, Mr. Chairman, for your fine work on this effort.

Mr. WU. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 234, a bill condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans and Sikh-Americans.

More than 2 years after the terrorist attacks of September 11th, the backlash of vandalism, harassment and violence perpetrated against members of these peaceful communities continues. This treatment is the result of misguided fear and resentment, and it is unconscionable.

This legislation before the House sends an unequivocal message that the United States does not condone prejudice or violence. It also encourages victims of hate crimes to step for-

ward and report the incidents that affect them so that we can prosecute the perpetrators of these inexcusable acts.

Unfortunately, the fear of retaliation often prevents victims from reporting hate crimes. For example, the National Asian Pacific American Legal Consortium has uncovered the case of an Islamic South Asian family in Southern California that received threatening phone calls and accusations of being terrorists after the September 11th attacks. One day the family returned home to find that their house had been burned down, but they did not report the arson to the police for fear of further backlash.

We in Congress have the responsibility to protect hate crime victims and to do everything in our power to prevent hate crimes in the future.

Mr. Speaker, America draws its strength from its tremendous diversity. In order to remain strong and united, we must work to eliminate hate crimes and replace suspicion with understanding so that all Americans can live without fear.

I urge my colleagues in Congress to join me in working to promote domestic peace and cultural understanding by supporting H. Res. 234.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 234, a resolution that calls for the condemnation of prejudice and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans, and which recognizes the contributions that these groups have made to American society. The resolution also calls upon Federal, State and local law enforcement agencies to work to prevent bias-motivated crimes and to investigate and prosecute such crimes vigorously.

Shortly after the events of September 11, 2001, I introduced a similar resolution with Congressman David Bonior. H. Con. Res. 227 condemned bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, and South Asian-Americans, and declared that the civil liberties of these and all other Americans should be protected during our efforts to bring the perpetrators and sponsors of the terrorist acts to justice.

I commend Representative DARRELL ISSA for introducing H. Res. 234. This resolution sends a strong and clear message that we will not condone prejudiced and violent crimes against any Americans. We must remember that many individuals in the Arab, Muslim, South Asian and Sikh-American communities came to the United States seeking freedom and democracy, and they fled oppressive regimes that lack freedom of speech and religion and in some cases support terrorism. I am pleased that the House of Representatives is once again taking a firm stand on this issue, which is so important to all Americans.

I strongly support H. Res. 234 and encourage my colleagues in the House to vote in favor of this important resolution.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time as well.

□ 1445

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the motion

offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 234.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AMENDING AND EXTENDING IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACT OF 1998

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2655) to amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2655

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. AMENDMENT AND EXTENSION OF IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

(a) IRISH PEACE PROCESS CULTURAL AND TRAINING PROGRAM ACT.—

(1) PROGRAM PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS.—Section 2(a) of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) PROGRAM PARTICIPANT REQUIREMENTS.—An alien entering the United States as a participant in the program shall satisfy the following requirements:

“(A) The alien shall be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland.

“(B) The alien shall be between 21 and 35 years of age on the date of departure for the United States.

“(C) The alien shall have resided continuously in a designated county for not less than 6 months before such date.

“(D) The alien shall have been continuously unemployed for not less than 6 months before such date.

“(E) The alien may not have a degree from an institution of higher education.”

(2) EXTENSION OF PROGRAM.—Section 2 of the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(3), by striking “the third program year and for the 4 subsequent years,” and inserting “each program year.”;

(B) by amending subsection (d)(1) to read as follows:

“(1) Effective October 1, 2008, this Act is repealed, except for subsection (a)(3), which is repealed effective October 1, 2009.”; and

(C) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2006,” and inserting “2008.”

(3) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1101 note) is amended—

(A) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(B) by striking “Immigration and Naturalization Service” each place such term appears and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”.

(b) IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT.—

(1) REQUIREMENTS FOR NONIMMIGRANT STATUS.—Section 101(a)(15)(Q) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(Q)) is amended—

(A) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(B) in clause (ii)(I)—

(i) by striking “35 years of age or younger having a residence” and inserting “citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland, 21 to 35 years of age, unemployed for not less than 6 months, and having a residence for not less than 6 months”; and

(ii) by striking “36 months” and inserting “24 months”.

(2) FOREIGN RESIDENCE REQUIREMENT.—Section 212 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182) is amended—

(A) by redesignating the subsection (p) as added by section 1505(f) of Public Law 106-386 (114 Stat. 1526) as subsection (s); and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(t)(i) Except as provided in paragraph (2), no person admitted under section 101(a)(15)(Q)(ii)(I), or acquiring such status after admission, shall be eligible to apply for nonimmigrant status, an immigrant visa, or permanent residence under this Act until it is established that such person has resided and been physically present in the person’s country of nationality or last residence for an aggregate of at least 2 years following departure from the United States.

“(2) The Secretary of Homeland Security may waive the requirement of such 2-year foreign residence abroad if the Secretary determines that—

“(A) departure from the United States would impose exceptional hardship upon the alien’s spouse or child (if such spouse or child is a citizen of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence); or

“(B) the admission of the alien is in the public interest or the national interest of the United States.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 2655, the bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2655 would extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program for 2 years, from 2006 to 2008. It would also modify the provisions of the program to ensure that those aliens receiving visas are those the program was designed to benefit.

In 1998, the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) guided the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act to enactment. The purpose of this program is to allow young adults who live in disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland and designated border counties of the Irish Republic that are suffering from sectarian violence and high unemployment to enter the United States to develop job skills and conflict resolution abilities in a di-

verse, cooperative, peaceful and prosperous environment. They can then return to their homes better able to contribute toward economic regeneration and the Irish peace process.

Up to 4,000 qualifying aliens, and their spouses and minor children, can be admitted each year, and they can stay in the United States for up to 3 years. The program was set to sunset on October 1, 2005. In the 107th Congress, this program was extended until October 1, 2006.

The bill of the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), H.R. 2655, would extend the program for another 2 years until October 1, 2008. It would also make a number of changes to the program to ensure that the aliens granted admission are truly the economically disadvantaged young adults the program was designed to help. These changes include requirements that program participants not have degrees from institutions of higher education; that they be at least 21 years of age; that they be nationals of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland; and that they have been unemployed and resident in Northern Ireland or the designated border counties for at least 6 months.

The bill would also make changes to the program to help ensure that the aliens return to Ireland to foster economic development and peace. The bill would reduce the duration of the visa term from 3 years to 2 years, and this change would discourage visa holders from remaining in the United States by reducing the amount of time they would have to establish roots here. The bill would also require that aliens admitted under this program return home for 2 years before they could apply for an immigrant visa, permanent residence, or another non-immigrant visa.

I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of H.R. 2655.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2655 amends the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998 to extend through fiscal year 2008. The Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program provides for admission into the United States each fiscal year of up to 4,000 young, disadvantaged aliens from designated countries in Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland. These youths suffer from sectarian violence and high unemployment. This program helps these youth develop job skills and conflict resolution skills in a diverse and peaceful environment so that they can return to their homes better able to contribute toward economic regeneration and a lasting peace in Ireland.

This bill also makes a few changes to the program to ensure that the disadvantaged youth are those who benefit from the program. H.R. 2655 clarifies that a qualifying alien must be a citizen of the United Kingdom or the Republic of Ireland. It also clarifies that no qualifying candidate may have a degree from an institution of higher education. All participants in the program must also return home for 2 years, rather than 1, at the conclusion of the visa term.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), who is the principal author of this bill.

Mr. WALSH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time and also for providing for speedy consideration of this bill. The gentleman from Wisconsin takes remarkable interest in all of this legislation, has a thorough understanding of it, and I very much appreciate his interest.

I rise in strong support of the reauthorization of the Northern Ireland Peace Process and Cultural Training Program. A long time ago, as a Peace Corps volunteer in Nepal, I was given the opportunity at a tender young age to broaden my horizons and in a short 2-year period of time step out of my role in traditional American society and immerse myself into a culture that opened my eyes to a new world and new perspective on life. This experience inspired me to help create a similar program that could be applied to those living in Northern Ireland and the border counties.

As chairman of the Friends of Ireland and a member of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, I have traveled annually to Ireland, both with the President and leading my own CODELS, and through these experiences have had a firsthand opportunity to watch the peace process evolve. Through these experiences, I felt a program of this nature could be applied to people on both sides of the conflict.

The program was first enacted by Congress in October of 1998 and is up for reauthorization this year. Since the program's infancy, approximately 1,000 men and women between the ages of 18 and 35 have traveled from disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland and the Republic of Ireland, the border counties bordering Northern Ireland. This program provides unemployed members from different communities, of varying educational level levels and religious backgrounds the opportunity to work in the United States for up to 2 years in our society, a society where it does not matter what religion you practice or what street you live on.

This program creates 4,000 temporary nonimmigrant working visas per year and targets men and women from these disadvantaged areas. Moving forward, we have tailored the program slightly so that it truly applies to disadvantaged people residing in areas of North-

ern Ireland where there are deep pockets of unemployment. This program is not intended or structured to be a work visa program for college graduates looking to gain work experience, but rather a program to give those without an education, without a job, without the skills the opportunity to gain experience and expertise and overall self-confidence before they return.

There have been several questions raised regarding the new unemployment and educational restrictions placed on the applicants. The reasoning behind limiting the program to those without a degree of higher education is to target the truly underprivileged and, more specifically, those susceptible to paramilitary recruitment.

Participants go through an 8-week predeparture training period during which time they research and secure employment in the United States prior to their arrival. As a result, they are gainfully employed before they reach the U.S. The program continues to give participants practical training experience during the time they are here as well as the opportunity to coexist and experience conflict resolution training in a diverse society. Therefore, we have changed the education requirements in order to better target those who deserve to participate in the skills-based opportunity that this program provides.

We have also placed a requirement that the participants must be unemployed for at least 6 months prior to departure to the U.S. In previous years, the requirement was 3 months. Recruiters in Dublin and Belfast ran into a problem when college-level graduates began staying purposefully unemployed for 3 months in order to qualify for the program. Therefore, the 6-month time frame creates a more extreme period in which they must be unemployed. The legislation now states that it is mandatory for the participants to return home for at least 2 years following their stay in the United States.

Politically, the island of Ireland has been relatively stable, and we are seeing positive changes unfold as the peace process continues to work. The results and return rates of the Walsh visa program have been terrific. The program will continue to support this transition by providing new potential leaders with valuable job skills and a demonstrated ability to live and work with people of diverse views.

I hope all members will join me in supporting this low-risk, high-return investment to support the continuing movement towards peace in Northern Ireland. Through programs like this, we will be able to solidify the steps toward a permanent peace.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, as co-chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on Irish Affairs, I am pleased to rise in strong support of the Walsh visa program.

This program helps the truly disadvantaged of Northern Ireland and the six border counties of the Republic of Ireland by allowing them to live and work here in the United States for a short period of time.

While in the United States, these young men and women are given the training they need to become skilled workers. At the completion of this short-term job training program, the participants return to their homeland and put into practice the skills they have learned here in the United States. These skills will help them to build a better life for themselves, a life that they may not have had but for this program and its opportunities.

We are not just discussing job opportunities, but rather life opportunities and the ability to look to a brighter future. We all know the reality that Northern Ireland still faces is a very difficult one. The assembly is still dissolved and the elections look as if they will be further postponed. But this program provides hope to these people for a better future for themselves and their families.

The United States needs to continue this program for the good people of the island of Ireland. I urge all of my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I am proud to rise in support of this legislation.

At the outset, Mr. Speaker, let me extend my sincerest thanks and gratitude to the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) for the leadership he has shown on this issue and being in the forefront of putting forth the Walsh visas, which have done so much, not just on a very practical level of providing training and opportunity for Catholics and Protestants, Republicans and Loyalists, Nationalists and Unionists from the north of Ireland and also from the border counties on the northern border, but also for making it clear the United States retains a lasting commitment to the peace process in the north of Ireland.

Several years ago, none of us would have thought that we would see the resolution, or almost the resolution, of the centuries-old struggle that has been going on among the Irish and the British and so many of the forces on the island of Ireland. But today we have gone so far. We are approaching what I believe will be the ultimate resolution of the struggle in Northern Ireland. This legislation, providing the Walsh visas, providing economic opportunity, and letting the people in those areas know that the United States remains committed to peace and justice and to the peace process really is worth its weight in gold.

The gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH) referred to this as low-risk, high-investment. That could not be more true. This is so important to the

peace process. It is so important, really, to the image of the United States around the world. It is so important to the people who have suffered for so many years on both sides of the divide, on both sides of the border, those who have lived in poverty, those who are struggling to work their way up. This is such an important symbol to them. It also has the practical effect of providing the training they need.

So, Mr. Speaker, with that, I am proud to support it, and I urge its adoption.

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Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I want to lend my support to the initiative which has been so successful and to point out on the island of Ireland, the dispute represents the longest standing political divide in the history of the Western world. It is most extraordinary; and today in contrast to the turbulence that we witness in the rest of the world, the reach of the United States is so apparent in the successful diplomatic efforts which have occurred in Ireland over this past decade.

I would remind Members it was not that long ago when this issue seemed to defy solution. Today the face of Ireland is changed. I do not know anybody on either side of the border or in either of the two communities that would argue that we ought to return to such a tragic history. Instead, Ireland is a vibrant international economy, the second largest producer of software in the world, a population that is educated as well as any and all of Europe, a people that are confident and in large measure they were willing to take that risk for peace because of the support that was generated in the Congress of the United States by both political parties, two successive administrations who said that this issue deserved the same sort of attention that other international events had reached.

Today, we reap the reward of that success. It has been initiatives like this from the gentleman from New York (Mr. WALSH), and it is a fact that Members on both sides of the aisle meet faithfully and regularly in an effort to demonstrate that America still cares.

Is there a way to go? There certainly is. It is still a long road, but contrast what we have today with what we had just a few years ago, and I think members of the American community as well as other international partners can all take the necessary satisfaction from the success that the world is witnessing, and it is thanks to initiatives like this that have ensured that path forward.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2655 would extend the excellent Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program. This program provides employment and vocational training for young people from disadvantaged areas of Northern Ireland and the 6 border counties of the Republic of Ireland. The goal of the program is to help the participants

to develop and enhance their personal and professional skills and then return to their own communities as productive and skilled members of the workforce.

The program has focused on business sectors in which personnel or skills shortages exist in Ireland and Northern Ireland, or where strong future growth and/or new investment is expected. The business sectors include hospitality and tourism; customer service; information and communications technologies; pharmaceuticals; engineering; sales, marketing and promotion; agriculture and horticulture diversification; food processing, and furniture.

The experience this program provides enables the participants to return to their communities better able to contribute to economic regeneration and a lasting peace in Ireland. I urge you to vote for H.R. 2655 to extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program.

Mr. DOYLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2655, legislation reauthorizing the Walsh Visa program. This program provides U.S. work visas to young people from economically disadvantaged communities in Northern Ireland.

The City of Pittsburgh, which I have the honor of representing, is one of the hub cities for the Walsh Visa program. Consequently, I have had the opportunity to see first-hand the impressive accomplishments of this important program.

Nearly 250 young men and women, Protestant and Catholic, have participated in the Walsh Visa Program in Pittsburgh since the city was selected as a hub city for this initiative. This program promotes tolerance in Northern Ireland by bringing unemployed Protestant and Catholic youth from economically disadvantaged areas to work and live together in a vibrant multicultural community. These young people learn first-hand about the benefits of tolerance and diversity as they develop useful job skills and important work habits.

The Walsh Visa program literally transforms the lives of many of its participants, ending their dependence on government hand-outs and returning them to their communities as valuable economic assets—as well as advocates of tolerance and peaceful coexistence in their deeply divided communities. Their new work skills reinforce their status and influence in their communities, and that gives their message of tolerance and peaceful co-existence added weight.

And that brings me to the bigger picture. The Walsh Visa programs doesn't just benefit a few thousand individuals. It also benefits the hundreds of thousands of people in their communities in Northern Ireland.

When these young people go home, they take back much-needed job skills, and they serve as important role models for the other young people in their community—not just in terms of promoting religious tolerance, but also in terms of encouraging participation in the workforce in communities where unemployment has historically been depressingly high and many young people have developed an unhealthy dependency on government welfare programs.

After completing the Walsh Visa Program, one of the Pittsburgh hub participants stated that, having lived and worked in America, she would never consider being without a job again back in Belfast.

The Walsh Visa Program is administered in Pittsburgh by the Ireland Institute, a non-profit

organization which has a mission to promote mutual understanding between the Catholic and Protestant communities in Northern Ireland and job creation throughout all of Ireland.

More than 100 local companies have signed on in support of this program, and thousands of dollars in in-kind contributions have been received from the community. If, as I believe, widespread public support indicates the merit of a government program, then private support for the Walsh Visa Program in Pittsburgh represents a ringing endorsement of this international initiative.

Mr. Speaker, the Walsh Visa Program is helping the people of Northern Ireland move beyond the sectarian strife that has divided them for far too long. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 2655 and reauthorizing this important program.

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2655, which would extend and enhance the Walsh Visa Program—a critical effort in the drive for peace in Northern Ireland.

There is still a great deal of work to be done to realize the vision we all share of a peaceful and prosperous Northern Ireland. The Walsh Visa Program is a critical part of this effort, providing disadvantaged young adults from Northern Ireland and border counties with job skills and conflict resolution training in the United States. When they return home, these young people play a positive role in their communities, helping along the economy and the peace process. I cannot stress enough the importance of this program.

H.R. 2655 would extend this vital program for two years and would also ensure that the people who benefit from it are the truly economically disadvantaged young adults the program was designed to help. They come from areas that have been gravely affected by conflict, suffering from intense violence and high levels of unemployment.

As we strive for peace and prosperity in Northern Ireland, we must remember that while leaders may make peace, people make peace flourish. This program would support the everyday people who are the foundation of peace in future generations.

I strongly support H.R. 2655, and I thank my colleague Mr. Walsh for his important contribution to the peace effort.

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2655, a bill which establishes a cultural training program for young people from disadvantaged areas in Northern Ireland and other areas in Ireland.

This bill will extend a very successful program for two years, and makes a few other changes which will improve the program.

The changes include requiring that only 20 percent of the program participants may have a higher education degree, that they must be at least 21 years old, and that they must be an unemployed resident for at least 6 months.

One of the main goals of the program is a better educated Irish citizenry. Not only do the participants personally benefit from the program, but because of the improved contributions participants can make, so do the people of Ireland. Participants are required to return home after the program, which fosters economic development and peace. This requirement is waived however, if returning home

would impose certain hardships on a participant or his family, or if it is of national interest to keep the alien here.

When I traveled to Ireland earlier this year, I saw first hand how such a program would help the Irish people. A well-educated society is a successful, productive, and peaceful society.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, and am sure that the improvements made by it will benefit not only individuals participating in the program, but also the Irish people.

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2655, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AWARDING CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL TO JACKIE ROBINSON IN RECOGNITION OF HIS MANY CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NATION

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1900) to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1900

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Jackie Roosevelt Robinson was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, and was the youngest of 5 children.

(2) Jackie Robinson attended the University of California Los Angeles where he starred in football, basketball, baseball, and track. His remarkable skills earned him a reputation as the best athlete in America.

(3) In 1947, Jackie Robinson was signed by the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first black player to play in Major League Baseball. His signing is considered one of the most significant moments in the history of professional sports in America. For his remarkable performance on the field in his first season, he won the National League's Rookie of the Year Award.

(4) In 1949, Jackie Robinson was voted the National League's Most Valuable Player by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

(5) In 1962, Jackie Robinson was elected to the Baseball Hall of Fame.

(6) Although the achievements of Jackie Robinson began with athletics, they widened to have a profound influence on civil and human rights in America.

(7) The signing of Jackie Robinson as the first black player in Major League Baseball occurred before the United States military

was desegregated by President Harry Truman, before the civil rights marches took place in the South, and before the Supreme Court issued its historic ruling in *Brown v. Board of Education*, 347 U.S. 483 (1954).

(8) The American public came to regard Jackie Robinson as a person of exceptional fortitude, integrity, and athletic ability so rapidly that, by the end of 1947, he finished ahead of President Harry Truman, General Dwight Eisenhower, General Douglas MacArthur, and Bob Hope in a national poll for the most popular person in America, finishing only behind Bing Crosby.

(9) Jackie Robinson was named vice president of Chock Full O' Nuts in 1957 and later co-founded the Freedom National Bank of Harlem.

(10) Leading by example, Jackie Robinson influenced many of the greatest political leaders in America.

(11) Jackie Robinson worked tirelessly with a number of religious and civic organizations to better the lives of all Americans.

(12) The life and principles of Jackie Robinson are the basis of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, which keeps his memory alive by providing children of low-income families with leadership and educational opportunities.

(13) The legacy and personal achievements of Jackie Robinson, as an athlete, a business leader, and a citizen, have had a lasting and positive influence on the advancement of civil rights in the United States.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL.

(a) PRESENTATION AUTHORIZED.—The President is authorized to present, on behalf of the Congress, to the family of Jackie Robinson, a gold medal of appropriate design in recognition of the many contributions of Jackie Robinson to the Nation.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

Under such regulations as the Secretary may prescribe, the Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck under section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the costs of the medals, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. STATUS AS NATIONAL MEDALS.

The medals struck under this Act are national medals for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund an amount not to exceed \$30,000 to pay for the cost of the medal authorized under section 2.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—Amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals under section 3 shall be deposited in the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 6. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of the Congress that—

(1) there should be designated a national day for the purpose of recognizing the accomplishments of Jackie Robinson; and

(2) the President should issue a proclamation calling on the people of the United States to observe the day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1900, and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, this is a piece of legislation which is long overdue. If there was anyone over the past half century that has warranted the Congressional Gold Medal, it is Jackie Robinson. The reason this legislation is on the floor today, the reason it has advanced this far is because of the efforts of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL), the man who initiated this legislation, who has worked relentlessly to get the amount of support necessary to bring it to the floor. I commend the gentleman for it, and I thank him for giving me an opportunity to sign onto the bill as the lead cosponsor.

I have a personal interest because as a young kid growing up in New York, Jackie Robinson was certainly one of my heroes. I was a Brooklyn Dodgers fan, I attended many games at Ebbets Field, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) thinks I fantasize these things, but these are true. As a kid, there is probably no ball player who excited New York in that era more than Jackie Robinson. He really just caused all attention to be focused on himself, both through his ability and also because of his dynamism. The first game I went to, Jackie Robinson scored the winning run in the 10th inning. I saw him play a number of positions. He was on six World Series teams with the Brooklyn Dodgers. He was a major player when they won the World Series in 1955, he was a perennial All-Star in the National League, and he really excelled as a ball player. And after he retired, he was elected to the Hall of Fame.

Of course, he was not just an outstanding ball player; he will go down in history for the fact and what he did in breaking the color barrier in the United States. When he broke into organized baseball in 1946 in the minor leagues and in 1947 in the major leagues with the Brooklyn Dodgers, baseball truly was the national pastime. All attention was focused on organized baseball, and there were no African Americans whatsoever allowed into organized baseball.

When Jackie Robinson broke that barrier, he really broke barriers throughout the country and set an example and a standard that our country has been attempting to live up to ever since.

I mentioned that as a kid I used to follow Jackie Robinson as a ball player. It is only as I became older that I

realized the solitary anguish he must have been going through as a ball player during those years for a while when he was the only African American ball player at all. And even after other black players came into the major leagues, it was Jackie Robinson against whom so much of the hatred and venom was aimed. What he had to go through, the way he was attacked and criticized in stadium after stadium, it took enormous courage on his part to stand up to that, and he did. He always showed class and dignity. He was always tough, but he always lived up to the highest ideals of Americanism. Because of that our society has advanced as much as it has.

In awarding the Congressional Gold Medal, we try to single out those individuals who have really made special contributions; and I cannot think of anyone, whether in the world of sports, the civil rights movement, or emerging American society, who has done more to make contributions than Jackie Robinson.

On a personal note, as great as it was for me to watch Jackie Robinson, I also had the anguish as a high school student from my high school window watching them tear down Ebbets Field. To many people, that marked the destruction of the Brooklyn Dodger image and tradition.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, they could tear everything down, but no one could ever tear down the image of Jackie Robinson; no one could ever tear down the lasting impact that he has had on American society. So this is, as I said, a resolution which is long overdue. It is legislation that is long overdue, but it is something which is fully warranted and deserved.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me state how proud I am to stand here and manage the time on this important piece of legislation as a New Yorker. Jackie Robinson, as the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) pointed out, was as much a New Yorker as he was a baseball player.

I also want to state my admiration for the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL). The gentleman and I have had the opportunity to work on many pieces of legislation during my 5 years here in Congress; and I want to suggest that it takes a tremendous amount of courage for a man from Massachusetts at this time, when a New York team is poised to defeat a Massachusetts team in a playoff series which is about to take place in a couple of days, to have the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) offer this bill here today to honor someone who became an honorary New Yorker we all appreciate. We really appreciate the motivation and the efforts of the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) to Jackie Robinson.

Baseball player Jack Roosevelt Robinson, who is popularly known as Jack-

ie Robinson, was born on January 31, 1919, in Cairo, Georgia, the youngest of five children. He spent his formative years living in near poverty in Pasadena, California, and later went on to attend the University of California in Los Angeles. His athletic gifts came to the fore when Jackie became the first athlete in UCLA history to letter in four sports: baseball, football, basketball and track. As a result, Jackie Robinson was considered one of the most versatile athletes of his generation and went on to prove it when he played for the Kansas City Monarchs in the Negro leagues and later signed a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers in 1945, the first African American to do so for the majors in the 20th century.

With the Dodgers, Jackie excelled in his game and inspired a generation of American fans and baseball players alike. The great home-run hitter of the Atlanta Braves, Hank Aaron, once remembered Jackie Robinson as an important influence in his life: "I had just turned 20, and Jackie told me the only way to be successful at anything was to go out and do it. He said baseball was a game you played every day, not once a week."

Jackie's career statistics tell a remarkable story. He helped the Brooklyn Dodgers win six pennants in 10 seasons. He was named Most Valuable Player in 1949 when he scored 108 runs, 203 hits, 16 home runs, and 124 RBIs. Jackie led the National League in stolen bases in 1947 and 1949 for a total career of 197. His career batting average was .311.

For his achievements in the sport, he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame in 1962. Despite his remarkable achievements on the baseball field, Jackie still had to contend with the insidious racist environment of his time. While traveling with the Dodgers, he could not always stay in the same hotels, nor eat at the same restaurants as his white teammates. One park in Florida barred the Dodgers from playing an exhibition game because of their inclusion of Robinson on their roster.

At another point, the Cardinals threatened to strike rather than play against Robinson and the Dodgers, but the National League president intervened and the Cardinals capitulated.

Jackie Robinson received hate mail with death threats. Given the racial injustices in America at the time and the racial injustices he was subjected to as a black baseball player, it is no surprise that Jackie Robinson would later turn his attention to fostering racial justice in America. He urged Major League Baseball club owners to hire African Americans to serve as managers, coaches, and administrators in front-office positions. He traveled extensively to raise funds for the NAACP and was a strong supporter of the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai Brith.

After retiring from baseball, Jackie became a businessman. He was vice president of Chock Full O'Nuts, chair-

man of the board and co-founder of Freedom National Bank of Harlem between 1962 and 1972, and founded a construction company in 1970.

In both banking and construction, he sought to improve the living conditions of African Americans in urban areas. He also spoke out against drug abuse in America. He was one of the great heroes of the storied history of our national pastime. He was an inspiration to his generation, and his pioneer spirit and legacy are an inspiration to all of us and will be for many generations to come. His legacy continues to be honored by the good work of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, which his wife, Rachel, founded in 1973, one year after his death, which helps college-bound minority youth in developing their potential. I urge Members to support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) and the courage he has shown, I think it is important for the record to state that back in the years when Jackie Robinson was playing in the World Series against the New York Yankees, I was rooting for Jackie Robinson, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) was rooting for the New York Yankees.

In spite of that, we do believe in the ultimate power of redemption; we are glad the gentleman is attempting to atone for his sins today by advancing this legislation, and we certainly welcome him as we welcome all sinners who return to the fold.

Seriously, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) touched on many of these issues regarding Jackie Robinson. He was a man who served the United States Army during World War II, he was an All-American athlete in a number of sports at UCLA. He played any number of positions, and started all of them. He showed enormous talent and ability while he had this tremendous burden on him, the incredible pressures, the hatred being launched against him; but despite that, he continued to excel as an outstanding ball player throughout his career.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 7 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL).

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for the effort that they extended on the floor in getting the signatures to bring us to this moment.

Mr. Speaker, our friend and colleague and hero, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), noted just a few months ago that before there was an integrated American military, there was Jackie Robinson.

□ 1515

Before *Brown v. Board of Education*, there was Jackie Robinson. Before the trauma and turbulence of events at the Edmond Pettus Bridge, there was Jackie Robinson. Before there was a Civil Rights Act of 1964, there was Jackie Robinson. And before the Voting Rights Act of 1965, there was Jackie Robinson. I think that this House tries to honor those who break a barrier, and that is precisely what we are doing today in honoring Jackie Robinson.

Jackie Robinson noted that the great thing about athletics is that you learn to act democracy, not just talk about it. I think he would in some small degree take satisfaction today knowing that this House of Representatives is not going to talk any longer about its legacy; we are going to act on it.

For his many contributions to sports, to civil rights, and to our Nation, Jackie Robinson deserves this important recognition. His remarkable life transcended baseball and helped to transform a Nation in the process.

As a baseball fan since my youth, I always admired his great talent. He was, and by all objective measurements, a true American hero. I am proud to be able to author this bipartisan legislation honoring a trail-blazing legend.

The leadership of Major League Baseball and in particular its Commissioner, Bud Selig, and its President, Bob DuPuy, they also deserve special recognition today as well as the many Members of this House who faithfully secured the signatures to bring this matter up in deserving recognition for Jackie Robinson. And I want to acknowledge the role of Major League Baseball in the passage of this legislation.

And since I represent a portion of Massachusetts, let me recognize the Boston Red Sox today who held a symposium on the life of Jackie Robinson in January at Fenway Park, and it was the Red Sox who gave me the enthusiasm and presented themselves as a consistent partner in our efforts to pass this legislation.

Also, I want to thank the family of Jackie Robinson for their unyielding support of this endeavor. Many of us had the opportunity just a few weeks ago to meet Jackie's daughter, Sharon, and we came away from that meeting knowing that she possessed the same qualities as her dad: strength, courage and conviction. I want to thank the members of that family and particularly Sharon for helping with this historic achievement.

The Nation that we live in today, Mr. Speaker, is much more egalitarian. Our sense of justice which we talked about for decades is much closer to the truth today than it was when Jackie Robinson walked to home plate. America has a much better vision of fairness today than it did when Jackie Robinson stole home plate. He helped to transform that game, but in the midst of transforming that game, just as impor-

tantly, he helped to transform America.

Think of the legions of people who successfully play baseball today who cannot imagine a nation where the premier player on the team could not eat in the same restaurant with his teammates, could not secure a reservation in the same hotel as his teammates, and yet on the next day be the star and central attraction of that team. He not only changed the game; he successfully changed the complexion of the game and thereby helped change the complexion of America.

America, as I have indicated, has a much better sense of itself today because of the barriers that were broken. We serve in a Congress that is much more reflective today of this Nation than it would have been when Jackie Robinson broke the barrier. Congress takes this rightful moment, I think, to ensure that as we have deliberatively and time and again created a bit of an obstacle to getting these things done so that those who are undeserving might not secure this honor that we are going to bestow on Jackie Robinson, and rightly so. But I thank Members on both sides, the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) in particular, and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) as well; and on our side the people who went out and got these signatures day in and day out to bring us to this moment.

This is a really nice thing for the Robinson family. It is a great thing for this Congress of the United States. But most importantly, it is a great thing for the country we all love, the United States of America.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Mrs. CHRISTENSEN).

Mrs. CHRISTENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) for yielding me this time.

It is a special honor and privilege today to rise in support of H.R. 1900, legislation sponsored by the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the late, great Jackie Robinson in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express a sense of Congress that there should be a national day of recognition in his name. I applaud my colleague for sponsoring the bill which should be supported by everyone in this body.

Mr. Speaker, in the spring of 1947, Jackie Roosevelt Robinson played his first game with the Brooklyn Dodgers, breaking down baseball's decades-old color line and changing the face of baseball forever. Over the past few years, I too have had the pleasure of working with Jackie Robinson's older daughter, Sharon Robinson, on a number of activities and programs of the Jackie Robinson Foundation, which continue his legacy for our children and which has brought to my and many of my colleagues' districts.

On a broader note, my constituents and I owe a debt of gratitude to Jackie Robinson for opening the door and paving the way for all of us, but especially for several Virgin Islands major leaguers like Valmy Thomas, Elrod Hendricks, Al McBean, Elmo Plaskett, Horace Clarke, Jerry Browne, Joe Christopher, Henry Cruz, Midre Cummings, Jose Morales, and Calvin Pickering, as well as Bernie Williams whom we share with Puerto Rico.

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us is a long overdue tribute, and I rise on their behalf and on behalf of all Virgin Islanders. I only wish it had been bestowed on Jackie Robinson while he was still alive.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1900.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we have listened to statements today in support of this legislation, in support of this great honor being awarded to a great man, Jackie Robinson, with number 42 on his uniform, but who certainly was first in the hearts of so many Americans.

I want to again emphasize my gratitude to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. NEAL) for his efforts in bringing this forward and also express the personal honor it is to me. When I was a kid growing up in New York, I never thought I would have the opportunity to be supporting legislation for one of my childhood heroes. So it really is a great moment for this country, and I can speak on behalf of the many millions of New Yorkers who lived during the 1940s and 1950s who were thrilled by Jackie Robinson's excellence on the ball field.

But more important than that, I can speak for tens of millions of Americans who will always be in his debt and will always have tremendous gratitude to him for being such a pathfinder, for being so courageous, for having the guts to go forward when very few others would. I ask that this bill be passed.

I include in the RECORD a statement of Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig.

STATEMENT OF BASEBALL COMMISSIONER ALAN H. SELIG

I have often said that Jackie Robinson's entry into the Big Leagues was Baseball's proudest moment and most powerful social statement.

Today, the United States House of Representatives codifies the historic importance of Jackie Robinson's legacy by awarding, posthumously, its prestigious Congressional Gold Medal to Jackie.

On behalf of Major League Baseball, I express my gratitude to the House of Representatives for enacting this legislation, to Congressmen Neal (D-MA) and King (R-NY) for proposing the bill, to the nearly 300 House co-sponsors, and especially to those members who worked hard to achieve the bill's passage.

Before America's Armed Forces were integrated and before the United States Supreme

Court struck down segregation, Jackie Robinson became the first black man to step onto a Major League ball field. That memorable day in 1947, in Brooklyn, New York, our National Pastime truly achieved greatness. And people of color felt the promise of greater freedoms to come.

In April of 1997, it was my great honor to retire Jackie Robinson's Number 42 in perpetuity. It was the first time in any sport that such a gesture was bestowed upon an athlete. It was a recognition that Jackie Robinson was an exceptional man who fought racism by exhibiting athletic greatness on the ball field and grace off the field.

On behalf of Major League Baseball, Jackie's wife, Rachel, his children Sharon and David, and Jackie's millions of fans, I thank the United States House of Representatives for this special and appropriate tribute to a great ballplayer and an even greater human being.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the accomplishments of Jackie Robinson, who richly deserves the award of a Congressional Gold Medal as a pioneer in opening professional sports to all Americans. Like my colleagues, I am proud to remember him as an American hero.

But as a proud graduate of the University of California at Los Angeles, I wanted to remind my colleagues that Jackie Robinson was already known to American sports fans even before he made history by joining the Brooklyn Dodgers. In fact, he is one of UCLA's most distinguished alumni and was considered one of our nation's most important athletes during his college days.

Robinson's true passion was athletics and he excelled at every sport he tried. Regarded as the finest all-around athlete in the United States during his lifetime, he was the only Bruin to earn varsity letters in four sports: football, basketball, track, and baseball.

As a football player, at UCLA Robinson led the nation in punt return average in 1939 (16.5 yards) and 1940 (21.0 yards) and his career average of 18.8 yards ranks fourth in NCAA history. During his senior year he led UCLA in rushing (383 yards), passing (444 yards), total offense (827 yards), scoring (36 points) and punt returns (21.0 yards). In his career, he rushed for 954 yards (5.9 average) and passed for 449 yards.

As a basketball player, Robinson led Pacific Coast Conference's Southern Division in scoring in both 1940 (12.4 average in 12 league games) and 1941 (11.1 average in 12 league games) and was named All-PCC Southern Division in 1940.

Robinson's UCLA track career was abbreviated because he missed most of the 1940 season while playing baseball, but he still managed to win the NCAA title in the broad jump (24' 10¹/₄"") as well as the broad jump at the Pacific Coast Conference meet with a leap of 25' 0".

He did not even consider baseball his best sport, but in his first collegiate game, he totaled four hits and stole four bases, including home base.

Despite his achievements in the realm of sports, Robinson, like other black athletes, was often confronted by the harsh realities of the times. I am proud to say that race was not an issue on Bruin teams, but in those days much of the rest of the nation wasn't as accepting. Ned Mathews, a football teammate of Robinson, recalled an incident at Stanford University where black athletes were turned away

from dining in a restaurant. The Bruins left. "If they didn't fit, we didn't fit," Mathews told the UCLA faculty newspaper, "and that's the way it went."

The support of his UCLA teammates and the heroism Jackie Robinson showed in facing this early discrimination would provide the foundation for his history-making career in major-league baseball. Shortly after his time in college, Robinson signed a contract with the Brooklyn Dodgers, ending decades of discrimination against blacks in the major leagues. In spite of enduring torment and abuse through much of his professional career, he remains one of the sport's all-time athletic stars. Robinson was posthumously named a charter member of UCLA's Athletic Hall of Fame in 1984.

Robinson once said "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." His impact on the sporting world and our nation cannot be overstated. By showing us that athletes—and indeed all Americans—should be judged by their talent and character rather than their skin color, Jackie Robinson's life has brought us closer to fulfilling our creed that "all men are created equal."

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1900, a bill to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson. Mr. Robinson was not only an amazing athlete he was a man of unsurpassed character and an agent of social change. On behalf of the people of the 18th Congressional District of Texas, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill. By posthumously awarding the congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson, we are recognizing the achievements and the life of an exceptional man.

Mr. Robinson was born in 1919 in the state of Georgia. His parents were sharecroppers and he was the youngest of five children. During his rise as a student, an athlete, and a national hero, he would travel from coast to coast and from north to south across the country. While attending the University of California Los Angeles he was the first student to earn varsity letters in four sports; baseball, football, basketball, and track.

In 1947, Jackie Robinson signed with the Brooklyn Dodgers and became the first African American to play in Major League Baseball. During his first season, he won the National League's Rookie of the Year Award. In 1949, Jackie Robinson was also voted the National League's Most Valuable Player by the Baseball Writers Association of America.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that a few weeks ago this body had occasion to honor Larry Doby. He was the second African American to play Major League baseball and the first to play in the American League. It is wonderful that people's House should take time to honor both of these national heroes.

Now, after the 1956 season, Mr. Robinson retired from the game of baseball. In 1962, he was inducted into the National Baseball Hall of Fame. He was the first African American player to receive that honor. Clearly, none can question Jackie Robinson's contributions to America's greatest pastime but many are unfamiliar with his achievements off the field of play.

Before entering Major League Baseball Jackie Robinson joined the United States

Army. He earned the rank of first lieutenant in the Army, which was still segregated at that time. Mr. Robinson did not quietly accept such segregation. Rather he protested the Army's discriminatory practices. In fact, while stationed at Fort Hood, in Texas, Jackie Robinson was arrested when he refused a bus driver's order to move to the back of a bus. After court-martial, he was acquitted. Then, in 1944, Mr. Robinson received an honorable discharge from the Army.

Years later, after his career in baseball, Mr. Robinson dedicated himself full-time to the cause of civil rights. In fact, from 1964 to 1968 he served as special assistant for civil rights to Governor Nelson Rockefeller of New York. Mr. Robinson also worked to promote African American business in Harlem. He even co-founded the Freedom National Bank of Harlem.

Sadly, Mr. Robinson passed away in 1972. He was survived by family, friends, and millions of fans. The epitaph inscribed on Mr. Robinson's gravestone is one that he wrote himself. It reads: "A life is not important except in the impact it has on other lives." We thank Jackie Robinson for his selflessness, for the permanent impact he made upon our lives, and upon the basic fabric of this country. Mr. Speaker, we thank Mr. Robinson and we honor him.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Jackie Robinson for his contributions to this country. The grandson of a slave, Jackie Robinson used his unmatched athletic talent to clear a path toward equality. As the first African-American to play in Major League Baseball, Mr. Robinson faced virulent opposition and oppressive racism. Through the passion and excitement of excellent athletic performance, Mr. Robinson carried the United States one step closer to racial parity.

I am particularly proud of Jackie Robinson's connection to the city of Pasadena. Mr. Robinson moved to Pasadena as a toddler, and grew up in the shadow of the Rose Bowl. He was an exceptional teammate on the sandlots, and a multi-sport standout at John Muir Technical High School. At Pasadena Junior College and UCLA, he broke records in basketball, baseball, football and track.

Jackie's older brother Mack was also a treasured citizen of Pasadena; the Post Office on Lincoln Avenue bears his name. The Robinson family's contributions to Pasadena echo beyond the realm of athletics to the model they set for the community and the nation.

It seems fitting to honor Jackie Robinson in October, as competition intensifies for the American and National League pennant races. Mr. Speaker I urge passage of H.R. 1900, to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Jackie Robinson, to recognize his powerful contributions to the nation, and to express support for a national day in recognition of one of Pasadena's greatest stars.

Mr. KING of New York. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HEFLEY). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. KING) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1900.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

FHA MULTIFAMILY LOAN LIMIT
ADJUSTMENT ACT OF 2003

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1985) to amend the National Housing Act to increase the maximum mortgage amount limit for FHA-insured mortgages for multifamily housing located in high-cost areas, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1985

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. MAXIMUM MORTGAGE AMOUNT LIMIT FOR MULTIFAMILY HOUSING IN HIGH-COST AREAS.

In the National Housing Act, sections 207(c)(3), 213(b)(2)(B)(i), 220(d)(3)(B)(iii)(II), 221(d)(3)(ii)(II), 221(d)(4)(ii)(II), 231(c)(2)(B), and 234(e)(3)(B) (12 U.S.C. 1713(c)(3), 1715e(b)(2)(B)(i), 1715k(d)(3)(B)(iii)(II), 1715l(d)(3)(ii)(II), 1715l(d)(4)(ii)(II), 1715v(c)(2)(B), and 1715y(e)(3)(B)) are each amended—

(1) by striking "110 percent" and inserting "170 percent"; and

(2) by striking "140 percent" and inserting "170 percent".

SEC. 3. CATCH-UP ADJUSTMENTS TO CERTAIN MAXIMUM MORTGAGE AMOUNT LIMITS.

(a) SECTION 207 LIMITS.—Section 207(c)(3) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1713(c)(3)) is amended by striking "\$11,250" and inserting "\$17,460".

(b) SECTION 213 LIMITS.—Section 213(b)(2)(A) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1715e(b)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking "\$38,025", "\$42,120", "\$50,310", "\$62,010", and "\$70,200" and inserting "\$41,207", "\$47,511", "\$57,300", "\$73,343", and "\$81,708", respectively; and

(2) by striking "\$49,140", "\$60,255", "\$75,465", and "\$85,328" and inserting "\$49,710", "\$60,446", "\$78,197", and "\$85,836", respectively.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

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

Today I rise in support of H.R. 1985, the FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2003. This important piece of legislation introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) amends the

National Housing Act to increase the maximum mortgage amount limit for FHA-insured mortgages for multifamily housing located in high-cost areas.

The Federal Housing Administration is one of the most effective programs in helping low-to-middle-income buyers purchase their first home. It was originally designed to encourage lenders to make credit more readily available and at lower rates. Through FHA programs, HUD insures mortgages and loans made by HUD-approved lenders for a wide variety of purposes including new construction, rehabilitation, property improvement, and refinancing in connection with a wide variety of types of property. FHA programs include all types of residential property (multifamily, single family, manufactured homes), nonresidential commercial property, hospitals, and certain other health care facilities.

The FHA multifamily mortgage insurance program is a critical source of financing for affordable multifamily rental housing. During the previous 2 years, Congress supported and implemented improvements to the program, including increasing the base loan limits by 25 percent and indexing the loan limits to inflation, which begins in 2004. As a result, loan values have increased significantly in many areas of the country where the program previously, frankly, was not working.

However, there are a number of high-cost urban markets such as New York, Boston, San Francisco, Chicago, and Los Angeles where construction costs are significantly higher than other areas of the country, and the high-cost factors have not been sufficient to allow the use of FHA multifamily mortgage insurance programs. The FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2003 will give the HUD Secretary the discretion to increase the maximum mortgage amount limit for FHA-insured mortgages for multifamily houses located in high-cost areas. In addition, it would change the statutory maximum adjustment percentage for geographic areas from 110 to 170 percent, which would change HUD's maximum high-cost percentage to 270 percent.

Providing the HUD Secretary additional flexibility to increase the maximum loan limits in high-cost areas would greatly improve the FHA multifamily mortgage insurance programs. With severe shortages of affordable rental housing in most of the high-cost markets, this change would enable developers to provide much-needed new affordable housing to low- and moderate-income families.

This is a tremendous bill, Mr. Speaker, and I want to give credit again to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY) and the staff on both sides of the aisle. It is a good bill. It is a bill that will definitely help people in the

United States, and I would urge all of my colleagues to support this vital housing initiative.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am particularly appreciative of the efforts of the gentleman from Ohio, the chairman of the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity and the other gentleman from Ohio, who chairs the full committee, for helping us bring this bill forward.

The gentleman from California and I began our collaboration on this issue in a previous Congress when this came up as part of an omnibus housing bill, and while we bogged down on that omnibus bill because of some differences between the parties and ideological concerns, it struck us that there was no reason to hold back on something that ought to be, and we believe is, in fact, in everybody's interest with no downside.

I would note that this is one of those times when we can bring forward a bill that will advance an important social purpose dealing with our housing affordability crisis, and this is not for subsidized housing, but as we build housing, multifamily housing, as we increase the housing stock, we deal with the affordability problem because there is a problem here of supply and demand. The affordability program is exacerbated by a shortage of supply, and as we increase the supply even of conventional housing, we are dealing with that.

This also has the unusual aspect of probably helping to reduce the Federal deficit. FHA premiums, given the repayment rate, particularly when we are dealing at this end of the spectrum, make money for the Federal Government. So if this has any impact on the Federal budget, it will be a directly positive one, not simply an economic activity that will be generated, that housing will be built, but specifically in the collections that will come from the FHA.

□ 1530

We do not have a single housing market in this country. We have, for a variety of reasons, some areas which cost more than others. Those are both supply- and demand-related factors. We should not, therefore, have a single FHA rule. Where we are dealing with high-cost areas, given the value that the FHA has as a financing mechanism for housing, we ought to take advantage of that.

I want to express my appreciation also to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) for his consistent leadership on this issue. I would also like to acknowledge the role that the National Association of Homebuilders played in helping educate all the Members to the importance of this and to the benefit which we will all receive from it.

So I again express my appreciation to Members on the majority side, the lead sponsor of the bill, the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER), the chairman of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), and the chairman of the full committee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY).

I am very pleased we will be moving this bill, and I hope that it is one that can be signed before the end of the year. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER), the sponsor of this bill, who has literally traveled 2000 miles to be here for this bill today.

Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1985, the FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2003. This legislation is really critical to make sure we provide affordable rental housing in this country.

I applaud the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK). He and I have a passion on this issue. We have been working on this for a while, and we continue to look for areas that we can impact in this country to make sure that housing is available to those who need housing most. I think our goal is to make sure that everybody in this Nation has an opportunity to own or rent their own home, a place they can call theirs.

I would like to commend the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), for his efforts in this. The gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) has been very, very good about making sure that this was diligently processed through the committee, and I want to thank him very much for that.

When it comes to high-cost markets, where land and construction costs are significantly higher than in other areas in the country, there is no question that FHA multifamily mortgage insurance limits are not keeping pace. The fact is that in high-cost areas, the land is continually growing in value. People are actually able to auction it off, and the rates they are getting for it are increasing rapidly, and the construction costs are increasing the same way.

The slowdown in affordable rental housing production has resulted in a significant gap between the demand for and the supply of rental housing. This is a problem we have to come together to solve today.

The FHA Multifamily Program provides mortgage insurance for multifamily developments, particularly serving low- and moderate-income families. In our most expensive cities, it is very difficult for these families to find affordable rental housing in the communities where they work. Today, many public servants in my district, police officers, firefighters and teachers, are not able to live in the community in which they grew up and work today. And if Congress does not act to promote affordable rental housing,

things will not get easier for families in my district and the Nation as a whole.

Orange County, California, had the third largest rent increases out of 25 of the largest metropolitan areas in 11 Western States. Thirty-three percent of the renters in Orange County sent 35 percent or more of their income to their landlord.

The FHA Multifamily Mortgage Insurance Program has operated for over 65 years, working with private sector partners to expand the supply of rental housing. This public-private partnership has leveraged more than \$100 billion of private sector investments to provide rental housing for more than 4 million families and the elderly throughout this country.

The problem is that, according to HUD's data, no multifamily loans were FHA insured in high-cost cities such as New York, Philadelphia, Seattle or Los Angeles in 2003. The entire State of California only had one multifamily development that has been built and insured by FHA. These are the same areas of the country in which there exists a wide availability gap of affordable rental housing.

The problem is in California and many high-cost States, Massachusetts is a great example, you cannot find a rental available. They are just not available. The costs are escalating so rapidly.

The developers are simply unable to provide affordable housing units in these areas because the current statutory mortgage limits for FHA mortgage insurance are unrealistically low. We have to get the rates up to keep up with the demand out there.

I have a letter from an individual who is a developer in the Boston area, and this gives you an example of what developers are going through today in this country.

He said, "I am currently in the planning stages of developing 180-unit, garden-style, walk-up apartments located in Burlington. Twenty percent of the units will be affordable to seniors with incomes of 80 percent of the area median, and the rest will be at market rate. The units range in size from 700 square feet, one-bedroom units to 1,200 square foot, two-bedroom units."

He has been planning this for quite a few years.

"However, I may not be able to actually obtain the FHA-insured loan. My total development costs are \$176,000 per unit, which exceeds the high-cost limits. The figure is actually somewhat low because I bought the lands many years ago for \$15,000 per unit. The land is currently worth \$50,000 per unit."

In nexus, what this gentleman is saying is if he cannot get this loan, which is not competing with the private sector, it is a loan for FHA for these income houses, he is likely to have to sell this property off to a developer who will not build it for low-income people, who will build it for at-market rates, whether it be multifamily,

condos or townhomes. The problem is that does not do anything to remove the problem we face today, but makes it worse.

We are not giving grants and that is the key, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) tried to say. This is not a government giveaway. Whether you are a conservative or a liberal should not impact anybody. This is a loan that is made to an individual that is a very safe loan. In fact, the government makes money off these loans.

It is very seldom we can bring a bill to this floor that not only deals with the housing crisis we face in this country, but actually does not cost the government a dime. Nobody is given anything, it is just a conduit between the builder and the people who need a place to live.

This is a good bill, I see no objection to it, and I ask for unanimous approval of this.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute to make one other point.

Even with regard to Section 8, this is helpful legislation, because the Section 8 cost is based on the cost of the housing. To the extent we can get multifamily housing built more efficiently with financing help, then the Section 8 rent, even in one of those units, which could happen, would be nice. So this is a bill which, as I said, has no downside.

I appreciate the gentleman from California noting he and I will continue to look for ways without regard to ideological party differences, which will remain and which are legitimate and which we will debate, but aside from those, we can find ways to move this along.

So, again, with thanks, particularly to the gentleman from Ohio who worked very hard on this, I urge passage of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, in closing, I want to again commend the gentleman from California (Mr. GARY G. MILLER) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), who worked together on a very important piece of legislation, our ranking member, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), and the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman OXLEY). Our Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity put this straight to the full committee so we did not delay on it.

I also want to note something, and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) talked about it, omnibus bills. I think the approach we are taking on the committee, both the subcommittee and the full committee, is the right approach. We are looking at high-cost. Somebody said, what are you doing for rural? We are doing things for rural. We are discussing everything on the table.

Avoiding an omnibus bill, that everybody works a year on and then it does

not pass both Chambers, has been an approach we have taken so we can get bits and pieces of bills that are good bills.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. NEY. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much, and I agree with almost everything he said today, but only almost. I would still like to see an omnibus bill.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, we can still work an omnibus bill, and we can still continue to do these. These are probably going a little faster, I hope. But an omnibus will keep us all busy.

With that, I urge support of the bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1985, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TRANSFER TO PUBLIC PRINTER OF AUTHORITY OVER INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING CONGRESSIONAL RECORD INDEXES

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3229) to amend title 44, United States Code, to transfer to the Public Printer the authority over the individuals responsible for preparing indexes of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3229

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. TRANSFER TO PUBLIC PRINTER OF AUTHORITY OVER INDIVIDUALS RESPONSIBLE FOR PREPARING CONGRESSIONAL RECORD INDEXES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 902 of title 44, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“§ 902. Congressional Record: Indexes

“The Public Printer shall prepare the semimonthly and the session index to the Congressional Record. The Joint Committee on Printing shall direct the form and manner of its publication and distribution.”.

(b) TRANSITION RULE FOR CURRENT EMPLOYEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who is an employee of the Congressional Record Index Office as of the effective date of this Act shall be transferred to the Government Printing Office, subject to the provisions of this title governing the selection and appointment of employees of the Government Printing Office and any applicable regulations.

(2) TREATMENT OF ACCRUED LEAVE.—Any annual and sick leave accrued by such an individual prior to such date shall be transferred and made available to the individual as an employee of the Government Printing Office, subject to applicable regulations of the Government Printing Office governing the use of such leave.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act and the amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to pay periods beginning on or after October 1, 2003 (or, if later, the first day of the first month which begins after the date of the enactment of this Act).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

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

Madam Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here today with my colleague, our esteemed ranking member of the Committee on House Administration.

I rise here today in support of H.R. 3229, a bill to amend title 44, United States Code, to transfer to the Public Printer the authority over the individuals responsible for preparing indexes of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. The indexes create the semimonthly and session indexes to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

Under the Printing Act of 1895, the Joint Committee on Printing, known as JCP, designates to the Public Printer persons to prepare the index and fixes the compensation to be paid by the Public Printer for their work. Their compensation, benefits, and related office expenses are charged directly to the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation.

Although the indexers have long been recognized as Congressional employees, their daily work is supervised by the GPO, the Government Printing Office. Therefore, we are here today to make this change to title 44.

GPO provides administrative support for the indexers; pays the indexers from the GPO revolving fund, which is then reimbursed by the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation; and maintains employment records for the indexers. The indexers are housed in buildings under GPO's control and subject to GPO's rules and regulations regarding security and other related matters. GPO provides equipment for the indexers, who work on a day-to-day basis directly with GPO's production staff in compiling and publishing the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index.

Prior to 1999, the JCP managed the indexers. However, in 1999 the funding for the JCP ended. The employee transfer that this legislation will provide will relieve the JCP of the administrative burden of managing a daily production activity that more appropriately belongs, frankly, in the Government Printing Office. At the same time, it will preserve the JCP's control over the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index itself, which is important.

Most importantly, however, it will correct an employment situation. The JCP, in conjunction with GPO, has crafted legislative language to accomplish the transfer with minimal impact on office employees. The JCP and the GPO have ensured that despite the transfer accomplished by this legislation, the format and substance of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will remain the same as before, which, of course, is very important to many people in the country.

With the transfer, the employees will be placed in the civil service and will be covered by the laws and regulations covering GPO employment. Their contributions and service time accumulated under retirement systems as Congressional employees will be fully credited. They will retain their current rates of pay and their future pay will be subject to pay systems governing other GPO employees. They will be allowed to carry accumulated annual and sick leave with them, with subsequent use subject to GPO regulations.

The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index Office will be assigned to the appropriate GPO organization, subject to GPO management direction, although any future changes to the form and production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index will be subject to the review and approval of the JCP.

The indexers will continue to be funded by the Congressional Printing and Binding Appropriation. This change will not interrupt their work on the index. Consequently, the effects of the transfer will have no impact to CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index users in Congress, the government or the public.

As a request from the JCP, the GPO has briefed the Index Office employees on this legislative proposal. No objection was raised to the JCP.

The indexer employment situation has been in flux since 1999, and I commend the JCP and the GPO for working through this fluid situation and also for helping us bring this resolution to the floor.

The Public Printer, Bruce James, is to be commended also. He has done an excellent job and I think has really brought the Government Printing Office into the 21st century. I am going to be urging full support of this resolution.

I look forward to our ranking member, who is a definite student of history, and I am sure he is going to provide, Madam Speaker, a historical perspective to this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I thank the chairman for his historical reference.

I am pleased to join with the chairman in support of this legislation to transfer control of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD Index Office to the Government Printing Office.

The gentleman has ably explained the bill. The Public Printer, who asked

for this legislation, has submitted a detailed justification that the chairman has included in the RECORD.

I want to thank the chairman and the Joint Committee on Printing and particularly the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY) for his thorough explanation of the bill, the staff director of our joint committee, Maria Robinson, for her hard work, and my joint committee staff director, who I am pleased to have back, Michael Harrison, for his detailed work on this job.

I would also like to thank the director of the Office of Congressional Affairs at the GPO, Mr. Andrew Sherman, who was so helpful in putting this legislation together, as well as so many other projects.

I am pleased to join the distinguished chairman in support of this legislation to transfer control of the Congressional Record Index Office to the Government Printing Office. The gentleman has ably explained the bill. The Public Printer, who asked for this legislation, has submitted a detailed justification that the chairman will include in the RECORD.

Suffice it to say that circumstances have changed in recent years, creating a need for the modification recommended in this bill. A law dating back to the mid-19th Century, now codified as Section 902 of Title 44, United States Code, gives the Joint Committee on Printing the duty to appoint and fix the pay of "competent persons" to prepare a periodic index to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD. In addition to appointing the indexers and fixing their pay, the joint committee for many years actively supervised and directed the indexers' day-to-day work.

The indexers have been treated as congressional employees for leave and retirement purposes. However, unlike other congressional staff, whose pay is disbursed by the Secretary of the Senate or the Chief Administrative Officer of the House, the Public Printer pays the indexers out of the GPO revolving fund, and is reimbursed from the Congress's appropriation for its own printing and binding. The Public Printer provides supplies and equipment for the indexers' use, also on a reimbursable basis. The indexers perform their work on GPO premises, some distance from the Capitol, and naturally their work is closely linked to the production of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD itself.

Madam Speaker, if it ever made sense for the Joint Committee on Printing to have the responsibility to appoint the indexers, set their pay, and provide day-to-day supervision for the Index Office, that day ended in 1998 when the 105th Congress chose not to provide further appropriations for the JCP. That decision deprived the JCP of its separate professional staff, which had previously supported the joint committee in the discharge of its responsibilities, including management of the Index Office. Now those responsibilities fall upon our Committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, both of which are responsible for many matters in addition to printing. Under these circumstances, it makes sense to transfer the Index Office to the Public Printer, as he has proposed, leaving the JCP to establish policy to guide the Public Printer's exercise of his responsibility.

The bill does that and nothing else. The Public Printer has assured our committee that

the transfer's effect on those now employed as indexers will be minimal, and on the thousands who use the index, invisible. For me, this is key. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is a linchpin of Congress's ongoing effort to "keep America informed," which phrase is GPO's slogan. Readers of the RECORD know it is the Index that makes the RECORD a truly useful research tool. Congress could not properly keep America informed without the dedicated professionals of the Congressional Record Index Office. It is fitting that upon enactment of this bill, they will join the many dedicated professionals of the GPO.

□ 1545

Madam Speaker, I know of no opposition to this bill, and I urge a "yes" vote.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I want to again thank my colleague, our ranking member, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), for handling this bill with me on the floor today. This is a very important bill.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3229.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this bill.

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

There was no objection.

RECOGNIZING THE DR. SAMUEL D. HARRIS NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY AS THE OFFICIAL NATIONAL MUSEUM OF DENTISTRY IN THE UNITED STATES

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 52) recognizing the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 52

Whereas the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, is an international resource with the primary mission of educating people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral care;

Whereas the museum is the most comprehensive museum of dentistry in the Na-

tion, showcasing the people, objects, and events that have created and defined the dental profession;

Whereas the museum is located on the campus of the University of Maryland in Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840;

Whereas the museum educates the public about the importance of oral health in overall health through exciting, interactive exhibitions and the careful preservation and creative presentation of significant dental artifacts;

Whereas the museum is a national center for both the public and the profession to obtain information concerning historical aspects of oral health and preventive care, for scholars to study the evolution of dental treatment, and for dental practitioners to take pride in the accomplishments of their profession: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the museum, known as the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, located at 31 South Greene Street in Baltimore, Maryland, is recognized as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

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

I am pleased to rise today to offer for this body's consideration House Joint Resolution 52 to recognize the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry located in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States. I want to thank the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) for introducing the bill.

This museum is the most comprehensive dental museum in the world. It is a resource whose primary mission is to educate people, especially children, about the history of dentistry and the importance of good oral hygiene. It uses state-of-the-art interactive exhibitions and expert presentations to deliver the message that oral health is important to achieve overall health.

The museum is affiliated with the University of Maryland at Baltimore, home of the world's first dental school, founded in 1840. It contains hundreds of interesting and significant dental artifacts, including George Washington's dentures. It also serves as a national center of learning with an extensive library from which scholars may study the evolution of dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental treatment and learn of the numerous accomplishments of the dental profession over the years.

Most importantly, this museum is a reminder to all of us that oral and general health are inseparable and that good dental care is critical to our overall physical health and well-being. While oral health in America has improved dramatically over the last 50

years, these improvements have not occurred evenly across all sectors of our population. Too many Americans today lack access to dental care, particularly in rural communities. According to the report, "Oral Health in America: A Report of the Surgeon General," an estimated 25 million Americans live in areas lacking adequate dental services.

Passage of this resolution to make the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry the official national museum of dentistry in the United States will shed light on the problem many Americans face in accessing dental care.

The museum is endorsed by the American Dental Association, the National Dental Association, the American Dental Education Association, the American College of Dentists, the International College of Dentists, and the American Academy of the History of Dentistry, as well as 50 State dental associations. So we can see it has great support.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for supporting this important measure. I should also note, Madam Speaker, that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) has been not only a coauthor but a great supporter of this bill and was scheduled to actually manage the bill today, but our schedule went more quickly than we thought, so I just wanted to mention his support of the bill.

In closing, I cannot help but say also, I hope that someday the staff of the U.S. House of Representatives has a dental plan.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I concur with the chairman's sentiments about a dental plan.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Joint Resolution 52, which recognizes the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

Let me acknowledge from the outset the hard work of the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), who is the primary introducer of this bill, along with all of the members of the Maryland delegation. The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is unable to be here this afternoon. He is attending the funeral services of Mervyn Jones, the husband of our beloved colleague and dear friend and classmate of mine, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES).

Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN).

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) for yielding me this time and for the work that he has done on this resolution in pointing out that the

principal sponsor, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS), who introduced this resolution, could not be here today because of attending the funeral for the spouse of one of our colleagues. Let me also thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) for his leadership on this issue.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 52, which recognizes the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

For many years, the importance of oral health has been underestimated. Only in recent years have we recognized that, in the words of the former Surgeon General, C. Everett Koop, "There is no health without oral health."

We have learned the important linkage between plaque and heart disease; that chewing stimulates brain cell growth; and that gum disease can signal diabetes, liver ailments, and hormone imbalances. Yet many Americans are still unaware of how critical oral health hygiene is to good health care. Despite our advances in reducing dental disease, one in five American children still suffer the devastating effects of severe tooth decay. I am proud that in Baltimore, Maryland, the Dr. Samuel D. Harris Museum of Dentistry is helping to reverse this epidemic by spreading the message that preventive dental health for children is key.

Dr. Samuel Harris is a retired pediatric dentist who was born in the Ukraine and educated at the University of Michigan. He once said of the museum he helped found, "Our main purpose must be to educate, to teach people, especially children, something important about themselves. That way they live not only longer, but better, healthier lives. I think that is a noble goal."

One visit to the National Museum of Dentistry in Baltimore is proof that Dr. Harris's goal has not only been met, it has been surpassed.

Located at the University of Maryland School of Dentistry in Baltimore, the first dental school in the Nation, the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry opened in 1996. The museum's permanent exhibits feature a display of historic dental tools, including the first known toothbrush made out of twigs. Among its most famous artifacts, as pointed out by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY), are several sets of George Washington's ivory dentures and Queen Victoria's personal dental instruments.

The museum also contains the actual office of Dr. G. V. Black, who is known as the "father of American dentistry." Children especially like the tooth-shaped jukebox that plays vintage toothpaste commercials, computers that teach tooth anatomy, several interactive displays on oral health, and an extensive library of children's books, including several histories about the tooth fairy. One of my favorite exhibits is the scaled-down den-

tistry office where children can don smocks and review an x-ray panel as they play dentist and examine each other's or their parents' teeth.

Each year, more than 10,000 visitors pass through its doors, including 4,000 schoolchildren. In addition to school and family programs, the museum hosts a variety of symposia for adults and dental health professionals, attracting visitors from across the Nation. Over the years, it has become an invaluable resource for understanding the history of dentistry and the importance of oral care.

I want to thank the House for considering this resolution, which recognizes the museum, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution, as the Official National Museum of Dentistry in the United States. I urge all of my colleagues to visit the museum in nearby Baltimore or its Web site at www.dentalmuseum.org, and to support this resolution.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Maryland and the former Speaker of their House for his insight and elaborating on the history of this outstanding museum.

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

The Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry is a state-of-the-art facility, as both the chairman and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) have pointed out. It is a state-of-the-art facility that uses innovative communication tools to deliver its message about proper oral health care.

Its permanent exhibition, "32 Terrific Teeth," extends over 7,000 square feet on two floors of the building. It provides a vast array of historical artifacts, as has been mentioned; and it is especially important for children. I was particularly glad to hear the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) talk about the tooth fairy, because we hope that the tooth fairy is kind to the Members and all of the employees with regard to a dental plan here, so I concur with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) as well.

I am very proud, as well, of my home State of Connecticut that has its own place in the annals of dental history in this country. Three people in particular, I believe, deserve appropriate recognition for their Yankee ingenuity and for providing outstanding contributions to the field of dentistry: Horace Hayden, who was the first dean of the dental school in Baltimore; Horace Wells, who is the father of anesthesia; and also James McManus, who is one of the leading members on the Connecticut Dental Society who established a scholarship fund at the time for \$10,000 that is now worth more than \$1 million, and provides an opportunity for those people seeking to enter the field of dentistry.

I would also like to thank two dentists from my district hailing from the great community of West Hartford: both Dr. Bill MacDonnell and Dr. Paula

Stern, both who have practices in dentistry in West Hartford, Connecticut, for their dedication to their field and their commitment to make sure that this kind of important legislation was supported and passed. I would also like to further thank Beth Bellizzi from my staff for providing some of the key research in this area. I urge unanimous passage of this bill.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 52, which recognizes the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

The Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry is a state-of-the-art facility that uses innovative communication tools to deliver its message about proper oral health care. Its permanent exhibition, "32 Terrific Teeth," extends over 7,000 square feet on two floors of the building. It provides a vast array of historical artifacts, interactive exhibitions, life-sized models and recreated environments. Tour programs especially for children and theme-based family programs help young people understand the everyday importance of dentistry.

I am very proud that my home state of Connecticut has its own place in the annals of dental history in this country. Three people in particular used their Yankee ingenuity and determination to provide outstanding contributions to the field of dentistry.

Horace Hayden, born in Windsor, sought to raise the academic bar for the next generation of dentists. In 1840, he became dean of the first United States dental college, the Baltimore College of Dental Surgery. One of the buildings on the college's former campus now houses the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, which is located on the Baltimore campus of the University of Maryland. Dean Hayden's educational achievement is commemorated in a monument in his home town of Windsor.

Four years after Dean Hayden began to shape the future of dental education, Horace Wells made a discovery that would forever change the way dental treatments are performed. Dr. Wells, who was from Hartford, discovered anesthesia in December 1844. Dr. Wells was declared the "discoverer of anesthesia" by the Connecticut Legislature in 1848, by the American Dental Association in 1863, and by the American Medical Association in 1870. A statue of Dr. Wells and a plaque noting the location of his office remind all who visit Hartford of his incredible contribution.

Unlike his dental colleagues Hayden and Wells, who made a significant impact in their lifetime, Dr. James McManus led a life of quiet dedication. Dr. McManus, a Hartford resident, was the first president of the Connecticut State Dental Association. His wife was so inspired by his devotion to the field of dentistry that she established a \$10,000 endowment in his name. Her loving gift is now worth close to \$1 million dollars. Among its many contributions, the James McManus Fund of the Hartford Dental Society provides dental scholarships and operates the Smile Mobile, which travels to dozens of schools every year to teach children about proper dental health. In addition, the James McManus Fund of the Hartford Dental Society and the Horace Wells Club of Connecticut are founding benefactors of the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry.

I'm sure these three dental pioneers could never have imagined the challenges today's dentists face in their effort to keep patients healthy. According to the American Dental Association (ADA), tooth decay is not just a child's problem. Adults of all ages can have cavities, too. Dentists are concerned that sugar-filled sodas, sweetened fruit drinks, and non-nutritious snack foods have become a regular part of their patients' diets. The ADA also notes that eating patterns and food choices among children and teens are important factors that affect how quickly youngsters may develop tooth decay.

Equally as alarming is the link that scientists are making between oral health problems and other diseases in the body. In the July 31, 2003 online edition of the journal *Stroke*, researchers found that the more teeth a person has lost, the more likely he or she is to have both advanced periodontal infections and potentially clogging plaques in the carotid artery, the vessel that feeds the brain.

Good dental care can be achieved, but not without education. That is why the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry is such a vital resource, and why it should be designated as the official national museum of dentistry. Furthermore, this designation will highlight the critical public health role of the dental community.

I would like to thank two dentists from my district who assisted me in my research of Connecticut's dental history: Dr. William A. MacDonnell and Dr. Paula D. Stern, both of whom practice dentistry in West Hartford, Connecticut. Their dedication to the field of dentistry and commitment to their patients would make the Connecticut dental mavericks they followed—Hayden, Wells, and McManus—very proud.

I would also like to thank my colleague, Representative ELIJAH CUMMINGS for introducing this bill, which acknowledges the valuable education the museum provides. He has long supported this tremendous learning institution. I know he would be joining me on the floor today to urge its passage, but he is attending the funeral of the husband of our dear colleague, Representative STEPHANIE TUBBS JONES.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume just to also make a note on behalf of our Ohio delegation, of course, and the entire U.S. House of our sympathy for the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), our colleague, on the loss of her wonderful husband.

I would also just restate for the record, this is a very good bill. And I thank the gentleman from Maryland, (Mr. CUMMINGS), the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON); and I would be remiss if I did not close by thanking my dentist, Dr. Ron Persutti in Saint Clairsville, Ohio. Sometimes I have told Dr. Persutti that I am not sure if I get votes because of how I vote or sometimes because of what he does to help with my smile. So with that, I urge support of the bill.

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure and pride that I rise today to

speaking in favor of my resolution, H.J. Res. 52, to recognize the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, located in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States.

This resolution has the strong support of every major dental association including the American Dental Association and the National Dental Association.

The museum is located in my district and is the most comprehensive dental museum in the world. Its focus is to remind people—especially children—about the importance of good oral health care. For seven years now, it has been a learning center for scores of children's groups in and around the City of Baltimore, as well as those visiting. It uses extraordinary exhibitions and expert presentations to deliver the message that oral health is important to achieve overall health. Children love its message and respond by being more aware of their own oral health care needs.

An estimated 5,000 school children visit the museum each school year, touring the new interactive exhibitions and discovering the wonders of dental history. In addition, over 10,000 visitors from across the Nation encounter this interactive, educational and entertaining museum.

The museum's traveling exhibitions reach national audiences, providing a resource to expand public awareness of the importance of oral health in overall health. Branches, Bristles and Batteries: Toothbrushes Through Time teaches families about the evolution of the toothbrush and how to achieve good oral health through engaging interactive stations and high-tech computer programs. The exhibition will reach approximately 2 million visitors during a national three-year tour of children's and science museums.

Temporary exhibitions keep the museum alive and help to highlight important dental issues and celebrate the great heritage of dentistry. Currently, *The Future is Now! African Americans in Dentistry* pays tribute to the movers and shakers who paved the way for African Americans' success as dental professionals through dramatic portraits, moving memoirs and inspirational stories. The exhibit demonstrates the tremendous gains of dentistry over the past 30 years, promoting the message that there remains much to do to increase diversity in dentistry and recruit African American dental faculty and improve access to health care. The exhibition will become the museum's second traveling exhibition beginning a national tour in Fall 2004. Presenting this exhibit to a wide national audience will create a new awareness of opportunities and challenges and present positive role models of the profession, both past and present.

The museum offers educational programming, such as MouthPower, enabling young people to make informed choices about their oral health that have a positive effect on their overall health. Using the museum's unique resources, MouthPower participants understand the meaning of good oral health and become aware of the role oral health plays in overall health, learn the benefits of good nutrition and the harmful effects of tobacco and other substances on oral health and become aware of career options in dentistry. The positive outcomes from this program include a stronger sense of self that will help prevent participants from becoming addicted to smoking or using spit tobacco products and also will encourage

family members and friends to abstain. Through a partnership with the American Dental Association, the program will be available nationally with the addition of a web-based version and a resource kit for dental professionals to use in their community.

Designating the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of dentistry the official national museum of dentistry in the United States will ensure the education of thousands of Americans about the importance of dental care.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this national treasure by passing H.J. Res. 52.

Thank you and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 52.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of House Joint Resolution 52.

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

There was no objection.

COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND BULGARIA

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 355) commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 355

Whereas the United States established diplomatic relations with the Republic of Bulgaria on September 19, 1903;

Whereas the United States acknowledges the courage of the Bulgarian people in deciding to pursue a free democratic and independent Bulgaria and their steadfast perseverance in building a society based on the rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free market economy;

Whereas Bulgaria has promoted stability in the Balkans by rendering support to Operation Allied Force and Operation Joint Guardian led by the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), and by providing peacekeeping troops to Stabilisation Force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SFOR) in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and to Kosovo Force (KFOR) in Kosovo;

Whereas Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against terrorism following the events of September 11, 2001;

Whereas Bulgaria provided overflight and basing rights at the town of Bourgas for Operation Enduring Freedom, representing the first stationing of foreign forces in Bulgaria since World War II, and Bulgaria deployed a nuclear, biological, and chemical protection detachment to Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF);

Whereas Bulgaria has stood firmly by the United States in the cause of advancing freedom worldwide during its tenure as a non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas Bulgaria agreed to each request of the United States and offered overflight and basing rights as well as transit of United States and coalition forces, and deployed a 500-man infantry battalion as part of a stabilization force in Iraq;

Whereas Bulgaria was recently invited to join NATO and has shown determination in enacting the continued reforms necessary to be a productive, contributing member of the Alliance;

Whereas Bulgaria strongly supports the strengthening of the trans-Atlantic link and considers it a basis for NATO unity and cooperation in countering new threats to global security; and

Whereas the Senate has recently given its consent with 96 votes to 0 for the ratification of the accession protocols of Bulgaria and six other aspirant countries from Central and Eastern Europe to NATO, thereby welcoming their contribution to common Euro-Atlantic security: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends the Republic of Bulgaria for developing increasingly friendly and meaningful relations with the United States over the past 100 years;

(2) recognizes the continued contributions of Bulgaria toward bringing peace, stability, and prosperity to the region of South Eastern Europe, including its contributions to regional security and democratic stability;

(3) salutes the willing cooperation of Bulgaria and its increasingly vital role as a valuable ally in the war against international terrorism; and

(4) encourages opportunities for greater cooperation between the United States and Bulgaria in the political, military, economic, and cultural spheres.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

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

Madam Speaker, this Member rises today in strong support of H. Res. 355, a resolution commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria. This Member would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON) for introducing this resolution. The gentleman's efforts have been crucial in recognizing and promoting the important relationship between Bulgaria and the United States. Indeed, his involvement and knowledge about Bulgaria go back more than a decade.

The United States established diplomatic relations with Bulgaria on September 19, 1903. Two weeks ago, a cele-

bration was held in Sofia marking this occasion. Since the fall of the Berlin Wall, the Bulgarian people have made historic and courageous decisions and sacrifices in support of their desire to be a strong, diplomatic, and democratic member of Europe and a faithful ally and good friend of the United States.

□ 1600

Secretary of State Colin Powell recently stated that relations between Bulgaria and the United States are the best they have ever been in all of the past 100 years.

Indeed, Bulgaria is becoming an increasingly important strategic partner. Bulgaria has promoted stability and peace in Southeast Europe by supporting the NATO-led operations Allied Force and Joint Guardian in the Balkans. Bulgaria has also provided peacekeeping forces to SFOR in Bosnia and KFOR in Kosovo.

After the tragedy of September 11, 2001, Bulgaria was among the very first countries to denounce terrorism and pledge active support to the United States in the fight against terrorism by supporting Operation Enduring Freedom and the International Security Assistance Force, ISAF, in Afghanistan.

Bulgaria has supported Coalition operations in Iraq and is presently providing 500 infantry soldiers to the Iraq stabilization force. Furthermore, in a truly historic achievement, Bulgaria was invited to join NATO at the Prague Summit in November of last year. And Bulgaria has stood firmly with the United States in the cause of advancing freedom worldwide during its present term as a nonpermanent member of the United Nations Security Council.

President Bush recently stated, "Americans have always considered the Bulgarian people to be our friends, and we will be proud to call you," meaning the Bulgarian people, "our allies."

Madam Speaker, this Member wholeheartedly agrees with President Bush: Bulgaria has proven to be an active and contributing partner and a de facto ally. And this resolution affirms this important relationship on occasion of the 100th anniversary of U.S.-Bulgarian diplomatic relations.

Madam Speaker, in closing, this Member urges my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. First, I would like to commend my colleagues, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER), and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) for their leadership on this resolution. With this resolution we celebrate the

100th anniversary of the establishment of diplomatic relations between Bulgaria and the United States of America.

Our two countries were drawn together by our common interests at the beginning of the 20th century. And now, as we begin the 21st century, our two nations are, again, drawn closer together by common goals and common values.

With strong congressional support, Madam Speaker, Bulgaria has been invited to become a member of NATO, a concept that just a few years ago would have appeared like a dream to most Bulgarians. This significant move marks a milestone in our relationship, and will undoubtedly strengthen our bilateral ties for the indefinite future.

Just this year, Madam Speaker, Bulgaria stepped forward when our government asked for Bulgaria's assistance in Iraq. That assistance came at a critical time when so many of our traditional allies abandoned us. And the American Government and the American people are grateful to Bulgaria for shouldering, along with us, responsibilities in Iraq.

The past century of U.S.-Bulgarian relations has not been without difficulties. But even in the darkest of those times, the fundamental humanity and decency of ordinary Bulgarians shone through.

During the worst days of World War II, the Bulgarian people did not yield to Nazi German pressure to enforce anti-Jewish legislation, and they resisted German orders to deport their Jewish citizens to Nazi extermination camps. Their efforts, Madam Speaker, resulted in preventing the expulsion and death of some 50,000 Bulgarian Jews in 1943. It was a tragedy that some 11,000 Jews in Trace and Macedonia, under Bulgarian Government administration, but not Bulgarian citizens, were deported to concentration camps and perished there.

When we celebrate this historic recognition of a century of Bulgarian-American relations, we must look forward to the future as well as back to the past. Over the last decade, Bulgaria has moved into the ranges of the world's democracies and it has become increasingly integrated into the global economy.

Our two governments now find that our national interests bring us to the same positions on critical international political, economic and social issues. We are completing the steps that will firmly bind our two nations as allies in NATO, committed to the defense of each other and of other democratic states in Europe and elsewhere.

We are partners in economic integration and we welcome Bulgaria's efforts to join the European Union and take the steps that will bring greater economic prosperity to the Bulgarian people.

Madam Speaker, I welcome this historic celebration of the ties between

our two countries and our two peoples. And I urge all of my colleagues to support the passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I commend the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his excellent statement.

Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), the author of the resolution.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be here today with the Congressman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER). I am so proud of his service as the chairman of the U.S. House delegation to NATO. And currently, of course, he is the chairman of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly. He has a great vision of expanding democracy in Central and Eastern Europe.

And, of course, the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations, my next-door neighbor, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), I am so proud of his association on this bill. And he, being of Hungarian heritage, has played a key role in promoting democracy again in Central and Eastern Europe. He is just a real champion. And I am honored to be with both of these gentlemen today.

My interest in the particular resolution, which is to commend 100 years of diplomatic relations between the United States and the Republic of Bulgaria, really is a culmination of a lifelong dream that I have had.

My motivation to become involved in the political process was out of concern for a strong national defense. And, particularly, I grew up in the era of the Cold War and concern about the potential for nuclear annihilation between the two superpowers at that time.

I had hoped with peace through strength, as established by President Ronald Reagan, that we could achieve a liberation of the people of formerly totalitarian Communist countries. Of course, that came to culmination on November 9, 1989, with the fall of the Berlin Wall.

Right after that, there were movements throughout Central and Eastern Europe to establish democratic governments. And I volunteered, through the Republican National Committee, to work with the International Republican Institute to be an election observer in one of the upcoming elections that was to be held.

I am very grateful that my long-time friend, Lee Atwater, the late Lee Atwater, who was chairman of the Republican National Committee, along with his executive director, Mary Matalin, placed me on the delegation to go to Bulgaria for the elections of June 10, 1990, which were the first democratic elections since the late 1930s to be existent in Bulgaria.

The moment I got there, I was so impressed by the people that I met, I felt like I was in a circumstance frozen in

time, the economy that I saw, the infrastructure that I saw, was that of the 1930s. But the people had a wonderful spirit, and they were obviously very talented. I felt from the beginning that they would evolve into a strong democratic society.

I then had the opportunity, working with our local Rotary Clubs, Kiwanis, Optimist Clubs, Lions Clubs, to provide for the ability of a member of the newly elected National Assembly of Bulgaria, Stefan Stoyanov, to come and observe the elections in South Carolina in 1990. He subsequently has been named as currently the ambassador from Bulgaria to Greece.

Additionally, I worked with the Free Congress Foundation and visited Sofia with the Kreible Institute to meet with members of the National Assembly of the Democratic Union to explain to them how to work in a parliamentary system from my experience in the State Senate of South Carolina.

Then I have been working with municipal officials to come and visit the United States, and South Carolina in particular, to learn the democratic process. I have also worked with the Sister City Program. We are very proud that Columbia, the capital of South Carolina, is the sister city of Plovdiv in Bulgaria, the second largest city of Bulgaria, a very historic city.

The evolution has just been terrific for the people of Bulgaria. They have really lived up to and fulfilled my hopes and dreams for them.

I was very pleased last year, working with the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER) to help establish the Bulgarian Caucus to promote even better relations. We have been so fortunate with the leadership of Ambassador Elena Poptodorova to be able to, indeed, establish relationships between the National Assembly of Bulgaria and the Congress of the United States.

We have had the opportunity to visit and have visiting us President Georgi Parvanov of Bulgaria; the Prime Minister, Simeon Saxe Coburg Gotha; the Foreign Minister, Solomon Passy. We have had a number of members of the National Assembly come to visit and observe Congress.

The highlight of this is coming next week. I am very pleased that next week Professor Dr. Ognyan Gerdjikov, the Speaker of the National Assembly of Bulgaria, will be visiting the United States; and for the first time in history, the Speakers of both the United States and Bulgaria will be meeting. Our Speaker, Dennis Hastert, will be meeting with the Speaker Gerdjikov. And then we will be having a reception that we will invite all Members of Congress to attend next Thursday evening here at the Capitol.

It is an honor to be here. I urge support for the resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 355 to celebrate a century of strong diplomatic relations with Bulgaria.

Bulgaria has more than 1,300 years of history, culture and tradition in Western Civilization. Its ancient forefathers were the Thracians, whom Herodotus described as the second largest tribe in the Ancient world. And its unique ethnic identity, religion, and culture remain vibrant, even after five centuries under the rule of the Ottoman Empire and another two centuries under Byzantine rule.

In modern times as in ancient ones, Bulgaria has been torn by conflict. The nation gained full independence from the Ottoman Empire in 1878, and its people suffered through the first and second Balkan Wars in the early part of the 20th century. Even as the nation fell behind the Iron Curtain after World War II and gained a reputation as the Soviet Union's staunchest ally in the Warsaw Pact, our two nations still maintained diplomatic ties throughout the most difficult periods of the Cold War.

Mr. Speaker, today U.S. relations with Bulgaria have never been stronger. Since 1989, Bulgaria has transformed into a vibrant democracy and market economy. Our two nations have become steadfast partners in business and industry. Our strong ties to Bulgarian culture and education are invaluable and have proven mutually beneficial to both countries. On behalf of my constituents in Northwest Chicago, including more than 1,500 of Bulgarian descent, I applaud this centennial of diplomatic relations and look forward to continuing strengthened partnerships.

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I urge support for the resolution. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 355.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution just considered.

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

There was no objection.

EXPRESSING THE CONDOLENCES OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN RESPONSE TO THE MURDER OF SWEDISH FOREIGN MINISTER ANNA LINDH

Mr. BEREUTER. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to

the resolution (H. Res. 372), expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 372

Whereas Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh was brutally attacked by an unknown assailant on the afternoon of September 10, 2003;

Whereas Ms. Lindh died the next morning after undergoing surgery performed in a desperate attempt to save her life;

Whereas Ms. Lindh's murder is an attack on the freedoms and tranquility enjoyed by the people of Sweden;

Whereas Ms. Lindh was elected to the Swedish Parliament in 1982, was appointed Minister of the Environment in the government of Prime Minister Goran Persson in 1994, and rose to the post of Foreign Minister in 1998;

Whereas Ms. Lindh demonstrated dedication to the causes of human rights and environmental responsibility as a leader in the Swedish Government;

Whereas at the time of her death, Ms. Lindh was campaigning for Sweden to adopt the European common currency in a referendum which took place just a few days after her murder;

Whereas Ms. Lindh was widely recognized as an advocate of freedom and peace in Europe and throughout the world;

Whereas this is the second time the Swedish people have suffered the loss of a respected national leader as Prime Minister Olaf Palme was murdered in a similar manner in 1986; and

Whereas such senseless acts of violence are a threat to democracy and to civilized society wherever and whenever they occur: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) expresses its deepest sympathies to the people of Sweden and the family of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh following her tragic and untimely murder;

(2) condemns all senseless acts of violence against public officials;

(3) urges the President to provide all appropriate assistance that may be requested by Swedish law enforcement officials as they pursue the perpetrator of this heinous act; and

(4) expresses the solidarity of the people of the United States with the people of Sweden and the Swedish Government at this difficult time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, this Member rises in support of H. Res. 372 expressing the

condolences of the House in response to the death of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. As my colleagues will recall, Foreign Minister Lindh was senselessly attacked and murdered on September 10, 2003.

This Member commends the author of this resolution, his good friend and the ranking Democrat of the Committee on International Relations, the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for introducing this expression of our heartfelt sympathy to the people of Sweden on the loss of their foreign minister.

Although this Member did not have the pleasure and honor of meeting Foreign Minister Lindh, it is widely recognized that she represented the very best of Sweden. She was a strong advocate for her country as its leading diplomat.

□ 1615

Ms. Lindh possessed a passion for human rights and justice and was committed to world peace.

Throughout her tragically-shortened political career, Anna Lindh served as the head of the Social democrats youth movement, entered Parliament in 1982, became environment minister in 1994, and began serving as Foreign Minister in 1998. Many knowledgeable persons speculate that she would have been eventually serving as Sweden's Prime Minister.

As Foreign Minister, she worked tirelessly to promote a more active Sweden in international affairs and within the European Union. Over the past year, she became one of Sweden's strongest advocates for joining Europe's single currency.

Anna Lindh worked to have Sweden and NATO cooperate on defense matters, and she actively supported the admission of the Baltic states into both NATO and the European Union. And, of course, under her leadership, Sweden enjoyed friendly relations with the United States.

Madam Speaker, by her death, the people of Sweden, and of the world, have suffered the loss of a respected national leader.

In closing, the Member strongly urges passage of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 372 and urge all of my colleagues to do so as well.

If it were not a violation of House rules, I would be pleased to recognize the presence in the Chamber of the distinguished Ambassador of Sweden, but since it is, I shall not do so.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to my lead cosponsors, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER) and the many other cosponsors supporting this legislation.

Madam Speaker, many of our colleagues on the Committee on International Relations will remember as long as they live meeting, about a year ago, with Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. We had an extraordinarily sophisticated and lively discussion on the broader spectrum of international issues. We disagreed on some matters and agreed on others, but I know all of us found her to be extremely impressive, charming and intelligent as the top foreign policy person, as our friend, Sweden.

Less than a year ago at the NATO summit in Prague, by chance my wife, Annette, and I were seated next to Foreign Minister Lindh at the banquet given in Prague Castle by the distinguished President of the Czech Republic, Vaclav Havel. I simply cannot tell you how much I enjoyed the lively conversation these two extraordinary women had, both of them passionately committed to human rights and public service.

Madam Speaker, as my colleagues painfully know, just recently Anna Lindh was murdered by an assailant in a Stockholm department store. Her inexplicable and untimely tragic death was a shock to all of her countrymen in Sweden and to all of us who knew her and admired her and who have worked with her ever since she began her service as Foreign Minister of Sweden.

Her death was a blow to the peace-loving people of Sweden. The shock had an even greater impact, Madam Speaker, because former Swedish Prime Minister Olaf Palme, who had been Anna's role model, was murdered on a Stockholm street in 1986 under similar and still-unresolved circumstances.

Madam Speaker, House Resolution 372 expresses the condolences of the House of Representatives and of the American people to the family of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh. We condemn all such senseless acts of violence against public officials, and we express our solidarity with the people of Sweden at this difficult time.

Madam Speaker, Anna was very young. She was a brilliant lawyer, who at age 37 became Minister for the Environment in Sweden, one of the most important cabinet posts in the Swedish Government, and at age 41 she became Sweden's Minister for Foreign Affairs.

Madam Speaker, the distinguished Prime Minister of Sweden, Goran Persson made very poignant remarks at the memorial service for Anna which characterized her many gifts and talents.

I would like to share a few of Prime Minister Goran Persson's remarks during her eulogy.

"Anna Lindh lived out her vision for the world in her everyday life. She knew that good political leadership is about more than just lofty words. Anna Lindh believed in people. She believed in people as the remarkable beings they are, with an almost unlimited capacity to grow and to develop. She be-

lieved in people's inner-strength and potential, but she also knew how easily that strength can be lost. For Anna, people were at the core of every issue. Human rights were always her driving force. Violations and oppression were the opponents in the fight. Democracy was always the means and people were always the answer. That is the way she was, in big issues and small alike. She cared."

Madam Speaker, I humbly ask for strong support of H. Res. 372, which sends our deepest condolences to Anna Lindh's family and to the people of Sweden, and I urge all of my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today as an original cosponsor of this resolution expressing the House's condolences to the family of Foreign Minister Anna Lindh, to her many friends, and to the people of a country left a sadder place for her absence.

While her brutal murder shook the foundation of that proud and peaceful nation, it is her life—not her death—that is her legacy.

In only 46 years of life, Anna Lindh rapidly ascended the European political community to become one of its most capable, competent, and respected members. She was a singularly instrumental figure during the Swedish presidency of the European Union in 2001.

From joining the Swedish Social Democratic League at age 12, Ms. Lindh was destined for a career in public service. She was elected to the Swedish parliament the year she graduated from law school. She later became the Deputy Mayor of Stockholm, Minister of the Environment, and eventually, Foreign Minister.

The impact of her political skill and achievements touched people worldwide, most notably in the Balkans, where her remarkable talents helped prevent war in Macedonia.

Building coalitions was her calling, and her success in this critically important area earned the respect of leaders from around the globe. When asked once what he appreciated most about Sweden, our own Secretary Colin Powell once replied "Abba, Volvo, and Anna."

Anna Lindh truly epitomized a new generation of internationally-minded politicians. Her murder was a tragedy that cannot be forgotten, but it will not overshadow her achievements and her lasting contributions to the international community.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this important resolution. On behalf of more than 12,000 of my constituents of Swedish descent, I offer my sincere condolences.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 372.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

COMMENDING NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 274) commending the National Endowment for Democracy for its contributions to democratic development around the world on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 274

Whereas November 22, 2003, marks the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy (hereinafter the "Endowment"), a bipartisan nongovernmental institution that promotes democracy around the world;

Whereas through the National Endowment for Democracy Act (22 U.S.C. 4411 et seq.), signed into law by President Ronald Reagan on November 22, 1983, Congress has made possible the funding of the Endowment's worldwide grant programs;

Whereas 2003 also marks the 20th anniversary of the National Republican Institute for International Affairs (which was subsequently renamed the International Republican Institute (IRI)), the National Democratic Institute for International Affairs (NDI), and the Center for International Private Enterprise (CIPE), all of which joined the Free Trade Union Institute (which was subsequently renamed as the American Center for International Labor Solidarity) to form the four affiliated institutions of the Endowment;

Whereas the Endowment and the affiliated institutes have supported grassroots programs to build democratic institutions, spread democratic values, encourage free market institutions, and promote political parties, worker rights, independent media, human rights, the rule of law, civic education, conflict resolution, political participation by women, and many other essential components of civil society and democratic governance in emerging and transitional democracies, nondemocracies, and war-torn societies;

Whereas the programs carried out or funded by the Endowment have made significant contributions to the efforts of democratic activists to achieve freedom and self-governance around the world;

Whereas the Endowment, through the Journal of Democracy, the International Forum for Democratic Studies, the Reagan-Fascell Democracy Fellows Program, and the World Movement for Democracy, has served as a key center of democratic research, exchange, and networking, bringing together thousands of democracy activists, scholars, and practitioners from around the world; and

Whereas the spread of democracy throughout the world, to which the work of the Endowment has contributed significantly, has enhanced the national security interests of the United States and advanced democratic ideals and values throughout the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) commends the National Endowment for Democracy for its major contributions to the strengthening of democracy around the world on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the Endowment; and

(2) endeavors to continue to support the vital work of the National Endowment for Democracy.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Con. Res. 274.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution commending the National Endowment for Democracy. I am a sponsor of this measure, and I appreciate the strong support expressed on a bipartisan basis for this measure. I appreciate the numerous cosponsors, and I would like to thank the chairman of the House Committee on International Relations, the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for introducing the original resolution.

Madam Speaker, this resolution recognizes the National Endowment for Democracy for its work, which has served to strengthen democracies and give hope to many who are shaping a system of governance in their countries that is based on the free participation of the people. Furthermore, the measure expresses the Congress's commendation of 20 years of working to build grassroots institutions and establishing electoral systems, building political parties and opening opportunities for broad-based governance.

During the years of the Cold War, various groups and various individuals were seeking a creative way to support democracy. And as a result of this, it led to President Reagan giving a speech in 1983. In that speech, he proposed an initiative, in his words, "to foster the infrastructure of democracy, the system of a free press, unions, political parties, universities, which allows a people to choose their own way, to develop their own culture, to reconcile their own differences through peaceful means."

Those were Reagan's words at the time. He noted that the American Political Foundation would soon begin a study "to determine how the U.S. can best contribute as a Nation to the global campaign for democracy now gathering force."

Well, soon thereafter, the National Endowment for Democracy was created

as a nongovernmental organization that is supported by annual appropriations and subject to congressional oversight. The ideas that spurred the creation of the NED, as we call it, is that U.S. assistance on behalf of democracy efforts around the world would be good for the U.S. and would be good for those struggling for freedom and for self-government. And that is still true today.

Their success is captured in their mission statements, and the NED's mission statement says that the Endowment is "guided by the belief that freedom is a universal human aspiration that can be realized through the development of democratic institutions, procedures and values." Democracies cannot be achieved through a single election and need not be based upon the model of the U.S. or any other particular country. Rather, it evolves according to the needs and traditions of diverse political cultures. By supporting this process, the endowment helps strengthen the bond between indigenous, democratic movements abroad and the people of the U.S., a bond based on a common commitment to representative government and a common commitment to freedom as a way of life.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I would first like to commend my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) for introducing this important resolution and my good friend and fellow Californian, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) for being such a leader on this important issue. I am proud to have joined them in introducing this initiative.

Madam Speaker, over the past two decades, the world has witnessed a democratic revolution. Russia has broken from its totalitarian past and held free and open elections. The Indonesian people have freely elected their new leaders for the first time in decades, and all South Africans have finally been granted the franchise.

Madam Speaker, the National Endowment for Democracy played a critical role in supporting this Democratic revolution across the globe. With each new wave of democracy since its establishment, the endowment and its partners, the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute, have been at the forefront of our struggle to expand the arena of democracy across the globe.

This is such a quintessential bipartisan American undertaking that all of us in this House must be very proud of. Together, the National Democratic Institute and the International Republican Institute have seeded the new fertile soil in Eastern Europe and Latin America which have bloomed into regions where democracy and not tyranny now dominate.

Democracy is often the precursor of the development of human rights and personal freedom, causes that we have championed our entire political lives. Recognizing this, NED has not only pushed forward democracy, but has supported human rights activists on every continent with financial grants, with personal awards, and with tremendous moral support.

□ 1630

All of us should express our profoundest gratitude for the men and women who have worked tirelessly to support these goals which are so central to the success of U.S. foreign policy in this fast-moving era of change.

I am delighted to have had the opportunity to cosponsor this resolution with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), my good friend, the chairman of our committee. I urge all of my colleagues to support H. Con. Res. 274.

Madam Speaker, we have no further requests for time, and we yield back the balance of our time.

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

I think we all want to congratulate the National Endowment for Democracy for the last 20 years of service, and I think we all wish NED continued success. I think the ranking member of the Committee on International Relations well summed up the values and successes of the NED. I urge my colleagues to support House Concurrent Resolution 274.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 274.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

CONGO BASIN FOREST
PARTNERSHIP ACT OF 2003

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2264) to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 2264

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The tropical forests of the Congo Basin, located in the Central African countries of Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, the Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Burundi, and Sao Tome/Principe, are second in size only to the tropical forests of the Amazon Basin.

(2) These forests are a crucial economic resource for the people of the Central African region.

(3) Congo Basin forests play a critical role in sustaining the environment—absorbing carbon dioxide, cleansing water, and retaining soil.

(4) Congo Basin forests contain the most diverse grouping of plants and animals in Africa, including rare and endangered species, such as the lowland gorilla, mountain gorilla, chimpanzee, and okapi. These plants and animals are invaluable for many reasons, including their genetic and biochemical information, which could spark advances in medical, agricultural, and industrial technology.

(5) Logging operations, driven by a growing global demand for tropical hardwoods, are shrinking these forests. One estimate has logging taking out Congo Basin forest area at a rate of twice the size of the State of Rhode Island every year.

(6) The construction of logging roads and other developments are putting intense hunting pressure on wildlife. At current hunting levels, most species of apes and other primates, large antelope, and elephants will disappear from the Congo Basin, with some becoming extinct.

(7) If current deforestation and wildlife depletion rates are not reversed, the six countries of the Congo Basin most immediately, but also the world, will pay an immense economic, environmental, and cultural price.

(8) The United States has an interest in seeing political stability and economic development advance in the Congo Basin countries. This interest will be adversely impacted if current deforestation and wildlife depletion rates are not reversed.

(9) Poorly managed and nonmanaged logging and hunting threatens to do to the Congo Basin what it did to West Africa, which lost much of its forest and wildlife through over-exploitation.

(10) Purged of wildlife, some Congo Basin forests already are "empty forests".

(11) In an attempt to conserve the forests of the Congo Basin, the region's governments convened the Yaounde (Cameroon) Forest Summit in March 1999.

(12) In September 2002, Secretary of State Colin Powell launched the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) in Johannesburg, South Africa. The CBFP promotes the conservation and sustainable use of the region's forests, for example, by working to combat poaching, illegal logging, and other unsustainable practices, and giving local populations an economic stake in the preservation of the forests, including through the development of ecotourism.

(13)(A) The United States contribution to the CBFP will focus on conserving 11 key landscapes in 6 countries—Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo—identified at the Yaounde Forest Summit as being of the greatest biological importance to the region.

(B) The United States will fund field-based activities within these 25,000,000 acres that aim to support a network of 27 national parks and protected areas and well-managed forestry concessions.

(C) In this way, the work will build on existing United States efforts, including those of the Central African Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) of the United States Agency for International Development, which will implement the CBFP.

(14) The CBFP has broad international financial support, including from non-African governments, the European Commission, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and numerous nongovernment organizations.

(15) A dramatic step toward conserving Congo Basin forests has recently been taken by Gabon. In September 2002, President Omar Bongo announced the creation of 13 national parks, representing over 10 percent of Gabon's surface area. Previously, Gabon had no national park system.

(16) With the CBFP and other initiatives, there exists unprecedented momentum for the conservation of Congo Basin forests.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the President to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program \$18,600,000 for each of the fiscal years 2004 and 2005. Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under the preceding sentence for a fiscal year, \$16,000,000 is authorized to be made available to the Central Africa Regional Program for the Environment (CARPE) of the United States Agency for International Development.

(b) AVAILABILITY.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2264.

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

There was no objection.

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

This bill, H.R. 2264, authorizes the administration's Congo Basin Forest Partnership. It is authored by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW), who is an international conservation leader. I am a cosponsor of this measure, and I think the importance of it is that the tropical forests of central Africa's Congo Basin are a key economic resource for an estimated 20 million people, and these forests play a very critical role in sustaining the environment.

The Congo Basin contains the most diverse grouping of plants and animals in all of Africa, including many rare and endangered species. These plants and animals are invaluable for so many reasons, including their genetic and biological information which could spark technical advances in medicine and agriculture.

This is all threatened, though, as Congo Basin forests are coming under

growing pressure. Ten years ago, these forests were virtually untouched. Today, logging operations are shrinking these forests. As a matter of fact, logging operations are taking out the Congo Basin forest at the rate of twice the size of Rhode Island every year. Meanwhile, the construction of logging roads is putting intense hunting pressure on wildlife. At current levels, because of poaching, most species of apes, large antelope, and elephants will disappear from the Congo Basin, as well as the white rhino, and some will become extinct.

Last September, Secretary of State Powell launched the Congo Basin Forest Partnership in Johannesburg. This partnership is focused on 11 key landscapes in 6 different countries. It aims to support a network of national parks and protected areas and well-managed forestry concessions. The partnership is working to combat illegal logging and illegal poaching and other unsustainable practices and to give local populations an economic stake in the preservation of the forests, including through the development of ecotourism. This is a true partnership, with European and other countries making financial contributions to it.

I should note that the most dramatic move toward conserving Congo Basin forests has been taken by Gabon. Last year, President Omar Bongo announced the creation of 13 separate national parks in his country. Previously, Gabon had no national parks system. With this partnership, there is a real African buy-in.

The Subcommittee on Africa that I chair held a hearing on this initiative in March. Testifying before us was world-renowned ecologist Michael Fay. Michael has traveled many of Africa's forests, especially in the Congo Basin, and has had several of his treks covered by National Geographic. I am pleased that the House is acting today to pass this bill. It supports conservation efforts by him and others which have come, in Michael's case, at great personal sacrifice.

Conservation is not easy. What Americans take for granted, Yosemite, Yellowstone and our magnificent national park system, took great foresight. It took a great political commitment to make that a reality. We led the world in the United States. It will be a major challenge to establish and maintain effective regimes to control logging and to control hunting in the Congo Basin; but with the partnership, the U.S. is bringing its unique experience and talents to these efforts.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I strongly support H.R. 2264 and urge all of my colleagues to vote for it.

Madam Speaker, first, I want to thank my friend, Secretary of State Colin Powell, and the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) and the gentleman

from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) for making the preservation of the Congo River Basin a priority. The Congo River and its tributaries make up the most extensive network of navigable waterways in Africa and carry a volume of water second only to the Amazon River.

Some of us think first of the Congo River Basin as one of the largest and most important ecological regions of the world, which it is; but what is even more important, it is the home to some of the world's poorest people who have suffered some of Africa's bloodiest conflicts.

Madam Speaker, more than 2½ million people have perished in eastern Congo as a result of the most recent Congo civil war, with millions left displaced and in unimaginable destitution. Throughout the central African region, poverty rates are among the worst on this globe. Life expectancy ranges from 42 years in the Central African Republic to 52 years in the Congo Republic.

The overall forest area of the Congo River Basin is declining rapidly as a result of unchecked growth of timber exports, destructive agricultural expansion, and fueled with demand for a growing population. Madam Speaker, these practices are unsustainable if the assets of the Congo River Basin are to be used to improve and sustain the lives of the people who live there.

Our legislation represents a unique opportunity to help the people of central Africa turn their biggest asset, the natural resources of the Congo River Basin, into a viable economic base. The Congo Basin partnership is an economic development and conservation program for the six countries of central Africa. This partnership will combine the preservation of some of the world's richest and most pristine ecosystems with economic development in order to alleviate the desperate poverty that permeates the region.

Conservation programs will help develop a network of national parks and protected areas and help local communities manage the forests and wildlife more rationally. The people of central Africa, some of whom live on less than 25 cents per day, 25 cents per day, will be able to develop sustainable means of livelihood through conservation agriculture and integrated ecotourism programs.

Madam Speaker, the stewardship of the Congo River Basin is the joint responsibility of central African countries and the international community. Together, we must end the deforestation and wildlife depletion and support the appropriate use of forest resources.

I enthusiastically support this bill and urge all of my colleagues to vote in favor of its passage.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE), who has traveled to sub-Saharan Africa to see how

Africans can better protect their endangered species.

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Madam Speaker, I join with my colleagues and commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), and the authors of the bill, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SHAW) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE), for this legislation.

Africa has obviously some tremendous natural resources. They have enormous problems. They have a lack of freedom in that continent and throughout most of the countries indeed of the continent, and this legislation will help those people help themselves by conserving their forests.

Let me say, I am a strong logging advocate, but logging has to be done right; and this legislation will help set that up so that we will have logging and replanting, so that we will have sustainable forest practices so that this natural resource is available for the present generation and for generations to come. This is a goal that we seek to have here, and we do have it here in the United States; and we would like to help the people in the Congo River Basin to enjoy this as well.

I am sad to tell my colleagues that when we do not have good practices, devastating results can occur. We see that, for example, in the country of Zimbabwe, which was once my pleasure to visit, presently we have a brutal dictator, anarchy reigns, and a ruling elite has taken over safari parks for their own personal hunting grounds. We have settlers invading privately owned game preserves and decimating the remaining stock of protected animals such as the black rhinoceros. We have poachers setting on fire places like the Matobo Hills in the south of the country. Indeed, this year that area was designated a World Heritage Site by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization; and yet these illegal poachers are destroying not only thousands of acres of national park there but killing vast stocks of wildlife, many of which are endangered species.

Madam Speaker, this area of the Congo is different than Zimbabwe, but the principles are the same. We seek to apply good principles to help the people lift themselves and to grow and to develop and to achieve better health and longer life spans, and it will help them do it using their natural resources. In like fashion, we hope that other enlightened policies around the continent can be applied so that people will be able to enjoy in a better fashion the rights that God has given them.

I am delighted to join with my colleagues in supporting this legislation.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, we have no additional requests for time, and I yield back the balance of our time.

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

In closing, unfortunately, Africa is not the only continent under attack.

□ 1645

Increasingly, we are seeing the link between resource exploitation and human rights abuses and conflict and corruption. This past weekend, the Financial Times previewed a new report to be released next week by Global Witness. The report details how the ruling military junta in Burma is using logging concessions to help maintain its grip on power. In Burma's environmentally-damaging resource diplomacy, Chinese logging companies are granted concessions to large sections of Burmese virgin forest in exchange for political loyalty and in exchange for material support.

In light of this sort of activity, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership and similar initiatives are all that much more important, and I want to thank Members in this body for what they are attempting to do in passing this legislation and urge the support of every Member.

Mr. SHAW. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2264, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act of 2003, which I introduced to authorize funding for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Fund (CBFP) for fiscal years 2004 and 2005.

The CBFP strives to preserve and protect millions of acres of lands in Africa by establishing a network of national parks. The CBFP is focused on eleven key landscapes in Cameroon, Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of Congo.

Madam Speaker, I have traveled to Africa numerous times and have experienced the immense beauty and wonder that the continent holds. I have also witnessed how poaching and cross-cutting of forests devastates the natural wildlife, the land and the people of Africa. One of America's greatest assets is our national parks and conservation system. I can think of no better way to help Africa, and the African people, than to provide them with the tools to conserve their great continent, just as we do in our National Park Service.

Conservation efforts through the CBFP not only provide protections for lands and wildlife but also provide critical means for human development, political stability and economic growth in Africa—areas that remain tremendously important to the success of Africa.

This initiative has received widespread support from Republicans, Democrats, and leading organizations including Conservation International, the World Conservation Society, and the World Wildlife Fund. I urge my colleagues to support the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act of 2003 and the betterment of the African people.

Mr. TANNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2264, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act of 2003. Having personally visited some of the areas that this bill will help to protect, I highly recommend it to the House, and hope that others will join in support of this effort.

Secretary of State Colin Powell launched the Congo Basin Forest Partnership initiative that has swiftly grown into a bipartisan multi-national effort to support national parks and

well-managed forestry practices in the forests of the Congo Basin in Central Africa. The International Conservation Caucus, of which I am a founding member and co-chair, was formed in order to build support for the Congo Basin Forest Partnership initiative, and to help with other international conservation efforts in some of the most environmentally sensitive areas around the world. In the mission statement of the International Conservation Caucus, it is written that as members we share a conviction that the United States has the opportunity and the obligation to advance the protection of the worldwide environment for current and future generations. The mission of the Caucus is to act on this conviction by providing the strong U.S. leadership necessary to conserve the world's most biologically rich and diverse places. The Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act is one of the first steps in achieving our mission of international conservation, and I wish to thank my friend CLAY SHAW for recognizing this need and for introducing this important bipartisan bill.

The United States' contribution to the CBFP will focus on providing field-based conservation activities within 25,000,000 acres in Cameroon, The Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and the Republic of the Congo. Forests in these six countries are being depleted at alarming rates. It is estimated that forest areas in the Congo Basin are being depleted at a rate twice the size of Rhode Island every year. The author of H.R. 2264 says it best in section 7 of the findings of the bill. It states, "If current deforestation and wildlife depletion rates are not reversed, the six countries of the Congo Basin most immediately, but also the world, will pay an immense economic, environmental, and cultural price.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of H.R. 2264, the Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act.

Mr. ROYCE. Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CAPITO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2264.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1834

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 6 o'clock and 34 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on one motion to suspend the rules previously postponed and on the motions to instruct postponed Thursday, October 2.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Con. Res. 274, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to instruct on H.R. 1 by Mr. BISHOP of New York, by the yeas and nays;

Motion to instruct on H.R. 1 by Mr. FLAKE, by the yeas and nays.

The votes on H. Res. 355 and H. Res. 372 will be taken tomorrow.

The first and third electronic votes will be conducted as 15-minute votes. The second vote in this series will be a 5-minute vote.

COMMENDING NATIONAL ENDOWMENT FOR DEMOCRACY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS TO DEMOCRATIC DEVELOPMENT AROUND THE WORLD ON THE 20TH ANNIVERSARY OF ITS ESTABLISHMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 274.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 274, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 1, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 532]

YEAS—391

Abercrombie	Boozman	Conyers
Ackerman	Boswell	Cooper
Aderholt	Boucher	Costello
Akin	Boyd	Cramer
Alexander	Bradley (NH)	Crane
Allen	Brady (PA)	Crenshaw
Andrews	Brown (OH)	Crowley
Baca	Brown (SC)	Cubin
Bachus	Brown, Corrine	Culberson
Baird	Brown-Waite,	Cummings
Baker	Ginny	Cunningham
Baldwin	Burgess	Davis (AL)
Ballance	Burns	Davis (CA)
Ballenger	Burr	Davis (IL)
Barrett (SC)	Burton (IN)	Davis (TN)
Bartlett (MD)	Buyer	Davis, Jo Ann
Barton (TX)	Camp	Davis, Tom
Beauprez	Cannon	Deal (GA)
Becerra	Cantor	DeGette
Bell	Capito	Delahunt
Bereuter	Capps	DeLauro
Berman	Capuano	DeMint
Berry	Cardin	Deutsch
Biggert	Cardoza	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bilirakis	Carson (IN)	Dicks
Bishop (GA)	Carson (OK)	Dingell
Bishop (NY)	Carter	Doggett
Bishop (UT)	Case	Dooley (CA)
Blackburn	Chabot	Doolittle
Blumenauer	Chocola	Doyle
Blunt	Clay	Dreier
Boehkert	Clyburn	Duncan
Boehner	Coble	Dunn
Bonilla	Cole	Edwards
Bonner	Collins	Ehlers

Emanuel	Langevin	Renzi
Emerson	Lantos	Reyes
Engel	Larsen (WA)	Reynolds
English	Larson (CT)	Rodriguez
Etheridge	Latham	Rogers (AL)
Evans	LaTourette	Rogers (KY)
Everett	Leach	Rogers (MI)
Farr	Lee	Rohrabacher
Fattah	Levin	Ros-Lehtinen
Feeney	Lewis (CA)	Ross
Ferguson	Lewis (GA)	Rothman
Filner	Lewis (KY)	Roybal-Allard
Flake	Linder	Royce
Forbes	Lipinski	Ruppersberger
Ford	LoBiondo	Rush
Fossella	Lowey	Ryan (OH)
Frank (MA)	Lucas (KY)	Ryan (WI)
Franks (AZ)	Lucas (OK)	Sabo
Frelinghuysen	Lynch	Sanchez, Linda T.
Frost	Majette	Sanchez, Loretta
Gallely	Maloney	Sanders
Garrett (NJ)	Manzullo	Sandlin
Gerlach	Markey	Saxton
Gibbons	Marshall	Schakowsky
Gillmor	Matheson	Schiff
Gingrey	McCarthy (MO)	Schrock
Gonzalez	McCarthy (NY)	Scott (GA)
Goode	McCollum	Scott (VA)
Goodlatte	McCotter	Sensenbrenner
Gordon	McCreery	Serrano
Goss	McDermott	Sessions
Granger	McGovern	Shadegg
Graves	McHugh	Shays
Green (TX)	McInnis	Sherman
Green (WI)	McIntyre	Sherwood
Greenwood	McKeon	Shuster
Grijalva	McNulty	Simmons
Gutierrez	Meehan	Simpson
Gutknecht	Meek (FL)	Skelton
Hall	Menendez	Slaughter
Harris	Mica	Smith (MI)
Hart	Michaud	Smith (NJ)
Hastings (FL)	Miller (FL)	Smith (TX)
Hastings (WA)	Miller (MI)	Smith (WA)
Hayes	Miller (NC)	Snyder
Hefley	Miller, Gary	Souder
Hensarling	Miller, George	Spratt
Herger	Mollohan	Stark
Hill	Moore	Stearns
Hincheey	Moran (KS)	Stenholm
Hinojosa	Moran (VA)	Strickland
Hobson	Murphy	Stupak
Hoefel	Murtha	Sullivan
Hoekstra	Musgrave	Sweeney
Holden	Myrick	Tancredo
Holt	Nadler	Tanner
Honda	Neal (MA)	Tauscher
Hooley (OR)	Nethercutt	Tauzin
Hostettler	Neugebauer	Taylor (NC)
Hoyer	Ney	Terry
Hulshof	Northup	Thompson (CA)
Hunter	Norwood	Thompson (MS)
Hyde	Nussle	Thornberry
Inslee	Oberstar	Tiahrt
Isakson	Obey	Tiberi
Israel	Olver	Tierney
Istook	Ortiz	Towns
Jackson (IL)	Osborne	Turner (OH)
Jackson-Lee	Ose	Turner (TX)
(TX)	Otter	Udall (CO)
Janklow	Owens	Udall (NM)
Jefferson	Oxley	Van Hollen
Jenkins	Pallone	Pastor
John	Pascarell	Paul
Johnson (CT)	Payne	Velazquez
Johnson (IL)	Pearce	Vislosky
Johnson, E. B.	Pelosi	Vitter
Johnson, Sam	Pence	Walsh
Jones (NC)	Peterson (MN)	Wamp
Kaptur	Peterson (PA)	Waters
Keller	Petri	Watt
Kelly	Pickering	Waxman
Kennedy (MN)	Pitts	Weiner
Kennedy (RI)	Pombo	Weldon (FL)
Kildee	Pomeroy	Weldon (PA)
Kilpatrick	Porter	Weller
King (IA)	Portman	Wexler
King (NY)	Price (NC)	Whitfield
Kingston	Pryce (OH)	Wicker
Kirk	Quinn	Wilson (NM)
Klecza	Rahall	Wilson (SC)
Kline	Ramstad	Wolf
Knollenberg	Rangel	Wu
Kolbe	Regula	Wynn
Kucinich	Rehberg	Young (AK)
LaHood		Young (FL)
Lampson		

NAYS—1

Kanjorski

NOT VOTING—42

Bass
Berkley
Bono
Brady (TX)
Calvert
Castle
Cox
Davis (FL)
DeFazio
DeLay
Diaz-Balart, L.
Eshoo
Fletcher
Foley
Gephardt

Gilchrest
Harman
Hayworth
Houghton
Issa
Jones (OH)
Kind
Lofgren
Matsui
Meeks (NY)
Millender-
McDonald
Napolitano
Nunes
Platts

Putnam
Radanovich
Ryun (KS)
Shaw
Shimkus
Solis
Taylor (MS)
Thomas
Toomey
Upton
Walden (OR)
Watson
Woolsey

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1853

Messrs. RYAN of Wisconsin, KENNEDY of Minnesota, CANNON and COSTELLO changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 532 on H. Con. Res. 274, Commending the National Endowment for Democracy, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the next vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1.

The Clerk will designate the motion.

The Clerk designated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct conferees offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BISHOP) on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 181, nays 214, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 533]

YEAS—181

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Ballance

Becerra
Bell
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boswell

Boucher
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza

Carson (IN)
Carson (OK)
Clay
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Frost
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (TX)
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall
Hastings (FL)
Hill
Hinchev
Hinojosa
Hoefel
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson

John
Johnson, E. B.
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick
Klecza
Kucinich
Lampson
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lowe
Lynch
Majette
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
McCarthy (MO)
McCarthy (NY)
McCollum
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Menendez
Michaud
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi

Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Rodriguez
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Sanchez, Linda
T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Sandlin
Schakowsky
Schiff
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Spratt
Stark
Stenholm
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Turner (TX)
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velazquez
Visclosky
Waters
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Wu
Wynn

NAYS—214

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Ballenger
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Beauprez
Bereuter
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Boozman
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite,
Ginny
Burgess
Burns
Burr
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Case
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole
Collins
Cox
Crane

Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeMint
Deutsch
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dooley (CA)
Doolittle
Dreier
Duncan
Dunn
Ehlers
Emerson
English
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Forbes
Fossella
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gillmor
Gingrey
Goode
Goode
Goodlatte
Goss
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Greenwood
Gutknecht
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes

Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hooley (OR)
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Isakson
Istook
Janklow
Jenkins
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lucas (KY)
Lucas (OK)
Manzullo
McCotter
McCreery
McHugh
McInnis

McKeon
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Nethercutt
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Ose
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts

Pombo
Porter
Portman
Pryce (OH)
Quinn
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Renzi
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Saxton
Schrock
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shays
Sherwood
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (MI)
Smith (NJ)

Smith (TX)
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tauzin
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberti
Turner (OH)
Vitter
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—39

Bass
Berkley
Harman
Bono
Brady (TX)
Calvert
Castle
Jones (OH)
Kind
Lofgren
Matsui
Meeks (NY)
Millender-
McDonald
Napolitano
Putnam

Gilchrest
Radanovich
Reynolds
Ryun (KS)
Shaw
Shimkus
Solis
Taylor (MS)
Toomey
Upton
Walden (OR)
Watson
Woolsey

SPEAKER ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1904

Ms. DUNN changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to instruct was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 533 on the Bishop Motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yes.”

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Speaker, parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). The gentleman will state his inquiry.

Mr. THOMAS. Madam Speaker, my understanding is the next motion is a motion to instruct conferees, and my understanding is motions to instruct conferees are nonbinding; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman is correct, the motion is non-binding.

Mr. THOMAS. And the motion to instruct is to request that we retain language in the bill the House passed; is that correct?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The motion is available to Members.

Mr. THOMAS. I appreciate that.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on the motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1.

The Clerk will designate the motion. The Clerk designated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to instruct offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FLAKE).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 161, nays 234, not voting 39, as follows:

[Roll No. 534]

YEAS—161

Aderholt	Gallegly	Paul
Akin	Garrett (NJ)	Pearce
Baker	Gibbons	Pence
Ballenger	Gingrey	Peterson (PA)
Barrett (SC)	Goode	Petri
Bartlett (MD)	Goodlatte	Pickering
Barton (TX)	Goss	Pitts
Beauprez	Granger	Platts
Bereuter	Green (WI)	Pombo
Bilirakis	Greenwood	Porter
Bishop (UT)	Gutknecht	Portman
Blackburn	Harris	Pryce (OH)
Blumenauer	Hart	Ramstad
Blunt	Hastings (WA)	Rehberg
Boehner	Hayes	Renzi
Bonilla	Hefley	Rogers (KY)
Bonner	Hensarling	Rogers (MI)
Boozman	Herger	Rohrabacher
Boucher	Hostettler	Ros-Lehtinen
Brown (SC)	Hulshof	Royce
Burgess	Hyde	Ryan (WI)
Burns	Isakson	Saxton
Burton (IN)	Jenkins	Schrock
Buyer	Johnson (CT)	Sensenbrenner
Camp	Johnson, Sam	Sessions
Cannon	Jones (NC)	Shadegg
Cantor	Keller	Shays
Carter	Kelly	Sherwood
Case	Kennedy (MN)	Shuster
Chabot	King (IA)	Simmons
Chocola	Kingston	Simpson
Coble	Kline	Smith (MI)
Collins	Knollenberg	Smith (NJ)
Cox	Kolbe	Souder
Crane	Latham	Stearns
Crenshaw	Lewis (KY)	Stenholm
Cubin	Linder	Sweeney
Cunningham	LoBiondo	Tancredo
Deal (GA)	McCrery	Tauzin
DeMint	McKeon	Taylor (NC)
Diaz-Balart, M.	Mica	Terry
Dicks	Miller (FL)	Thomas
Doolittle	Miller, Gary	Thompson (CA)
Dreier	Murphy	Tiahrt
Duncan	Musgrave	Vitter
Dunn	Myrick	Walsh
Ehlers	Nethercutt	Wamp
English	Neugebauer	Weldon (FL)
Everett	Ney	Weller
Feeney	Norwood	Whitfield
Ferguson	Nunes	Wicker
Flake	Nussle	Wilson (NM)
Franks (AZ)	Osborne	Wilson (SC)
Frelinghuysen	Otter	

NAYS—234

Abercrombie	Bishop (GA)	Cardin
Ackerman	Bishop (NY)	Cardoza
Alexander	Boehlert	Carson (IN)
Allen	Boswell	Carson (OK)
Andrews	Boyd	Clay
Baca	Bradley (NH)	Clyburn
Bachus	Brady (PA)	Cole
Baird	Brown (OH)	Conyers
Baldwin	Brown, Corrine	Cooper
Ballance	Brown-Waite,	Costello
Becerra	Ginny	Cramer
Bell	Burr	Crowley
Berman	Capito	Culberson
Berry	Capps	Cummings
Biggert	Capuano	Davis (AL)

Davis (CA)	Kilpatrick	Pelosi
Davis (IL)	King (NY)	Peterson (MN)
Davis (TN)	Kirk	Pomeroy
Davis, Jo Ann	Kleccka	Price (NC)
Davis, Tom	Kucinich	Quinn
DeGette	LaHood	Rahall
DeLahunt	Lampson	Rangel
DeLauro	Langevin	Regula
Deutsch	Lantos	Reyes
Dingell	Larsen (WA)	Rodriguez
Doggett	Larson (CT)	Rogers (AL)
Dooley (CA)	LaTourette	Ross
Doyle	Leach	Rothman
Edwards	Lee	Roybal-Allard
Emanuel	Levin	Ruppersberger
Emerson	Lewis (CA)	Rush
Engel	Lewis (GA)	Ryan (OH)
Etheridge	Lipinski	Sabo
Evans	Lowe	Sanchez, Linda
Farr	Lucas (KY)	T.
Fattah	Lucas (OK)	Sanchez, Loretta
Filner	Lynch	Sanders
Forbes	Majette	Sandlin
Ford	Maloney	Schakowsky
Fossella	Manzullo	Schiff
Frank (MA)	Markey	Scott (GA)
Frost	Marshall	Scott (VA)
Gerlach	Matheson	Serrano
Gillmor	McCarthy (MO)	Sherman
Gonzalez	McCarthy (NY)	Skelton
Gordon	McCollum	Slaughter
Graves	McCotter	Smith (TX)
Green (TX)	McDermott	Smith (WA)
Grijalva	McGovern	Snyder
Gutierrez	McHugh	Spratt
Hall	McInnis	Stark
Hastings (FL)	McIntyre	Strickland
Hill	McNulty	Stupak
Hinche	Meehan	Sullivan
Hinojosa	MEEK (FL)	Tanner
Hobson	Menendez	Tauscher
Hoeffel	Michaud	Thompson (MS)
Hoekstra	Miller (MI)	Thornberry
Holden	Miller (NC)	Tiberi
Holt	Miller, George	Tierney
Honda	Mollohan	Towns
Hoolley (OR)	Moore	Turner (OH)
Hoyer	Moran (KS)	Turner (TX)
Hunter	Moran (VA)	Udall (CO)
Insole	Murtha	Udall (NM)
Israel	Nadler	Van Hollen
Istook	Neal (MA)	Velazquez
Jackson (IL)	Northup	Visclosky
Jackson-Lee	Oberstar	Waters
(TX)	Obey	Watt
Janklow	Olver	Waxman
Jefferson	Ortiz	Weiner
John	Ose	Weldon (PA)
Johnson (IL)	Owens	Wexler
Johnson, E. B.	Oxley	Wolf
Kanjorski	Pallone	Wu
Kaptur	Pascroll	Wynn
Kennedy (RI)	Pastor	Young (AK)
Kildee	Payne	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—39

Bass	Gilchrest	Radanovich
Berkley	Harman	Reynolds
Bono	Hayworth	Ryun (KS)
Brady (TX)	Houghton	Shaw
Calvert	Issa	Shimkus
Castle	Jones (OH)	Solis
Davis (FL)	Kind	Taylor (MS)
DeFazio	Lofgren	Toomey
DeLay	Matsui	Upton
Diaz-Balart, L.	Meeks (NY)	Walden (OR)
Eshoo	Millender-	Watson
Fletcher	McDonald	Woolsey
Foley	Napolitano	
Gepardt	Putnam	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1921

So the motion was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 534 on the Flake Motion to instruct con-

ferrees on H.R. 1, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "no."

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 1474, CHECK CLEARING FOR THE 21ST CENTURY ACT

Mr. OXLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 1474) to facilitate check truncation by authorizing substitute checks, to foster innovation in the check collection system without mandating receipt of checks in electronic form, and to improve the overall efficiency of the Nation's payments system, and for other purposes; and that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the gentleman from Ohio? There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING SPEAKER TO POSTPONE FURTHER PROCEEDINGS ON ANY QUESTION POSTPONED UNDER CLAUSE 8(a)(2) OF RULE XX CONSIDERED ON WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2003, UNTIL WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 15, 2003

Mr. OXLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to postpone further proceedings on any question postponed under clause 8(a)(2) of rule XX considered on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, until Wednesday, October 15, 2003.

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

There was no objection.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 3108, PENSION FUNDING EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. BOEHNER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it shall be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 3108) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions, and for other purposes; the bill shall be considered as read for amendment; the amendment in the nature of a substitute that I have placed at the desk shall be considered as adopted; all points of order against the bill, as amended, are waived; the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except: one, 1 hour of debate on the bill, as amended, equally divided and controlled among the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee

on Education and the Workforce and the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means; and, two, one motion to recommend with or without instructions; and that the amendment that I have placed at the desk shall be considered as read for purposes of this unanimous consent request.

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

There was no objection.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) FINDINGS.—The Congress finds the following:

(1) The defined benefit pension system has recently experienced severe difficulties due to an unprecedented economic climate of low interest rates, market losses, and an increased number of retirees.

(2) The discontinuation of the issuance of 30-year Treasury securities has made the interest rate on such securities an inappropriate and inaccurate benchmark for measuring pension liabilities.

(3) Using the current 30-year Treasury bond interest rate has artificially inflated pension liabilities and therefore adversely affected both employers offering defined benefit pension plans and working families who rely on the safe and secure benefits that these plans provide.

(4) There is consensus among pension experts that an interest rate based on long-term, conservative corporate bonds would provide a more accurate benchmark for measuring pension plan liabilities.

(5) A temporary replacement for the 30-year Treasury bond interest rate should be enacted while the Congress evaluates permanent and comprehensive funding reforms.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the Congress must ensure the financial health of the defined benefit pension system by working to promptly implement—

(1) a permanent replacement for the pension discount rate used for defined benefit pension plan calculations, and

(2) comprehensive funding reforms aimed at achieving accurate and sound pension funding to enhance retirement security for workers who rely on defined pension plan benefits, to reduce the volatility of contributions, to provide plan sponsors with predictability for plan contributions, and to ensure adequate disclosures for plan participants in the case of underfunded pension plans.

SEC. 3. TEMPORARY REPLACEMENT OF 30-YEAR TREASURY RATE.

(a) EMPLOYEE RETIREMENT INCOME SECURITY ACT OF 1974.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF PERMISSIBLE RANGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 302(b)(5)(B) of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 is amended by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III) and by inserting after subclause (I) the following new subclause:

"(II) SPECIAL RULE FOR YEARS 2004 AND 2005.—In the case of plan years beginning after December 31, 2003, and before January 1, 2006, the term 'permissible range' means a rate of interest which is not above, and not more than 10 percent below, the weighted average of the rates of interest on amounts

conservatively invested in long-term corporate bonds during the 4-year period ending on the last day before the beginning of the plan year. Such rates shall be determined by the Secretary on the basis of one or more indices selected periodically by the Secretary, and the Secretary shall make the permissible range publicly available."

(B) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—Subclause (III) of section 302(b)(5)(B)(ii) of such Act, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended—

(i) by inserting "or (II)" after "subclause (I)" the first place it appears, and

(ii) by striking "subclause (I)" the second place it appears and inserting "such subclause".

(C) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subclause (I) of section 302(b)(5)(B)(ii) of such Act is amended by inserting "or (III)" after "subclause (II)".

(2) DETERMINATION OF CURRENT LIABILITY.—Clause (i) of section 302(d)(7)(C) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subclause:

"(IV) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2004 AND 2005.—For plan years beginning in 2004 or 2005, notwithstanding subclause (I), the rate of interest used to determine current liability under this subsection shall be the rate of interest under subsection (b)(5)."

(3) PBGC.—Clause (iii) of section 4006(a)(3)(E) of such Act is amended by adding at the end the following new subclause:

"(V) In the case of plan years beginning after December 31, 2003, and before January 1, 2006, the annual yield taken into account under subclause (II) shall be the annual yield determined by the Secretary of the Treasury on amounts conservatively invested in long-term corporate bonds for the month preceding the month in which the plan year begins. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the Secretary of the Treasury shall determine such yield on the basis of one or more indices selected periodically by the Secretary, and the Secretary shall make such yield publicly available."

(b) INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1986.—

(1) DETERMINATION OF PERMISSIBLE RANGE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Clause (ii) of section 412(b)(5)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by redesignating subclause (II) as subclause (III) and by inserting after subclause (I) the following new subclause:

"(II) SPECIAL RULE FOR YEARS 2004 AND 2005.—In the case of plan years beginning after December 31, 2003, and before January 1, 2006, the term 'permissible range' means a rate of interest which is not above, and not more than 10 percent below, the weighted average of the rates of interest on amounts conservatively invested in long-term corporate bonds during the 4-year period ending on the last day before the beginning of the plan year. Such rates shall be determined by the Secretary on the basis of one or more indices selected periodically by the Secretary, and the Secretary shall make the permissible range publicly available."

(B) SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY.—Subclause (III) of section 412(b)(5)(B)(ii) of such Code, as redesignated by subparagraph (A), is amended—

(i) by inserting "or (II)" after "subclause (I)" the first place it appears, and

(ii) by striking "subclause (I)" the second place it appears and inserting "such subclause".

(C) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subclause (I) of section 412(b)(5)(B)(ii) of such Code is amended by inserting "or (III)" after "subclause (II)".

(2) DETERMINATION OF CURRENT LIABILITY.—Clause (i) of section 412(l)(7)(C) of such Code is amended by adding at the end the following new subclause:

"(IV) SPECIAL RULE FOR 2004 AND 2005.—For plan years beginning in 2004 or 2005, notwithstanding subclause (I), the rate of interest used to determine current liability under this subsection shall be the rate of interest under subsection (b)(5)."

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendments made by this section shall apply to years beginning after December 31, 2003.

(2) LOOKBACK RULES.—For purposes of applying subsections (l)(9)(B)(ii) and (m)(l) of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and subsections (d)(9)(B)(ii) and (e)(1) of section 302 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to plan years beginning after December 31, 2003, the amendments made by this section may be applied as if such amendments had been in effect for all years beginning before such date.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1308, TAX RELIEF, SIMPLIFICATION, AND EQUITY ACT OF 2003

Mr. CROWLEY. Madam Speaker, subject to rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 1308, the Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act of 2003.

The form of the motion is as follows:

I move that the managers on the part of the House in the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the House amendment to the Senate amendment to H.R. 1308 be instructed as follows:

1. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides immediate payments to taxpayers receiving an additional credit by reason of the bill in the same manner as other taxpayers were entitled to immediate payments under the Jobs and Growth Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2003.

2. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides families of military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones a child credit based on the earnings of the individuals serving in the combat zone.

3. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report all of the other provisions of the Senate amendment and shall not report back a conference report that includes additional tax benefits not offset by other provisions.

4. To the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, the House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report other tax benefits for military personnel and the families of the astronauts who died in the Columbia disaster.

5. The House conferees shall, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this motion, meet in open session with the Senate conferees and the House conferees shall file a conference report consistent with the preceding provisions of this instruction, not later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, subject to rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby

announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mrs. CAPPS of California moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill, H.R. 6, BE INSTRUCTED AS FOLLOWS:

(1) The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the House bill (section 30215) that concerns consistency determinations under the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972.

(2) The House conferees shall be instructed to confine themselves to matters committed to conference in accordance with clause 9 of rule XXII of the House of Representatives with regard to any offshore preleasing, leasing, or development moratorium.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1, MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION DRUG AND MODERNIZATION ACT OF 2003

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, under rule XXII, clause 7(c), I hereby announce my intention to offer a motion to instruct on H.R. 1, the Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY of Illinois moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 1 be instructed to reject division B of the House bill.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

U.S. HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, October 2, 2003.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed are copies of resolutions adopted on October 1, 2003 by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure. Copies of the resolutions are being transmitted to the Department of the Army.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2716

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA WATERSHEDS

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Tennessee River and Tributaries, North Carolina, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and Kentucky, published as House Document 328, 71st Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present

time in the interest of flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, recreation, and other related purposes to the watersheds of Dallas Branch, Pinhook Creek and Huntsville Spring Branch in the Huntsville, Alabama area.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2717

BOULDER CREEK, COLORADO

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the South Platte River and Tributaries, Colorado, Wyoming, and Nebraska, published as House Document 669, 80th Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports, in coordination with the City of Boulder, and other interested Federal, State and local agencies, to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, recreation, and water quality improvements, in the Boulder Creek, Colorado Watershed.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2718

ANDROSCOGGIN RIVER, RUMFORD, MAINE

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the New England—New York Region published as Senate Document 14, 85th Congress, 1st Session, the report entitled Androscoggin River Basin, Maine and New Hampshire, dated April 12, 1968, and other pertinent reports to determine the feasibility of measures for environmental restoration and protection, recreation and related purposes along the Androscoggin River in Rumford, Maine.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2719

EAGLE CREEK BASIN, KENTUCKY

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Kentucky River and Tributaries, Kentucky, published as House Document 423, 87th Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, water supply, recreation, and other related purposes in the Eagle Creek Lake area.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2720

CLEAR LAKE WATERSHED, IOWA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Iowa and Cedar Rivers, Iowa and Minnesota, published as House Document 166, 89th Congress, 1st Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection and other related purposes in the Clear Lake Watershed.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2721

CHOCTAWHATCHEE, PEA, AND YELLOW RIVERS
WATERSHED, ALABAMA

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United

States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Choctawhatchee River and Tributaries, Florida and Alabama, published as House Document 163, 71st Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, environmental protection and restoration, recreation, water supply and other related purposes in the Choctawhatchee, Pea and Yellow Rivers watershed, Alabama.

RESOLUTION, DOCKET 2722

CANASERAGA CREEK VALLEY, NEW YORK

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the United States House of Representatives, That the Secretary of the Army is requested to review the report of the Chief of Engineers on the Genesee River, New York, published as House Document 615, 78th Congress, 2nd Session, and other pertinent reports to determine whether any modifications of the recommendations contained therein are advisable at the present time in the interest of flood damage reduction, environmental restoration and protection, streambank restoration, water quality, recreation, and related purposes in the Canaseraga Creek Valley, New York.

There was no objection.

COMMUNICATION FROM CHAIRMAN OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, COM-
MITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND
INFRASTRUCTURE,

Washington, DC, October 2, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House, The Capitol, Washington,
D.C.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on October 1, 2003, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. §3307.

Sincerely,

DON YOUNG,
Chairman.

Enclosures.

COMMITTEE RESOLUTION

BUILDING PROJECT SURVEY UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURTHOUSE ORANGE COUNTY, NEW YORK

Resolved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the U.S. House of Representatives, That pursuant to Title 40 U.S.C. §3314(b), the Administrator of General Services shall investigate the feasibility and need to construct or acquire a facility to house a United States Courthouse, in Orange County, New York. The analysis shall include a full and complete evaluation including, but not limited to: (i) the identification and cost of potential sites and (ii) 30 years present value evaluations of all options; lease, purchase, and Federal construction, and the purchase options of lease with an option to purchase or purchase contract. The Administrator shall submit a report to Congress within 60 days.

There was no objection.

HONORING MILDRED A. O'NEILL

(Mr. McGOVERN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of Mildred A. O'Neill, the widow of our late Speaker, colleague, and friend Tip O'Neill.

Millie O'Neill, who passed away yesterday at the age of 89, was a remarkable woman. She was a loving wife and mother, a tireless activist, and a dear friend.

She was also a true daughter of Massachusetts. According to her son Tom, Millie had taken a nap so that she could watch last night's Red Sox playoff game, and passed away in her sleep. Well, Mr. Speaker, the Red Sox won their game. I am sure that Millie is smiling.

All of us who admired and loved Tip O'Neill felt the say way about Millie. As Father Donald Monan, the former president of Boston College so beautifully said at the late Speaker's funeral mass, "The pride of the Speaker's life was not the Medal of Freedom or the Legion of Honor, it was the love of his beloved Millie, who gave courage to his struggles and gave measure to his successes and loving understanding through all his illness."

Mr. Speaker, I know that all of my colleagues join me in keeping the O'Neill family in our thoughts and prayers. And I will include the obituaries of Millie O'Neill from the Boston Globe and Boston Herald in the RECORD.

[From the Boston Globe, Oct. 7, 2003]

MILDRED O'NEILL, 89; WIFE, "PARTNER" OF POLITICAL ICON
(By Ron DePasquale)

Mildred A. "Millie" O'Neill, widow and celebrated sweetheart of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr., former speaker of the US House of Representatives, died in her sleep yesterday in her Bethesda, Md., home, her family said.

Her son, former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Thomas P. O'Neill III of Boston, said Mrs. O'Neill had taken a nap, so she could catch last night's Red Sox playoff game, when she died. She was 89.

Her son called her a "lovely, perfect lady" who enjoyed taking care of her family and working for charity. His parents' love was inspiring, he said. "They were inseparable at a very early age and right through to the end of their lives," he said.

On the dedication page of his 1987 autobiography, "Man of the House," Tip O'Neill referred to his wife as "The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother and my partner through so many triumphs and trials."

Anyone involved in Massachusetts politics from the 1940s to the 1980s could remember Tip O'Neill singing the 1930s' tune "Apple Blossom Time" to his wife, said US Representative Barney Frank of Newton. "Whenever you were with the two of them, everybody was happy," Frank said last night. "They were like some couple out of the movies. The sense of warmth that existed between the two of them was just extraordinary."

Born Mildred Miller in Somerville in 1914, she met her future husband at St. John's

High School in North Cambridge, where she graduated in 1932.

At a 1999 Boston College ceremony honoring her husband with a permanent library exhibit, Mrs. O'Neill said, "Life with Tom was a wonderful experience, and I am proud to have shared those 50 years and see parts of it displayed at this library."

Tip O'Neill died in 1994, ending a storied life as one of the country's premier politicians. He retired from the House in 1986 after 50 years in politics. His wife was a constant presence in his social and political circles.

In his autobiography, O'Neill wrote that when he became speaker and Millie learned that other wives never knew when their husbands were coming home at night, she told him, "I don't want you keeping them in the House until 8 or 9 at night. And that, more or less, marked the end of evening sessions in the House."

Mrs. O'Neill was chair or a member of the boards of the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club, and the International Club. As chairwoman of the historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, she was one of the first to receive the Lincoln Award, in recognition in 1984 for spearheading a \$4 million fund-raising drive.

"Now, Mildred, you may have suspected now and then that from time to time your husband and I find something about which we disagree," President Ronald Reagan quipped at the awards ceremony. "But there is one thing that we sure agree on—he's lucky, mighty lucky, to be the man in your life. On behalf of everybody with whom you work, your work for this grand, old theater has meant so much, Millie, that we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

The O'Neills lived in Cambridge until 1976, when Tip was named speaker and the family moved to Washington. The city of Cambridge dedicated the north branch of its library as the Mildred A. O'Neill Library in 1995.

Raymond L. Flynn, former mayor of Boston, said, "She was a great friend. She was just a remarkable mother and led a wonderful life and was a great representative for America."

In addition to her son, Mrs. O'Neill leaves two daughters, Rosemary of Washington and Susan of Bethesda; a son, Christopher, also of Bethesda; a sister, Dorothy Ryan, of Marstons Mills; and eight grandchildren. A son, Michael, died in 1997. A funeral Mass will be said Friday at 10 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church in Cambridge. Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Harwichport, where Mrs. O'Neill had long summered.

[From the Boston Herald, Oct. 7, 2003]

MILDRED A. O'NEILL, AT 89, WIFE OF LATE U.S. SPEAKER

Mildred A. (Miller) O'Neill of Bethesda, Md., formerly of Cambridge, wife of the late U.S. House Speaker Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr. and an activist involved in many organizations, died yesterday at her home. She was 89.

Born in Somerville, Mrs. O'Neill was educated at St. John's School in North Cambridge and later graduated from St. John's High School in 1932, where she was first introduced to her husband. She was a longtime Cambridge resident, where she lived until 1976, when she and her husband moved to Washington, D.C., after he was elected speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives. She was also a longtime summer resident of Harwichport.

Mrs. O'Neill was active in many causes, particularly the St. John's Church Rebuilding Fund and was president of the parish Guild of St. John's Church. She also was active in St. Coletta's School for Exceptional Children. She worked for many worthy

causes as chairwoman or executive board member for the March of Dimes, Congressional Wives Club, International Club and So Other Might Eat.

She was the chairwoman and honorary chairwoman of the historic Fords Theatre, receiving the Lincoln Medal in 1984 for her fund-raising efforts. She was also the chairwoman of the Family Pantry in Harwichport.

Many organizations have honored Mrs. O'Neill for her selflessness and devotion to her husband, family, friends, country and church. She has received honorary doctorates from the University of Scranton, Our Lady of the Elms, and Barry University. In 1995, the city of Cambridge dedicated the North Cambridge Branch Library in her honor as the Mildred A. O'Neill Library.

Mrs. O'Neill's central role during her adult life was that of political wife, family members said. Throughout her marriage of 52 years, she served as sweetheart, mentor, confidante, supporter, campaigner and friend. Her role was epitomized in the dedication of her husband's autobiography, "Man of the House," which reads: "For Millie—The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother, and my partner through so many triumphs and trials."

Mrs. O'Neill is survived by two daughters, Rosemary of Washington, D.C., and Susan A. of Bethesda, Md.; two sons, Thomas P. III of Boston and Christopher R. of Bethesda, Md.; a sister, Dorothy Ryan of Marstons Mills; and eight grandchildren. She was also the mother of the late Michael T.

A funeral Mass will be celebrated at 10 a.m. Friday at St. John the Evangelist Church, Cambridge. Burial will be in Mount Pleasant Cemetery, Harwichport.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

LOWERING THE COST OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Madam Speaker, the big issue that is being raised on the front page of USA Today, which I hope all of my colleagues will have a chance to read, is the very large price disparities between prescription drug costs here in the United States and what they cost elsewhere in the world. I was amazed that the media is really finally jumping on this issue, because the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), who has been leading the fight on this issue, has been working on it a long time.

It shows very clearly that the people in the USA pay 58 percent more for prescription drugs than people in Switzerland do, 60 percent more than they spend in Great Britain, 67 percent more than Canada, 74 percent more than Germany, 78 percent more than Sweden, 102 percent more than France and 112 percent more than Italy.

This is a fact. The American people are paying so much more for pharmaceutical products than other countries and people who are buying prescription drugs in other parts of the world that Americans are going across the border into Canada in droves to buy their pharmaceutical products because it saves them so much money. When you have a little old lady who cannot afford her pharmaceutical products and her health is at risk, you cannot blame her for going across the Canadian border to buy the very same prescription drug for one-fourth or one-fifth or one-sixth of what it costs here in the United States.

It is very important that this message be gotten out to all of our constituents around this country, so that we can bring about some positive change that will make sure that Americans pay a fair price for world class drugs.

I just would like to say to my colleague who has been leading the fight on this issue, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), what do you think about this?

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Well, if the gentleman would yield, I think President Reagan had it best, quoting John Adams, when he said, "Facts are stubborn things."

I want to congratulate the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BURTON), the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL), the gentleman from (Mrs. EMERSON) and so many other people in the House.

This is not a single-person issue. We have been involved in this for many years. The gentleman from Indiana (Chairman BURTON) has been among the only chairmen here in this Congress who have been willing to have real hearings and bring in both sides and let both sides present their case and let the facts come out.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mrs. Speaker, reclaiming my time, one of the things that bothers me is the gentleman has been talking about how safe it is to buy pharmaceutical products from other industrialized nations.

There are some 940 FDA approved facilities around the world that produce these products. They are sent around the world in bulk, so the safety issue appears to be a bogus issue. But today, in USA Today, the head of the Food and Drug Administration, Mr. Mark McClellan, said that the seniors and others who are buying their pharmaceuticals from Canada are buying under "buyer-beware" conditions, which indicates he thinks they are at great risk.

Would the gentleman explain to us why that is not accurate?

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Once again, the facts do not support that. We know, for example, how many people have died from taking legal FDA approved drugs from other countries. It is a nice, round number, easy to remember: It is zero. We know that more people be-

come ill and die from eating foods, fruits and vegetables, which the FDA is also responsible for, than they ever will with the drugs we are talking about.

More importantly, this is happening now. Americans are doing this right now, many of them knowing that, technically, the FDA says this is illegal. I do not necessarily agree that this is illegal.

Congressional intent is very clear: We intend to make this legal, and we intend to make it safer, using tamper-proof, counterfeit-proof packaging, which is not required today, actually making this business even safer.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. The thing that is interesting is there are containers that are tamper-proof, and you just showed one of them there. But these 940-some production sites around the world that are FDA approved, they send these pills around the world in bulk, in huge containers, and it seems to me if there was any threat of sabotage or messing around with those, it would be in those bigger containers, not in a tamper-proof vial like that.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. The gentleman is absolutely right. The drug Lipitor, for example, every single tablet is imported into the United States, because it is only made in Ireland in an FDA-approved facility. When they ship into the United States, they do not bring it in in armored cars, they bring it in in big bulk containers that sit on a loading dock in New Jersey for a week or so. If there is any chance to get in there and tamper with those drugs, there is a much better chance at that time than in an individual package.

So, ultimately the safety argument, and I think most Members and Americans, voting with their feet, have come to the same conclusion, the safety argument is just pure bogus.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. So it boils down to why is the Food and Drug Administration trying to protect the huge profits that are being made here in the United States by the pharmaceutical companies, when at the same time in other parts of the world it is not that great.

TRIBUTE TO MILDRED "MILLIE" O'NEIL

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

Ms. PELOSI. Madam Speaker, it is with great personal sadness that I rise to pay tribute to Mildred, better known as Millie, O'Neill, wife of former Speaker Tip O'Neil, who passed away peacefully yesterday.

She did so in between watching her sports. She was a great sports fan. She enjoyed seeing Tiger Woods win on Sunday and, of course, she was getting ready for the Red Sox game that was to come on last night.

Millie was a true heroine to our party and our country, and we will miss her terribly. As Democratic Lead-

er of the House, I am humbled to occupy the office which was once occupied by the great Democratic Speaker, Tip O'Neil.

Tip loved his country, his party, his church, his family, and, above all, he loved Millie. Millie was Tip's partner in everything that he did. She was a wonderful, wonderful mother to their children and she became the godmother to the Democratic Party.

Always warm, always caring, and, at the same time, very, very strong, Millie was someone in whose presence we all loved to be.

Again, Millie loved her Red Sox. She was thrilled that they were in the playoffs this year and, of course, I think she has a front row seat for the series coming up now. Now, maybe, I would say to my colleagues from Massachusetts, maybe now that Millie has a front row seat from even higher than the Green Monster, she and Tip can break the "Curse of the Bambino" and have the Red Sox win the World Series, the first time since 1918. It will probably take that kind of divine intervention. But if anybody can make it happen, it is Millie.

Our thoughts and prayers are with her family, with her children and grandchildren, whom she cherished. I have the privilege of working on a daily basis with one granddaughter, Catlin O'Neill. We honor the legacy of Tip and Millie O'Neill every day we serve here.

I hope it is a comfort to Thomas III, Rosemary, Christopher, better known as Kip, and Susan, that so many people in our country mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time.

Millie has joined Tip and her son Michael, who preceded her to heaven, now in praying for us where they have, shall we say, more access. Let us think of them as we undertake our responsibilities, and know the proud tradition that they were a part of and that we have a responsibility to carry on.

With that, Madam Speaker, once again I express condolences, not only my own personal and that of my family, but that of all the Democratic Members of the House in sending our condolences to the O'Neill family.

I am pleased to do this under the leadership of the dean of the Massachusetts delegation (Mr. MARKEY), and join other members of the delegation in remembering Millie and celebrating her life.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS: DUPLICATION

The Speaker pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HENSARLING. Madam Speaker, I rise again this week as cofounder of a new Republican effort, dedicated to bringing the disinfectant of sunshine into the shadowy corners of the wasteful Washington bureaucracy. We call ourselves the Washington Waste

Watchers, and we are here to look after the family budget by checking the growth of waste, fraud and abuse in the Federal budget.

Madam Speaker, I am sure that all of my colleagues are well aware of the size of our Federal budget deficit. It is large, and growing larger every day. To compound the challenge, we are presently faced with an additional \$87 billion supplemental appropriation request to help fight the war on terror.

Now, I believe, after much debate and due diligence, that this body will pass most, if not all, of this request, and I for one, agree that it is far better to fight this war on terror over there than it is over here. So, faced with unparalleled homeland security needs and a growing budget deficit, what are we to do?

Democrats say the only way to cut the deficit is to yet again raise taxes on the American family. Sound familiar? It is the only budget idea that they have.

We do have a large deficit, but it is not because the American people are undertaxed, it is because Washington spends too much.

Since I was born in 1957, the Federal budget has grown seven times faster than the family budget. Seven times faster. This is unconscionable and unsustainable. And over and above the expenses connected with the war on terror, Democrats have voted to spend almost \$1 trillion more than the budget allows, \$1 trillion more in spending, and they claim to be concerned about deficits.

Madam Speaker, much of this spending in Washington is pure waste, fraud and abuse, and by attacking it every day, we can begin to close this deficit.

Once again this week, let us talk about duplication.

The Federal Government administers 50 different programs scattered across eight Federal agencies to assist the homeless. Combined, these duplicative programs cost Americans close to \$30 billion a year. Fifty different programs all engaged in roughly the same mission. Yet Democrats want to raise taxes to pay for more of this?

Six different agencies administer 26 programs offering food and nutrition benefits to the homeless, including the USDA, HHS, Department of Education, FEMA, HUD and the VA. What is it that one of these agencies knows about feeding the homeless that the other agencies do not know? Whatever it is, I hope they figure it out pretty soon, because these duplicative programs cost roughly \$43 billion a year. Just think how much we could save the American taxpayer over 10 years through consolidation of just some of these 26 programs. Yet Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

More than 50 different Federal agencies are responsible for waging the war on drugs. Four agencies are responsible for coordinating and developing narcotics detection technologies, more than 70 programs in 13 Federal depart-

ments and agencies are eligible to disperse resources to prevent substance abuse, and 16 different agencies deal with treatment. How many billions could be used to lower the Federal deficit if we simply consolidated a few of these programs? Yet the Democrats wanted to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

Sixteen Federal agencies operate roughly 75 international education, culture and training programs. Seventeen agencies monitor and enforce trade agreements. Ten of them operate export subsidy programs, and 12 oversee importation of agricultural products. How much more could we save if we simply consolidated a few of these programs. Yet the Democrats want to raise our taxes to pay for more of this?

Madam Speaker, these are just a few of the examples of the rampant duplication in waste in our Federal Government that has been here for years. Once you begin to look closely, it is easy to see that many Federal programs routinely lose 10, 20, even 30 percent of their taxpayer-funded budgets in waste, fraud and abuse.

□ 1945

In the real world, when people lose this much money, they are either fired or they go to jail; but in Washington, it is yet another excuse to take even more money away from the American family.

Mr. Speaker, there are many ways that we can save money in Washington without cutting any needed services and without raising taxes on the American family. Because when it comes to Federal programs, it is not how much money Washington spends; it is how Washington spends the money.

MOURNING THE LOSS OF MILDRED A. O'NEILL AND CELEBRATING GREAT AMERICANS

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I had the great privilege of coming to Congress in 1981. Some of my colleagues on the floor were here when I came. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) and I came in the same class. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the dean of the Massachusetts delegation, was already here. Those who came after 1987 lost an extraordinary experience, and that experience was to serve in this House with one of America's great political leaders, so defined by Bob Dole. His name, of course, was Thomas P. O'Neill. He was a large man physically, but his heart was much larger, and his commitment to people even larger still.

Those of us who came to the Congress at that time obviously met Tip, serving under Speaker O'Neill and with him. But shortly thereafter, we had an extraordinary privilege, and that privi-

lege was to meet his partner. Mildred A. O'Neill, affectionately known to all of us as Millie, became, in many respects, at least for those who were young enough to consider her as such, as sort of the den mother of the Democratic House. She was a wonderful, warm, committed, devoted human being. She was the kind of human being that everybody would want to be born and have as their grandmother or their mother, period, because she was filled with love and caring for humankind. And my, how she loved our Speaker. And my, how our Speaker loved her.

We talk about family values. It is easy to talk about family values, but I suggest that no one has lived family values any more than Tip O'Neill and Millie O'Neill.

Millie O'Neill was born in 1914, the same year that my mother was born. My mother, unfortunately, passed away in 1975 at a too-young age. Millie O'Neill lived until just a day ago. She died at the age of 89, having seen extraordinary history in her State and in her country and, indeed, with her husband, had impacted on that history in a most positive way.

When Tip O'Neill left the Congress, or shortly before, there was a poll taken in the South. And the two most popular figures in the United States, political figures at that time, were Ronald Reagan and Tip O'Neill in the South.

Now, obviously, they disagreed on many issues. So what was the cause of that support and popularity? It was because they were both viewed as two men of principle and the courage of their convictions. People could disagree with either one, but there was that respect for their character that was reflected. Millie O'Neill was a critical component of the character of her husband. They had been married for over half a century. Tip in his book referenced how loyal, how important Millie was to his life, both at times of triumph and times of trial.

Mr. Speaker, I count myself uniquely privileged to have come to Congress in time to know and become a friend of Mildred A. O'Neill. I believe she loved each and every one of us; and there is no doubt in my mind, Mr. Speaker, that each and every one of us loved her.

Let me say that I was also advantaged because, on the other side of the aisle, there was a leader who shared the compassion and commitment to this institution that Tip had, and that was Bob Michel. Bob has a wonderful wife, Corrine. She is ill today, and I know that she, too, and Bob Michel will grieve for the loss of their friend. It was a time, frankly, I say to my colleagues, when Bob Michel and Tip O'Neill knew that they were friends, knew that they had different views; but both were committed to this institution, and their wives, Millie and Corrine, were fast and true friends as well. America has lost a great American, a great grandmother, a great

mother, and a great supporter of this institution.

WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, while the Democrats continue to want to raise the taxes on the hard-working Americans, or when they keep proposing, as they did this year, over a \$1 trillion increase, or close to \$1 trillion, \$890 billion increase, to be precise, on the already, I think, large deficit, thank God the President, though, has released the President's agenda that we are all familiar with, which outlines a plan to clean up this mess of just waste, fraud, and abuse that exists and is rampant here in Washington and that has always been rampant here in Washington.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) eloquently mentioned some issues that should concern all Americans as to how Washington wastes America's taxpayers' money. I am reminded of all of the cases, case after case, of fraud, waste, and abuse that continue to happen, including money that is just absolutely lost in this huge bureaucracy.

In 1999 the Army, for example, took an inventory of its assets and found that, check this out, 56 airplanes, 32 tanks, I do not know how you lose 32 tanks, and 36 Javelin-command launch units for which it had no record, had no records for them. That same year, GAO identified more than \$3 billion in inventory that the Navy had "lost in transit." How do you lose \$3 billion of inventory in transit? The GAO also found \$400,000 in computer purchases that the Department of Education had not recorded in the property records. By the way, 200,000 of those computers could never be located.

Yet, I repeat, the Democrats insist on raising the taxes on the hard-working Americans, because there is not enough money. There is not enough money if you want to lose more money, if you want to throw away more money, if you want to splurge more money; but there is clearly more than enough money to do what we need to do here, as long as we get a little bit more responsible.

I commend the President for his efforts.

Mr. Speaker, the Inspector General at the Department of Veterans Affairs alone has identified more than 5,500 possible cases of individuals who may be defrauding the Veterans Administration by receiving benefits intended for veterans, these are benefits that are intended for benefits, but for people who are dead. Mr. Speaker, 5,500. Fourteen thousand, almost 14,000 incarcerated veterans have been paid about \$100 million, and these are not small sums, \$100 million in benefits that they were

clearly not eligible for. And yet the Democrats insist on coming up with proposal after proposal and budget after budget that raises the taxes of the hard-working Americans in this country. To do more of this?

Over \$100 million, another \$100 million in improper payments of missed Medicare beneficiaries who rely on them. Over the last 4 years, by the way, for example, the Department of Agriculture has spent \$5.13 billion in improper payments, improper payments intended to go to food stamp beneficiaries. Yet, the Democrats say, there is not enough money, and they insist on trying to raise the taxes on the hard-working Americans of this country.

Mr. Speaker, that is why, with a number of my colleagues, we have come up with the Washington Waste Watchers to not only highlight the fact, not that Washington has enough money, but that we have too much money, and that there is not enough accountability. We commend the President for his steps in the right direction, and we are going to continue to let the American people know where their money is being spent and, in many cases, misspent. And, no, we are not going to support raising taxes. We are going to support changing the culture up here from a culture of waste, of fraud, and abuse to a culture of fiscal responsibility.

WASHINGTON WAR WATCHERS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, in 2 days the House Committee on Appropriations will take up the \$87 billion that the administration has requested for Iraq and Afghanistan. This is the second down payment on top of the first \$75 billion that has been requested. Secretary Powell and others in the administration recently said this is a down payment, and that they will be back in 6 months from now with an additional request on top of the \$160-some-odd billion we spent on these two operations, for more money for reconstruction of both Afghanistan and Iraq. This funding contains a \$20 billion request, taxpayer financed, for the reconstruction of Iraq.

Back in April I introduced a bill called the American Parity Act, which required that for every dollar we invest in Iraq's health care, education, and transportation and infrastructure we also invest here at home. Today we have 102 cosponsors.

Now, I think everybody that has signed on to this agrees that the same values that we hold for Iraq, we must pledge for all Americans. The same goals we envision for Iraq's future, we must envision for America's future. Unfortunately, to date, we have had two priorities, two sets of values, two sets of books, one for Iraq and one for

America. I did a T-shirt the other day which I brought down to the floor showing all of the investments we had planned for Iraq and all the cuts here at home we had planned in the corresponding areas.

Now, two colleagues before me who are part of my freshman class from the other party talked about waste, fraud, and abuse. I would like to bring to their attention, and I have the same sense that if we were able to cut some of the waste, fraud, and abuse, we could fund other initiatives dealing with the uninsured in this country.

But to point to some waste, fraud, and abuse: in the President's request for Iraq, there is \$3.6 million for 600 radios and telephones at \$6,000 each. I highly recommend that maybe we should hear the word Radio Shack. If you cannot get a telephone for less than \$6,000, you may want to consider Radio Shack.

We have also in the request \$2.5 million for pickup trucks at \$33,000 apiece. Has anybody ever heard of zero percent financing by GM, Ford, or Chrysler? You can get a pickup truck for less than \$33,000. Mr. Speaker, \$100 million to hire 500 people at \$200,000 a person to investigate crimes. Mr. Speaker, \$20 million to finance 200 election experts, election experts for 6 months at \$100,000 per expert. Now, I come from Chicago. I think I can get a ward committeeman to do it just slightly cheaper than that.

So if we are interested in waste, fraud, and abuse, I recommend maybe we take a look at what we are recommending as a first down payment of what will be a total bill to the American taxpayers for \$60 billion in the area of waste, fraud, and abuse.

If I may take some more time, they did not want to mention the \$5.6 billion for the new electric grid in Iraq. Yet here in America, what did we get for that? The blackout. And how much is invested in America's electric future, in our energy future, in a massive investment here? Zero. We could create 100,000 jobs. We do not mention that when it comes to waste, fraud, and abuse.

In the area of health care, we are talking about \$150 million more for a new children's hospital in Basra. Yet, in that same week, we had a report that there are 10 million uninsured Americans. And what is the initiative? We cut the funding for the children's health insurance program. We have 44 million uninsured Americans, and not a single bill on the floor to insure the uninsured Americans.

In the area of police, there is \$4 billion planned for the Iraqi police, and yet what do we do? We cut the 100,000 police program here in the United States practicing community policing at \$1 billion. Mr. Speaker, \$5 billion for water, drinkable water in Iraq and wetlands restoration and irrigation; yet we have frozen the funds for the Corps of Engineers, and we do not fund any cleanup and improvement in the Great

Lakes of America where 40 million Americans get their daily drinking water. I am interested in the area of waste, fraud, and abuse; and I would like to talk about it.

In the area of veterans, we have a \$6 billion cut here at home for our veterans for their health care and other benefits, and yet what do we plan? To rebuild Iraq's national army.

So when it comes to waste, fraud, and abuse, I would hope my colleagues would join me on the floor and talk about some of the waste, the fraud, and the abuse that will go on in the \$60 billion reconstruction project the American taxpayers are being asked to pay and foot the bill for, while 3.1 million Americans have lost their jobs, 5 more million Americans have lost their health insurance, \$1 trillion worth of corporate assets are foreclosed on, and 5 million Americans have walked out of middle class into poverty; and that has been the net result over the last 3 years in economic stewardship.

□ 2000

THE COST TO AMERICANS OF PRESCRIPTION DRUGS

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I rise again to speak tonight on the issue of prescription drugs and what Americans pay relative to the rest of the industrialized world.

I want to call all Members' attention, if you have not seen this yet, get a copy of today's USA Today and read the lead story. And if you missed it today we are going to try and put this on our Web site, so Members may go to my Web site at Gil.house.gov; and we will have this on by sometime tomorrow afternoon.

And we will have the charts, because this is the most compelling article, I think, that I have read so far because it tells the story, it tells the truth, the whole truth and nothing but the truth in terms of what Americans pay and the sad and pathetic excuse by the FDA about how unsafe this is. It is just outrageous. It is the Food and Drug Administration.

This estimate is 1 million. We have had estimates that as many as 10 million Americans next year will buy their drugs from another country.

Now, what my vision is is not that people will buy their drugs from other countries, but once you open up markets and you begin to use tamper-proof, counterfeit-proof packaging, you will be able to buy those drugs from your local pharmacy and take advantage of market forces to bring the drug prices down.

As my colleague from Indiana pointed out earlier, the chart on the front talks about how much more Americans pay than the consumers in other coun-

tries. I have often said I am willing to subsidize the people in sub-Saharan Africa, I do not think we ought to have to subsidize the starving Swiss. It is time for them to pay their fair share for the cost of prescription drugs. The surest way to do that is to open up markets so you will see prices level around the world. And Americans will pay a lot less.

How much less? Well, the Swiss pay 58 percent less than American consumers. In Great Britain they pay 60 percent less. In Canada they pay 67 percent less than American consumers. In France they pay 102 percent less than American consumers. And in Italy, 112 percent. Now these are not backwater countries, ladies and gentlemen. These are industrialized countries that have regimens similar to ours.

If you go to the inside of USA Today it even gets better because they list some of the prices. I have shown my charts and I have had people say, Oh, well, that is from some goofy group, or, You cannot accept that. Well, these are not my charts anymore. These are charts that were done with research by USA Today.

When you look at the price differentials, it is exactly what my charts have shown. And that is, for example, on the drug Coumadin, which my 87-year-old father takes, it is a blood thinner, I have a package right here that we bought in Munich, Germany. It is Coumadin, it was developed at the University of Wisconsin Agricultural Schools as a rat poison, but Coumadin can be bought in Canada, 10 milligrams, 100 tablets, for \$43.58. That same package in the United States sells for \$99.99.

Tamoxifen, we have talked about that before here on the House floor. In the United States this particular package that they bought was \$61.99. The same package of the drug in Canada sells for \$9.04. That is more than six times as much.

Members, the time has come for us to take real action.

I want to congratulate others in the House who helped lead the fight so that at least the House now has gone on record that this is unacceptable. More importantly, we have sent a message not only to the pharmaceutical industry but to our own FDA. The FDA does not work for them; they work for us. It is time for the Senate, the Members in the other body to do the same thing, to send the message that the status quo is not acceptable.

Americans are voting with their feet. They are voting with their feet to buy prescription drugs. But remember, Members, next November they are going to vote for us or our opponents based on how we voted on issues like whether or not we will have affordable drugs here in the United States of America.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. May I remind Members that it is not in order to encourage the other House to take a certain action.

THE COST OF REBUILDING IRAQ

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, well, we heard some amusing speeches earlier about the new Washington Waste Watchers, the gentleman from Texas and some other Republican over there. I guess that their vision does not extend too far.

First of all, the Republicans control the White House, every agency of the Federal Government, the House and the Senate. If there is waste, fraud and abuse, well then, they should take care of it. But they are too busy asking the American people to borrow \$87 billion to build Iraq in the vision of the neoconservatives in the White House that put this failed policy on us and pursuing this adventure.

Right here, here it is. The gold-plated guide to war profiteering in Iraq, otherwise known as the Coalition Provisional Authority Request to Rehabilitate and Reconstruct Iraq. Most of it has nothing to do with reconstructing Iraq or war damage that we caused.

Now, there is an argument that could be made that we should repair war damage. But these are things that the Iraqis never had, they have not had ever. We are talking about, well, they have 50-year-old steam boilers, so we have got to spend \$6 billion on their electric grid. Guess what? The lights are blinking out here in the eastern United States and on my coast a couple of summers ago, the West Coast, because we are underinvesting here.

The President can ask to borrow \$6 billion not only to rebuild the little bit of damage we did, but to give them a state-of-the-art system. The American people will pay for that for 30 years. How much is he asking to invest in the United States of America? A big goose egg.

Yeah, I guess the eye on Waste Watchers on Washington does not go to waste watchers in the war profiteering and the rebuilding of Iraq.

Let us take up a couple of other subjects. \$1 billion will be borrowed by the American people at the request of the President and Republican Congress to train the police in Iraq. Certainly and arguably, we should have a trained police force. But it is extraordinarily expensive because they say, Well, first off, they have to build a facility to train them outside the country. They cannot train them in Iraq.

The French, they offered to train the Iraqi police in Iraq for free. But, God forbid, those French, we should accept anything from them. They are a lot

better at policing, military policing in these sorts of situations, have a lot more experience than we do, but we are going to hire consultants and pay \$1 billion, borrow \$1 billion to take the Iraqis out of their country to train them.

Then we have got to arm them. Of course, the U.S. military has confiscated hundreds of thousands of weapons, many in the original grease and wrappers. But, no, that is not good enough for the Iraqi police force. We are going to spend \$200 million to buy them brand-new weapons. I thought, well, maybe this is good. Maybe it has got a Buy America component to it. Maybe we are going to buy from American arms manufacturers. No, AK-47s, that is what the Iraqi police want. We have confiscated tens of thousands of them, but instead of reissuing the ones we have confiscated, we are going to buy them brand-new ones at more than list price from our friends, the Chinese.

This is not waste, fraud, and abuse. No, the Washington Waste Watchers over there do not have their eyes set on Iraq and this kind of stuff, they are talking about the \$100,000 missing over there at the Department of Education that might have fed some hungry kids. But, no, if it is a huge contract, wasting billions of dollars in Iraq; that is just fine. The President asked for it. We have to do this.

Let us talk about the cement plant in northern Iraq. Our estimators looked at it and said \$15 million to rebuild that plant. So the Bush administration put out a request for proposal for \$15 million. The Iraqis didn't want to wait. They rebuilt it themselves. Cost: \$80,000.

Now, there is Mr. al-Barak, who is a member of the Ruling Council which we named. You would think he would be beholden to us since we put him in place. But he has been a little critical of our spending. He says, "You know what? We can do it for 10 cents on the dollar. The Americans are wasting incredible amounts of money."

We are going to be asked to borrow nearly \$20 billion, indebt Americans for the next 30 years for waste, fraud, and abuse and war profiteering, and the Iraqis say they can do it for 10 cents on the dollar.

There was a contract to feed the Iraqi Ruling Council, which we named, which Mr. Bremer put out, no bid, of course. I guess it was from Sardi's in New York because to feed 25 people a day, \$5,000 a day. The Iraqi council was aghast, and Mr. al-Barak said, No, thanks, we can feed ourselves for a lot less than \$5,000 a day. They think we are nuts. They really do.

Waste, fraud, and abuse, apparently is only when it might benefit Americans. But when it can benefit war profiteers and no-bid contractors overseas in the gold-plated building, not rebuilding, of Iraq, there is a blind eye being turned here.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Florida (Mr. FEENEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FEENEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HIGHLIGHTS FROM THE ADMINISTRATION'S IRAQ REQUEST

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, in the last 24 hours, three more American soldiers have died in Iraq. They are part of a group of young Americans who are doing everything they can to stabilize the situation over there in extraordinarily difficult circumstances. They deserve our support.

There are reports in Iraq of some successes on the ground, but as we look at the situation in Iraq today, it is hard not to come to the conclusion that this was an enormous strategic mistake, because we are now there with 130,000 of our military men and women for a very long time to come if this President's request is to be understood for what it is.

Before we invaded Iraq, representatives of the White House and the Pentagon came to Members of Congress and said to the American people that Iraq had developed some of the most lethal weapons ever invented, that it was an imminent threat not only to the neighbors of Iraq, but to this country as well. We were told over and over again that we would be welcomed as liberators. We were told over and over again that, in this case, Iraq, because of its oil resources, could fund its own reconstruction. None of that was true. And today we know it was not true.

This is a case where the administration hyped, overstated, distorted the intelligence that we had which was a lot more obscure and uncertain than we were led to believe.

But today we are there. We are in Iraq. We have 130,000 people. We have replaced the government. We have a responsibility to try to create stability in that country and restore it to a better place.

Now, we should begin, I believe, in trying to figure out what to do. It seems to me there are three basic changes we have to make, three basic policy approaches we have to make. First of all, we have to take this \$87 billion request we have been given and scrub it, look at it carefully, review it. There is an enormous waste in this particular request, and we ought to do our best to figure out what some of the cases are.

As previous speakers have said, Look, you have got \$3.6 million for 600 radios and phones, \$6,000 apiece. And according to Business Week on May 12, this is a quote, "When Baghdad's telephone system was knocked out during the war, small-time Iraqi businessmen ordered up satellite phones from Jordan for \$900 each." As the previous

speaker said, Let us go to Radio Shack. We can do better than that.

The \$87 billion includes \$33,000 apiece for 80 pickup trucks. Well, go down to your local auto dealer. You can buy pickup trucks in this country for \$14,000. What are we talking about? And those who paraded up here earlier on the other side of the aisle and said waste, fraud, and abuse is a problem for this government, we can begin with waste by simply looking at the administration's request.

One more item. \$50,000 per prison bed, double the average cost in the United States.

Those who want simply to rubber stamp the administration's proposal are making a big mistake.

The second thing we ought to do is we ought to pay for this. We should not be borrowing this money from our children and grandchildren. That is simply an outrage. We ought to reduce, roll back the tax cuts that have been given to people earning over \$330,000 a year, the wealthiest 1 percent in this country. And we simply have to do that. If we are going to be fiscally responsible, we have to take that kind of step.

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Third, we need to step forward and do what the administration is trying to do, although past actions make it difficult, we need to build international support. More international resources, more international police, more international troops to try to get us through what is an extraordinarily difficult problem. But having abused and alienated our allies, it is hard now to get them back into Iraq the way they need to.

Fourth, we need to change the way we are doing this postwar reconstruction. It has been another fundamental mistake to have the Pentagon overseeing this operation. The very people who said we would be welcomed as liberators, that Iraqi oil would pay for its own reconstruction, those people are in charge of the postwar planning, and the postwar planning has been bungled. We need to give back authority to the State Department, USAID and those Federal agencies that have shown in the past they can deal with this kind of reconstruction effort. Those who came to this Congress and misrepresented the intelligence that was available to them should also be replaced.

MEDICARE PHYSICIAN REIMBURSEMENT

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the decline in Medicare reimbursement for physicians. Effective January 1, 2004, physicians and other providers paid pursuant to the Medicare physician fee schedules face at least a 4.2 percent cut

in reimbursements. For nearly 40 years, Medicare has provided necessary health care to millions of patients across this country. Another steep cut in reimbursement rates is now forcing many physicians who provide for Medicare patients to make difficult choices.

We only need to look at this chart, compare in 2004 Medicare payment for the various types of Medicare providers to understand the physicians' plight. Reimbursements for outpatient services up 3.8 percent. Inpatient services up 3.4 percent. Payment for inpatient rehabilitation up 3.2 percent. Likewise, payments to skilled nursing facilities up 3 percent. Then we come to our physicians, down 4.2 percent.

Interestingly, payments to all of these other providers are going up and payments to physicians are getting cut again.

Opponents to increase funding for physicians' payments often cite the high participation level in the Medicare program as evidence that physician reimbursement rates are at least adequate. True, most surgeons and doctors continue to treat some Medicare patients even as rates continue to fall. It is difficult for physicians to sever long-standing relationships with their patients. Having practiced OB-GYN for 27 years, I can tell you that the bond between doctor and patient is truly unique. It is a difficult relationship to be forced to end.

On the other hand, I would invite you to take a look at the number of physicians accepting new Medicare patients into their practices. As more and more doctors curtail the time they devote to Medicare patients, seniors and disabled patients will wait even longer to visit a specialist. Moreover, they will struggle to find physicians available for referrals for follow-up chronic care.

The problem associated with decreasing reimbursements is especially acute within the surgical community. The number of physicians who elect to practice surgery is going down. Many variables enter into a medical student's choice of speciality. Among these factors is the viability of maintaining a practice. As reimbursements decline, so too do the number of applicants wishing to pursue surgery. Never are the consequences more dire than for trauma patients in underserved areas. The inability to sufficiently staff hospitals in emergency situations is one of the ripple effects of cutting physician reimbursements.

One of the greatest achievements of the Medicare program is the access to high-quality care it has brought to the Nation's senior and disabled patients. This level of access cannot be expected to continue uninterrupted in the face of continued Medicare cuts and ballooning liability premiums.

Mr. Speaker, we must stop, we must stop the 4.2 percent Medicare physician payment cut. Help our doctors help those who need care the most. Mr. Speaker, we must not forget, we must never forget that doctors are the

linchpin of the Medicare program. It will do no good to provide a prescription benefit for our seniors, a \$400 billion plan, which I am very much in favor of, if we have no physicians willing to accept Medicare patients and write those prescriptions because of these continued Medicare payment cuts.

FISCAL NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, last week the Federal Government ushered in a new fiscal year. And as is typical with the start of the new year, we look back at the last year and examine our problems and resolve to conduct ourselves in a more prudent manner. Unfortunately, last year was witness to a long list of physical indulgences, that have wreaked havoc on our economy to the tune of a \$400 billion deficit.

The administration will tell you that this deficit is temporary. We all know that these tax cuts raise the deficit, but they will tell you that the tax cuts will actually stimulate the economy enough to grow out of our deficit problems. Unfortunately, the numbers just do not add up.

From 2001 to 2006 the average American will receive about \$3,593 in tax cuts. That seems like a pretty good chunk of change until we realize that these tax cuts increased our individual share of the national debt by \$13,000 in the same period. Any of my wife's former algebra students could tell you that it is not a good deal to get \$3,600 and in return and have to pay \$13,000. To put it another way, for each dollar we receive in tax cuts, our government is forced to borrow \$3.60 to finance them and pay for other government operations.

That is right. Other government operations, including the war on terrorism, including everything else we have, an economy that is not growing. We hear we are in recovery, but it is a jobless recovery. If you are unemployed, it is not a recovery.

Nearly one quarter of our deficit is going to finance tax cuts, and I ask my colleagues, for what? Now, I know that not all deficits can be considered indulgent. Running a deficit can actually help the economy when it pays for job growth during an economic slump or even in times of expansion, deficits may be needed to fund education or research that will contribute to future economic growth. But these tax cuts, Mr. Speaker, were excessive, and they are contributing only to the ballooning deficit that is weighing our country down.

It just does not make economic sense to try to stimulate the economy through tax cuts geared toward the wealthy who are just going to save that extra money. The money simply does not get into our economy. And to make

matters worse, instead of stimulating our economy, these tax cuts are increasing the deficit that is going to start worrying investors.

Mr. Speaker, I do not have to tell you that it is bad news when investors begin to worry. Interest rates go up, consumer spending slows, and then we are in worse shape than we found ourselves before. All the tax cuts have done is fatten the pockets of those who need it the least.

Let us take the dividend tax cut as an example. This tax cut was designed to encourage companies to increase investor dividends. Theoretically, investors would either spend the dividends or reinvest them, either option will stimulate the economy. So after the dividend tax cut was passed, City Group raised its dividend 75 percent to \$1.40. That is \$140 a year for average investor holding 100 shares of City Group stock.

But for Sandy Weill, the CEO of City Group, that is a whopping \$27 million that he will bring in annually; \$27 million, \$16 million more than he received last year without the dividend tax cut. Of course, if you take the richest man in the world, Bill Gates, the numbers start soaring.

Microsoft recently began offering a dividend of 8 cents per share. If you own 100 shares of Microsoft, you get an extra \$8 this year. With that you can buy yourself a pretty good cheeseburger and fries in Houston, but what does Bill Gates get? He gets \$82 million.

Mr. Speaker, where are our priorities. We have pressing physical needs in our country. We cannot afford to provide adequate prescription drugs for our seniors. We cannot afford to rebuild our damaged bridges and highways. According to the Defense Department, we can afford to bring our troops home for a well-deserved rest and recuperation, but we cannot afford to fly them from their point of arrival in the U.S. to their hometowns.

Over the past 3 years, we have had more than 3 million people out of work desperately looking for jobs. Yet, the central tenets of this administration's job creation program is to make tax cuts permanent, reduce government regulation, and allow companies to contribute less to their pension plans.

Moreover, this administration wants to continue the free trade policies that have, without a doubt, caused undue harm on American workers. To me this plan seems more likely to produce job insecurity than job security.

Mr. Speaker, in 3 straight years, we have had three consecutive tax cuts. These tax cuts have led to the dramatic decrease in jobs and an inconceivable increase in the debt. If tax cuts help an economy, why are we not doing so in Iraq in considering \$87 billion on top of the \$79 billion from last spring.

I thought a stimulus was supposed to work the other way around. Is it not supposed to increase jobs and decrease

the debt? Yet, every American knows that when your Visa bill gets too high, you are starting to indulge in too many things you cannot afford. To the average American family, getting a hold on our finances means making priorities and tough decisions. Yet, no family forced to cut back on spending would neglect to feed their children in order to pay for a Las Vegas vacation.

Similarly, we should not be cutting crucial government services to pay for an inflated tax cut.

Mr. Speaker, as we enter this new fiscal year, I hope my colleagues will learn from the fiscal follies of the past. And I hope we can collectively make a New Year's resolution to put the Federal Government's priorities in order, tighten our belts, and get our fiscal houses in order for the sake of our country, but more importantly, for the American people.

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

(Mr. PENCE addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

HONORING MILLIE O'NEILL

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

Mr. FRANK. Mr. Speaker, sometimes the cliches come true. I thought about that when I got a phone call last night telling me the death of Millie O'Neill. I was profoundly sorry.

She was an extraordinary woman of warmth and strength and humor, a genuine believer in and participant in this American political system through the real partnership she had with her husband, the late Speaker Tip O'Neill.

All of the cliches we summon up about the partnership of marriage, about a woman who could combine toughness when it was appropriate with gentleness at other times, all of those Millie O'Neill exemplified.

I had a great privilege when I came here in 1981 as a Member of the House from Massachusetts. I became, particularly as a Massachusetts Member, but not only those of us from Massachusetts, a member of that extended family that the O'Neills presided over. I had known other members, Tom O'Neill, the oldest son who was a legislative classmate of myself, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), and a former member, Mr. Donnelly, we were all elected to the legislature that same year, and so we came to know each other then.

I got to know over the over the years other members of that family, the O'Neills' son, Kip, the daughters, Susan and Rosemary, the son, Michael, who sadly passed away a few years ago. And

I interacted with them and did a lot of work together with them.

Millie O'Neill was not always a presence here. She came down when her husband became the Speaker, but once she did, she became a vital part of this city. I was privileged as a Massachusetts Member from time to time to be at the events where we were celebrating any number of holidays or other important political functions. Sometimes you go to those things reluctantly. Sometimes you finish a day here and just want to go home. But, Mr. Speaker, when you knew that Tip and Millie O'Neill were going to be at an event, then you wanted to go because you knew it would be suffused with laughter and warmth and all of the best things about people coming together. Because separately Millie O'Neill and Tip O'Neill were wonderful people of strength and of great commitment; together there was a synergy. They brought out in each other the best of the best.

□ 2030

They enjoyed each other's company, and they made it impossible to be in their company and not to share in that enjoyment.

When we mourn, Mr. Speaker, we mourn for the person who has passed away. We mourn also for ourselves. We mourn for our lost memories, for the good times we once had and will not have again; and as I said when I learned of the death of Millie O'Neill, I was profoundly saddened by the passing of that wonderful woman, and I was also saddened myself to realize that never again would I be in her company, never again would I be one of the beneficiaries of what she radiated.

So, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the chance to come say to Tom and Kip and Rosemary and Susan how sorry I am; but I am confident that very soon, having had the privilege to be the children of that wonderful woman, that the very, very good memories of their mother, just as they have of their father, will crowd out the pain.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this Special Order in commemoration of Millie O'Neill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

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

(Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. TIERNEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. LYNCH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

TRIBUTE TO MILLIE O'NEILL

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

Mr. OBEY. Mr. Speaker, Millie and Tip O'Neill were members of the Studs Terkel generation. They were Democrats because they saw the Democratic Party as a vehicle to help the common people of this country. They were Democrats who accepted human nature. They did not try to change people. They simply tried to appeal to their better natures. They just did not appeal to their common sense. They appealed to their sense of common justice.

Millie loved her man. She knew her man. She knew he was a strong man, but she also knew that he could be even stronger buttressed by love, and she gave of it fully. Millie would make every congressional spouse feel like she or he were welcome as family. They were two strong and good people who made their community and their country better for everybody.

In my view, Tip O'Neill's finest hour as a defender of this institution outside of the Watergate era came on a day after the regular order of business was done, just like today. Only in those days, during this period known as Special Order, the camera did not pan the Chamber. The camera simply focused closely on the person speaking in the well; and on one famous occasion, a young Newt Gingrich, later to become Speaker, took the well of the House and began a speech attacking Members on this side of the aisle, and with the camera close upon him, he challenged Members who were not there, but the camera gave the appearance that the Chamber was full. Mr. Gingrich challenged Members in an empty Chamber to answer him if his allegations were wrong.

Tip felt that that was a fundamental misleading of the American people. So he rushed to the House floor and told Mr. Gingrich what he thought of that kind of conduct. In my view, what he said may have been a technical violation of the rules; but in my view and in Millie's view, it should not have been, because in Tip's view and in her view and in the views of many of us, we thought that what Tip was saying was

the truth. Unfortunately, as was pointed out, sometimes truth is not a defense on this floor under the House rules, and so Millie was proud of the fact that Tip stood up for what he felt was right, as were we all that day.

I find it ironic that Millie died last night, just as the Boston Red Sox were winning the right to move on to the post-season series by seeing the last pitch of the game go the Red Sox way. As a huge, huge Red Sox fan, I know Tip would have been thrilled to see that; but with Millie's dying at that same time, she could at least rush and tell Tip the good news. So I think all of us are hoping that for the next 2 weeks Millie and Tip will have a good box seat in heaven, watching the Red Sox hopefully playing the Cubs in the World Series.

They brought grace to their State. They brought grace to this institution, and they brought good feelings and warmth and cheer and respect to all of us who knew them both; and I know that, as will the family, we will all miss both of them greatly.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. FILNER addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. HOLT addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

LETTERS FROM CONSTITUENTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I just got the good news that in the first inning the Cubs versus Marlins, that the Cubs are three to nothing, scored three runs. So Chicago fans are very, very happy after waiting since 1908 to win a World Series. We think this is the year, and it would be great if it

were the Chicago Cubs and the Boston Red Sox.

But I am here for another purpose this evening, and that is, I wanted to read some of the letters that have come from constituents of mine regarding the war in Iraq, the ongoing war in Iraq, as has the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and others.

The letters and e-mails that have been largely generated by *moveon.org*, that has an online petition asking people, and hundreds of thousands have responded to sign on to their online petition, that says that Congress must withhold the \$87 billion requested by President Bush until he dismisses the team responsible for the quagmire in Iraq, starting with Defense Secretary Rumsfeld, and ends the U.S. occupation of Iraq by transferring authority for rebuilding to the United Nations.

I know that the writers of these letters did not mean just a kind of shuffling of the players, that is, to move Condoleezza Rice up one and Donald Rumsfeld down one, but rather, that the team that has gotten us into this situation in which day after day Americans wake up to news of more of our troops being killed and still no plan. These are the sentiments that are expressed in these letters from my constituents.

David from Chicago says, "Do not authorize the spending of any additional American citizens' money on this madness until the people in charge make a drastic personnel change, draft a complete and detailed game plan directly involving the United Nations, and apologies made to all peoples and nations caught up in this disgraceful and bloody mess!"

Dorothy from Evanston says, "Please zip the open purse closed before our billions and billions of dollars go into the quagmire which is Iraq, largely because of the policies of Secretary Rumsfeld, and President Bush's espousal of same. Secretary Rumsfeld ought to be removed from office as quickly as possible, and we should ask the United Nations to join us as full partners, in authority as in other ways, in trying to normalize Iraq. Thank you very much."

Mary from Chicago says, "I am appalled at the amount of money this administration paid to companies that have such close ties to Bush and his friends. As this atrocity drags out, it is clear that their agenda has always been to get their hands on Iraqi oil and they don't mind sacrificing our servicemen and -women to do it. It is an insult to those men and women, to the American people, and to the world to give this administration the money they have the audacity to demand. If you give it to them, why not make the check directly payable to Halliburton care of Dick Cheney? Please do not give your stamp of approval by voting to give this money, especially before all of the 'players' in this disaster are held accountable for their lies and deception."

David from Chicago says, "The people of Iraq deserve our continued commitment to helping them redevelop their country. However, we must recognize that we can't do it alone and that the United Nations must be legitimately engaged in leading us out of Iraq. Secretary Rumsfeld and his team are clearly unwilling and/or incapable of taking this course and therefore are unfit to continue in their current role."

Another David from Chicago says, "I hear story after story of parents of our men and women serving in Iraq sending regular care packages with things like sunscreen because their children are not being provided these items by the military. It is clear that the money being sent is not being targeted to those in the service and apparently not to the Iraqi people who still lack power, food, water and medical facilities. It does appear that Halliburton is profiting quite nicely from its no-bid contract."

Catherine from Chicago, "I have already voiced my opinion on the issue of the \$87 billion in aid to Iraq in phone calls to my representatives in Congress. This is an outrageous, egregious use of American and my tax dollars. I support appropriate aid. This is a completely inappropriate boondoggle turning into a disaster!"

Keith from Chicago says, "Please do not fund another cent for the occupation of Iraq. It is immoral to expect future generations to pay for a war that does virtually nothing to make Americans or other peoples safe from terrorism."

Jonathan says, who is from Chicago, "Don't reward failure! The war in Iraq was won handily, but the Defense Department's hamfisted attempts to run things in Iraq, over the objections of the more experienced State Department, has been dismal and embarrassing. By all means, fund the continue rebuilding efforts in Iraq, but not while the architects of the current mess are still choosing how to spend the money."

PAYING TRIBUTE TO MILLIE O'NEILL

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, in 1976 Congressman Tip O'Neill from Massachusetts was selected by the House to serve as Speaker; and while for most of us that was an exciting era, most people did not know that when he came to Washington and brought his family, he brought the wonderful and the beautiful Mildred O'Neill with him.

All of us have heard and talked about so often the partnerships and the sacrifices that wives and children make for those of us who have offered ourselves for public service, but I do not think that was so with Millie and Tip O'Neill because they just seemed like a

perfect movie Hollywood couple that just loved each other and did not mind expressing that love in front of everybody.

I had the opportunity for 12 consecutive years to travel with Tip O'Neill as he was invited around the world as Speaker; but I do not know whether it was Tip or Millie, but one thing was abundantly clear, that they were not Democratic trips. They were not Republican trips. It was traveling with Millie and Tip O'Neill, and they made everyone feel like just one big congressional family, representing this great body and representing these great United States.

You always feel when you have lost somebody that you just did not spend enough time saying how much you appreciated them while they were here, and I tried to tell Millie how much I loved her, and Millie had been very kind to me, as had Speaker Tip O'Neill; but I suspect that for the rest of us, many who never knew this wonderful couple, that we can take time out as we lost Millie to see whether we could be more sensitive and appreciative, not only to our wives but to our families that are either with us here in Washington or back at home, and that some way we can go to the Members who were fortunate to serve at a time where we did not dislike each other as a body, we may have disagreed on war or disagreed on policy, disagreed on theories, but at the end of the day, we were just so proud to be Members of this House.

□ 2045

It was people like Millie who kept our families together, who kept encouraging our wives, who really inspired a lot of our Members to want to be good Members of Congress and not Democratic and Republican Members of Congress.

So I would just like to join with so many people who knew and loved Millie O'Neill. Not nearly as much as Tip did, but we always will remember him singing to her and her batting eyes as though it was a flirtatious first date. We will miss you, Millie, as we miss Tip. So many of us are just so fortunate and so lucky that if we do not have them, we have their fond memories.

TRIBUTE TO MILLIE O'NEILL

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

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, Massachusetts will miss Millie O'Neill dearly. She and Tip were one of the greatest couples of the greatest generation. I am sure that if Tip were with us today, he would say that he was the luckiest man in the world to have met his sweetheart Millie in high school, to have her willingly and joyfully join him on a journey through the highs and the lows of national politics in

America's last half century, to have raised three wonderful sons and two outstanding daughters. Tommy, who I met at Boston College; Susan, who was my classmate and a history major with me at Boston College. I have known them my whole life.

This is a wonderful family, and they balanced the demands of that journey against the love and attention that a family requires. And Millie emerged from it all with her love for Tip as strong and as deep and as transparent as the two schoolkids they once were. She leaves a legacy of warmth and companionship that will glow for the ages.

Millie was pretty good at taking Tip's favorite sayings and turning them around to her advantage. One of my favorites is retold in Tip's wonderful autobiography, *Man of the House*. Tip loved to remind people in politics of the priceless advice of Mrs. O'Brian, a neighbor and teacher in North Cambridge. She taught him the lesson that you should never assume someone will vote for you. You have to ask, said Mrs. O'Brian. So Tip writes, "Poor Millie is sick of hearing me tell the Mrs. O'Brian story, and I can't blame her. But during my long career in Congress, we would always go to the polls together on election day, and before leaving the house I would say to her, Honey, I would like to ask for your vote. Tom, she would reply, I will give you every consideration."

Millie's selfless devotion to her children and her grandchildren and her support for the March of Dimes and the arts was unparalleled. All of us in Massachusetts and our country feel like we have lost a pillar of public service. And, oh, how she loved the trips with the Rangels and the Contes and the Moakleys and the Michels on their journeys around the world, this incredible congressional delegation, with each of them becoming a family member of the other family in the course of all of the years that they traveled together.

So for us it is a great loss, but it is I think our country's great, great, great honor to have had Tip and her be the Man and the Woman of this House for 10 years, providing a family-like atmosphere that so many Members long for; that brought a joy to this place, as almost a second home for Members when they were away rather than a place that they just saw as one in which they worked. Those days we all long for. And we thank the O'Neills for the blessings which they conferred upon each of us during their lives because they are amongst our fondest memories.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I pay tribute to a gem of a lady, Millie O'Neill, wife of former Speaker of the House Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill, who recently passed away. According to the obituary in the Boston Globe, Millie had taken an afternoon nap in order to watch her beloved Red Sox play the fifth and deciding game of the American League Division Series against the Oak-

land Athletics and she passed away in her sleep.

Millie O'Neill was an incredible woman who was not often recognized for the selfless work she did for Congress and our country. Mr. Speaker, I want to call attention to two things that Mrs. O'Neill was instrumental in achieving. The first was a massive fundraising effort on behalf of the Ford's Theatre Foundation, raising over \$4 million dollars, for which Millie was recognized at a Gala dinner in 1984.

The second item that I believe Mrs. O'Neill deserves to be recognized for was ensuring that the House of Representatives keep normal hours during her husband's Speakership. According to Tip's autobiography, he wrote that when he became Speaker, Millie told him that she didn't want him keeping the House in till 8 or 9 at night because she had heard concerns from other Member's wives that they didn't appreciate not knowing when their husbands would be home. As a result, during the majority of Speaker O'Neill's leadership the House of Representatives was a more family friendly environment and did not have the all night sessions that plague our distinguished body today.

Mr. Speaker, as I mentioned, Mrs. O'Neill passed in her sleep while taking a nap in order to watch her beloved Red Sox play later that evening. Although her passing prevented her from watching in person, I am sure that she was delighted to watch the Red Sox triumph from the best seat in the house, next to her beloved Tip.

Mr. Speaker, I urge of my colleagues to join me in offering the strongest condolences to the entire O'Neill family and request that today's Boston Globe article about her passing be placed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD.

[From the Boston Globe, Oct. 7, 2003]

MILDRED O'NEILL, 89; WIFE, "PARTNER" OF POLITICAL ICON

(By Ron DePasquale)

Mildred A. "Millie" O'Neill, widow and celebrated sweetheart of Thomas P. "Tip" O'Neill Jr., former speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives, died in her sleep yesterday in her Bethesda, Md., home, her family said.

Her son, former Massachusetts Lieutenant Governor Thomas P. O'Neill III of Boston, said Mrs. O'Neill had taken a nap, so she could catch last night's Red Sox playoff game, when she died. She was 89.

Her son called her a "lovely, perfect lady" who enjoyed taking care of her family and working for charity. His parents' love was inspiring, he said. "They were inseparable at a very early age and right through to the end of their lives," he said.

On the dedication page of his 1987 autobiography, "Man of the House," Tip O'Neill referred to his wife as "The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother and my partner through so many triumphs and trials."

Anyone involved in Massachusetts politics from the 1940s to the 1980s could remember Tip O'Neill singing the 1930s' tune "Apple Blossom Time" to his wife, said U.S. Representative Barney Frank of Newton. "Whenever you were with the two of them, everybody was happy," Frank said last night. "They were like some couple out of the movies. The sense of warmth that existed between the two of them was just extraordinary."

Born Mildred Miller in Somerville in 1914, she met her future husband at St. John's High School in North Cambridge, where she graduated in 1932.

At a 1999 Boston College ceremony honoring her husband with a permanent library

exhibit, Mrs. O'Neill said, "life with Tom was a wonderful experience, and I am proud to have shared those 50 years and see parts of it displayed at this library."

Tip O'Neill died in 1994, ending a storied life as one of the country's premier politicians. He retired from the House in 1986 after 50 years in politics. His wife was a constant presence in his social and political circles.

In his autobiography, O'Neill wrote that when he became speaker and Millie learned that other wives never knew when their husbands were coming home at night, she told him, "I don't want you keeping them in the House until 8 or 9 at night. And that, more or less, marked the end of evening sessions in the House."

Mrs. O'Neill was chair or a member of the boards of the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club, and the International Club. As chairwoman of the historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, she was one of the first to receive the Lincoln Award, in recognition in 1984 for spearheading a \$4 million fund-raising drive.

"Now, Mildred, you may have suspected now and then that from time to time your husband and I find something about which we disagree," President Ronald Reagan quipped at the awards ceremony. "But there is one thing that we sure agree on—he's lucky, mighty lucky, to be the man in your life. On behalf of everybody with whom you work, your work for this grand, old theater has meant so much, Millie, that we all thank you from the bottom of our hearts."

The O'Neills lived in Cambridge until 1976, when Tip was named speaker and the family moved to Washington. The city of Cambridge dedicated the north branch of its library as the Mildred A. O'Neill Library in 1995.

Raymond L. Flynn, former mayor of Boston, said, "She was a great friend. She was just a remarkable mother and led a wonderful life and was a great representative for America."

In addition to her son, Mrs. O'Neill leaves two daughters, Rosemary of Washington and Susan of Bethesda; a son, Christopher, also of Bethesda; a sister, Dorothy Ryan, of Marston Mills; and eight grandchildren. A son, Michael, died in 1997. A funeral Mass will be said Friday at 10 a.m. in St. John the Evangelist Church in Cambridge. Burial will be at Mt. Pleasant Cemetery in Harwichport, where Mrs. O'Neill had long summered.

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commemorate the life of a wonderful woman—Mildred "Millie" O'Neill. After a long and illustrious life, she passed away in her sleep last night after 89 years.

Like so many congressional spouses, Millie committed her life to public service alongside her loving husband, Tip. While her husband was the Speaker of the House, she worked to advance a number of important causes and took leadership roles in major philanthropic groups. Her favorite charities and projects included the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club, and the effort to restore historic Ford's Theater.

She will be missed by everyone who knew her.

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mildred O'Neill, wife of the late House Speaker Thomas P "Tip" O'Neill, who passed away yesterday.

Mrs. O'Neill was a great political partner for her husband throughout his career. She was Tip's sounding board and confidant. As Tip wrote in *All Politics Is Local*, "Every election day as Millie and I left for the polls, I'd say, 'Honey, I'd like to ask for your vote.' 'Tom,' she'd reply, 'I'll give you every consideration.'"

The constituents of Massachusetts' 8th district who were represented by Tip O'Neill benefited greatly from her dedication. As the current representative from the 8th, I regularly encounter people with a story to tell about Mrs. O'Neill's legendary commitment to her community and numerous worthwhile causes.

Mrs. O'Neill was also a devoted mother, raising five children and instilling in them an appreciation for public service. She was involved with a number of organizations, including the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club and the International Club. She also served as Chairwoman of Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, receiving the Lincoln Award in 1984 for her fundraising efforts. She was also very active in the St. John's Church Rebuilding Fund and served as President of the parish Guild of St. John's Church—maintaining strong ties to her community.

As Tip wrote in a chapter entitled *Never Forget Your Spouse*, "My Millie certainly did it for me. When I was off to Washington helping run the country, she was back home running the family. When I was at my low point in politics, she was giving me a hug and telling me to go out and do my job. When I was in the spotlight taking the applause, she was in the background cheering me on. I love her for it."

All of us from Massachusetts, but especially those from the 8th District, will miss Mrs. O'Neill greatly. Our thoughts are with her family during this difficult time.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I join with my colleagues from Massachusetts this evening to remember Millie O'Neill, a great woman from our home State and the wife of the late Tip O'Neill, who passed away yesterday at her home.

Millie O'Neill was a wonderful woman; a wife, a mother and an activist involved in many social organizations and causes. For the vast majority of her 89 years, she stood by Tip's side and was certainly his chief advisor on "domestic" matters. The two were married for 52 years, and during that time the navigated the political tides of Massachusetts and the Capitol. They were certainly a dynamic duo.

Tip referred to Millie as "The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother and my partner through so many triumphs and trials." She was a mentor, a leader and a friend, and she will be missed.

Mr. Speaker, much is going to be said this evening in honor of Millie O'Neill. She is deserving of all of it and more. But perhaps the best testament to the quality of her life—to her legacy—is the quality of the lives she left behind. I'd like to extend my sympathies to Millie's daughters, Rosemary and Susan, and her sons, Tom and Kip, and to her eight grandchildren, who to Millie's credit, have undoubtedly been instilled with an indelible respect for family and a desire to improve the greater public good.

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great woman and a great American, Mrs. Mildred ("Millie") O'Neill, who passed away yesterday.

Millie was the wife of our beloved House Speaker, Tip O'Neill. On the dedication page of his autobiography, "Man of the House," Tip described her as "The Speaker of My House. A loving wife, mother and my partner through so many triumphs and trials." They enjoyed 52 years of marriage together, and they had five children.

But Millie was more than merely the wife of a well-known politician. In addition to her dedication to her children and her husband, she very ably served many worthwhile causes. Mrs. O'Neill was chair or a member of the boards of the March of Dimes, the Congressional Wives Club, the International Club, and So Others Might Eat. She led a \$4 million fundraising effort as chairwoman of the historic Ford's Theatre in Washington, DC, which earned her a prestigious Lincoln Award in 1984.

In addition, she was active in many causes back in Massachusetts, including the St. John's Church Rebuilding Fund, and the St. Coletta's School for Exceptional Children.

Mr. Speaker, Millie was a lovely, charming woman who will be missed. Her warmth and her sense of humor were radiant. Story has it that Tip, always mindful of the rule that all politics is local, would make a point of asking her personally for her vote every election day as they left for the polls. Fitting her good nature, her typical response was to acknowledge the request by replying only, "Tom, I'll give it every consideration."

During the awards ceremony at which she was presented with the Lincoln Award, another well-known American, President Ronald Reagan, noted her marriage to Tip, by remarking "he's lucky, mighty lucky, to be the man in your life."

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to refresh and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials on the subject of this special order on Mildred O'Neill.

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

There was no objection.

HOUSTON'S RAIL PROJECT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I wish to join my colleagues in offering my sympathy to the O'Neill family for their loss.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to share some thoughts about what I believe the role of this House, and certainly the role of those who are part of the people's House, who represent the millions of Americans across the Nation, and how their roles should be one of advocacy, assistance and empowerment.

Sometimes one might be a little less than enthusiastic and certainly concerned to bring a local matter to the floor of this body, because we are here to work on behalf of all of the American people. But as I looked at this issue that has been plaguing Houston for almost 25 years, I believe that the precedent being set here is one where I need to warn my colleagues and make them well aware of how sometimes the works of Members can be used to undermine the efforts of local communities.

In Houston, Texas, since 1978, we have had a large, fair and moderate majority who have wanted to see rail implemented in our community. During the course of that time, we have had a number of elections, perhaps thousands of community hearings and meetings, and many times came nearly to the brink of success in seeing rail voted in in Houston. But each time there was something to thwart its way: Politics, differences of opinions, or mayoral races. But never did that reflect the total voice of the people. Special interests have been involved and engaged, and they have used elected officials in any way that they can.

As we move toward FY 2004, I am very proud to say that the Houston Metro has done something that probably no other agency advocating rail or light rail or commuter rail in Houston has done. They have put forward plans that have had any number of extensive hearings in our community. They have worked with small cities, they have worked with surrounding counties, and they have come up with a regional mobility plan. They worked with elected officials, county officials, county commissioners, the mayor's office, the small, local, city mayoral offices, various Members of Congress, and United States Senators. All of them have been engaged in this much-needed effort in Houston, a city that is a friendly city, full of wonderful neighborhoods, the fourth largest city in the Nation, but number seven on the vulnerability list for terrorist acts, and a city that has been grappling with environmental concerns as it relates to clean air.

So we have reached the point of consensus of a 72-mile project, 39 miles, and just as we are about to get the unanimous vote of our board, or close to unanimous vote, the intervention of special interests drew the attention of the mayor to the point of compromise, so that we have moved on a 22-mile project and not a 39-mile project. When we moved forward, we were told that we would be able to go to the voters now with a unified voice; that even those who were against it would be joining us.

Lo and behold, we have come to find out that there are Members of this body who are willing yet to undermine local constituencies. They are using agencies like the Department of Transportation and the FTA to thwart the efforts and desires of thousands, maybe millions, of Houstonians and those in Harris County. We now find that the Department of Transportation was used to issue opinions that are half-baked and without total facts. Those opinions have been issued without getting the complete facts from the actual agency, without calling the actual agency, and misrepresenting the agency's position. And then Members of this body have utilized that agency to represent that they would go to the United States Attorney under the Department of Justice in order to attack or challenge or accuse these Metro

board members of having committed criminal offenses.

Mr. Speaker this is an abomination. This is a precedent not worth setting. This is a horrific act that can be bad news, if you will, for the rest of our colleagues. We realize that this body has oversight responsibilities. We realize, in fact, that we, as Members of Congress, have oversight responsibilities. But, Mr. Speaker, we should not abuse the power that is given to us. It is an outrage that agencies would be used to thwart the desires and the commitment and work of our local communities.

Mr. Speaker, I close by simply saying I will stand with thousands in Houston and Harris County. We will have regional mobility, we will have light rail, and I look forward to putting forward a motion to instruct, so we can stop this bad precedent occurring in this House.

IRAQ

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, 165 years ago, conservatives in this House of Representatives passed a rule banning the discussion and debate of slavery in the United States House of Representatives. In those days, former President, then Congressman, John Quincy Adams, trooped to the House floor night after night, week after week, protesting that the issues of slavery were not being debated, and he then shared letters from his constituents, many of them women who could not vote, so that Members of Congress and the American people would learn more about why he believed slavery should be abolished.

In like manner today, Mr. Speaker, conservative leadership in this House of Representatives has not really allowed full debate on whether or not the Bush administration told us the truth on his reasons for taking us into Iraq; whether leaders in the Bush administration, all the way up and down, were actually leveling with the American people; whether and how the \$87 billion the President has asked for should be spent, whether we should spend it. Questions and concerns about that \$87 billion that the American people have raised are not being debated, and especially the concern that my constituents are expressing about the safety of our troops.

And so similar to John Quincy Adams, Mr. Speaker, I have brought letters tonight from my constituents, as I have night after night since July, expressing the concerns of people in my district about whether or not the Bush administration told the truth, about the Halliburton connections with Vice President CHENEY, the company that is getting literally hundreds of millions of dollars in contracts, even though Vice President CHENEY is receiving from that company still, sitting this

close to the oval office, \$13,000 a month from Halliburton, and just concerns that people in my district have about all of this.

Melissa, from Akron, writes: "We truly need to change our course of action in Iraq. Mr. Rumsfeld's arrogant, bombastic, my-way-or-the-highway way of thinking, speaking, and acting have put this country and our soldiers, especially our soldiers, in a precarious position, some ways worse than Vietnam. Our own country is falling apart: The energy grid, highway infrastructure, schools, health care, child care, industry, personal freedom, the environment, as well as employment. The money wasted on this fool's errand could have been used to rebuild this country, to find Osama bin Laden, to really deal with terrorism, not by providing Halliburton," the Vice President's company, that as I said is paying him \$13,000 a month still, "not by providing Halliburton with a steady income."

Jessica of Akron Ohio writes: "The \$87 billion President Bush has asked for could be spent in so many other ways that would benefit Americans directly. Manufacturing, education, and health care are just a few areas that have been put on the back burner since the administration has taken office."

What Jessica is referring to, surely, is the fact we have lost 3½ million jobs since President Bush took office, 2½ million manufacturing jobs. In Ohio, literally one out of every seven manufacturing jobs has vanished without any real response from the President.

Howard from Akron writes: "The Bush administration bungling in Iraq must be challenged. Before any more money is approved for this misadventure, Congress must insist on seeing a comprehensive plan, with time lines for restoring basic services, establishing home rule, and removing U.S. troops."

Howard's letter suggests what so many of these letters do; that people are concerned about the safety of the troops first, they want answers about where the \$87 billion is going, how much of it is going to private contractors, like Halliburton and other unbid contracts, that happen to be to people who happen to be very good friends and often contributors of the President, and just when there is going to be a timetable to wrap this up in Iraq.

□ 2100

Liane and George from Avon write, "Please don't give the President the added funds he requested. We need a guarantee that our troops are coming home and all rebuilding responsibility is transferred to the United Nations."

Evelyn of Akron writes, "Please vote against giving the President \$87 billion without his relinquishing part of the power to the U.N. and any countries that are willing to send troops and money to Iraq."

We have already spent \$69 billion in Iraq, more than a billion dollars a

week, an \$87 billion request has come forward from the President, and we are not getting much help at all obviously from other nations in terms of troops or money, as Evelyn points out.

Stephanie from Strongsville, Ohio writes, "Millions of Americans are out of work and thousands more are laid off every day. State and county taxes are increasing to cover the cost of Mr. Bush's huge refund for the wealthy. And now Mr. Bush wants billions more to fund the disaster that he, Cheney and Rumsfeld created in Iraq?"

Mr. Speaker, Stephanie is referring to the budget cuts and the tax increases that Ohio has done. I think people in my district and around the country are very concerned about the \$87 billion.

KEEPING SOCIAL SECURITY SOLVENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MURPHY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. SMITH) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I am going to talk for a little while about another dilemma facing this country, and that is the problem of keeping Social Security solvent.

We developed a program back in 1934 that provided that existing workers pay in their taxes, and then immediately those taxes were sent out to retirees. Franklin Delano Roosevelt, after the Great Depression, seeing many American families going over the hill to the poor house, like Will Carlton wrote about in Hillsdale County, Michigan, where I am from, provided a program which said let us have some forced savings during your working years so you have greater social security in your retirement years.

It is interesting searching the archives in which the Senate said that these accounts should be in privately owned accounts, but you can only take them out when you retire. The House, on the other hand, passed a bill which said the government should collect all of the money and then send out the money to existing retirees as those individuals reach 65 years of age. This pay-as-you-go program worked very well in those early years because there was a growing number in the workforce, and most people died before they reached 65. Actually, up until 1939, the average age of death was 62 years of age. So if a person paid in all their life and never reached 65, the program worked very well.

Now we are faced with the dilemma of two colliding forces hitting us and many other countries of the world. Those two colliding forces are the fact that we are living longer and the birth rate is declining. That means that there are fewer workers paying in their taxes to accommodate the needs of a growing number of retirees in relation to the number of workers paying in their taxes.

I would ask all my colleagues to agree to three goals of retirement security. We are going to have to deal with it. We have known that for the last 12 years, that Social Security was going broke, that it could not stay solvent. The three requirements that I think everyone should agree to are, one, continue to provide retirement security for the elderly; number two, give young people an opportunity to improve their retirement prospects; and, number three, benefit the economy instead of burdening it.

Now we are faced with a situation where every State in the Nation has changed their retirement program from a fixed benefit after people retire to a fixed contribution. Most companies, most of our industry and companies have also made that change simply because the fact is very clear that with a declining number of workers and an increasing number of retirees in relation to the number of workers simply because we are living longer, requires that the only program that can continue and be solvent is moving towards a fixed contribution program.

Here is the dilemma that I would like to call to the attention of my colleagues, and that dilemma is the fact that every time this country has run into problems of not having enough Social Security tax money coming in through the FICA tax, one of two things have happened: we have either increased taxes or we have cut benefits, or we have done both.

This chart represents how much we have increased taxes over the years. In 1940, the rate was 2 percent on the first \$3,000 for a maximum tax on any individual worker in this country of \$60 a year. By 1960, we decided to up that tax rate, and we increased it threefold to 6 percent on the first \$4,800 for a total tax that was payable by workers in this country of \$288.

In 1980, up to 10.16 percent, jumped it up to \$25,900, up to almost \$26,000, and the total tax paid in by any individual increased also to \$2,631.

By 2000, we are paying 12.4 percent; it is on \$76,200. That is indexed back in the so-called Greenspan Commission in 1983 where we changed the Social Security laws to cut benefits to increase the retirement age and to again increase taxes, and so the age today is the first 12.4 percent on \$84,000 because it is indexed to inflation.

I just cannot stress strongly enough, if we put off the solution to this problem, Washington, Congress, the House and the Senate and the President, are going to repeat what they have done so many times in the past until disaster is upon us and then simply wait until the disaster is upon us and then say we are going to have to increase taxes and cut benefits.

I call on my colleagues as aggressively as I can to say, look, the longer we put off the solution, the more drastic that solution is going to have to be, and it is unfair to American workers. The fact is that most American work-

ers today, 76 percent, pay more in Social Security tax than they do for income tax.

This is a pie chart that I thought would be good to represent how big Social Security has become as a portion of total State and Federal Government spending. Social Security now takes 22 percent of the total spending of the Federal Government. Defense, even with the problems in Iraq, Afghanistan, are still only 18 percent, growing up now to 19 percent.

Domestic discretionary, all of the arguments that we do from February through most of the year on the 13 appropriations bills uses up 19 percent of the total Federal budget compared to 22 percent for Social Security. Other entitlements, 14 percent; Medicaid, 6 percent; Medicare, 11 percent. But here again, if we add prescription drugs to Medicare, Medicare eventually over the next 30 years could overtake Social Security as far as the portion of the Federal budget that is used for that particular program.

It is easy for Members of Congress to try to do good and solve more problems for the people. In fact, I see part of the dilemma is a Member of Congress coming up with new problems to help solve some of those problems back home probably increases his or her chances of being reelected because they are on television and the front page of the newspaper cutting the ribbon for the new jogging trail or the new library or the new pork project or the new social program that they have introduced and passed in this Congress.

What do we do in a Congress that we have today where more and more Members of Congress represent a population that wants more from government? Right now over 50 percent of the people in the United States get more from government in government programs than they pay in in taxes, so we can understand a lot of those individuals go to their Member of Congress, or their Senator, and say I do not care about the increased taxes. And that is because they do not pay into the income tax contribution part of our programs here in this country, and so we have over 50 percent of the American people that now get more from government than they pay in taxes, and so the tendency of a lot of those individuals is to suggest to their representatives, let us have more government. I think this is a huge danger of taking away some of the things that has made this country great.

When our forefathers started this country 227 years ago, I think I am right on that, they said we want a Constitution that provides that those people that work hard, that save, that study and use that education end up better off than those that do not. And now we have a Congress that says let us sort of level the playing field and make sure that everybody has about the same, so we take away from the people that have been successful and give it to those individuals, maybe that

have had bad luck, but maybe they have not had the inspiration to save. I think there is a danger in taking away the motivation that has made this country great. The bigger government gets, the more empowerment we give bureaucrats; and the more we take away from individuals as far as being responsible for their own lives, the greater danger we face in terms of weakening our economy and weakening our relative economic position with the rest of the world.

Back to the Social Security, this chart shows the dilemma in terms of a short-term surplus and very long-term future deficits. There is going to be less money coming in in Social Security tax than is needed to pay out benefits in about 2016 to 2017. Some people suggest just have government pay back what government has borrowed from the Social Security trust fund and we will be okay. Well, I agree, government should keep their hands off the Social Security surplus and the trust fund, but now government has borrowed \$1.3 trillion from Social Security, and it is going to pay it back. It is going to be tough because we are going to have to increase taxes, or we are going to have to increase borrowing to come up with that \$1.3 trillion.

We will do that, but what do we do to come up with the estimated additional \$10 trillion that is needed to keep Social Security solvent? Again, this represents how there are fewer and fewer numbers of workers paying in their Social Security tax to cover benefits. In 1940, there were 38 workers working, paying in their taxes for every one retiree that we had in America. By 2000, it came down to three individuals that were working for every one retiree. As the ratio of workers to retirees diminishes, that means that if we are going to keep those retirees and seniors at the same level of Social Security, then the taxpayers, the current workers, are going to have to pay in more.

□ 2115

The prediction is that by 2025 there are going to be only two people working to come up with enough taxes to accommodate every senior that is retired.

Some people have suggested that if economic times were better, maybe we would solve the problem. Not so, Mr. Speaker. Insolvency is certain. We know how many people there are and when they will retire. We know that people will live longer in retirement, and we know how much they are going to pay in and how much they are going to take out.

Payroll taxes will not cover benefits starting in 2017, and the shortfalls will add up to \$120 trillion. That is hard for even Members of Congress to know how much \$1 trillion is, but it is going to add up to \$120 trillion that we are going to have to come up with by either increasing taxes or increasing borrowing over the next 75 years to keep the promises that we have made in Social Security.

That \$120 trillion paid over the next 75 years represents another statistic that I give, and that is that it is going to take about \$11 trillion today or \$11 trillion unfunded liability, and that means coming up with \$11 trillion today, put it in some kind of a savings account that is going to earn the average rate of return that we get on government bonds right now to accommodate the \$120 trillion. It earns interest over the next 75 years.

I am disappointed that there have been only 26 colleagues that I have counted in both the House and Senate that have been willing to sign on to a Social Security bill that has been scored to keep Social Security solvent. I mean, it is so easy to put off these challenges because it is an easy issue to demagogue. Ninety percent of the seniors today depend on Social Security for most of their retirement income. So one can understand that when a Democrat or a Republican comes up with a proposal for Social Security, and I know this for a fact because I introduced my first Social Security bill when I came to Congress in the 1993-1994 session of Congress, and the next election my opponents were saying "Nick Smith wants to ruin Social Security." It is easy to demagogue; so we have shied away from it. We have not stood up to our responsibilities.

I have heard Members of Congress say it is up to the President to decide. I have heard Members of Congress say the President maybe misled us on Iraq. The fact is that, for lack of a better word, we cannot be wimps in terms of our responsibility in Congress. Whether it is Iraq and we have the opportunity to have all of the classified information that the President does or whether it is solving Social Security, there is a responsibility for the initiative to come from Congress just as much as it should come from the President. This represents what we have borrowed from the trust funds.

And let me mention an interesting fact, in 1983, with the Greenspan Commission rewriting our Social Security laws, they suggested at that time that we needed the kind of increase, the 12.4 percent increase, in taxes with the increased base that we showed on that earlier chart. They suggested that we need a 12.4 percent on an expanded base that started at about 70,000 and is at 84,000 today, but they admit now that they made a mistake, that they increased taxes higher than what was needed. That is why former Senator Moynihan said, Let us lower the tax and have just enough tax to cover benefits; and of course, if we had done that, it would have made it very clear that this was a program that could not sustain itself and was not solvent.

Because of the increased tax, there was extra surplus coming in every year, and so now government borrowed that extra money that was not used when it came in. The money that was not used to pay benefits has now

amounted to \$1.3 trillion, but the shortfall after the full repayment of the trust fund is \$10 trillion. So it is going to take \$11.3 trillion as the current unfunded liability of Social Security, a huge amount, and it needs to be dealt with.

Social Security is a system stretched to its limits. Seventy-eight million baby boomers begin retiring in 2008. Seventy-eight million baby boomers begin retiring in 2008. That means any pay-as-you-go program, whether it is Social Security or Medicare, our anticipation that extra taxes are going to come in from workers is not correct in a situation where these workers are going to be fewer in relation to the number of retirees and to the additional responsibilities that government has in this country.

Social Security spending exceeds tax revenues in 2017, and Social Security trust funds go broke in 2037, that is, if we pay back all that we have borrowed. But remember what government has done in the past is to increase taxes and reduce benefits so that they do not have to pay it back, and that is the challenge, that is the threat. That is why every senior citizen should say to every candidate running for Congress next year, what are you going to do about Social Security? What bill have you written or what bill have you signed on to that is scored to keep Social Security solvent?

It is not new. I mentioned my first bill was in the 1993-1994 session of Congress when I first came to Congress. Here is what the Commissioner of Social Security Dorcas Hardy said back in 1991: "The crisis is coming fast, in the lifetime of a few already retired and of almost all those now under the age 55. The stakes are high, trillions of dollars."

In 1994, I said: "Failing to take prompt action on Social Security will burden our children and grandchildren with benefit cuts and crippling taxes," and that is what I said about every year, and it is so discouraging to not pay attention to what I think is one of America's greatest challenges, and that is to save Social Security.

We talk about Iraq. I think if we are going to talk about Iraq and what are our responsibilities on national security, it is just as important to look at retirement security and economic security in this country; and that means, as we talk about Afghanistan, Iraq, and what it is going to take for expenditures, we should also be talking about what it is going to take to keep Social Security solvent and to keep Medicare solvent.

Let me read a couple more quotes. "Will America grow up before it grows old? Will we make the needed transformation early, intelligently, and humanely, or procrastinate until delay exacts a huge price for those least able to afford it?" And that was the former Secretary of Commerce and Concord Coalition President Pete Peterson in 1996.

In 1998, Tim Penny, a Democrat from that side of the aisle, was very aggressive as he studied Social Security, and he said at that time, "We face a crisis in the Social Security system, and we can no longer wait to put it on sound footing. We need to move from the unreliable 'pay-as-you-go' system to one based on benefiting from real investment."

And in 1998 and 1999, I chaired the bipartisan Task Force on Social Security, and here is what all the Democrats and all the Republicans on that task force agreed when we completed. And we agreed, "Time is the enemy of Social Security reform, and we should move without delay," and, again, that was all the Democrats and all the Republicans that agreed to that fact.

And yet nothing happens.

This chart represents that Social Security is not a good investment. The columns represent how long one is going to have to live after they retire to break even on what they and their employer put into Social Security. Of course, in the early years, it was a good deal and they were getting started and were not working very long; so they got back everything they put in very quickly. But by 1995, they had to live 16 years after retirement. By 2005, they have to live 23 years after retirement to break even, and now it is up to 26 years.

The average return on Social Security is 2.7 percent. So can we do better than that? The answer is yes. We can guarantee that we can do better than 2.7 percent on a lot of investments. The Social Security Benefits Guarantee Act, when F.D.R. created the Social Security program over 6 decades ago, he wanted it to feature a private sector component to build retirement income, and Social Security was supposed to be one leg of a three-legged stool to support retirees. It was supposed to go hand in hand with personal savings and private pension plans.

I mentioned the Senate passed Social Security legislation that said there should be private accounts owned by the individual and so if that individual died before 65, it goes to their heirs. The House said government should do it all. When they went to conference, the House went out, and we ended up with the pay-as-you-go program that we have today that is going insolvent.

The diminishing return on the Social Security investment, the average return is less than 2 percent. It is about 1.7 percent. If they happen to be a minority because of the fact if we take the average young black worker, they die before the age of 65, before they gain all the benefits of the retirement program. So actually they do not break even; they have a negative return on what they pay into Social Security.

The average is 2.7 percent, but the Wilshire 5000, and that is from 1993 until 2003, even during these bad years of the stock market, these poor performing years of 2001, 2002, and 2003, even with those years included, the av-

erage return over and above inflation has been 7 percent.

So are we smart enough to come up with some way to have private accounts and limit what those private accounts can be invested in? And probably they are going to be managed by government. That is what I am suggesting. There are going to be limits on what that individual can invest in, but something like what Members of Congress and Federal employees are allowed to do now in the Thrift Savings Account, they would have some choices of how that money is invested.

Of course, the older one gets, the more reasonable it is to put more money in bonds and less money in equities. But just consider that for the last 100 years, any 14-year-period we have not averaged less than that 7 percent growth in equities. So if the economy and government and an indexed stock fund is not going to increase, then this country is not going to be economically well off anyway to pay Social Security benefits.

But the fact is that it is going to be, and when I suggest that there should be a program that is going to help the economy, requiring this additional savings and investment, that is what makes our economy tick. Our savings rate is one of the lowest in the world, but if we can encourage greater savings and investment, then we have a greater assurance that our economy is going to stay strong.

I am going to finish up with a fact that the United States, compared to other countries, has not done very well in moving into a system of having individually owned accounts. The U.S. trails many other countries. In the 18 years since Chile offered the PRAs, the Personal Retirement Accounts, 95 percent of Chilean workers have created accounts. Their average rate of return has been 11.3 percent per year. Among others, Australia, Britain, and Switzerland offer worker PRAs.

Let me conclude, Mr. Speaker, by reminding our Members that the Supreme Court on two occasions now have said that there is no entitlement for Social Security benefits, that government simply has put in a tax on people on the one hand, and on the other hand they are providing benefits that is called Social Security. But twice now the Supreme Court has said there is no entitlement.

□ 2130

Just because you paid into Social Security does not entitle you to take Social Security benefits. I mention that because the threat is, with Congress in a desperate situation, they are going to tend to reduce benefits. You can reduce benefits by reducing the COLA increase per year, you can reduce benefits by saying that you are going to have to retire at an older age, and you can reduce benefits by increasing taxes on individuals.

So I just plead with my colleagues, I plead with the American people, to be

vigilant this coming election, and ask your candidates that are running for President or for United States Senator or for this U.S. House of Representatives, have you written or signed onto legislation that is going to keep Social Security solvent?

INDEPENDENT PROSECUTOR NECESSARY TO INVESTIGATE LEAK REGARDING CIA

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

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, there are two matters that I bring to the attention of the Members of the House. One is whether or not the outing of a CIA operative calls for a special counsel. I would like to enlighten Members that the need to investigate the leaked name of a Central Intelligence Agency operative is one that requires a special counsel.

There are three factors required. The Justice Department has promulgated these regulations under several circumstances. The Attorney General is required to appoint a special counsel when a criminal investigation of a person or matter is warranted; or, two the investigation would present a conflict of interest for the Department; or, three, that it would be in the public interest to appoint an outside special counsel to assume the responsibility.

All three factors appear to be present here. The Justice Department answers the first question for us. It has opened a criminal investigation into charges of disclosing the name of a covert agent.

Second, that the investigation would present a conflict of interest for the Department would then be another basis for a special counsel. Here there is a clear conflict of interest. The Department of Justice investigation focused largely on the White House, which has already been directed to preserve all relevant records. The trail may lead to the Chief of Staff, Karl Rove, who is reported to be responsible for John Ashcroft's very appointment and was a consultant in several of his political campaigns.

Either way, it is inconceivable that such an investigation of the office that heads our entire government could not present a conflict of interest for a subordinate agency. That requires the appointment of a special counsel.

The third reason, of course, for a special counsel is that it is in the public interest.

So I am delighted to bring this important matter once more to the attention of the Members of Congress, because on October 5, 2003, Time magazine reveals that Attorney General Ashcroft paid Mr. Karl Rove \$746,000 for his work on three campaigns. I refer you to Duffy, "Leaking With a Vengeance," Time Magazine, October 5, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I want to report that I have sent the following

letter to the Senior White House Adviser, Mr. Karl Rove, seeking his resignation.

"I write to ask you to resign from the White House staff. Recent reports have indicated that, while you may or may not have been the source of the Robert Novak column which revealed the status and the name of a covert operative, the wife of Ambassador Joseph Wilson, you were involved in a subsequent effort to push this classified information to other reporters and give it even wider currency. This itself may be a Federal crime, but regardless of that fact, your actions are morally indefensible. In my view, it is shameful and unethical that an administration that promised to govern with 'honor and integrity' and 'change the tone' in Washington has now a representative of your rank engaged in an orchestrated campaign to smear and intimidate truth-telling critics, placing them in possible physical harm and impairing the efforts and operations of the Central Intelligence Agency.

"Recent reports indicate that you told the journalist, Chris Matthews, and perhaps others, that Mr. WILSON's wife and her undercover status were 'fair game.'"

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The time of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) has expired.

IRAQ WATCH, CONTINUED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be back on the House floor for another hour of what we are calling the Iraq Watch. This is a weekly effort that I have been engaged in with three colleagues for about 2½ months to raise questions each week about our policies in Iraq.

Before I get into the meat of this week's discussion, I am happy to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who is discussing an Iraq-related matter. I am anxious to hear the remainder of his remarks.

(Mr. CONYERS asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. HOEFFEL) for his consideration, and I commend him on the special order that brings him to the floor of the House of Representatives at this hour.

Mr. Speaker, I will finish the letter that I sent to Karl Rove calling for his resignation.

"Recent reports indicate that you told the journalist, Chris Matthews, and perhaps others, that Mr. Wilson's wife and her undercover status were 'fair game.' Evan Thomas and Michael Isikoff, Newsweek Magazine, October 13, 2003. Since these initial allegations

have arisen, neither the White House nor your office have denied your involvement in furthering the leak. Repeated press inquiries into this matter have been rebuffed with technical jargon and narrow legalisms, instead of referring to the broader ethical issues. Indeed, in the same article, it appears a White House source acknowledged that you contacted Mr. Matthews and other journalists, indicating that 'it was reasonable to discuss who sent Mr. Wilson to the African country of Niger.'

"It should be noted that these actions may well have violated 18 U.S.C. section 793, which prohibits the willful or grossly negligent distribution of national defense information that could possibly be used against the United States. The law states that even if you lawfully knew of Mr. Wilson's wife's status, you were obliged to come forward and report the press leak to the proper authorities, not inflame the situation by encouraging further dissemination."

Another section of the law, 18 U.S.C. section 793(f) is used for the basis of that remark.

"Larger than whether any one statute can be read to find criminal responsibility is the issue of whether officials of your stature will be allowed to use their influence to intimidate whistleblowers.

"Over three decades ago, our great Nation was scarred by an administration that would stop at nothing to smear and intimidate its critics. I do not believe the Nation will countenance a repeat of such activities. For your role in this campaign, I would ask that you resign immediately."

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for his cooperation.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his statement and for reading the letter to Mr. Rove. I congratulate the gentleman on his well-reasoned and well-researched document.

I would like to advise the gentleman of my deep concern about this leak that has been so unfair to the wife of Joseph Wilson and to tell the gentleman that Mrs. Plame, Valerie Plame, the wife of Mr. Wilson, that her parents are my constituents in suburban Philadelphia. They were recently interviewed by a local newspaper, and her father, Mr. Plame, expressed his great indignation and outrage that his daughter's cover was blown by this leak. He is demanding that the people accountable be held responsible and that appropriate penalties be levied upon them. He was quite eloquent in his anger and frustration that his daughter's career as an undercover operative for the CIA has been compromised.

I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan for bringing this matter to the floor. I must say your approach, which is asking for Karl Rove's resignation, is one that I would be delighted to see happen. It probably has

about as much chance of succeeding as Rush Limbaugh getting a Diversity Award from the NAACP, but it would be something remarkable if someone in this White House would take responsibility for what is not just an illegal act of blowing the cover of a covert agent, but a morally reprehensible act.

I thank the gentleman, and I yield to the gentleman for further comments.

Mr. CONYERS. I thank the gentleman. I had no idea there were members of the family that were in your district.

Let me point out that this may not be as remote as it may seem. There were or could be other agents whose covers have also been blown as a result of blowing hers. So it is not just one person. We do not know how far this damage may go.

It is my responsibility as a senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary to make sure that a fair investigation takes place, not among people who have worked together and been friends for many years and exchanged the kinds of sums of money and political activity that I have already related, but that there be a fair and independent investigation.

□ 2145

And only through a special counsel could that happen. I thank the gentleman for yielding again.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the need for an independent investigation by a special counsel. I do not think for a minute that the Justice Department is able to appropriately investigate this leak that allegedly comes from the White House. I do have faith in the career prosecutors at the Justice Department, as I know the gentleman does. But as the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) pointed out a few minutes ago, there is a preexisting political relationship between Mr. Ashcroft, the Attorney General, and Mr. Rove, and for which Mr. Ashcroft paid Mr. Rove some \$700,000, appropriately done, in the course of several political campaigns. But clearly, that relationship alone should disqualify Mr. Ashcroft from being in charge of this investigation of potential leaking.

I would say to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), we have started on Iraq Watch with the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) reading this evening a letter to Karl Rove asking him to resign his position, and the gentleman from Michigan was here for a 5-minute speech, and we have dragged him into the Iraq Watch this evening. We are glad that he is here, and he has made a major contribution. I am happy to yield to my good friend and cofounder of the Iraq Watch, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I am glad to see the senior member of the Committee on the Judiciary here tonight speaking on an issue that has clearly captured the attention of the

American people. I applaud him for his efforts.

I think it is very important, and I did not have an opportunity to see the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) make a presentation, but there have been stories in the media that have indicated that some are suggesting that there be a revival of the so-called independent counsel statute and, I dare say, that is not the case. I think it is very important to make that distinction.

What we are seeking here is not a revival of that particular statute, which I think many of us have concluded, both Republican and Democrat, that it led to serious abuses. For example, millions and millions of dollars were spent on one particular investigation involving the former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, Mr. Cisneros, a leader in the Hispanic community in Texas and nationally, which involved the issue of whether he lied to an FBI agent about how much money he contributed to a female friend of his. I dare say that bill, as I remember it, the bill to the American taxpayer, was in excess of \$17 million. But that clearly was abusive. And that is why, under the leadership of the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), and the then-chairman of the committee, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), supported by the current chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENBRENNER), the so-called independent counsel statute was allowed to lapse. And I do not think there is a Member in this House that wants to see it return because of its potential for abuse.

But there is an option that is available, and that is the appointment of a special counsel by the Attorney General, in this case John Ashcroft, who would retain some supervisory powers, but would not be involved in the daily exercise of his prosecutorial authority. Because it would then, I dare say, lend credence to the independence of any decision and any conclusion that might be made by a prosecutor, the so-called special counsel.

Mr. Speaker, as we have been discussing now for, I think it is better than 3 months, in this whole issue of Iraq, the intelligence, the questionable intelligence that was relied on by so many of our colleagues to support the resolution to go to war, much of that intelligence has been reviewed and has been found to be unsubstantiated, uncorroborated, misleading and, in some cases, outright false, as well as the cost of our intervention into Iraq, and now, the overwhelming bills that the American taxpayers are faced with.

So we have been talking about having an independent commission. Let us depoliticize it. Let us take it out of the realm of politics. Let us not make this a Republican versus Democratic issue to determine what went wrong with our intelligence and were the American people misled, and were Members of Congress misled. Our own colleagues,

the highly regarded chairman of the House Select Committee on Intelligence, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), along with the senior Democrat on that committee, the gentleman from California (Ms. HARMAN), in a letter indicated that there were serious problems, that the intelligence was flawed.

I know what the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) is doing when he puts forth the concept of a special counsel; it is to take the politics out of it. We are not in a contest with Republicans or the White House. What we are trying to do is determine what the truth is and then present it to the American people in a way that they can have confidence in the integrity of that effort. We are not suggesting that the Department of Justice is unable to do it, but what we are suggesting is that there is an issue of perception here, and that the American people want to have independence when it comes to an issue that is so vital to our national security.

Mr. Speaker, the President's father himself, upon the enactment of the statute, the applicable statute suggested that anyone who revealed the names of a CIA operative or an intelligence officer of this country was a traitor. What we are talking about here is treason. We have got to get politics out of it. This cannot be a political issue. It has to be an issue of national security. The investigation has to be done by someone who is independent of the Department of Justice, although supported by the Department of Justice and, where needed, rely on the Department of Justice for resources. But it has to be someone whose integrity and independence is not in question.

That is why I applaud my friend and colleague, the senior Democrat on the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS).

I see we have been joined here by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, let me thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) for his comments.

Before I yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), and we are delighted that he has joined the Iraq Watch this evening, but first, we have actually talked about two different special prosecutors here, or one special counsel, I should say, to review these allegations of a leak from the White House. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) has brought up again the general opinion of the Iraq Watch that we need to have a bipartisan and independent study of our intelligence-gathering regarding Iraq and the use to which that intelligence was put.

I agree with both of my colleagues on that, although I just want to say once again that while we do not want to be political, we want this to be bipartisan as it is important for our national security interests; this Member of Con-

gress, I have made up my mind about whether or not we were misled by the intelligence presented by the administration. I was misled. I was given exaggerated information. I was given misleading information.

The President and all of his top advisors in September and October of 2002 stated with complete certainty that Saddam Hussein had chemical weapons, had biological weapons of mass destruction, was reconstituting a nuclear weapons program, was going to give these weapons to al Qaeda. It turns out that not only have they not been able to find weapons, as all Americans know, but it has come out this past spring, 6 months after these statements were made, that the classified intelligence being given to the White House last fall at the time of these statements was filled with uncertainty.

The intelligence agencies were telling the President and telling the President's people they were not sure what Hussein had. The defense intelligence agency report of September 2002 said there is no reliable information, and I am quoting, "No reliable information on whether Iraq is producing or stockpiling chemical weapons, or whether Iraq has or will establish its chemical agent production facilities." No reliable information, according to the defense intelligence agency.

Yet at the same time, the President is saying in the Rose Garden, September 26, 2002 that "the Iraqi regime possesses biological and chemical weapons. The Iraqi regime is building the facilities necessary to make more biological and chemical weapons." That is the President's statement at the very time that his intelligence agencies were saying there is no reliable information. And again, before I turn to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), who is waiting patiently, I was briefed with other Members of Congress on October 2, 2002, in the White House, one of many such White House briefings that many of us took advantage of. I was with perhaps 20 Members, a bipartisan group. The briefers were Condoleezza Rice and George Tenet, and they stated with complete certainty on October 2, 2002, that Hussein had these weapons, that he had biological weapons, chemical weapons, reconstituting nukes, the whole litany. And yet they both had access at that time to classified information, some of it coming from Mr. Tenet's own agency, the CIA, that was indicating great uncertainty about the status of Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction program.

Now, we see Condoleezza Rice appointed this past weekend by the President to head up an Iraq stabilization group at the White House, because the President is concerned that too much bureaucracy is getting in the way of our program. If there is any bureaucracy in the way of our program, it is the President's bureaucracy. Congress did not set up any bureaucracy to frustrate him. He is working through the

Defense Department. Most of us think he ought to be working through the State Department and not the Defense Department. We can get into that in more detail in a few minutes. But the credibility of the administration is at stake. A huge credibility gap has grown up between the President's statements and what he was being advised, the classified information he was getting at the time he was saying with such certainty, which we now know was uncertain, and his top officials, including George Tenet and Condoleezza Rice, have the same credibility gap surrounding them. It is bad for the administration. It is bad for the Nation to have these problems.

I thank the gentleman for getting me off on this rant. You have triggered some of my frustrations.

Let me at this point turn to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO). I believe he has another aspect to discuss as to the situation in Iraq.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I would like to just restate briefly from what I have heard from the three gentlemen who have gone before me, because I think it is very important for the American people. I mean, it would be one issue if there was misjudgment that was costing the American people tens of billions of dollars. The President is asking us to borrow \$87 billion and put into debt future generations of Americans to pay it back. We do not have the money. It is going to be borrowed. Thirty years, people will work for the next 30 years to pay it back. But really not wealthy people, because they do not pay taxes anymore, but working people.

So there is a question, if someone in my administration made a mistake that was causing the American people 30, 50, 100, 200 billion dollars, maybe there would be a consequence. Then we go to the issue of lies. There was an extraordinary article in the press today which said the President said our troops have the best equipment possible; they have everything they need.

□ 2200

And we find out the young men and women over there have Vietnam-era flak jackets that will not stop bullets from AK-47s. \$400 billion budget at the Pentagon, \$80 billion from Congress last spring, and they are just now placing the orders.

Individual families have been buying these kids state-of-the-art flak jackets, available for \$500 in the private sector in the United States, and mailing them to the kids who are serving the United States of America.

So you get to the next level which is beyond someone simply made a mistake to extraordinary incompetence, extraordinary incompetence that is costing the American people tens of billions, hundreds of billions of dollars over the next 30 years. It is costing young American men and women their lives today as we speak. And yet no one has lost their job. No one who planned

this, no one who made this case, no one has been involved. In fact, they are being promoted.

As you said, Condoleezza Rice has been promoted now to be Pro-Consul over Afghanistan and Iraq because she has been doing such a great job. What has she been doing a great job on?

Mr. DELAHUNT. I am confused. I thought Mr. Bremer was the Pro-Consul. And today you are absolutely correct, we read in the newspaper that it would appear that Condoleezza Rice has taken over that particular role. I think what I see is a lack of coherent governance in a well-thought-out plan.

Now, again, to indicate to those that are watching here tonight, this is not a partisan attack, this is not a Democrat criticizing a Republican administration. Because my opinion, and the opinion that has been articulated by the gentlemen here that have already spoken, is reflected by comments that come from highly respected Republicans. Senator LUGAR, who chairs the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations, actually wrote an opinion piece for the Washington Post that said exactly what we are saying. The postwar reconstruction phase represented an abysmal failure of planning.

Turn on the Sunday news shows, listen to another eminent Republican Senator, Senator HAGEL from Nebraska, he talks again about the poor planning by the administration, and also says it like it is, that this Congress was considered to be a nuisance. That is his language about the administration when it came to the issue of Iraq.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). The Chair would remind Members that is not in order in debate to refer to or characterize a Senator's position on a proposition.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, well, I will defer to the Chair, but in another context I might take issue whether I actually characterized it in such a manner.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, we will bring down in the actual quotes and not have to characterize it.

Following in this vein, you know, arguably the architect of this policy man who has been advocating a war with Iraq since the last war in Iraq ended, Paul Wolfowitz, Deputy Defense Secretary, when talking about misjudgments, and this is a direct quote, not a characterization, "There is lots of money to pay for this that does not have to be U.S. taxpayer money and it starts with the assets of the Iraqi people. The oil revenues of that country could bring between \$50 and a \$100 billion over the course of the next 2 or 3 years. We are dealing with a country that can really finance its own reconstruction and relatively soon." That is a direct quote.

Mr. Wolfowitz, held in high regard by this administration, said Iraq would rebuild itself, no cost to the American

people. So thus far, if we just add up the first reconstruction bill and the second reconstruction bill, he is wrong by \$20 billion, \$20 billion that this President is asking this Congress to borrow on behalf of the American people, indebting future generations of Americans, to build, not rebuild. Remember, much of this is not rebuilding war damage. This is building Iraq in the vision of Halliburton and all the gold-plated defense contractors.

We might get into that later. There is a wonderful little piece here I have from the administration on that.

But that is what the money is. It is going to be borrowed and spent in Iraq, not providing jobs here, infrastructure here, but building infrastructure in Iraq in the vision of Paul Wolfowitz who is wrong by a magnitude of \$20 to \$100 billion at least in addition to the lives that have been lost. But has he been held to account? No, he has been held in high regard.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Did the gentleman see over the weekend the New York Times article that set forth in great detail how overstated the administration's claims were regarding Iraqi oil revenue? It fits exactly into the point the gentleman is making.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Well, in fact, the intelligence information, which was available to Mr. Wolfowitz, to Mr. CHENEY, to President Bush, and all the others who formulated this policy, Ms. Rice who has been promoted to Pro-Consul now, that intelligence information which said that, in fact, the Iraqi oil infrastructure was in miserable shape, not capable of producing large amounts of oil, not capable of paying for its own reconstruction, was either not read by all of these esteemed people in this administration, or ignored, or deliberately distorted. Because they told us, the American people, do not worry; they are going to pay for it themselves.

But now they are handed a very big bill, not just to this generation. I talked to a bunch of high school kids in my district yesterday. I said, "We are giving you the bill." There is a joke going around, why do politicians smile at babies? It is because they are being given the bill to rebuild Iraq. They are the next generation.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Can I disagree with my friend, the gentleman from Oregon for just a minute. I do not know if you saw the nightly news, but there was, I think, an NBC piece that indicated that today, not in the future, there is a record number of mortgage foreclosures on homes here in America.

I heard the number, 435,000 Americans that are in the process of losing their homes. The American dream today is becoming a nightmare. You know it better than anybody, possibly, in this entire body. We have had record job losses, we have burgeoning deficits. And for the first time in our history in the entire span of American history, for 2 consecutive years the median income, the median income of American households has gone down, 2 years in a row.

Of course, poverty is increasing at the same time the number of millionaires is increasing.

Mr. DEFAZIO. If we took the \$20.3 billion the President is proposing that the American people borrow and spend and invest in Iraq, and we spent and invested that money here in the United States of America, in the same things, in sewer, water, bridges, roads, airports, stable electricity, we would create a million jobs, a million jobs here in the United States of America. But instead we are going to create obscene profits for a few contractors, maybe do a little bit on the ground for the Iraqi people. But the bottom line is, we are borrowing money and ignoring the needs here.

Yes, I know more than anybody. My district, my State has the highest unemployment rate in the Union. My State has led the country for more than a year having the highest unemployment rate in the Union. We have a \$4 billion highway bridge problem on the interstate highway system, and the President says there is no money to repair it. Well, there is \$16 billion sitting in the highway trust fund. He would not even have to borrow it. He is borrowing money to invest in Iraq, but he will not even spend money we have paid in taxes here in the United States of America to invest in our highways.

He says we do not have money to invest in the airports. There is \$4 billion in that fund. He says we do not have money for extended unemployment benefits. There is \$16 billion in the unemployment trust fund paid by taxes of employers and workers, and the President will not draw it down.

We are paying hundreds of thousands of Iraqis for no-show jobs or for the fact that they used to be part of the military over there, but we do not have money to extend unemployment benefits in this country. There is something very wrong with the priorities of this picture.

Mr. HOEFFEL. I agree with Mr. DEFAZIO. And I thank the gentleman from Oregon for reminding us that whatever we do in Iraq, whatever we spend there is borrowed money. Because our fiscal house is in such disorder, we are required to borrow every penny of what we spend.

There is agreement in a broad way about the need to support our troops, to make sure they get the support they need, if, as the gentleman said, they need improved protective gear.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Not only do they need flak jackets; they could use desert camouflage. They are not in forests. But I talked to one dad at the early part of the war. I thought this had been corrected, but I find out now it has not; we are still sending National Guard over there without even desert camouflage. We cannot afford it. We can afford all these other things, gold-plated contracts, but we cannot afford to give these young men and women, selflessly putting their lives on the line, not only flak jackets but desert camouflage so they can blend in a little better.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I appreciate the anger of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) because he made a statement about who is profiting from what is going on in terms of the so-called "reconstruction phase" in Iraq today.

While we know there will not be American workers building the bridges, constructing the hospitals, rehabilitating schools, and building affordable housing, those will not be American workers. But as the gentleman indicated, there is a story in the New York Times, dated September 30, that says that a Washington insider's new firm consults on contracts in Iraq. A group of businessmen linked by their close ties to President Bush, his family, and his administration, have set up a consulting firm to advise companies that want to do business in Iraq, including those seeking pieces of taxpayer-financed reconstruction projects. The firm, New Bridge Strategies, is headed by Joe Allbaugh, Mr. Bush's campaign manager in 2000, and the director of the Federal Emergency Management Agency until March.

Mr. HOEFFEL. I yield to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE).

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Is it not interesting in the context just established by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) and that which the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) just recounted to us, that there is some mention made today about a Marshall Plan for Iraq, as if there was some analogy or some parallel to what is happening today, from what is happening today to the time of the Marshall Plan under Harry Truman.

Harry Truman made his reputation as a Senator of the United States by rooting out corruption and favoritism and cronyism and profiteering out of defense spending. That is how Harry Truman made his reputation. And when he was President of the United States, the Marshall Plan was free of that kind of corruption, free of that kind of cronyism, free of that kind of direction.

I have a suggestion for the gentleman from Oregon: We now have Ms. Rice in charge of stabilization. I am not quite sure what she knows about construction. She constructs sentences very well. By the time she gets finished, a house of cards is still standing. I do not know how long that house of cards is going to stand, but she does her best to construct it.

Now, perhaps she can do the same for reconstruction in Iraq. I do not know. But if she is in charge of that, presumably she will be in charge of the \$600 million that is going to be borrowed and spent to find the nonexistent weapons of mass destruction.

□ 2215

Perhaps some of the folks in the gentleman's district or State that are out of work can apply for a job over there. Not that they could do real work in Or-

gon on roads and bridges and schools, something of substance, but they can chase their shadows over in Iraq looking for nonexistent weapons of mass destruction for \$600 million.

Mr. DELAHUNT. That is on top of the \$300 billion that is already been spent. We are looking at a billion dollars for, as the gentleman says, a search for ghosts.

Mr. DEFAZIO. But we did find in a refrigerator of an Iraqi scientist purportedly one vial of botulin toxin, which, of course, you can find basically at any ag school or any research lab anywhere in the United States, but for only \$300 million we did find that and that apparently presented, according to this administration, a real and present danger to the United States of America, that one vial of toxin, which, of course, is readily available. In fact, I think you can still buy them and have them shipped in the United States of America.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. I do not want you to be discouraged because help is on the way. Where did I hear that phrase before? Help is on the way. I think back around 2000 help was on the way. Well, help is on the way. My understanding is that the Turkish Parliament has voted to send troops to Iraq. Why, that is wonderful. We are going to have assistance at long last.

There is only one little problem and perhaps Condoleezza Rice can stabilize this while she is at it. The Iraqi Governing Council, our governing council, our appointees, the people we have chosen as the foundation of stabilization, political stabilization in Iraq do not want them. They told them to stay out. These people, ungrateful wretches that they are, apparently have a sense of suspicion that the Turks might have more than one agenda in mind. That if they cross over into Iraq, that perhaps the Turks might have something to do with what benefits Turkey.

Now, where would they get that idea? Does the phrase Ottoman Empire ring a bell with anybody? It is all history that has been lost. The Iraqis have had some experience with Turkish soldiers before. I keep calling on the ghost of T.E. Lawrence. Where are you when we need you?

I understand they show movies down at the White House. Maybe they ought to get Lawrence of Arabia and get that down there and show it to them.

Wake up. Help is not on the way. Three more dead today, others injured. The media is reduced to saying, but nobody has been killed since last Friday. This is the kind of marginal gain, apparently, that we are making. This is the kind of measurement that is taking place now. The news hour in the evening on PBS, at the end of it, broadcasts in silence the names, pictures and fundamental data of the latest deaths. Is this the kind of ritual that we are going to assume in this country? We are going to watch this war on television. This is the kind of sacrifice supposedly being made. This is the kind of

confrontation that needs to take place. And the reason we have Iraq Watch, the reason we are down here every week, the reason that we are speaking out now is that the American public has to know that not everybody has been buffaloed, not everyone is silent, not everyone is going to step back from speaking the truth.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to add to the gentleman's comment there. I share your outrage and admire your outrage over the continuing deaths from guerilla opposition and warfare in Iraq. And I remind my colleagues in Iraq Watch and Members of the House and members of the American public that are seeing this, that the President, last July, was asked after about 25 American soldiers had been attacked and assassinated after the May 1 declaration that major hostilities were over, he was asked in July, do we have enough force in Iraq to protect our own force? Are our own people safe enough? Do we have adequate force to protect our own troops? And he said, in what I believe to be the most reckless statement any American President has ever made, he said, Yes, we have enough force. We can stop the guerillas. Bring them on. Bring them on, he said.

And since that day, I am sad to report, adding the three dead Americans that the gentleman referenced, we have lost 65 American soldiers due to hostile attacks, assassinations, guerilla activity by the opposition in Iraq. And I wonder what the President would say to those 65 families who may ask him, Mr. President, do we have enough force to protect our own force? What about my family member, Mr. President? I do not know what the President would say to those 65 families.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Yesterday I was in Cottage Grove, Oregon, in a National Guard dispatchment from Cottage Grove, Oregon, 600 men and women are about to be deployed to Iraq for a year. And yet I hear, and I understand, that despite the protestations of this administration and the tens and hundreds of billions of dollars at their disposal, that they may not have the proper equipment, that they may not have the flak vests that will stop an AK047 bullet. They may not have the armored HUM-V's that they may need. They may not even have the desert camouflage.

So I suggest that maybe those members of this administration who are waxing so eloquent about how things are going, maybe they should go over there and wear forest green camouflage instead of desert camouflage, wear a Vietnam-era flak vest and ride in a HUM-V with canvas windows and plexiglas around the country, not in their super-armored Suburbans, air conditioned, state-of-the-art, surrounded by helicopters and everything else and then come back and say how great things are.

Go over there and experience what our young men and women are experi-

encing over there, and maybe they will come back a little bit humbled, and maybe they will want to do a little bit more to resolve this, to safeguard our men and women and to resolve this situation, honestly, as opposed to spinning and spinning and spinning.

These people are never wrong, never wrong, no matter what. You can go back and find 15 misstatements. They can be off by \$100 billion and a couple of hundred American lives, but they were not wrong. They are never wrong.

Mr. HOEFFEL. I think my colleagues would agree that the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is a passionate and eloquent and excellent addition to our efforts here. I thank the gentleman for being here.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to make two points. I think the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) made an observation relevant to the Turkish Parliament supporting sending troops now to Iraq. But the other half of that story is that the United States Government just issued a loan guarantee to Turkey in the amount of \$8.5 billion.

Mr. DEFAZIO. That is not connected.

Mr. DELAHUNT. No, that is not connected and pigs fly.

The point is, when you talk about a coalition of the willing, I cannot think of such a misnomer as the coalition of the willing.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. They are willing to take the money.

Mr. DELAHUNT. They are willing to take the money.

But let us go back to the Gulf War that was managed by this President's father. There were 160,000 nonAmerican troops that were involved in that effort. That was a true coalition of the willing in the face of naked aggression by Saddam Hussein.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Briefly, I do not want to sour that because it certainly was a much better international effort, but there was an \$11 billion payoff to Egypt where we forgave their debt.

Mr. DELAHUNT. I am not suggesting that that was bribe free, but in the end, the net cost to the American taxpayers was some \$7 billion.

Now, we have already, if this war supplemental is approved, we are in this adventure in the amount of \$166 billion and well on our way, well on our way to hundreds of billions of dollars more, and we still do not know how we get out of it.

Let me just conclude by saying this. I hear about how things are going so well. We heard, of course, on the floor during the debate on the war resolution how we would be welcomed as liberators. Well, the truth is the Iraqi people want us out. They do not want us there. Even our own appointed 25-member Iraqi Governing Council have suggested that we accelerate this program because they can do it much cheaper. And I will allude to that at the end if I have any time left, but let me read what I think are some fascinating polling results that were con-

ducted by Gallup and Zogby, two well-respected American polling firms.

This is what was produced by the Gallup poll: Countrywide, only 33 percent of the Iraqi people thought they were better off then they were before the invasion, 33 percent, and 47 percent said they were worse off. And 94 percent said that Bagdad was a more dangerous place for them to live. The poll also found, and I would ask my colleagues and those that are watching to listen carefully to these statistics. The poll also found that 29 percent of Bagdad residents had a favorable view of the United States while 44 percent had a negative view. By comparison, and this pains me to say this, by comparison 55 percent had a favorable view of France. Those same Baghdad residents had a negative view of President Bush, 50 percent, while 29 percent had a favorable view of him. In contrast, the French President, Jacques Chirac, a 42 percent favorable rating.

Now, this should be telling us something. This should be telling us that the postwar reconstruction phase was poorly planned. We are not getting the message across. We have appointed a governing council that is suggesting that for every billion dollars of a taxpayer's money that we spend, and this, again, are their figures, they can accomplish the same exact project for \$100 million. In other words, we are paying ten times, our taxpayers are paying ten times, while job losses mount and our infrastructure crumbles.

Mr. DEFAZIO. If I could document that for a second. Ahmad al-Barak, who is a member of the Governing Council named by the United States of America, said that "Savings could be a factor of ten. Where they spend \$1 billion, we could spend \$100 million."

He said that on the day that they canceled the \$5,000-a-day contract to feed the 25 members of the Iraqi Governing Council entered into by Mr. Bremer, the former Chief Pro-Counsel before Ms. Rice. Apparently, they were flying the food in from Sardi's from New York on 747s. I do not know how they got the price up that high, but ten cents on the dollar.

Mr. HOEFFEL. We have been joined by our colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

□ 2230

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank the Congressman for his persistence and determination in telling the truth to the American people; and to my colleagues that are here, I just want to help build on what was said on several points that I think are relevant in light of the fact that we are going to be debating this question in a week's time.

First of all, I do not know if many of my colleagues realize, I was just with my good friend, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), in Seattle, Washington, and in that region; and I

think as we well know, we were discussing the great needs of homeland security and the choices that we have to make. The gentleman is located up on the northern border; I am located in Texas on the southern border. And one of the things that we realized was that we have not put in enough money for homeland security.

So what we will be debating in this next week will be a question of choices, and I think it is important for the American people but as well for our colleagues, for this Congress, to have the facts.

Let me just share with my colleagues briefly what my positions or concerns are. One, I do not believe we have all the facts. I am delighted to see my ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), who was a visionary on the debate on the war resolution dealing with the Constitution. We did not have all the facts there; but clearly, Congress does not have all the facts when we look at a document that is 70 pages long and that before the chairman's mark, as I understand it, we had jail cells that were being built for \$50,000 per bed. That is not what occurs in the United States. Then we have questions about whether or not we are spending enough money in the right areas.

So here is my proposition to this floor. One, this debate should be delayed. We should have a debate when all of the facts are on the table. What is now the new proposal of Condoleezza Rice, as I understand it, over the rebuilding of Iraq? What is the exit strategy? What will happen to the Reservists and others that are beyond their 6-month period? What are we doing for the families who are now suffering because their loved ones are away on the front lines? What are we doing for returning veterans or those who are wounded?

Then I was interested in hearing what my good friend from Massachusetts was speaking about with respect to Turkey. There is going to be a donor conference in 2-weeks in Madrid. Why are we rushing to have this debate without knowing who are the willing coalition or the coalition of the weak or the coalition of the strong and how much are they going to offer? That is what the American people need.

So my proposition is, one, delay this debate, delay this vote, get the facts as to the amount of money needed by the military. I understand that they have enough to keep them going, if you will, because we do not want to undermine our front liners; but we believe that there are enough resources. I have voted for that \$79 billion and for the defense appropriations. Then let us set out the vote. Let us make sure we have the vote for the military personnel and needs there, but let us find out about these donor countries and why we are not having Iraq fund some of the rebuild. Finally, why are we not using the Iraqi people, as my good friend said, in order to bring down the cost

and so that we can create jobs here in the United States by resources and investing in our infrastructure here in the United States?

I believe we should delay this debate. I believe the Congress does not have all the facts that it needs to have, as evidenced by this document and changes being made; and I believe that we must first go to our allies in this conference in Madrid, Spain, bring back to the Congress the results there, and then we can have a very intelligent debate on this issue.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman. I know the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) has a comment.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, if I can just respond because I think that the gentlewoman from Texas' (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) observation and suggestion is a very valid one, but let me submit this.

What I found particularly unsettling when the discussion of the donors' conference in Madrid was being reviewed by various pundits was that it was written that the European Union's contribution and the figures now are projecting a \$100 billion long-term effort, that the European Union's contribution this year was going to be \$230 million.

Mr. DEFAZIO. M.

Mr. DELAHUNT. M, not billion. We are talking billions on the American taxpayers. Let us be honest. We are in this alone. We are doing it alone. Nobody is helping us.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Absolutely.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Nobody is helping us. American taxpayers, American military, American veterans, American education, American health, we are making sacrifices and we are doing it alone, without anybody, because of poor planning and going into a war under false pretenses.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, and every penny of those billions will be borrowed, not only hitting hard at the needs today and causing cuts in the budget today and giving the President an excuse to say we do not have the money to rebuild our bridges and highways and waste water systems or do adequate homeland security and port security and we do not have enough money for education and we do not even have enough money for flak jackets for the young men and women over there, but every penny of those billions will be borrowed, indebting future generations of working Americans to pay for this misadventure, with no consequences.

The people who were so wrong. Mr. Wolfowitz, who I quoted earlier, who said Iraq would pay for itself, they are still making policy and spinning out fantasies at the White House. There are no consequences for making mistakes that cost the American people \$20 billion in this White House.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield on that

point, I know we are near the end of our time. I just want to indicate and perhaps we can take this up at another time.

Just so the American people understand, our colleagues understand, the suggestion was made to Mr. Bremer by myself when we were in the first group to actually be able to leave the airport and get into Baghdad and subsequently up to Kirkuk in the north, I think really the first conference that was held after Mr. Bremer's appointment in Baghdad, we suggested and I for one suggested that the Iraqi Army not be disbanded; that it be utilized as a workforce, turned into a kind of CCC operation; that it was going to be very dangerous for us to simply take these folks who after all were conscripted into the army anyway. It is not as if these guys were eager volunteers. Then I said we can pay them if there are going to be any payments made. Let us let them do the rebuilding of Iraq. Let them set the standard for it. Let Iraqis do the rebuilding. Of course we can assist them. That way we can get them on our side and not cause a huge fissure in Iraqi society; and, of course, that suggestion was ignored.

I just want it on the record that the administration knew full well that there were Members who had reservations about the war but who, of course, wanted to have the best possible outcome once the attack was over, who made a suggestion that it was very, very important not to dismember Iraqi society in order to accommodate profiteering on the part of companies in the United States.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments.

We have about a minute and a half left to go. Any final comments from any of my colleagues?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I just want to say one point about what the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) said that the Iraqi people want to help rebuild. They want to help rebuild, and I think it is extremely important that we engage the Iraqi people in this process, and we have not done that.

Mr. HOEFFEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for another lively discussion during the Iraq Watch. I think we all agree that we need the President to level with the American people. We need information. We need a plan. We need a plan for institutionalizing the situation in Iraq, both the security and the reconstruction. I said institutionalizing. I meant to say internationalizing. That is, I think, a goal that the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is talking about, including what kind of donor support we will get from the international community.

We need to know how to get Iraqis back in charge of Iraq and how soon that will happen, and we need an exit strategy for the United States. We do not want to leave and leave a vacuum. None of us want to do that, but we need to know what is in store, how much

time and how much money and the future prospects.

We are out of time. I thank my colleagues. The Iraq Watch will be back next week, and I thank the Speaker for his cooperation.

THE COSTS OF WAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I welcome any of the Members that are here from the Iraq Watch group. I think not only are they watching Iraq, I think the American people are watching what is happening in Iraq and not happening here in the U.S., and I was in my office and I heard such an outstanding discussion on some of the things that we know here in the Congress, that we need to continue to share with the American people, which are truly dollars and cents; and many times when we are talking about dollars and cents, we are talking about American lives.

I had some comments here that definitely I wanted to share, but I could not help but seeing at the top of the hour the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) here, our ranking member in the Committee on the Judiciary, and his letter to the White House and asking for Mr. Rove's resignation; and I think when we look at the politics of the matter, at any time I will be willing to yield for additional comments from my colleague as it relates to his letter that he sent today, I think goes to the very root of the reason why we are in this Chamber tonight.

I am a newcomer to the Congress. I see so many Members here that are professional experts, not only in the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), but other Members that are here, members of the Committee on Armed Services that were on that committee when I was in junior high school, but we will leave that for another time.

I just want to say very quickly, just some very open and preliminary comments, that we talk about the cost of this war, and I cannot help but refer to a letter that our colleague, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), sent out recently to Members of the Congress and mentioning that Desert Storm and the first Persian Gulf War only cost \$6.1 billion. The United States' share of that was \$7.4 million. That was our share, which was 12 percent; and I believe that that war was definitely one that was shared by many, that we actually had a true coalition. We had a coalition economically. We had a coalition troop-wise. This time we went to war with the willing and we footed the whole bill, I must add.

This current supplement, and before we get into that, we gave \$79 billion

that was added to this effort from the beginning which we still cannot account for. This Thursday when the Committee on Appropriations will meet, hopefully some of those things will come to light of what happened with the \$79 billion.

Now the Bush administration's asking for \$87 billion, which is mind boggling in and of itself, which gets us to \$166 billion. This continues to go up and up and up, 12 percent of the costs of almost the cost of \$20 billion.

However, the administration's decision of the go-alone strategy, we may say go-with-the-willing strategy, has gotten us where we are now and got us to the \$166 billion issue now, which is going to be \$6.6 billion in the end of just interest alone, at some \$128 million a week in interest. That is not even talking about the \$4 billion that we are spending right now. Let me just say that again for someone that might have gone to the refrigerator to get a soda, \$128 million in interest. That is just interest alone, and I think that is something that the American people should really take heed to and understand.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I really applaud the gentleman for taking this time and an hour. I would just try to enlarge the context, because it is clear that this Nation has an economy that is at risk. As my colleague well knows, the number of Americans that are now below the poverty line is historic in terms of its numbers. In addition to that, we have record job losses ever since 2001. We have lost in a net way over 2 million jobs; but most importantly when we talk about these exploding deficits, it is important to remember that when this President came to office there was a \$5.6 trillion surplus projected for the year 2011.

Today, when we project forward to 2011, we are talking about a deficit, an accumulated deficit in that space of time in excess of \$2 trillion. We have lost somewhere out there \$8 trillion, some \$8 trillion; and now we are continuing to add to that debt that will have to be paid, that becomes a drag on our economy because we have to pay interest, as my colleague well knows, on that debt. So these points that the gentleman is making, I think, are very important.

□ 2245

And clearly those that are viewing us here tonight and those of us that are speaking have to understand that the sacrifice is unfortunately not just about young men and women who are giving their lives and are being wounded and will suffer themselves personally for the rest of their lives; but almost as important, the American economy and future generations of Americans are going to suffer economically because of what we are doing.

I thank the gentleman for yielding to me.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his comments and his commitment to sharing what we need to share with the American people as Members of Congress.

I think it is also important for us to remember that when we combine all these budgets together, that we had a deficit before we went into Iraq. And I just have to continue to say that to the Members of this Congress and to the American people, because some would lead us to believe that Iraq got us into the situation where we are now.

But we will talk about a trillion dollar tax cut for the top 1 percent of Americans. And I must add that everyone in America has given and contributed to this war, whether it be a child or a husband or a son or a daughter going to Iraq to fight in this effort. The President said there has been an end to major fighting. I think there is major fighting going on as we speak. We just lost three soldiers, just today in Iraq.

But I just want to get back to the dollars and cents. I care about it because not only am I concerned about what is happening to this country domestically, and I am concerned about homeland security, but I am also concerned about the money that local governments are spending on behalf of homeland security, the front-land security there in their cities that is not going into the things that work towards the very fiber of our country and work towards the very reason why we are Americans.

We care about one another. We care about what happens to our elderly. We care about what happens to our children. We care about having an honest and fair education and good public education for our children.

But while we are carrying out this effort that we are carrying out now, with no questions answered, and you better not ask a question or we will test your patriotism, this is dangerous to the country.

But back once again to the dollars and cents. The Bush administration has not explained how we are going to pay for this in the long run, outside of borrowing the money and making the deficit even larger and deeper. The Department of Education in this year's budget, \$59.7 billion; Transportation, \$51.5 billion; Homeland Security, my colleagues, homeland security, American people, \$35.8 billion.

The supplemental cost for the war just blows all these numbers off the table. We are asking for \$87 billion. Or the administration is asking for \$87 billion.

Now, we are not asking for \$87 billion to help local governments foot the bill for homeland security, we are not asking for \$87 billion for States to be able to protect the ports, our deep-water ports that we have now. We are not asking for \$87 billion to bring about safe air travel here in the United

States. I believe someone needs to be marching to the Hill to ask for \$87 billion for Leave No Child Behind, for public education in this country.

Anyone that hits the floor to say that we have to fight the war on terror in Iraq so we do not have to fight the war on terror here in the United States, I kind of question that thinking because I do not believe the terrorists are saying, well, as long as U.S. troops are in Iraq, we do not have to try to penetrate the United States; or we do not have to try to carry out terrorist attacks here in the United States. I must say that you can pick up any newspaper now or watch any news show that says that terrorism has increased in Iraq since our presence there.

But the real question is, where is the exit plan? No one has an exit plan. No one wants to talk about the exit plan. And I think it is important that the American people understand that we are going beyond "we break it and we fix it," because now with this \$87 billion, we are going into a new era.

Mr. Speaker, I see my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), who I am going to be yielding to in about 4 minutes, because I know she has quite a bit to say about what is going on in the White House with some of the questions that have been brought about agents' lives being at stake because of political terms, or whatever the case may be; and so we can get into that discussion.

But I must say that in the spring of this year we gave this administration, with no questions asked, a \$79 billion blank check. No strings attached. We do not really know what the administration has spent that \$79 billion on. When you ask a question, it is almost like, how can you question me?

You talk to the Defense Department, and it is, we will get back to you. You talk to individuals at the State Department, and you may or may not get a return phone call. And if you do get a return phone call, they are not answering the questions.

Now the administration comes again and asks for \$87 billion. This Congress still has not been told of what we spent the first \$79 billion on.

Our Committee on Appropriations will meet on this Thursday. I would hope that the Bush administration will come forward to the Congress and share with the American people and the people that they elected to serve in this Congress, number one, what happened to the \$79 billion; number two, with the anticipated \$87 billion, what is really going to happen with that, and will they be back in the future to ask for more.

Early in the spring, the President and others were running around here talking about shock and awe, but in the 6 months since the preemptive strike against Iraq, only the American people have been shocked and awed. We have been shocked and awed by \$79 billion, and I have to keep saying it. We

were shocked by the fact that over 45,000 troops did not have body armor when they went on this effort in Iraq, that we could not armor our Bradley fighting vehicles, that many of the injuries at Walter Reed Hospital and at Bethesda Hospital right now, troops that are probably watching us on the floor right now, should have had and which could have avoided their injuries.

The American people have been awed by decreasing jobs that are at record rates, at tax cuts for the top 1 percent Americans, or the richest Americans in this country, at record rates. The American people have been in shock at how easy the administration has underfunded its own program, the Leave No Child Behind, that they have left millions without health insurance and watched crime increase at a rate that even makes the most patriotic American dizzy.

The American people are in awe at how the Vice President and many others in this administration, as it relates to Halliburton, so easily gained \$3 billion in Iraq contracts in just 4 months.

The American people are awed by the fact that 180 troops have lost their lives and another 1,400 have been seriously injured since the President made his inspirational landing on the U.S.S. *Lincoln* to announce the end of major fighting.

The American people have been shocked that State and local governments are strapped to the tune of over \$70 billion, but the President is willing to spend over \$8 billion in a foreign land. The American people are also awed by the request of over \$80 billion in additional spending. Once again, the middle class are left behind.

We are also shocked that soldiers are ducking bullets in Iraq for \$26,000 or less a year but they cannot take part in the child tax credit to help their families here in the U.S. That is a major shock and awe to the American people, that this Congress and this administration would leave those families behind.

The American people are also awed by the cost of just this single supplemental that dwarfs the money the President and this administration have asked for as it relates to homeland security for the entire year.

We are also shocked by the lack of diplomacy expressed by the Bush administration as it jets around the globe telling countries how they should be in good grace with us versus other countries. The President went to the U.N., and I must add this, where in *The New York Times* it reveals that he went to the U.N. And one would assume that after all this major effort against terrorism in Iraq, after going after this person that possessed chemical weapons of mass destruction, which at the time in this very Chamber we were led to believe in the State of the Union address that these chemical weapons were going to be used, and we prayed along with the American people that

our troops would be safe because chemical warfare was a major concern because of what the President, as he stood in the well where the Speaker is now and expressed this to us; and we also thought that there was some link between 9/11 and Iraq, and now all of that has evolved to be misleading statements.

Well, the President went to the U.N. and we were thinking the President would go back after we told the U.N. to kind of step aside and allow us to take care of things and we went with the willing, which was very few willing, he went back and, really, no one reacted to the President because of our unwillingness to use diplomacy.

I said here on the floor the last time I was here that cowboy politics is not going to get us where we need to be. It is not just politics, it is America's future.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join the gentleman this evening to continue our discussion to educate both the American people and to share with our colleagues. I indicated my respect for my colleague and the leadership he has shown on the Committee on Armed Services, and I have noted that my ranking member, ranking member of the House Committee on the Judiciary, whose vision led us in crafting what I thought was the right response to the original war resolution that dealt with the question of information and whether Congress had the challenge, the charge, and the responsibility to secure the information and then comply with the Constitution and have a constitutional vote up or down to determine whether or not we would actually declare war on Iraq.

And the gentleman is right, he is very right that the representations that were made, that caused many of my colleagues to vote their conscience; and their conscience dictated to them on the information that in order to save American lives, they needed to rush to judgment and to cast that vote. I do not stand here to indict my colleagues on that vote. I voted no, and some of my colleagues voted yes. I do not indict them because they were voting on the basis of the representation made by this administration.

So my good friend from Florida is right. He raises many viable issues. And might I just take a moment to frame where I think we are?

Part of the decision that caused us to be in Iraq was based on misleading misinformation. In fact, to a certain extent, total untruths, tragically. There was representation about an imminent attack; representation about weapons of mass destruction. There were representations, as my colleague knows all too well, that there was this connection about nuclear capacity. We come to find out now that, at best, Iraq is a long way away from the actual

production of weapons of mass destruction, biological weapons, and certainly nuclear weapons.

So I think where we are today, on Tuesday, October 7, is again a rush to judgment.

I think all of us standing here are patriots. We want to protect our Nation. The gentleman has mentioned so articulately the troops, and he has chronicled the choices we have to make, where we have no monies for No Child Left Behind. And I think that is the real issue. I believe there is no need to vote next week. Why? Because this Congress does not have the information, plain and simple.

I do not want to be caught up in the trap of misinformation so that I am, on behalf of my constituents, making a totally wrong decision because the administration has not been straight. Number one, the administration has provided us no information, no information on how they spent the \$79 billion.

And I would say as an opponent of the war, I voted, I will stand here today and say it, I voted for the funding for the troops and the defense appropriation bill. So I stand here without taking a back seat to anyone. I cast my vote to put my trust in those who represented that we are in this now and we need monies for our troops. But no more.

□ 2300

So we do not even have a report on that. Let me show the document that the gentleman was kind enough to share; it is 70 pages of fine print. As the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) said last week, they were willing to spend \$50,000 per bed in prison, and now they have immediately corrected that. That is the point I am making. How much more can we refine, delete, and take out?

I am looking at a chapter that says chapter 6, "Other Activities." If you have little ones and they get to be teenagers, and they say, Dad, I am going out. You ask, Where are you going? You have a curfew. And they say, I am going to the movies, and then I am going to do other activities. I have an 18-year-old. When they leave you with "I am going to do other activities," you are not going to allow them to leave the house on the agenda of other activities.

Listed as other activities is almost \$2 billion. What it means is money in the pots of some surrounding nations, and I am not condemning them, but this is giving money like \$1.4 billion. It says something about operation and maintenance defense-wide, and that is surrounding areas that have contributed to the placement of our troops. I know there is reason for that, but that is a miscellaneous sort of sweetening the pot of others so they will help us, just like the gentleman mentioned the \$8 billion loan to Turkey. I do not believe that we have all of the details that will allow us in a short week's time to be

able to understand what we are voting on by this document.

The other thing I would say, and I think the American people need to know, this supplemental is the largest in history, the largest of seven emergency supplementals that we have had. The administration says we are doing this for Iraq and Afghanistan. Might I share the pitiful amount of money going to Afghanistan which is falling back into sin. Taliban is on the rise. The country is devastated. It is a flattened area. When we talk about rebuilding infrastructure, I would think that we would not give shortchange to Afghanistan, which is percolating as the center of focus for Taliban.

The justice system, we are giving \$919 million in Iraq; we are giving \$10 million in Afghanistan. National security, \$2.1 billion for Iraq, and \$22 million for Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I had an opportunity to meet with a very distinguished woman just about an hour ago. She knows about the Marshall Plan. She wrote at 22 the constitution for Japan after World War II. She shared with us how they took specifically the language out in terms of an offensive army or offensive defense. Japan can defend itself, and rightly so; but Japan does not have the capacity because of the Marshall Plan, and the treaty and the constitution was actually drafted post-World War II to govern Japan without this opponent. We have seen Japan put many of its resources back into technology, and it has been at the pinnacle of our technological advances.

Yet here we are talking about what Iraq did with its military, and we are now talking about rebuilding it. I think the Japan model is an excellent one, a peace model, certainly allowing them to defend themselves; but now we are giving them \$2.1 billion for national security. That is all about building up their military again. We should look at the Japan model that has worked.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to say that just last week we were on the floor, and I think this is kind of working, we talked about why the Department of Defense is in charge. In this after-fighting or during the time we are trying to build a democracy, why is the Department of Defense in charge? The President announced yesterday or today that National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice will be placed over this working group. The State Department is supposed to be over it. I am just getting here, but I kind of understand that.

I think it is important that the American people understand if major fighting is over and our troops are continuing to die, and I just want to add to this point, from what I understand from speaking with the appropriators, and we were in a meeting earlier, the administration hopes to have our troop number down because there was some question why Mr. Rumsfeld was not clear on the number of American troops there. There are men and

women that have left their families that signed up for the Reserves that are now 12 months-plus still in Iraq. They expect to get them down by 110 troops by next September. That means we have somewhere between 130,000 troops and 135,000 troops that are in Iraq now.

I want to let the American people know that the way things are going here in the Capitol and in the White House, that American troops will be there for some time. We are talking about dollars and cents. The Turkish parliament voted yesterday that they would send coalition troops to Iraq. I want to add to that that I voted to send appropriations to Turkey, for \$8 billion in loan forgiveness, all of these things; and some Members were split on that vote. If we have to vote for money for countries to go into Iraq, what is the difference? It reminds me on the other side of the aisle when they talk about making government smaller, and government has actually gotten bigger. But making government smaller, that means privatizing government jobs, having individuals in the private sector, so I guess that strategy has been implemented in this Iraq situation.

I want to add one other thing, because the gentlewoman hit on so many different things. The gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) came to the floor tonight and dropped a bomb on us with this letter that has been written as the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary.

And one of the shock points I have reports that the whistle was actually blown, the American people ought to know that some in the administration would blow the whistle on a CIA operative; and we are talking about someone that is willing to pay the ultimate sacrifice on behalf this country, on behalf of seeking out weapons of mass destruction, going under an assumed name, that name was made public. It was a coordinated campaign from the White House to put this lady's life in danger, and those that are working with her, on behalf of making sure that we, us Americans, are safe and our children are safe. Because they are upset, and when I say they, I am talking about the Bush White House, they are upset about the fact that the ambassador, or he used to be ambassador, has a different opinion than the administration on Iraq and the weapons of mass destruction issue. Reports have said they would put this man's wife at danger, and other CIA agents.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) has to say something further about the letter because I think seeing the White House not willing to advocate on behalf of a special counsel is mind boggling to me, and I am just not a man with conspiracy theory. Other reporters, not just one individual reporter, has said they received calls about the very same information, but they did not print it. Even after the CIA said it would put

this operative report in danger, the report was still pushed on certain members of the media to report it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, let me just try to add some points to what the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) has just said and emphasize why I think we are here today. Again, let me restate the fact that this Congress does not need to take this vote this week or next week on this \$87 billion supplemental.

□ 2310

Frankly, we do not have the information that would entrust to us the right responsibility and the right decision on behalf of our constituents, because we do not have the facts.

And let me just simply say, I mentioned to the gentleman that Afghanistan was thrown in the pot, I think, simply to make people think that we have not forgotten about the war on terrorism. We have forgotten about the war on terrorism. We forgot about it in Afghanistan. We forgot about it in the United States because our funding and our actions as they relate to homeland security are paltry.

If my colleagues go home to their districts, they will find out that their first responders are asking, show me the money. The ports are asking, show me the money. The intelligence community still needs the kind of reform where we can get the right intelligence because that is the first line of preventing terrorist acts.

But let me just simply say again for the record, national security for Iraq, \$2.1 billion; and again for Afghanistan, \$222 million; justice system, \$919 million; and \$10 million in Afghanistan. An electrical system, \$5.7 billion and \$45 million in Afghanistan.

So here is what I believe we should do before we engage in a vote. I believe, and I will be filing this sense of Congress resolution tomorrow, that we should have a separate vote on the military cost versus the rebuild cost, that we should not do the rebuild until the conference in Madrid, Spain, where the donors meet and we have them ante up on the table and this administration puts together a coalition that is more than the willing, but it is the strong and it gives us the amount of troops that we need.

We should not vote on this until we have full evidence of what happened with the weapons of mass destruction, as the gentleman said. Where did that information come from? And we certainly should not vote until we have a report on the personnel who determined that we are under imminent attack and that we were going forward with this war and that there were weapons of mass destruction. There should be no vote until we have all the resources we need for the returning vets, the soldiers, because some will continue to be enlisted, and their families; that we have complete trauma and mental health services for all the bases

where these troops are coming back to; and that we refine this giveaway money program and make sure that small women- and minority-owned businesses, and the gentleman had a very fine session during the Congressional Black Caucus, have the opportunity to be part of this rebuild.

And then lastly let me say that I believe it should be the sense of Congress. And likewise I would like to work with my colleagues on this resolution that I have, that a special prosecutor be appointed because the gentleman is absolutely right. Ambassador Wilson was trying to getting the Congress and the American people the truth, and he was asked to go over by the CIA to Niger to determine the uranium purchase, and he came back and said, absolutely there is no such connection, which then should have caused this administration to pull back. They did not. So in essence they wanted to cover up.

How do you cover up? You undermine the person who spoke. How do you do that? You get him at his Achilles' heel. All of our Achilles' heels are family members, but in doing so, might I say that I think research should be done; and I respect my colleague who is going to speak on the question of whether or not we have an issue of treason.

So the facts need to be told. I do understand that, and I am willing to hear the facts. But we should not move forward without getting the facts on the weapons of mass destruction or on this response regarding covert officers of the CIA, the most serious organization as it relates to national security short of our military, who require the utmost respect but also protection, that we have now uncovered a covert agent.

And as we see this unfold, we see that the person's work was more far-reaching than we thought. We understand that they are working for a CIA undercover, and this is public knowledge; so I am not giving classified information, printed in the public newspapers, business. So that has now been exposed, as well as anybody who was associated with that individual and that company has now been exposed.

I would venture to say also that what has been exposed is the way we do things. So it is beyond my understanding as to how we can move forward.

The gentleman said something that I think is very telling, to give another blank check with no restrictions and no strings attached. This is based upon the discussions that we have had that are part of the public debate.

Let me add this, as I believe the chairman is coming. This has been modeled after the Marshall Plan, this whole Iraq package. The Marshall Plan was \$11.8 billion from 1948 to 1952. That would equal, in 2003, \$89.2 billion. But the amount of nations impacted was 16 nations and 257 million people. Iraq is only one nation and 23.5 million people.

So I would say that I would hope my colleagues would join me in this anal-

ysis to the extent that we need not proceed this quickly to a vote without giving this Congress all of the information needed; and I would look forward to having my colleagues join me in the filing of this resolution tomorrow to delay this vote and also to have any vote that we take separated between military support and the rebuild of Iraq until these conditions are met. I believe it is extremely important.

And I thank the gentleman for allowing me to share in this discussion, and I would be happy to yield to him as he yields to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE). And I appreciate the fact that she studies and that she pays very close attention to what people say and also what they do and what they do not do. And I think that her constituents and the American people will be very forever grateful.

I yield the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), one of my leaders and an inspiration here in the Congress for many years, ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, I am so happy to be with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) in this discussion. He and his predecessor in the Congress from Florida worked very closely with me and I am proud that he is on the Committee on Armed Services because that gives him a vantage point that perhaps we do not have; and he continues the tradition of a former colleague of ours, Ron Dellums of California, who rose to be chairman of that committee and distinguished himself with great regularity about relating military activities and costs and projections to what is the real national defense of this country.

I am happy to be with, also, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), with whom I work on a very wide variety of issues. And it seems to me that our discussion tonight with our colleagues that preceded us revolve around the importance of delaying the vote that is hanging over our heads until more information is secured of whether we should have a special counsel to independently investigate where the leak endangering not only a CIA operative, but all the others that were working with her together.

It is appropriate, especially upon the revelation of over \$700,000 in consulting business having been engaged in between Karl Rove and John Ashcroft in earlier years. This is incredible. So between the delayed vote, the request for a special counsel, the several hundred thousand dollars, plus a request for a resignation makes this a very important evening. And I am glad that I am here to join my colleagues with it.

In February of this year, former Ambassador Wilson traveled to Africa to investigate the claims that Iraq purchased uranium there.

□ 2320

In the next month, he returned and tells the CIA and State Department

that the claims were unsubstantiated. This was in February 2002 and March 2002.

In January 2003, the President claims that Iraq tried to buy uranium in Africa in a State of the Union Address delivered on this very floor.

In July, former Ambassador Wilson wrote an op-ed aptly titled "What I Didn't Find in Africa."

On July 14, the well-known veteran columnist Robert Novak mentions, among other things, that "Wilson never worked for the CIA, but his wife, Valerie Plame, is an Agency operative on weapons of mass destruction. Two senior administration officials told me Wilson's wife suggested sending him to Niger to investigate."

On July 22, Mr. Novak said in an interview, "I didn't dig it out, it was given to me. They gave me the name," he was talking to *Newsday* then, "and I used it."

Then later on in July, the Central Intelligence Agency files a crime report with the Department of Justice suggesting that the leak of former Ambassador Wilson's wife's name and covert status might entail criminal acts. We checked the statutes in the Committee on the Judiciary, and that was true. Not only leaking, but assisting or promoting leaks are also, in another section of title 18, criminal violations that carry a penalty of up to 10 years Federal imprisonment.

Then the CIA submitted a questionnaire to determine whether an investigation is warranted. They did a crime report, and now an investigation, and they decided rather quickly to pursue a criminal investigation.

Now, a source in the administration confirms that two senior administration officials contacted not just Mr. Novak, but six reporters about the identity and occupation of Wilson's wife, claiming that, clearly, it was meant purely and simply for revenge; that he was sharing the information because the disclosure was wrong and a huge miscalculation, because they were irrelevant and did nothing to diminish Wilson's credibility. This was the *Washington Post*, September 28.

On the *Crossfire* program of CNN, Mr. Novak explained, "Nobody in the Bush administration called me to leak this. I was in an interview with a senior administration official on the Wilson report when he told me the trip was inspired by his wife, a CIA employee working on weapons of mass destruction. Another senior official told me the same thing. They asked me not to use her name, but never indicated it would endanger her or anybody else. According to a confidential source at the CIA, Mrs. WILSON was an analyst, not a spy, not a covert operative, not in charge of undercover operatives. So what is the fuss about? Pure Bush-bashing?"

Well, Mr. WILSON responds: "Bob Novak called me before he went to print with the report, and he said a CIA source told him that my wife was an

operative. He was trying to get a second source after the article appeared. I called him and said, 'You told me it was a CIA source. You wrote senior administration officials. What was it, CIA or senior administration?' He said to me, 'I misspoke the first time I spoke to you. That makes it senior administration sources.'" Ms. Paula Zahn, now CNN.

About his partisanship, Wilson responds, "Novak also said that I was a Clinton appointee. In actual fact, my first political appointment was as Ambassador, and I was appointed by George H.W. Bush. So I am really apolitical in all of this."

Now, questions about Rove's involvement are raised by numerous news sources. Sources close to the former President say Rove was fired from the 1992 Bush presidential campaign after he planted a negative story with columnist Robert Novak. *Countdown*, MSNBC, September 29, 2003.

Tory Clark, former spokesperson for the Pentagon, said "People are constantly aware of classified information, and Secretary Rumsfeld makes it a point to regularly and frequently speak about the problems of leaking classified information."

What we have here exposed is a case study of what a writer of information this sensitive ought not to be doing. It is very clear to Ambassador Wilson, and everyone else around him, that everyone around him knew that Rove had either leaked or had condoned the leak. So it is my hope that Mr. Rove will approach this from the point of view that it is more likely to get much deeper than it is right now. It might save us from ending up with an independent prosecutor for the CIA leak. It would certainly be a way of trying to make amends for what is going to happen.

Mr. Chris Matthews is a person of impeccable integrity and is the host of MSNBC's *Hardball*, which most of us have been on at one time or the other. A source close to Wilson said that Matthews said, "I just got off the phone with Karl Rove, who said your wife was fair game," talking to the former Ambassador. So I think the time has come.

□ 2330

This political director has probably I think come to the end of at least one of his careers. The relationship between the Attorney General of the United States and him in his political consultant capacity is pretty obvious. It meets the criteria set forth in the statute for the appointment of an independent prosecutor. So it seems to me that between one of these 2 ways, we have to get to the bottom of this as this research goes on. It fits into this whole business of misrepresentation that has characterized and has begun to create problems of morale, not just in the military, but in the intelligence agencies themselves. We are not talking about something happening over in some obscure office in the Pentagon.

This is coming out of the White House, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue. And because of the role that the Committee on the Judiciary has played in forming this new independent counsel since we have dispensed with special prosecutors, our role is quite clear in how we must proceed and how we ought to investigate this.

It is my hope to meet with the chairman of the committee this week to determine what we can all collectively do in a matter that is very disturbing to many people in many parts of our citizenry and our government alike. I commend all of the Members who have been here tonight to engage in what I think is a long overdue discussion.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say to the distinguished gentleman from Michigan, the thoughtful presentation that he has just made, the laying out, if you will, of the chronological history of where we are today, I hope it is clear to many of our colleagues that we may be on the brink of a constitutional crisis. And that is, of course, because the gentleman has suggested, or that the facts seem to suggest that we had 2 dueling deficiencies occurring. We had deficiency of all of the facts necessary or all of the truth necessary to actually have a basis of declaring a preemptive war against Iraq, and then we had the unraveling of our intelligence structure, which is the very heartbeat of a nation's national security and now, it is the heartbeat of homeland security. And if we undermine the intelligence system or structure, then what do we have? And how can any reporter, and I believe in the first amendment, and my colleagues know that the Committee on the Judiciary has its jurisdiction to protect under the Constitution the Bill of Rights; make light of the fact of which source it was or whose source it was or, I think it was analysts; it might have been that the person who was speaking to them used the term "analyst" to protect her cover or the person's cover.

So I do not believe we can move on this unrestricted, no-strings-attached \$87 billion without a full airing of the very facts that the gentleman has just asked for, or the very response or airing or truth of what occurred. Whether or not the involvement of Mr. Rove and the resignation thereto, the opportunity for all of the congressional committees of jurisdiction, which would include the Committee on the Judiciary, would have an opportunity for full hearings on every aspect of this. A deep investigation.

My colleagues know that we have yet to be able to secure the independent commission; they will not even bring that to the floor on the issue of weapons of mass destruction. I do not believe that we can move forward on the supplemental without those facts being brought to the table, and who the actual personnel or the parties that were

engaged in this process. So the gentleman has made a very good point.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I would say to my colleagues that I have seen this Congress, when I was in the State legislature, go to great extents for far less in questioning what is happening right now. This is not speculation; these are the lives of CIA operatives, the very lives that are in countries where Americans and those who help Americans are not applauded. On behalf of not only the safety, but the sovereignty of this country, I think the gentleman's letter is well within order. I brought about questions in my own heart and mind when I did not hear the President and others who were in the White House saying listen, independent counsel? That is fine. Because we want the individual who leaked the information to be found, prosecuted, what have you. Fired is not good enough for me personally. I think the individuals who have leaked this information knowingly and willingly, revenge, political revenge, need to be punished and prosecuted. And the only way we are going to get to that, I believe, is through an independent counsel. So I think the gentleman's letter is well within order. And Mr. Rove, as far as I am concerned, politics has nothing to do, or should not have anything to do with it. Thus, as red-blooded Americans voicing our opinion and informing the American people.

Mr. CONYERS. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield, if I could say to the gentlewoman from Texas and the gentleman from Florida, the truth ultimately always comes out. I do not know why so many people hide, run for cover, obfuscate, manipulate, spin, but in the end, it may take a little longer and they may be able to put it off, they may be able to do it long enough to get out of town, but in the end, there are too many people of conscience and talent that are looking at these same situations that we have to deal with in our working lives. And you are not going to get very far, not in today's global technologically advanced society. It is going to come out. It always does. It never fails. There will be books upon books upon investigation upon articles, and they just will not come forward and make a complete candid discussion. The American people are not going to be fooled.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS) for all of his contributions here tonight and to be here this time of night sharing with the American people, and the gentleman is to be commended.

I just wanted to say that the gentlewoman did hit on the donors conference that is happening on October 23. I think this Congress should hold back on the \$87 billion. If we give \$87 billion, then why are we having a donors conference? We went from \$12 billion, saying that the donors from other places are down to \$6 billion. Now there is some question about \$3 billion.

I am here tonight definitely on behalf of the American people of being able to share with them what they need to know. But \$87 billion as it relates to Florida means \$4.5 billion that we will not receive, which could equate to \$672.7 billion in school construction. The governor down there is hollering about we need more money for schools. Mr. Speaker, 6,062 in new affordable housing units that could create 4,839 jobs and also 769.7 million in local and State roads and bridges that could create 27,099 jobs; 8,8970 new firefighters and health care coverage for 434,452 people.

Mr. Speaker, I am glad that both of my colleagues are here tonight.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, just as the gentleman closes and the time is ending, let us put a face on this. We are standing here because we are trying to save lives of the young men and women on the front lines in Iraq.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Ms. BERKLEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of a family medical emergency.

Mr. DEFAZIO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of flight delays.

Ms. ESHOO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal reasons.

Ms. HARMAN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of a death in the family.

Ms. LOFGREN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal reasons.

Mrs. NAPOLITANO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal reasons.

Ms. SOLIS (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 8 on account of personal business.

Ms. WOOLSEY (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for September 23, October 7 and 8 on account of medical reasons.

Mrs. BONO (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of illness in the family.

Mr. CASTLE (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending a CODEL in Iraq.

Mr. FOLEY (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending to family business.

Mr. HAYWORTH (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. PUTNAM (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of medical reasons.

Mr. WALDEN of Oregon (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of attending a CODEL in Iraq.

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

Ms. PELOSI, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HOYER, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ALLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GREEN of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARKEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. TIERNEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. LYNCH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OBEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FILNER, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. HOLT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHAY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CONYERS, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, for 5 minutes, today.

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

Mr. HENSARLING, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. GUTKNECHT, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. FEENEY, for 5 minutes, today and October 8.

Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today and October 8.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. RANGEL, for 5 minutes, today.

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

SENATE BILL REFERRED

A bill of the Senate of the following title was taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 1642. An act to extend the duration of the immigrant investor regional center pilot program for 5 additional years, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on October 2, 2003, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 1925. To reauthorize programs under the Runaway and Homeless Youth Act and the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on October 2, 2003, he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill.

H.R. 2826. To designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1000 Avenida Sanchez Osorio in Carolina, Puerto Rico, as the "Roberto Clemente Walker Post Office Building".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 40 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, October 8, 2003, 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:

4662. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Zinc Phosphide; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-2003-0319; FRL-7329-9] received September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4663. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a FY 2003 report entitled, "Performance of Commercial Activities," pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2461; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4664. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Required Conversion of Developments From Public Housing Stock [Docket No. FR-4475-F-02] (RIN: 2577-AC01) received September 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4665. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Voluntary Conversion of Developments From Public Housing Stock [Docket No. FR-4476-F-04] (RIN: 2577-AC02) received September 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4666. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Public and Indian Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule — Housing Choice Voucher Program Homeownership Option: Eligibility of Units Owned or Controlled By a Public Housing Agency [Docket No. FR-4759-F-03] (RIN: 2577-AC39) received September 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4667. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Special Demonstration Programs — Model Demonstration Projects — Mentoring for Transition-Age Youth and Young Adults With Disabilities (RIN: 1820-ZA28) received September 26, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4668. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, trans-

mitting the Department's report on the Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities: Community Economic Development Program (CEDP) Projects Funded During Fiscal Years 1998 and 1999; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4669. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Clean Air Act Area Designations; California [CA087-DESIG; FRL-7568-3] received September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4670. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Revision to the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 290-019a; FRL-7563-6] received September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4671. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Interim Final Determination that State has Corrected a Deficiency in the California State Implementation Plan, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District [CA 290-0419c; FRL-7565-4] received September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4672. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Regulation of Fuel and Fuel Additives: Gasoline and Diesel Fuel Test Method Update [FRL-7566-3] received September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4673. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Standards of Performance for Volatile Organic Liquid Storage Vessels (Including Petroleum Liquid Storage Vessels) for which Construction, Reconstruction, or Modification Commenced After July 23, 1984 [Docket ID No. OAR-2002-0046; FRL-7566-2] (RIN: 2060-AJ53) received September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4674. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Use of Alternative Analytical Test Methods in the Reformulated Gasoline, Anti-Dumping, and Tier 2 Gasoline Sulfur Control Programs [FRL-7566-6] received September 30, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4675. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to the Czech Republic for defense articles and services, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

4676. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary For Export Administration, Bureau of Industry and Security Administration, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revisions to the Export Administration Regulations based on the 2003 Missile Technology Control Regime Plenary Agreements [Docket No. 030825213-3213-01] (RIN: 0694-AC76) received September 29, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

4677. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification under section 451 of the Foreign Assistance

Act to provide assistance to support democracy and governance programs in Afghanistan; to the Committee on International Relations.

4678. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-151, "Fiscal Year 2004 Tax Revenue Anticipation Notes Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4679. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting a copy of D.C. ACT 15-150, "National Guard Association of the United States Real Property Tax Exemption Reconfirmation and Modification Temporary Act of 2003," pursuant to D.C. Code section 1-233(c)(1); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4680. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's annual implementation report required by the Federal Financial Assistance Management Improvement Act of 1999, pursuant to Public Law 106-107, section 5 (113 Stat. 1488); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4681. A letter from the Administrator, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting a copy of the report, "Informing Regulatory Decisions: 2003 Report to Congress on the Costs and Benefits of Federal Regulations and Unfunded Mandates on State, Local and Tribal Entities," pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 1538; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4682. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Late Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds (RIN: 1018-AI93) received September 26, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4683. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Final Framework for Late-Season Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations (RIN: 1018-AI93) received September 26, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4684. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Regulations on Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2003-04 Late Season (RIN: 1018-AI93) received September 26, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4685. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Migratory Bird Hunting Regulations and Certain Federal Indian Reservations and Ceded Lands for the 2003-04 Early Season (RIN: 1018-AI93) received September 26, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

4686. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the Administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act for the six months ended December 31, 2002, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4687. A letter from the Attorney, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Matter Incorporated by Reference

[Docket No. RSPA-03-15574 (HM-189U)] (RIN: 2137-AD83) received September 26, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4688. A letter from the Attorney, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials Regulations: Penalty Guidelines and Other Procedural Regulations [Docket No. RSPA-03-15372 (RSP-5)] (RIN: 2137-AD7) received September 23, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4689. A letter from the Assistant Division Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Organic Claims in Labeling and Advertising of Alcohol Beverages (2002R-288P) [T.D. ATF-483] (RIN: 1512-AC87) received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4690. A letter from the Assistant Division Chief, Regulations & Procedures Division, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Realignment of the Alexander Valley and Dry Creek Valley Viticultural Areas (2000R-298P) [T.D. ATF-468; Re: Notice No. 910] (RIN: 1512-AA07) received September 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

4691. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare and Medicaid Programs; Requirements for Paid Feeding Assistants in Long Term Care Facilities [CMS-2131-F] (RIN: 0938-AL04) received September 26, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Energy and Commerce.

4692. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General and the Director of Central Intelligence, acting jointly as described in subsection 111(b) of division M of the Consolidated Appropriations Resolution, 2003 (Pub. L. 108-7), entitled "Report to Congress regarding the Terrorism Information Awareness Program"; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services, Intelligence (Permanent Select), and the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 982. A bill to clarify the tax treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the Government of American Samoa (Rept. 108-102 Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 542. A bill to repeal the reservation of mineral rights made by the United States when certain lands in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, were conveyed by Public Law 102-562 (Rept. 108-297). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2055. A bill to amend Public Law 89-366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore (Rept. 108-298). Re-

ferred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 884. A bill to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326-A-1, 326-A-3, and 326-K, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-299). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 2048. A bill to extend the period for reimbursement under the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, and to reauthorize the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund; with amendments (Rept. 108-300). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 1521. A bill to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-301). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. POMBO: Committee on Resources. H.R. 3062. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-302). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2685. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the Matching Grant Program for School Security (Rept. 108-303). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 2359. A bill to extend the basic pilot program for employment eligibility verification, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 108-304 Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia: Committee on Government Reform. H.R. 3159. A bill to require Federal agencies to develop and implement plans to protect the security and privacy of government computer systems from the risks posed by peer-to-peer file sharing (Rept. 108-305). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the Committee on Education and the Workforce discharged from further consideration. H.R. 2359 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 2359. Referral to the Committee on Education and the Workforce extended for a period ending not later than October 7, 2003.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi (for himself, Mr. PETRI, Mr. GUTKNECHT, and Mr. KIND):

H.R. 3250. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to estab-

lish programs to promote increased consumption of milk in schools and to improve the nutrition and health of children; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. MATSUI, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 3251. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase and enhance the Hope Scholarship Credit and to repeal the Lifetime Learning Credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CANNON:

H.R. 3252. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to convey a parcel of real property to Beaver County, Utah; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. COLLINS (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 3253. A bill to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 120 12th Street in Columbus, Georgia, as the "J. Robert Elliott Federal Building and United States Courthouse"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 3254. A bill to amend the Electronic Fund Transfer Act to require truncation of account numbers on transaction receipts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. MOORE (for himself, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. TIAHRT, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H.R. 3255. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3710 West 73rd Terrace in Prairie Village, Kansas, as the "Senator James B. Pearson Post Office"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. ROHRBACHER:

H.R. 3256. A bill to provide for the issuance of the Office of the Secretary of Defense Exceptional Public Service Award to journalists who accompanied units of the United States Armed Forces or coalition partners into Iraq during Operation Iraqi Freedom, a process referred to as "embedding"; in order to provide first-hand and timely reports on the progress of the United States and coalition forces and the liberation of the Iraqi people; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio:

H.R. 3257. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the Western Reserve Heritage Area; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (for herself, Mr. PEARCE, and Mr. UDALL of New Mexico):

H.R. 3258. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, in cooperation with the University of New Mexico, to construct and occupy a portion of the Hibben Center for Archaeological Research at the University of New Mexico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. CONYERS (for himself, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. UPTON, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. CAMP, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. HOEKSTRA, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan):

H. Con. Res. 295. Concurrent resolution congratulating and saluting Focus: HOPE on the occasion of its 35th anniversary and for its remarkable commitment and contributions to Detroit, the State of Michigan, and the United States; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 40: Mr. WATT and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 135: Mr. NORWOOD.
 H.R. 195: Mr. BARTON of Texas.
 H.R. 235: Mr. LATHAM and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 259: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.
 H.R. 665: Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 721: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire.
 H.R. 727: Mr. HONDA, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 734: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 745: Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 775: Mr. TANCREDO.
 H.R. 785: Mr. KING of Iowa.
 H.R. 814: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 850: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
 H.R. 852: Ms. NORTON, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 857: Mr. LANGEVIN.
 H.R. 869: Mr. BISHOP of Utah and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 876: Mr. ROTHMAN, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, and Mr. PORTER.
 H.R. 896: Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 920: Mr. REYES and Mr. CARDOZA.
 H.R. 937: Mr. LAMPSON.
 H.R. 979: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 1004: Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 1083: Ms. BALDWIN.
 H.R. 1097: Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina.
 H.R. 1105: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 1121: Mr. SHAYS.
 H.R. 1146: Mr. HERGER.
 H.R. 1157: Mr. WU.
 H.R. 1179: Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 1200: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. PALLONE.
 H.R. 1229: Mr. VITTER.
 H.R. 1231: Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. CARTER, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, and Mr. MEEHAN.
 H.R. 1236: Mr. SESSIONS.
 H.R. 1241: Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. BOSWELL, and Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 1243: Mr. WEXLER.
 H.R. 1258: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 1285: Mr. HOYER.
 H.R. 1310: Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BURR, Mr. BASS, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.
 H.R. 1322: Ms. SLAUGHTER and Mr. CROWLEY.
 H.R. 1345: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 1372: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. TURNER of Texas.
 H.R. 1385: Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 1414: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.R. 1425: Mr. CASE and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 1466: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 1483: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY and Mr. HINCHEY.
 H.R. 1508: Mr. GREEN of Texas and Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 1613: Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 1617: Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA.
 H.R. 1634: Mr. PUTNAM.
 H.R. 1689: Mr. CROWLEY.
 H.R. 1738: Mr. BACA.
 H.R. 1746: Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin and Mr. HINOJOSA.
 H.R. 1755: Mr. CAMP.
 H.R. 1784: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 1828: Mr. DELAY, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. GEPHARDT, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. FILNER.
 H.R. 1905: Mr. PORTER.
 H.R. 1943: Mr. PLATTS, Ms. HART, and Mr. FLAKE.

H.R. 1958: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
 H.R. 1961: Mr. BARTON of Texas.
 H.R. 1992: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 2071: Mr. RUSH, Mr. STARK, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. SABO, and Ms. CARSON of Indiana.
 H.R. 2118: Mr. GILLMOR and Mr. CULBERSON.
 H.R. 2127: Mr. WYNN and Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2173: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. PASTOR.
 H.R. 2213: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 2256: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 2260: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. REYES, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. HOLT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. PASCRELL.
 H.R. 2291: Mr. DEUTSCH.
 H.R. 2318: Mr. BOUCHER and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 2365: Mr. MCHUGH.
 H.R. 2379: Mr. CAMP.
 H.R. 2400: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 2426: Mrs. DAVIS of California.
 H.R. 2434: Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California.
 H.R. 2505: Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
 H.R. 2511: Mr. MILLER of Florida and Mr. HOLDEN.
 H.R. 2512: Mr. MCCOTTER.
 H.R. 2519: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H.R. 2538: Mr. GOSS.
 H.R. 2574: Mr. OLVER, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. CAPUANO, and Mr. GRIJALVA.
 H.R. 2579: Mr. LEACH.
 H.R. 2585: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
 H.R. 2671: Mr. ROSS and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 2677: Mr. SABO.
 H.R. 2705: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. CASE.
 H.R. 2719: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LAMPSON, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
 H.R. 2720: Mr. SANDERS and Mr. KLINE.
 H.R. 2727: Mr. KIND.
 H.R. 2732: Mr. PLATTS and Mr. WHITFIELD.
 H.R. 2768: Mr. MANZULLO, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BOEHNER, Ms. HARRIS, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Ms. HART, Mr. WICKER, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. TAUZIN, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. COLE, Mr. LUCAS of Oklahoma, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. NUNES, Mr. POMBO, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. GIBBONS, and Mrs. HOOLEY of Oregon.
 H.R. 2823: Mr. SANDLIN.
 H.R. 2824: Mr. FORBES.
 H.R. 2844: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
 H.R. 2897: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. MALONEY, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
 H.R. 2899: Mr. QUINN, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 2906: Mr. JANKLOW.
 H.R. 2908: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. MICHAUD, and Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 2932: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 2938: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.
 H.R. 2952: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 2966: Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. SHIMKUS.
 H.R. 2970: Mr. MCGOVERN.
 H.R. 2986: Mr. MCNULTY and Mr. NORWOOD.
 H.R. 2990: Mr. UPTON and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
 H.R. 2998: Mr. VISLOSKEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. BASS, Mr. KLINE, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. GREENWOOD, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, and Mr. LEVIN.
 H.R. 2999: Mr. NORWOOD.
 H.R. 3002: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. SIMPSON.
 H.R. 3003: Mr. BAKER.

H.R. 3022: Mr. SANDERS.
 H.R. 3023: Mr. SANDERS.
 H.R. 3024: Mr. WYNN and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H.R. 3054: Mr. VAN HOLLEN.
 H.R. 3058: Mr. GERLACH, Mr. PETRI, Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BOUCHER, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio.
 H.R. 3062: Mr. GIBBONS and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
 H.R. 3076: Mr. UPTON.
 H.R. 3104: Mr. ROHRBACHER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. FORD, Mr. ROSS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, Mr. CASE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
 H.R. 3119: Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H.R. 3120: Mr. SANDERS.
 H.R. 3125: Mr. BURGESS, Mr. WICKER, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. NEY, and Mr. BURR.
 H.R. 3134: Mr. BOEHLERT.
 H.R. 3139: Mr. RODRIGUEZ.
 H.R. 3140: Mr. HENSARLING and Mr. CARTER.
 H.R. 3147: Mr. REHBERG, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. OTTER, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. HAYWORTH.
 H.R. 3149: Mr. PUTNAM and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
 H.R. 3153: Ms. WATSON, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. WOOLSEY.
 H.R. 3157: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FORBES, Mr. ACEVEDO-VILA, Mrs. FILNER, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. MCHUGH, and Ms. BORDALLO.
 H.R. 3158: Mr. WEXLER, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. DEUTSCH, and Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 3165: Mr. GOODE.
 H.R. 3178: Mr. PAUL, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
 H.R. 3180: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 3182: Mr. SHAW, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. GREENWOOD.
 H.R. 3184: Mr. AKIN and Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 3190: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 3192: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. COOPER, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, and Mr. STARK.
 H.R. 3197: Ms. NORTON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. COOPER, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.
 H.R. 3199: Mr. WALSH, Mr. STRICKLAND, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
 H.R. 3208: Mr. BONNER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. NORTHUP.
 H.R. 3228: Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. WYNN, and Mr. BOUCHER.
 H.R. 3237: Mr. COOPER, Mr. CASTLE, and Mr. GREENWOOD.
 H.R. 3243: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
 H.R. 3247: Mr. BEAUPREZ.
 H.J. Res. 22: Mr. PETRI.
 H.J. Res. 48: Mr. ISAKSON.
 H.J. Res. 56: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky and Mr. FLAKE.
 H. Con. Res. 87: Ms. LOFGREN.
 H. Con. Res. 126: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
 H. Con. Res. 192: Mr. DEUTSCH, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H. Con. Res. 218: Mr. SHAW and Mr. WEXLER.
 H. Con. Res. 247: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. LEACH, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. MOLLOHAN, and Mr. SANDLIN.
 H. Con. Res. 264: Mr. WOLF, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. PAYNE.
 H. Con. Res. 280: Mr. HULSHOF, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. BERUTER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. SWEENEY, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.

October 7, 2003

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD—HOUSE

H9283

H. Con. Res. 281: Mr. EVANS and Mr. RANGEL.

H. Res. 262: Mr. SHAW, Mr. BOEHLERT, and Mr. EHLERS.

H. Res. 302: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 320: Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California and Ms. LOFGREN.

H. Res. 342: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H. Res. 366: Mr. SKELTON.

H. Res. 372: Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, and Mr. MILLER of Florida.

H. Res. 378: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. NEY, Mr. LAHOOD, and Mr. KING of Iowa.

H. Res. 384: Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H. Res. 385: Mr. POMEROY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. McDERMOTT, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING NEW GLARUS BREWING COMPANY

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the outstanding achievements of the New Glarus Brewing Company of New Glarus, Wisconsin.

Small businesses provide the backbone of the American economy. Opened in 1993 by Daniel and Deborah Carey, the New Glarus Brewing Company has exemplified excellence in small business for ten years. The Careys' commitment to quality is demonstrated not only in the fine products of their successful brewery, but also by the numerous awards they have received.

Since its inception, the New Glarus Brewing Company has won recognition both nationally and internationally for their microbrewed beverages. At this year's Great American Beer Festival, held recently in Denver, Colorado, the Careys' presence was felt among such nationally-known brewing giants as Miller and Anheuser-Busch. Beating out forty-three entries, and in what the Careys called ". . . the biggest thing we have ever won . . .", the New Glarus Brewing Company took home gold and silver awards in the fruit and vegetable beer category for their Belgian Red and Raspberry Tart brews, respectively.

Even more impressive than national accolades is the noticeable cultural impact of this fine Wisconsin establishment. A marker of this pervasiveness can be seen in my own office in Washington, D.C. National awards and recognition combined with regional cultural contributions are truly reasons to be proud. An even better reason, however, are the thousands of Wisconsinites who enjoy the Careys' creations. I have had the honor to personally tour the New Glarus brewery. From this tour I learned that top-notch beers, such as Belgian Red and Spotted Cow, require high quality ingredients, outstanding staff, and remarkable ownership.

The Careys' ability to combine product quality and business savvy is commendable and deserves recognition. I am proud to call the New Glarus Brewing Company a true Wisconsin favorite.

CONGRATULATING MICHAEL DELCONTE ON BEING NAMED "PERSON OF THE YEAR"

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael Delconte of Hughestown, Stauffer Heights, Pennsylvania for being named "Person of the Year" by the Italian-

American Association of Luzerne County. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to his achievements as he is honored at a dinner this Sunday, October 12, at the Woodlands in Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania.

A member of the Italian-American Association of Luzerne County for ten years, Michael has served as the Secretary of the organization, and its President for the past two years.

Mr. Delconte is a 1951 graduate of Pittston High School and a retired federal employee. He worked at the Tobyhanna Army Depot for over 32 years serving as the Branch Chief Supervisor before he retired. He is a member of the Second Presbyterian Church of Pittston and a Past Worshipful Master of the Saint John's Lodge #233 Free and Accepted Masons where he currently serves as Treasurer. He currently serves as Sexton at the Second Presbyterian Church and as Secretary of the Pittston Red Devils athletic club.

Michael Delconte is the son of the late James and Rose Delconte. He has four living brothers, Matthew Colangelo, James, John and Robert Delconte. His brother Joseph Colangelo passed away in 1993. He has several nieces and nephews and great nieces and nephews.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent a man who has displayed a lifetime leadership role in serving his community. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute to Michael Delconte as he receives this well deserved honor.

A TRIBUTE TO DR. LEON E. RONDENET

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man by any measure—Dr. Leon E. Rondenet. Dr. Rondenet was born in Chicago, IL, on July 28, 1922 to Leon and Loretta Rondenet (deceased). Leon Rondenet, O.D., is a World War II Medical Corps veteran. Dr. Rondenet is a graduate of the Northern Illinois College of Optometry. He has been in private practice for over 50 years. Dr. Rondenet has enjoyed providing the eye care needs for generations of Illinoisans.

Dr. Rondenet is an expert in difficult refractive cases and enjoys providing contact lens fittings for adults and children. He is a long-time member of the American Optometric Association and the Illinois Optometric Association. He has provided indigent eye care services for the Lions Club and supports the Illinois Society for the Prevention of Blindness.

Dr. Rondenet can be held to Ecclesiastes 7:18-19: "The man will avoid all extreme. Wisdom makes one wise man more powerful." Dr. Rondenet is an avid golfer and enjoys recreational fishing. He has been married to Mary Rondenet for 59 years. They have four children, Lee Jr., Mimi, John, and Bill.

LONG BEACH UNIFIED SCHOOL DISTRICT

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on September 22nd, the Long Beach Unified School District received the Broad Prize for Urban Education, which is awarded to the most outstanding school district in the country. This year the Long Beach Unified School District is America's Best Urban School System.

The Long Beach Unified School District was selected from five national finalists by a panel of 12 national leaders in the education, government, business and nonprofit sectors, including Boeing CEO Phil Condit, Florida Governor Jeb Bush and former Secretary of Housing and Urban Development Henry Cisneros.

The Broad Prize for Urban Education is the largest national education award and is synonymous with the Nobel Prize for schools. The Prize is awarded annually to urban school districts making the greatest overall improvement in student achievement while at the same time reducing achievement gaps across ethnic groups and between various incomes. The winning district receives a cash award of \$500,000 that goes towards scholarships for students to attend college or other post-secondary training.

Throughout the year, the Long Beach Unified School District will be highlighted and used as a model so that districts across the country can learn from their success. This will allow other school districts to replicate Long Beach's innovative teaching and educational strategies, thus extending their example and impact.

Long Beach's strength comes from their ability to evaluate and adapt its programs to meet the needs of specific students. This is no easy feat, considering that the Long Beach Unified School District is the third largest school district in California, serving 96,000 students. It also serves, according to U.S. Census, the most ethnically diverse city in the Nation with 46 different languages spoken by local students.

I commend the hard working teachers and school administrators of Long Beach for their contributions and commitment to our young people. I also would like to recognize the parents and our community for supporting the Long Beach Unified School District's efforts to help every child reach its full potential.

Education has always been tied to the promise of equality and opportunity for all and Long Beach Unified School District is an institution that gives every student an equal chance to succeed. Congratulations to the Long Beach Unified School District for this incredible achievement!

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

HONORING SCHOOL OF HUMAN
ECOLOGY AT UNIVERSITY OF
WISCONSIN-MADISON

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding 100 year legacy of the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison.

The School of Human Ecology, originally named the Department of Home Economics, was founded in 1903 based on the hard work and dedication of numerous women important to the history of Wisconsin. Among these forward-thinking individuals were Helen Campbell, an author, reformer and home economist, and Caroline Hunt, a vibrant lecturer, mentor, and advocate of women's role in the field of science.

From these promising beginnings, the School today houses departments that span a variety of study: from Consumer Science to Foods and Nutrition to Human Development and Family Studies. The School is truly integral to the educational opportunities available at this fine state institution.

The School of Human Ecology has been well recognized for its commitment to individuals, families and communities in aiming to improve the quality of life for all citizens. This commitment has been demonstrated by the outstanding tradition of research undertaken by professors and students alike. The research operations of the School are not limited to pure academic undertakings but extend to include numerous outreach programs. The Helen Louise Allen Textile Collection, an example of both research and outreach, houses one of the premier compilations of fabric and textile art and artifacts in the Nation. It is through programs such as this that the School of Human Ecology admirably achieves its dedication to community.

I am proud to rise today and join the University of Wisconsin in honoring the impressive 100 years of accomplishments at the School of Human Ecology at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. It is truly an honor to acknowledge the School's impressive past and promising future.

CONGRATULATING RAYMOND
ANGELI ON BEING NAMED "MAN
OF THE YEAR"

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my very good friend Raymond Angeli for being named "Man of the Year" by the Columbus Day Association of Lackawanna County. It is an honor to join the members of the association in paying tribute to his numerous achievements as he is honored at a dinner this Sunday, October 12, at Fiorelli's in Peckville.

Each year, the Columbus Day Association honors one local citizen of Italian ancestry who best represents the legacy of Christopher Columbus. Raymond Angeli represents this

legacy of strong innovative leadership and of personal sacrifice. He has been the president of Lackawanna College since 1994 and had previously served on the college's board of directors. At the college, he has transformed this 107-year-old institution into a vital vehicle to shape the leaders of tomorrow and serve the community at large. With tremendous ingenuity and initiative, Ray developed specialized educational programs designed to meet the needs of employers, while keeping the college's tradition of small class sizes and personalized attention to each student.

Mr. Angeli also has a distinguished career in government. The late Governor Robert Casey drafted him into service for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania where he served as deputy, then cabinet-level Secretary for the Department of Community Affairs.

Raymond Angeli has also exhibited leadership and sacrifice in defense of our Nation. He is a retired lieutenant colonel in the U.S. Army where he served two combat tours of duty in Southeast Asia as a helicopter pilot and company commander. He received the Purple Heart, the Bronze Star, the Air Medal, and Meritorious Service medals.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent a man who has played such a vital role in the Scranton community, northeastern Pennsylvania, and in defending the freedoms all of our Nation's citizens enjoy.

A TRIBUTE TO ALTHEA LOREEN
GRAYSON BANKS

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a woman by any measure—Althea Loreen Grayson Banks. On September 27, 2003, Althea departed from us. She was a woman of many talents and accomplishments. She was employed as an office manager with Mississippi Family Doctors. She was also a licensed real estate agent broker and licensed funeral home director.

Althea was very involved in community and youth oriented organizations. She served as Girl Scout Troop Leader and was a member of Jack and Jill of America, Inc., Jackson Chapter of C.H.U.M.S., Heroines of Jericho Precious Jewel Count No. 146 and the Elks Kizzie Clifton Temple No. 671. She enjoyed horseback riding, tennis, shopping, sewing, and traveling.

Althea can be held to Proverbs 31:10 "Who can find a virtuous woman? For her price is far above rubies." Her life's joy was her children. She was a dedicated mother, daughter, sister, aunt, and friend. Althea was fun loving, energetic and kind hearted. She loved spending quality time with her family and touched the lives of many. The imprint she has left on the lives of others will be loving and everlasting.

IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM
RIDE

HON. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California. Mr. Speaker, on October 1, 2003, the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride arrived to Washington, DC. I welcome and salute the Immigrant Workers Freedom Riders.

Inspired by the 1961 freedom rides that sought to integrate bus terminals in the South, today's riders are visiting cities and towns across the country. They are raising awareness about the plight of immigrant workers and advocating for comprehensive change to our immigration system. Like Dr. Martin Luther King, these Americans, refuse to believe and I quote, "there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity in this great nation."

Let me share the story of one of those Americans. Salvador Guillen is the proud leader of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees International Union (HERE) Local 681. He is a father of three children and has worked as a housekeeper at Disneyland's Paradise Pier Hotel for over 15 years. Salvador was born in Zamora, Michoacan, and has lived in the United States for 18 years. He is now a proud citizen of the United States.

In his own words, Salvador states:

I want workers like my two sisters who have not been able to legalize and who are forced to work jobs where they are abused, overworked, and underpaid to have the same opportunity.

I don't want my two sisters to suffer anymore like the time when our father was very sick. I remember they cried every night because they could not see him. Our father recovered, but to this day they still have not seen him since they left Mexico years ago.

I want all immigrants who work everyday and pay taxes to have the same opportunity I had for a better life, that is why I took time off my work, without pay, to ride across our country in support of immigration reform.

Salvador's journey exemplifies our democratic principles that all men and women are guaranteed the inalienable rights of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness. May God bless all riders for embarking on this courageous and noble journey. I wish them all the best in New York City.

Together, we can implement sensible immigration policies that bring all immigrants one step closer to the American Dream. For my part, I will continue to fight to defend our democratic values and make justice a reality for all of God's children. Juntos, podemos promover leyes más justas de inmigración, que ayuden a todos los inmigrantes en su lucha por conseguir el Sueño Americano.

IN APPRECIATION OF BOY SCOUT
VENTURE CREW 80

HON. JAMES P. MORAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say thank you to a group of dedicated individuals who helped their community before, during, and after Hurricane Isabel. Boy

Scout Venture Crew 80, sponsored by the First Christian Church of Alexandria and made up of youth members and adult leaders, came together to assist in administering first aid and to operate Amateur Radio for those in the afflicted areas.

Having been highly trained by their leaders in emergency communications and first aid, Venture Crew 80 exemplified the Boy Scout Motto, "Be Prepared." With the knowledge that Hurricane Isabel was quickly heading toward Northern Virginia, these young people and their adult leaders responded to the call of the Alexandria Emergency Operations Center (EOC) and the Fairfax Amateur Radio Emergency Service to assist them with their storm operations.

On Wednesday September 17, with most of the Northern Virginia area making preparations for the oncoming wind and rain, Venture Crew 80 were being briefed on how they could assist the city of Alexandria with radio communications support, and by 8 a.m. on Thursday they were on the call assisting the EOC and Red Cross shelters across the area.

Throughout Thursday, these dedicated individuals helped set up radios and other equipment needed to run a successful emergency operations center, assisted in assembling food, water, cots and blankets for shelters should they be needed during and after the storm, and helped gather emergency medical response gear for distribution. After completing the setup, they helped to handle the large amount of radio traffic between the EOC, Red Cross and the emergency shelters and monitored the amateur radio traffic. They remained at their posts, helping their fellow citizens make it through Hurricane Isabel, until 6:30 Friday morning.

Venture Crew 80 continued their support throughout the weekend at the EOC, various emergency shelters, the Mt. Vernon Recreation Center and their communities. Their first aid training was especially appreciated when neighbors came seeking aid and the nursing staff was unable to help.

On behalf of the residents of the City of Alexandria and Fairfax County, I would like to thank all the boys and girls, men and women who took their time and energy to help our community during Hurricane Isabel. It is obvious that the emergency efforts throughout the storm would not have been possible without the hard work of Venture Crew 80.

CONGRATULATING THE PHILIPS FAMILY FOR 268 YEARS OF VOLUNTEER FIRE SERVICE

HON. PAUL E. KANJORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Philips family of Stroudsburg for a combined 268 years of service to the Phoenix Fire Company No. 2 of the Stroudsburg Fire Company in Monroe County PA. I ask that my colleagues pay tribute this amazing legacy of service and dedication as this family is honored by the Borough of Stroudsburg Council at its meeting on Wednesday, October 15.

Mr. Speaker, I have the great fortune of representing a family that has over the years

dedicated their lives in volunteer service to Stroudsburg and the surrounding communities as members of the Phoenix Fire Company. Herman F. Philips, Lloyd F. Marsh, and Thomas Philips served all their lives and were members until they passed away. Robert W. Philips, Sr., Robert W. Philips, Jr., Richard Philips, and Millard "Skip" Philips all currently serve in the department. The Philips family firefighters have also risen to leadership positions within the department. Skip and Thomas were both assistant chiefs and chiefs, and Robert, Sr. was chief twice.

Their service to both the community and the fire department is remarkable. Equally amazing is the number of volunteer firefighters from one family. However, their longevity in the department is also noteworthy. Robert, Jr., is currently the least experienced volunteer firefighter of the Philips family with only 32 years of service. Robert, Sr., and Richard both have over 50 years while Skip is approaching 50 years.

Firefighters play a critical role in protecting our communities throughout northeastern Pennsylvania. Volunteer firefighters not only faithfully conduct their duties in the fire department, they also are community leaders and volunteer for other activities. The Philips family is no exception. They are pillars of the Stroudsburg community and deserve recognition for their remarkable service over several decades.

Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and honor to represent this family that has played such an impressive vital role in their community and in voluntarily serving others.

TRIBUTE TO MR. RONALD OLSZOWY

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call your attention to the life and work of an exceptional individual who I am proud to call my friend. Ronald Olszowy was honored by the Central of Polish Organizations on Sunday, September 28th, as the 2003 Marshal for the Passaic, Clifton and Vicinity Contingent of the 66th Annual General Kazimierz Pulaski Day Parade, which will be held on October 5th in New York City.

Over the past thirty years, Ron Olszowy has worked tirelessly on behalf of the men, women, and children of Passaic, Bergen, and Essex Counties. His selfless and unquestioning commitment to various civic, fraternal, and charitable organizations has left an indelible mark on the lives of many, demonstrating the positive difference that one person can make. It is only fitting that we honor Ronald Olszowy in this, the permanent record of the greatest freely elected body on earth.

The son of the late New Jersey Assemblyman Emil Olszowy, Ron grew up in a family committed to public service. Graduating from Lodi High School and Polk Junior College in Winter Haven, Florida, Ron entered the United States Army as a Military Policeman. During his 1968–1971 stint in the military, Ron held a top-secret security clearance within the Defense Atomic Support Agency. In September of 1968, he was decorated for heroism and credited with saving the life of another soldier.

Upon leaving the military, Ron received his bachelor's degree at William Paterson University, and soon became involved in local and state politics as the campaign manager for his father as well as for former Assemblyman Joseph Scancarella and former Assemblyman Gerry Zecker. In 1982, Ron applied the experience that he had gained in the Assembly elections to his role as a County Coordinator for Governor Kean's election. The election was successful and, in 1985, Ron Olszowy was appointed by Governor Kean as one of four public members of the New Jersey Economic Development Authority.

As the President and owner of Nationwide Bail Bonds and Interstate Insurance Agency in Clifton, Mr. Olszowy has demonstrated the same boundless enthusiasm, initiative, and personal drive that had made him so successful in the political arena. His distinguished work in the field of Bail Bonds led to his serving terms as both the President of the Professional Bail Agents of New Jersey and the President of the Professional Bail Agents of the United States. In both of these capacities, Ron has established himself as one of the foremost professionals in his field.

Yet Ron's commitment to enriching the lives of others extends far beyond the professional sphere. As the former director of the Board of the Passaic Boys and Girls Club, former director of the Passaic Lions Club, and Chairman of the Board of the American Cancer Society, Ronald Olszowy has devoted his time, talents, and energy to providing much-needed services to the residents of northern New Jersey. He has provided a valuable role model for the young men and women of the area, proving that the only real success in life comes from a true commitment to the community at large.

Mr. Olszowy's fine spirit of community service and volunteerism has been recognized across the State of New Jersey. He is a member of the Passaic, Bergen, and Essex County Police Chiefs Association and has been honored by Policeman's Benevolence Associations throughout Passaic, Essex, and Bergen Counties for his dedication to law enforcement. What is more, Ron Olszowy has three times been named Man of the Year for his acts of generosity—in 1991 by the American Cancer Society, in 1994 by the Italian-American Police Society of New Jersey and, in 1995 by the Passaic County Police Chiefs Association.

Mr. Speaker, the job of a United States Congressman involves so much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to recognizing the extraordinary efforts of public servants like Ron Olszowy. I ask that you join our colleagues, the members of the Central of Polish Organizations, and myself in recognizing Ronald Olszowy for his outstanding service to the men and women of Northern New Jersey.

SEWICKLEY'S 150TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MELISSA A. HART

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to have the opportunity to pay tribute to one of America's premier communities on the occasion of its 150th anniversary. I am proud to serve as Sewickley's Representative in the

U.S. House and wish its citizens the best on this important milestone in its history.

Sewickley, rich in both history and tradition, was chosen by many area leaders as a desirable place to live and boasts fine architecture and landscapes.

I ask all of my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating one of the nation's finest communities on its 150th birthday.

TRIBUTE TO ARIE P. TAYLOR

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. DEGETTE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize the exceptional accomplishments and extraordinary life of a woman in the 1st Congressional District of Colorado. It is both fitting and proper that we recognize this distinguished public servant for her impressive record of civic leadership and invaluable service. It is to commend this outstanding citizen that I rise to honor Arie P. Taylor.

Arie Taylor was a remarkable woman who lived a remarkable life. She was on the front lines of progress for decades and proved to be a powerful force in transforming the landscape of our city and state. Her indomitable spirit sustained her through many challenges and molded a life of notable accomplishment. Born in Bedford, Ohio, it was evident at an early age that politics would play a major role in Arie Taylor's life. At age 19, she served under the first African American woman on the Cleveland City Council. After studying at Miami University of Ohio and Case Western Reserve University, she served a four-year stint in the Women's Air Force as a Staff Sergeant where she was the first black classroom instructor and noncommissioned officer in Women's Air Force training. Arie Taylor distinguished herself in national politics when as a delegate to the 1968 Democratic National Convention, she fought against seating all-white Southern delegations.

Arie Taylor's lengthy career in public service began in 1972 when she was elected to the Colorado House of Representatives representing House District 7 in northeast Denver. She was the first African American woman elected to the Colorado General Assembly and served six terms. As a state representative, she burnished a reputation of being forthright, outspoken and wearing great hats. She became a powerful advocate for African Americans, women, the poor, the elderly and other disadvantaged communities. Arie Taylor carried legislation that amended state civil rights statutes to include sex and gender. She carried fair housing legislation permitting women to access credit in their own names instead of having to rely on their spouses. She sponsored legislation for homemakers displaced because of domestic violence which, after passage, led to creation of a state income tax check-off to support organizations assisting victims of domestic violence. Arie Taylor further sponsored legislation that created treatment centers at the University of Colorado Medical Center for hemophilia and sickle cell anemia.

Her service to the City & County of Denver began as Deputy Clerk of Denver District

Court and Chief Clerk of the Denver Election Commission. Her career culminated in being appointed Denver Clerk & Recorder by former Mayor Wellington E. Webb in 1991. It comes as no surprise that Arie Taylor was the recipient of numerous awards including the Harriett Tubman Award for extraordinary efforts against racial violence. In 1999, the municipal center in northeast Denver was dedicated in her name.

Arie Taylor lived a life of meaning and one that was rich in consequence. It is the character and deeds of Arie Taylor, and all Americans like her, which distinguishes us as a people. Truly, we are all diminished by the passing of this remarkable woman.

Please join me in paying tribute to the life of Arie P. Taylor, a distinguished public servant. It is the values, leadership and commitment she exhibited during her life that serves to build a better future for all Americans.

TRIBUTE TO MG ARNOLD PUNARO

HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to MG Arnold Punaro, United States Marine Corps Reserve, on the occasion of his retirement. Major General Punaro has served our Marine Corps and our Nation for more than 35 years.

A native of the great state of Georgia, Major General Punaro grew up in the town of Macon, and graduated from Mount de Sales Academy. He then chose to focus on higher education, earning a Bachelor of Science degree in English from Spring Hill College in Mobile, Alabama. He would later earn Masters degrees at the University of Georgia and also Georgetown University. Like many fine, Southern gentlemen before him, he answered the call to duty and joined the Marine Corps, serving as a platoon commander in Vietnam where he was decorated for heroism and wounded in combat.

In 1973, after completing his active duty tour, Major General Punaro transferred to the Marine Corps Reserve, and continued to dedicate himself to the service of our country, working in the U.S. Senate for Senator Sam Nunn on national security matters for 24 years. In his work with the Senate Armed Services Committee as Staff Director of the Senate Armed Services Committee, he was involved in the formulation of all major defense legislation and the oversight and review of all major defense activities for over two decades. This included the Defense Officer Personnel Management Act and its Reserve counterpart, the Goldwater-Nichols Defense Reorganization Act, the Acquisition Streamlining Act, personnel transition provisions, special operations reforms, and all pay and benefits matters. Major General Punaro also remained actively involved in numerous Reserve organizations, including a tour on active duty in Operation Desert Shield and an extended tour on active duty as the Commander of Joint task Force Provide Promise (Forward) in command of U.S. Forces serving in the former Yugoslavia.

Throughout his career, both civilian and military, MG Arnold Punaro dedicated himself to improving our national security. He serves as

a member of Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld's newly formed Defense Business Board and is also a Senior Associate at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington, D.C. He serves on the adjunct faculty at the Marine Corps University and on the Secretary of Defense Reserve Forces Policy Board. As a general officer, he has spent 5 years in command, focusing on increased operational readiness and the integration of reserve forces into the total force Marine Corps. Always keeping the welfare of his Marines at the forefront of his efforts, Major General Punaro spearheaded several programs that directly benefited the quality of life for our service members.

Major General Punaro was recently mobilized on active duty, serving concurrently as a Special Assistant to the Commander, U.S. European Command and as Director of Reserve Affairs Division where he oversaw the largest mobilization in the history of the Marine Corps. In support of the Global War on Terrorism, more than 22,000 Reserve Marines were called to duty. More than 75 percent of those were deployed into theater, where they served with distinction. His dedication to the defense of our country, as a young man in Vietnam to his actions with the Senate together with his continued service with the Marine Corps Reserve, has been a lifelong endeavor. We have been fortunate to have such a high caliber marine officer in support of our nation.

Throughout his distinguished career, Major General Punaro has demonstrated uncompromising character, discerning wisdom, and a sincere, profound sense of duty to his country, and his Corps. On behalf of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, I would like to recognize Major General Punaro's accomplishments and his devoted service to the Nation. Congratulations to him, his wife Jan and their four children, 2LT Joe Punaro (USMC), Julie, Meghan, and Daniel on the completion of a long and distinguished career. I wish them all the best as they continue to live life beyond our country's beloved Corps.

RE-ENTRY OF THE UNITED STATES INTO UNESCO

HON. LOUISE McINTOSH SLAUGHTER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to direct my colleagues' attention to the re-entry of the United States into UNESCO—the U.N. Educational, Cultural, and Scientific Organization.

As Democratic Co-chair of the Congressional Arts Caucus, I congratulate the Administration on this important step toward playing a more active role in working with other member nations in the international cultural arena. I am heartened, as well, that First Lady Laura Bush led the U.S. delegation at the flag-raising ceremony at our new UNESCO Mission in Paris on Tuesday.

UNESCO promotes international co-operation based upon respect for commonly shared values. In the area of culture, it promotes arts education for children and supports artists, arts organizations, and the arts industry. It sees the arts as vital tools for economic development as well as international understanding. UNESCO's director general, Koichiro

Matsuura, recently saluted America's vast intellectual and cultural resources and good will. He termed America "a great nation so diverse that each of us can see himself in it; America holds up a mirror to the world."

As our country takes this important step to further international understanding through education, culture, and science, we should all look forward to working with the U.S. Mission in any way possible.

Unfortunately, ignoring the House's lead, the other body's Appropriations Committee has voted against funding to cover our UNESCO dues. I urge the White House, having sent Mrs. Bush to Paris, to weigh in—heavily and soon—to prevent the Senate from making her appearance into little more than a photo opportunity. Failure to do so would send a signal that the Administration does not truly recognize the important role that our country's best mirror to the world—arts, education, and science—plays in promoting international understanding.

HONORING THE REVEREND LARRY STAMPER AND SUE STAMPER

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Larry and Mrs. Sue Stamper on being the recipients of the second annual Woodbury University Movers and Shapers Award that recognizes outstanding volunteer service to Burbank and its residents by members of the community.

Sue Stamper is an Oklahoma native who attended Point Loma College. She has been active in the United Methodist Women, The National Charity League, P.E.O., Burbank Sister City Committee, San Fernando Valley Girl Scouts, Zoma, and Noon Rotary. She is also a member and participant in the Burbank YMCA since 1993, and has been involved in numerous Woodbury activities. Sue is a very talented musician, she plays the violin, piano, and organ. She is additionally a vocalist and enjoys singing at special events. She is currently vice president at First State Bank in Burbank.

Larry Stamper earned a bachelor's degree from Point Loma College and a master's degree from Claremont School of Theology. He is well known in the community as the pastor of Burbank First United Methodist Church. He is a member of the Burbank Community Hospital Foundation, and is on the board of governors for Goodwill Industries. He also serves on the board of directors of Wesley Homes, which are senior retirement homes sponsored by his church. Larry served on the Burbank City Council during the 1980's and was mayor from 1983–1984. He is a member and past-president of the Burbank Kiwanis Club. He was chaplain for the Burbank Police Department for 14 years. Larry has long been associated with Woodbury, and received an honorary doctor of letters from the university in 1992.

The Stampers have been married for 47 years and have three children and five grandchildren. Since moving to Burbank 31 years ago, they have played an active role in civic, philanthropic, and spiritual activities. They

have enriched Burbank through their selfless generosity of time and spirit and their constant willingness to better the community. Individually and together, their efforts have positively shaped the future of Burbank.

I ask all Members of Congress today to join me in commending Larry and Sue Stamper for their limitless energy and commitment to the community of Burbank.

THINGS YOU SHOULD KNOW ABOUT THE CONTENTS OF YOUR FLU SHOT

HON. DAN BURTON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to inform my esteemed colleagues of the contents of their influenza vaccines. As we approach the flu season, many of you will visit the doctor's office and receive an annual influenza vaccine. This might prevent the flu, but what else will it do? You should be aware that the vaccine you are about to receive contains thimerosal—a mercury-laden preservative. Scientific evidence continues to accumulate regarding the biologically plausible connection between this preservative and certain neurological disorders.

The influenza vaccine is not the only vaccine that contains thimerosal. According to the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), several currently manufactured U.S. licensed vaccines also contain thimerosal. From Anthrax to Hepatitis, from Influenza to Lyme disease, numerous vaccines exist that contain this preservative.

During my chairmanship of the Government Reform Committee, we held numerous hearings on the adverse effects of thimerosal. According to scientists, these hearings clearly demonstrated the potentially dangerous effects of vaccines containing mercury, and how easy it would be to save thousands of victims from the preservative's effects. Furthermore, some scientists have attributed the growth in Alzheimer's Disease and autism to the mercury found in these vaccines. In April 2000, when the Committee on Government Reform held its first hearing on the dramatic rise in the rates of autism, Federal agencies were estimating that autism affected 1 in 500 children in the United States. A recent study reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* indicates that ratio may actually be as high as 1 in every 150 children, and the problem continues to grow.

What is most shocking about these vaccines is that the pharmaceutical companies no longer need to use thimerosal as a preservative. They could easily eliminate all mercury from these vaccines. Experts believe that if single-shot vials were used for vaccines, then the thimerosal preservative would no longer be necessary. Moving to single-shot vials could have an enormously positive impact in helping to minimize the debilitating effects of mercury-laden thimerosal.

I am submitting to the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD for my colleagues' review a letter that I recently sent to corporate leaders in the pharmaceutical manufacturing industry.

You may already be aware that scientific evidence continues to accumulate regarding

the connection between thimerosal, autism and other neurodevelopmental disorders, and that many parents have become understandably concerned about the safety of pediatric vaccines. Although the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) asked vaccine manufacturers to begin removing the mercury-laden preservative thimerosal from vaccines in 1999, they were not ordered to do so. As a result, we now have a situation where concerned parents who do not wish their children to be exposed to thimerosal are unable to determine which vaccines currently on the market contain thimerosal and which are thimerosal-free.

During my tenure as Chairman of the House Government Reform Committee (1997–2002), a myriad of scientists testified at a series of hearings before the Committee that the mercury in vaccines is a contributing factor to developing neurological disorders, including autism and Alzheimer's Disease. Numerous scientists testified that there is a simple way to prevent doing further harm. Experts believe that if single-shot vials were used for vaccines, then thimerosal would no longer be necessary. Moving to single-shot vials could have an enormously positive impact in helping to minimize and perhaps even eliminate some of the cases of autism, Alzheimer's Disease, and other neurological disorders linked to mercury. Unfortunately, several well-known and firmly-established pharmaceutical companies continue to put thimerosal into vaccines for both children and adults, even though the pharmaceutical industry knows it is a highly toxic substance.

Reports still continue to surface concerning the marked increase in neurological disorders and a possible correlation to mercury-laden vaccines. In May of this year, the California Department of Developmental Services (DDS) released a report entitled, "Autistic Spectrum Disorders, Changes in the California Caseload: 1999–2002." The findings of this report are truly alarming. California's autism population has nearly doubled in 4 years—from 10,360 reported cases in 1998 to 20,377 cases in December of 2002. This astounding growth rate represents a 97 percent increase in just four years, and nearly 100 percent increase in California's caseload since 1999. And California is not alone. The rate of growth in the population of persons with autism in California is commensurate with reported increases all across the Nation, in such diverse States as Georgia, Minnesota, and Massachusetts. We have an absolute epidemic on our hands. If this trend is allowed to continue at a constant rate, we could have up to 4 million autistic children in America within the next decade.

As you may already know, many pharmaceutical companies in your industry are concerned that they may be held liable in potential class-action lawsuits for brain damage caused by thimerosal, which is still found in at least three childhood vaccines. It is my belief that because of these concerns, language was inserted—at the last minute and under the cover of darkness—into last year's "National Homeland Security Agency Act" (H. R. 1158). This language would have protected pharmaceutical companies from future classaction lawsuits; however, the language was ultimately removed after being discovered by several deeply concerned Members of both the House and Senate.

As a leader of your industry, I implore you to eliminate mercury from your vaccines immediately. Mercury-free medicine protects and promotes the health of the world, as well as protecting your industry from future lawsuits. Thank you for your prompt and personal attention to this urgent matter.

For a chart of those vaccines that contain thimerosal, I invite my colleagues to visit the

Food and Drug Administration's website at www.fda.gov/cber/vaccine/thimerosal.htm.

A TRIBUTE TO GEORGE JAMES SINGER, JR.

HON. STEVE CHABOT

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CHABOT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember George James Singer, Jr. George proudly served our Nation in World War II in the Army's 38th Division of the 147th Infantry. He served on the island of Tonga for most of his service from January 1941 to May 1943. The recession at his funeral mass was "Ah Weh, Ah Weh", a song that he learned while stationed in Tonga and loved to sing at family gatherings.

Born in 1917, George lived a full life. After devoting his life to his country, George returned home to Cincinnati, OH, where he settled down with the love of his life, his wife, Marjorie (nee Sturwald). A few years later, they had a daughter, Gayle. George worked most of his life at the Cincinnati Post-Times Star newspaper. Everyone who knew George, knew him to be a kind and gentle man. He loved to play golf and loved traveling around the world with his beloved wife, Marjorie. Marjorie passed away a few years ago and life was never the same for George.

This country owes George our appreciation for defending our freedom. America is grateful for his service. I offer my condolences to Gayle, his daughter, her husband, Bob, and George's two granddaughters, Amy and Katie. America lost another hero on September 9, 2003. Our Nation's loss is most certainly heaven's gain.

HONORING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF BILL AND CAROL CLAY

HON. WM. LACY CLAY

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CLAY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to my parents, William "Bill" and Carol Clay, on the occasion of their 50th wedding anniversary. As many of you know, my father, former Congressman Bill Clay, represented the 1st Congressional District of Missouri in this body for 32 years.

My parents were married on October 10, 1953 in St. Louis, Missouri. Their life together has been built upon a solid foundation of love, mutual respect, honor and dedication. Over the years they have worked very hard to be responsible parents to their three children, while at the same time toiling tirelessly to provide service to the "larger" family of constituents in St. Louis and beyond.

My father served in elective office for over 40 years and my mother stood by his side every step of the way. From their attempt to desegregate the public swimming pool at Fort McClellan in Alabama, to the marches and protests for employment opportunities at the Jefferson Bank and Trust Company and Howard Johnson's Restaurant in St. Louis, my par-

ents were at the forefront of the struggle for justice and equality from the very early years of their marriage. On one occasion, my father spent 118 days in jail as a result of protesting injustice. During that period, my mother would take us regularly to the jail house to see him, so that we would understand what he was doing and why. My parents instilled a deep sense of commitment to fighting injustice and righting wrongs within my sisters and me at an early age.

One of my fondest memories was in January 1969 when my father was sworn in as a Member of the U.S. House of Representatives. Following his lead, as we normally would, my sisters and I raised our right hands in an effort to take the oath of office with him. At that time, we could not have foreseen an even prouder moment for our family when, 32 years later I had the privilege and honor of being sworn in as a Member of this esteemed body. As I was taking the oath of office, I looked over to my father and noticed a tear fall from his eye while my mother stood beside him, misty-eyed as well.

Throughout his long and distinguished career, my father has been a trailblazer, a pacesetter, an innovator and a fearless leader. At the same time, my mother has been the advocate, the nurturer, the rock solid supporter and the foundation of the Clay family. I take pleasure in reflecting upon all of the wonderful lessons and guidance they have given my sisters and me over the years. They taught us the importance of family commitment, being patient and respecting the opinions of others. They also taught us to always be prepared and look at life from a practical point of view.

Their contributions to our community and our Nation are enormous. In addition, their strong commitment to the education of young people is exemplary. Together they have helped raise over \$3 million in college scholarships for minority students through their efforts with the William L. Clay Scholarship and Research Fund. This Fund was founded by my father and the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses organization, of which my mother was a cofounder.

My sisters, Vicki Clay Jackson, Michelle Clay Rorie, and I will honor Bill and Carol in celebration of their golden wedding anniversary on Saturday, October 11, 2003. We are being assisted in this momentous undertaking by all five of Bill and Carol Clay's grandchildren—Angela Clay, Michael Alexis, H. Clay Rorie, Carol W. Clay and William L. Clay, III. Family, life-long friends and colleagues from throughout the Nation will be joining us on that marvelous occasion to extend thanks and appreciation for their love, guidance and friendship.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my colleagues extend a well-deserved and heartfelt round of congratulations to Bill and Carol Clay as they celebrate 50 years of love and devotion to one another and to the Clay family.

BUILDING MOMENTUM

HON. TOM DeLAY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, since the first days after 9/11, President Bush has made

clear two priorities in his vision for American security.

First, that the top priority of his administration is to defend our nation and free nations everywhere by declaring and winning a war against global terror. And second, that this war on terror is unlike any conflict in history, fought simultaneously on economic, military, and diplomatic fronts around the world.

In the last week, good news has emerged in several of these sectors.

First of all, American businesses created 57,000 jobs last month, strengthening our economy and putting paychecks back into our people's hands. Our national security is dependent on the creation of even more jobs and economic growth, so that we can afford to meet the ever-changing challenges of the war on terror.

That's why President Bush's tax relief has proven so vital, and why proposals to raise new taxes are so dangerous.

Even as the economy rebounds here at home, we've got to keep military, diplomatic, and economic pressure on the terrorists around the world. So, this week, the Appropriations Committee will take up the President's supplemental war budget request—after two weeks of hearings—to pay for our ongoing military and democracy-building efforts in Iraq and Afghanistan.

We are also committed to keeping up the diplomatic pressure on states that harbor and assist terrorists themselves. Toward that end, this week the International Relations Committee will take up the Syria Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act.

This bill, which is cosponsored by 260 members of the House, identifies Syria's continued actions assisting international terrorism and lays out potential sanctions against Syria for such activity.

On the heels of Israel's justified destruction of a Syrian terrorist training camp over the weekend, it's imperative the United States remain true to the Bush Doctrine, support our allies, and stand up to Syria's continued allegiance with evil.

All three of these items, Mr. Speaker—the growing economic recovery, the supplemental war budget, and the Syria accountability bill—will continue to build America's momentum in the war on terror. That momentum will continue to forge prosperity and security for the American people and in turn create peace around the world.

TRIBUTE TO KURT ANDREW DODD

HON. C.W. BILL YOUNG

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. YOUNG of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week the Committee on Appropriations lost a dear friend and valued colleague, Staff Assistant Kurt Dodd. I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his service for the American people and to his memory.

Kurt Andrew Dodd was born on April 17, 1957. He began his Federal service in 1980 at the age of 23 as a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey. After 17 years with USGS, Kurt came to work for the Appropriations Committee as a detailee to the Interior Subcommittee in January 1997. He spent the next

6½ years in the appropriations process, serving as minority clerk for the Interior Subcommittee of the Senate Appropriations Committee as well as staff assistant for the Treasury-Postal and Transportation-Treasury Subcommittees in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, the responsibilities of these positions were enormous, and Kurt carried out those responsibilities with the utmost professionalism, dedication, and intelligence. Most recently, Kurt reviewed the budget requests and oversaw financial management of the Department of the Treasury, the General Services Administration, and the National Archives and Records Administration. Congress appropriates over \$18 billion annually for those programs. And we did that each year counting on Kurt's expertise and recommendations. Kurt oversaw some of our Nation's highest priority programs, including those related to the tracking of terrorist financing and money laundering. His analysis and support were critical not only in providing for timely construction of Federal buildings in general, but also for renovation of the National Archives Rotunda, which recently reopened to the public. His service to the Nation and to the Committee on Appropriations will be sorely missed.

But anyone who knew Kurt would tell you that his dedication and hard work for the American people were only part of the story. His accomplishments include not one but three master's degrees—one in science, one in business, and one in history. He was a voracious reader, and a student of history. Kurt was just as comfortable discussing campaigns of the Peloponnesian War or riptides as he was going over Treasury Department balance sheets. And when his coworkers would express interest in a subject, Kurt would often give them a book from his personal collection to help spread the knowledge he had already attained. He was a true Renaissance man.

But most importantly, Kurt was a man of kindness, decency, and integrity. Generous to a fault, he was loved not only by his family, but also by his colleagues on the Hill who worked with him each day. His gentle demeanor, sense of fairness, and civility to all serve as an inspiration to those of us who work in the cauldron of ideas and passions we call Congress. We need more people like Kurt Dodd in the congressional community, to remind us that fairness, courtesy, and respect can get a lot more accomplished than posturing, arguing, and gamesmanship.

Sadly, Kurt's mobility, and ultimately his life, was cut short by multiple sclerosis. He suffered this terrible, degenerative disease for several years with great dignity, Mr. Speaker, continuing to perform his duties on the committee with extraordinary skill and dedication.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day for the Appropriations Committee. The American people have lost a dedicated public servant; his family has lost a loved one; and his colleagues in the government have lost a dear friend. I ask all Members to join me today in celebrating the life of Kurt Dodd and the example of hard work and professionalism he left for us to follow.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTORS

HON. NEIL ABERCROMBIE

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, on July 17, 2003 our distinguished former colleague, Lee Hamilton, delivered an address to the U.S. Capitol Historical Society's dinner honoring the staff directors of committees of the House of Representatives.

The tribute to the directors was well deserved. They toil long hours and under great stress and pressure to ensure that the House of Representatives operates properly. Mr. Hamilton's remarks are also insightful as to the need for civility in the conduct of our often contentious business. Equally important is the need to respect and to follow the complex Congressional processes and procedures for deliberating the decisions that affect our nation.

I encourage others to read Mr. Hamilton's insightful and instructive remarks on how we conduct our nation's business, and I join him in honoring the hard work and dedication of the staff directors of the U.S. House of Representatives.

A TRIBUTE TO COMMITTEE STAFF DIRECTORS

(By the Hon. Lee H. Hamilton)

The contributions of staff directors to the work of the Congress are immeasurable. I am reasonably confident that every committee chairman and ranking member would say they simply could not do their work without your leadership. I hope that gives each of you a full measure of satisfaction.

I want to talk for a few minutes about the role of the Congress in this country, the importance of politicians, and why your efforts are so important and worthwhile.

PUBLIC ATTITUDES TOWARD CONGRESS

You are, of course, familiar with those who are cynical about your work and the work of Congress. The brightest wits in American life have had their fun at the expense of the Congress. H.L. Mencken said that, "with the right pressure, Congressmen would cheerfully be in favor of polygamy, astrology or cannibalism." Mark Twain said, "suppose you were an idiot, and suppose you were a member of Congress. But I repeat myself." Will Rogers said that, "Congress was a never-ending source of amusement, amazement, and discouragement." Even so, we honor him with that magnificent statue just off the House floor.

We have all seen surveys like those showing that 66 percent of Americans can name the hosts of various game shows, while only 6 percent can name the Speaker of the House. When I was a member, I was never particularly disturbed by such survey results. After all, Americans are busy people with many demands on their time, and it is not easy to put in a full day's work and then read an article about Congress or turn on C-Span to watch the House or Senate in session.

Nor was I bothered by the barbs—after all, we have to appreciate that the bashing of Congress is one of America's all time favorite indoor sports. What did bother me, though, was the extent to which people do not understand or appreciate some of the basic concepts that underlie the workings of the Congress, and the role that Congress plays in the life of our representative democracy. Even if Americans don't know the

name of their senators or representative, they should know something about the importance of what they do to make the country work. Even if they don't know the players or the details of the legislative process, they should know something about how they relate to our system of government. If too many Americans get those concepts wrong, it does matter to the health of our democracy.

ROLE OF THE CONGRESS AND COMMITTEES

In my experience, far too few Americans really understand the most important function of the Congress. It is not, in my view, to pass any particular piece of legislation, or even a budget—but its historic mission is to maintain freedom.

The great phrases ring through our history—"We the people," "consent of the governed," "a more perfect union." These aren't just technical terms of political science. They are words that embody America's civic faith. You and I, above all others, are expected to know them in our bones, and to apply these grand concepts.

We rely on elected representatives to identify, sort out, and solve the difficult issues of state. It did not have to be this way. Our country would be vastly different if the Founders had placed power in the hands of a single ruler, or given much less voice to the American people.

In the Congress, Americans have a forum for debate and deliberation in which they can feel a stake. Traditional lawmaking is not just a nicety—it's a necessity if we're to remain a democracy. The lawmaking process allows us to resolve differences, and to live together peacefully, productively and successfully.

Most Americans may be familiar with the diagram of how a bill becomes a law. Whenever I see those charts I think to myself how sterile they are. They do not convey the dynamics—the frustration, the excitement, the complexity and the necessity of the process. Very few Americans understand that the details of this process of deliberation guarantee that their voices are heard, and freedom is protected.

I worry that astute legislators often bypass steps in the lawmaking process, arguing—in effect—that the ends justify the means. This "unconventional lawmaking" is increasingly applied to important legislation; but in doing this we bypass and put at risk the very democratic process that defines our system.

My view is that important proposals should not bypass the traditional process, including the committee review, because that is one important place where deliberation takes place. That's where members and staff can ask the hard questions. Committees provide expertise, and an opportunity to consider the merits and smooth out the problems in proposals. This is where we build consensus.

Some Americans feel that the legislative procedure is too slow and deliberative—they are annoyed by what they perceive as inside-the-Beltway scuffling, and wonder why Congress can't get things done faster. But do we really want a speedy system in which laws are pushed through before alternatives are considered and consensus developed? We misunderstand Congress's role if we demand it be a model of efficiency and quick action.

Our Founders designed a system in which all new proposals get careful scrutiny by going through many layers of review. They were far less interested in moving good ideas efficiently, than they were in preventing bad ideas from becoming the law of the land in the heat of the moment. People may sometimes complain about the process, but they benefit from its legislative speed bumps when they want their views heard, their interests protected, and their rights safeguarded. As former Speaker Sam Rayburn

used to say: "One of the wisest things ever said was, 'Wait a minute.'" That, in a phrase, is the essential role played by congressional committees.

IMPORTANCE OF POLITICIANS

Democracy, after all, is a process, not a product, and what our democracy really needs is more politicians. That was one line I used to say that was sure to get a reaction. Very few of my constituents agreed.

Showing skill as a politician has come to mean demonstrating the ability to raise campaign funds, engaging in the tit-for-tat of negative advertising, jockeying for public support based on polls and focus groups, or skewering an opponent with a one-liner during a televised debate. People have come to view the word politician—particularly with regard to the Congress—with disdain. Plenty of voters feel that politicians sell-out their beliefs and promises. "Stick to your guns," they urge.

Controversy and conflict are unavoidable in a nation as large and diverse as ours—a diversity that is rightly represented in the peoples' House. To avoid ripping apart at the seams, our country needs people who know how to accommodate different points of view and work for common solutions—it needs politicians.

You are an essential part of this effort. By working behind the scenes, knowing what Members want, proposing compromises, addressing all the difficult details of legislation, and dealing with all the worthy groups wanting contradictory things, you—as well as your bosses—have to be politicians in order to keep our democracy running.

BEING A GOOD POLITICIAN

For the most part, people don't pay attention to how their hopes, dreams and ambitions are turned into public policy through the lawmaking process. Most citizens and journalists take that very political process for granted. They shouldn't.

Constituents often asked my position on a substantive issue. I don't think anyone inquired about my political skills—and, in this world, political skills are essential to get things done. The key to being an effective legislator or staffer is respecting that system and figuring out how to make it work. So what political skills do you need—what skills does a member need?

First, you know how to consult, particularly with your colleagues—talking to them, listening to them, making sure they feel they are in the loop. Support for ideas is largely built one-on-one, but also in larger forums. Key individuals—inside and outside of the Congress—have their own ideas and valid concerns, and they expect to be able to share them. Lyndon Johnson had his own way of putting this with a sign he had in his Senate office: "You ain't learning nothing when you're talking."

Second, you calm—rather than inflame—discussions of controversial issues. Things can get pretty heated in the Congress, and disagreement is inevitable in a House as large and diverse as ours. It is relatively easy to make a bad situation worse. One thing that I'm certain of is that you cannot produce good legislation in a bad atmosphere. You can produce heat in such an environment, but not light.

Third, you know how to persuade. It takes an enormous amount of persuasion to build a majority in support of an idea. You all know how much persuasion is involved in getting approval of even a modest piece of legislation. You have to line up support and be in touch with sometimes hundreds of individuals from both parties, in the Congress and outside the Congress.

Fourth, you must be willing to share credit. I remember former Speaker Tip O'Neill

putting his arm around me and giving me some advice as we walked down the hall. "Neil," he said—he called me Neil for my first decade in Congress because I reminded him of a Boston baseball player named Neil Hamilton. "Neil, you can accomplish anything in this town if you're willing to let someone else take the credit."

Finally, you know how to compromise. Compromise is essential to producing law in our system. Good politicians, both legislators and staff, are able to find points of agreement that will allow a consensus to emerge. They will look for solutions that allow both sides to claim, if not victory, at least some gains.

Your skills are crucial in finding acceptable solutions. Compromise might involve altering some key words; phrasing in a change; inserting a new provision; requiring a study; splitting differences in funding; delaying or postponing implementation of a section. You have to seek these accommodations among rival interests because you know that it is necessary to make the Congress—and country—work.

From my perspective, the ability to build consensus is probably the most important single skill needed in the Congress—by Members and staff. Any fool can blow a meeting or discussion apart—it takes real political skill to bring people together. That is why we need more politicians of your skill these days, not fewer.

WHY IS IT WORTHWHILE?

Well, is this demanding, tedious process of passing legislation worthwhile? You and I know well the frustrations:

As a member, I always felt it was hard to keep on the right side of the voter. When I was in my district, I heard complaints that I wasn't spending enough time in Washington; when I was in Washington, people said I was ignoring the home folks and only paid attention to them during elections. When I drove an old car in my district, people said it looked like something a farmer would use for hauling trash; when I got a new car, they said the lobbyists had gotten to me. When I wore an old suit, people said I had no class; when I wore a new one, I was accused of going high-hat. When I missed church, people said I was an atheist; when I attended church, I was a pious fraud, trolling for votes in church. When Congress passed a lot of laws, we were a meddlesome Congress; when we weren't passing laws, we were an incompetent, do-nothing Congress ignoring the needs of the country. When we supported the president, people said we were a rubber-stamp; when we opposed the president, we were disloyal and obstructionist.

You can never please everyone when you are working in Congress, no matter how many hours you put in, no matter how skillful you are. You all know too well what I'm talking about as staff directors when I talk about the frustrations, among them:

- committee meetings go on without end;
- the work is tedious, requiring that you go over legislation comma by comma;
- you are constantly running from one meeting or appointment to another
- your daily schedule is always being interrupted, revised, of simply scrapped.
- if you have a family, you're going to miss many important family events;
- and you cannot plan ahead, whether for an evening off or for a vacation, because some event or emergency always demands that Congress stay in session longer than planned.

All the political posturing, sniping and scrambles to claim credit for good things—or avoid blame for bad—sometimes becomes disheartening, as does the constant maneuvering for partisan advantage. And for put-

ting up with all of this, you get paid less than you could make in the private sector, while facing harsh and frequent criticism.

Yet, despite it all, most members run for reelection and remain in Congress as long as they can. Most of you worked long and hard to become a committee staff director.

Is it all worthwhile? Yes, of course it is. Why? Let's be frank—some of it satisfies the ego. Some like the power and the trappings of power—when you speak, people listen, and that is very satisfying; but most of you, I think, are truly motivated by the belief that, as hard as it is, you can make a difference and enhance the lives of ordinary Americans.

Then, too, it is all pretty exciting—and interesting. The sheer challenge of public policy issues attracts us. There is a pervasive sense on Capitol Hill that it is where the issues of greatest importance to the nation are being sorted out. This is where the action is. Sometimes this is misplaced, but often it is not.

You struggle over the issues that aroused the passions of this country's founding generation. How much power should the federal government be given? How should powers be separated among the branches? How do we resolve the tension between encouraging individual liberty and security? What role should our country play in the world?

These great issues are subject to debate every time a new federal budget comes to a vote, or a major presidential initiative gets introduced on Capitol Hill. When you start working in Congress, you get a chance to take part in this ongoing debate—our great experiment with democracy.

Your public service gives you a stimulating, proud and lively career. So I salute each of you for the vital role that you play within this institution, and in your service to your fellow Americans. You are contributing to the success and direction of this country. I hope you feel that by working in the Congress you are given the unique opportunity to make a difference in the lives of people and the great affairs of this nation. I would wager that no matter where your career takes you from Capitol Hill, you will look back on your public service as the most rewarding of your career.

The work is hard, the recognition rare, the monetary reward modest; but your reward is a deeply fulfilling life in public service and a key role in American democracy. What more could you want?

HONORING SIX BRAVE BRENTWOOD POLICE OFFICERS AS TOP COPS

HON. BART GORDON

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate six courageous police officers from the Brentwood, Tennessee, Police Department for receiving this year's National Association of Police Organization's TOP COPS Award. The six police officers are Stephanie Bellis Warner, Tommy Walsh, Jim Campbell, Tommy Campsey, Richard Hickey and Steve Walling.

On May 6, 2003, their heroic and selfless actions prevented a number of innocent bystanders from getting hurt during the pursuit of a bank robbery suspect. Officer Warner caught up with the suspect at a busy intersection and was engaged in a brief gun battle. She was wounded during the exchange, as

was Sergeant Tommy Walsh, who arrived at the scene soon after Warner. Despite their injuries, the two continued to coordinate the suspect's apprehension.

Officers Jim Campbell, Tommy Campsey, Richard Hickey and Steve Walling arrived on the scene to find the suspect standing over the wounded Walsh with an assault rifle. The four officers, however, quickly ended the suspect's attempt to continue his shooting spree. For their heroism and sacrifice, all six officers are being honored during the association's 10th annual TOP COPS Awards ceremony this weekend in Washington, DC.

As this terrible incident demonstrates, police officers put their lives on the line every day to help and protect each one of us. I want to personally thank officers Warner, Walsh, Campbell, Campsey, Hickey and Walling for their contributions to society, not only on the day they stopped a violent bank robber, but also on each and every day they put on their badges and patrol our streets. This award is well-deserved.

BLACK/JEWISH FORUM OF
BALTIMORE, INC.

HON. BENJAMIN L. CARDIN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Black/Jewish Forum of Baltimore, Inc. (BLEWS) upon their 25th anniversary, an event that is being celebrated at BLEWS annual dinner meeting on November 19, 2003.

Since its inception, BLEWS has acted to further understanding and cooperation between the African-American and Jewish communities in the Baltimore Metropolitan Area. Through a variety of programs and through dialogue, BLEWS has worked to overcome intolerance, discrimination, hate crimes and stereotypes. BLEWS has participated in the U.S. Attorney's Hate Crimes Task Force, assisted in defusing intergroup tensions at universities and helped community groups deal with hate crimes and diversity issues.

For the past 5 years, BLEWS has focused on its Youth Initiative with funding from several foundations. The Youth Initiative has conducted intensive all-day workshops for African-American and Jewish high school students to expose them to each other's history and culture, to dispel stereotypes and to encourage attitudes of tolerance, understanding and cooperation. These youth also have been taken to museums, plays, films and other activities that encourage friendship, greater understanding and community service.

Every spring, the high school students participate in a Jewish Passover/African-American Overcome Seder meal that celebrates the theme of freedom. Because of their outstanding work in intergroup relations, BLEWS was recognized by President Clinton as one of the "President's Promising Practices In Race Relations."

I hope my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives will join me in saluting BLEWS, a model youth organization that is worth replicating elsewhere in the United States.

NEWSPAPERS CALL FOR AN INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION OF THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION

HON. GEORGE MILLER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call my colleagues' attention to two newspaper editorials concerning the leak of a covert CIA agent's identity. These editorials, printed last Thursday in the Contra Costa Times, of Walnut Creek California, and the San Francisco Chronicle, address the very serious federal crime involving the leak of the name and occupation of a covert CIA agent who is the wife of a former U.S. ambassador who investigated and then revealed that the Administration had used false information to justify the war against Iraq. Both newspapers call for a special counsel to investigate the White House's role in this leak, and the Chronicle suggests that Congress might need to conduct its own inquiry. The Washington Post and ABC News recently conducted a poll that found that seven out of ten Americans support a special counsel to investigate this serious matter.

I support many of my colleagues in the House and Senate who have called for a special counsel for similar reasons as stated by these newspapers. It is not credible that the United States Attorney General, John Ashcroft, can independently investigate a potential crime by this White House when not only was he appointed by President Bush but he employed the president's top political adviser on numerous occasions to help him in his Senate election campaign. The credibility of this Administration is already low, when you consider their failure to revive the economy, the clearly misleading nature of the evidence they provided to justify a war in Iraq, and their failure to properly prepare for the post-war conflict. The Administration owes it to the public to ensure that the most independent investigation possible is carried out regarding the leak of the CIA agent's identity.

The articles appear as follows:

[From the Contra Costa Times, Oct. 2, 2003]

INDEPENDENT PROBE

If President Bush wants to find out who leaked information about a CIA officer to journalists he should support an investigation by an independent special council, not just one by the Justice Department. The leak is a serious matter involving the wife of a diplomat who was critical of Bush's assessment of Iraq's attempt to get uranium from Africa.

Joseph Wilson IV, in a July 6 op-ed piece in The New York Times, recounted his mission on behalf of the CIA in early 2002. He was investigating the possibility that Saddam Hussein was attempting to obtain uranium for Iraq's nuclear arms program. Wilson charged that the Bush administration twisted some of the information to make a case for going to war against Iraq.

Eight days after the commentary appeared, Robert Novak wrote a column that revealed Wilson's wife, Valerie Plame, as a CIA official. Novak attributed his information about Plame to two "senior administration officials." Two other journalists from Newsday, Timothy Phelps and Knut Royce, expanded on Novak's column after confirming Novak's account.

Novak refuses to reveal his confidential sources. That is his right and obligation as a journalist. But we are suspicious of the motivation of Novak and those who leaked the information about Plame. It appears to be retaliation against Wilson and a warning to others.

The leak and almost gratuitous mention of Plame in the column put her and anyone she did business with in jeopardy. We wonder what Novak would have written in his column had some liberal columnist revealed the name of an undercover CIA officer.

The damage caused by the leak goes beyond the CIA and into the White House. Certainly Bush would like to unveil the leakers, and we trust that the Justice Department has competent investigators. However, it is important to avoid a conflict of interest, which would occur if the probe is handled by Justice, led by political appointee John Ashcroft.

The surest way to both nab the leakers and assure public confidence is through a special counsel. To do otherwise damages the credibility of the White House and leaves the door open for political demagoguery by the president's opponents.

[From the San Francisco Chronicle, Oct. 2, 2003]

A DANGEROUS LEAK

The Still Unfolding story that White House officials leaked sensitive information to silence a critic of the Iraq War is a troubling addendum to what so far has been the curious, if not exaggerated, reasoning behind the Persian Gulf foray in the first place.

This week the FBI launched a full-scale criminal probe to determine who disclosed the identity of an undercover CIA operative and whether federal law had been broken. A senior administration official has confirmed that two top White House staffers outed the agent to punish her husband, former Ambassador Joseph Wilson, who forced Bush to back track on his State of Union assertion that Iraq may be building a nuclear arsenal with uranium from Africa. Two years earlier, Wilson investigated and found no such Iraq-Africa link, and pilloried Bush in a newspaper op-ed for implying that there was.

As revenge, someone at the White House leaked to the press the name and occupation of Wilson's wife, an undercover weapons expert. Aside from threatening her life, it further inhibits the effectiveness of the nation's intelligence operations.

Bush disavowed any knowledge of the treacherous deed, but failed to show the kind of outrage this warranted. Either a special counsel should look into this matter, or Congress should conduct its own inquiry.

HONORING ESTHER SHIPP ON HER
90TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Esther Shipp on her 90th Birthday. Born September 7, 1913, Esther has been a resident of Boulder City since 1941. I am pleased to join Esther's friends, her five generations of relatives, and all of Boulder City in congratulating her on reaching this milestone.

TRIBUTE TO MOTHER TERESA OF
CALCUTTA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and accomplishments of Mother Teresa of Calcutta who will be beatified by Pope John Paul II in Rome on October 19, 2003.

Born in Albania on August 26, 1910, Mother Teresa decided to become a Roman Catholic sister in 1928. She was assigned to a convent in Calcutta and became a teacher of geography and history at St. Mary's School. In 1948, Mother Teresa founded a religious order known as Missionaries of Charity to help the poor, the suffering, and the dying in Calcutta and around the world. Today, there are approximately 5,000 sisters in the order and over 400 missions around the globe.

Later in life, Mother Teresa focused her energies on hospice programs for those with AIDS. She offered unconditional love to everyone, regardless of class or position in life. Because of her actions, she was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize in 1979 and the Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1985.

Few people in recent history have done more to help their fellow human beings than Mother Teresa. It is a privilege to recognize a person who has brought care and comfort to millions. I hope you and my other distinguished colleagues will join me in honoring her lifetime of service and dedication to the people of the world.

92ND TAIWAN NATIONAL DAY

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, on October 10, 2003, one of our largest trading partners, the Republic of China on Taiwan, will be celebrating the 92nd anniversary of its National Day. I wish to join my colleagues in the U.S. Congress in sending best wishes to the 22 million residents of this lovely island. I also commend President Chen Shui-bian and Vice President Annette Lu as they continue to lead Taiwan to greater economic prosperity at home and greater participation in international activities abroad.

Just like our 4th of July, October 10th marks the beginning of a fantastic story of economic, social and political success that has culminated in Taiwan becoming a vibrant democracy in the Pacific Region. These are exciting times in the history of relations between the United States and Taiwan.

Mr. Speaker, on this 92nd occasion of the Republic of China's National Day, it is important to remember that Taiwan has a strong relationship with the United States, and we hope this relationship will continue to flourish and grow in the years to come.

HONORING ALICE MAY LARSON ON
HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Alice May Larson on her 100th birthday. Alice was born in Duluth, Minnesota, on October 4, 1903, and currently resides in Boulder City. I am pleased to join Alice's friends, relatives, and all of Boulder City in congratulating her on reaching this milestone.

A TRIBUTE TO TAIWAN, THE
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. ROBERT A. BRADY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor one of the United States' most reliable allies, the Republic of China, on the occasion of its National Day, October 10. That great nation, better known as Taiwan, has served as a mirror on our times, reflecting the agonies and dreams of the 20th Century and the soaring aspirations of the new century. The ROC was born of the tragedy of Communist betrayal, reared in the tension of the cold war, and reached maturity during the information age.

The ROC was the first casualty of Imperial Japanese aggression and our staunch ally in the fight to free the Pacific of that tyranny. In 1949, Chinese Communists seized power on the mainland and the central government of the Republic of China relocated to Taiwan. Since that time, we have rightfully considered Taiwan's security of vital interest to the United States. In 1950, President Truman ordered the Seventh Fleet to protect Taiwan from attack by the Chinese Communists and we have maintained a presence in the area ever since. Moreover, the Congress has consistently expressed its support of the ROC since the passage of Taiwan Relations Act of 1979.

Mr. Speaker, Taiwan has developed into Asia's premier democracy, having peacefully evolved from one party rule to the vibrant home of multi-party elections. It has seen opposition parties succeed the ruling KMT, the party of National founder, Chiang Kai-shek and the popular election of its legislative branch.

Taiwan's political development has been complemented by its economic rise as one of Asia's "Four Tigers," along with Hong Kong, Singapore, and South Korea. Since 1949, the ROC's economy has moved from a leader in agricultural exports, to a major manufacturer of small electronics and consumer goods, to today's premier Asian producer of capital- and technology-intensive commodities, such as personal computers and machinery. Because its economy has achieved such rapid growth, Taiwan boasts one of the world's highest standards of living, with only 1 percent of its population below the poverty line in 2000. Today, the ROC is an irreplaceable part of the world economy and vital to continued growth here in the U.S.

I know that my colleagues will join me in wishing Taiwan's President Chen Shuibian, its

Representative here in the U.S., C.J. Chen and the 23 million people of Taiwan a most happy National Day and continued peace and prosperity.

TRIBUTE TO CASHER CHOATE

HON. LINCOLN DAVIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to Mr. Chaser Choate, who recently passed away following an extended illness. He will be sorely missed by his family, friends, and community.

Mr. Choate, born January 18, 1931, was the first of nine children of Edison and Eva Choate. Following high school graduation and after one quarter at Tennessee Tech, Mr. Choate was called to duty for service in the Korean war. In his third year of service, he was diagnosed with cancer and was forced to retire from the military. After having 85 percent of his stomach removed, due to the cancer, Mr. Choate returned to Tennessee Tech where he graduated with a degree in business.

Upon receiving his undergraduate degree he embarked for Florida. While in Florida and after a brief stint as an insurance adjuster, he found his calling as an educator. He returned to Tennessee and obtained a master's degree. He took a position with York Institute, his old high school, as a guidance counselor. Mr. Choate spent the rest of his career at York serving as a teacher of general business, economics, and English.

While at York, he was instrumental in the establishment of the Community Education Program. He helped establish the Adult Education Program and served as administrator of the GED Program. Mr. Choate was active in the Fentress County Literacy Council, Fentress County Foster Care Review Board, Fentress County Retired Teachers Association, Jamestown Rotary Club, and was a dedicated member of the Jamestown United Methodist Church.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to pay tribute to Mr. Choate today. His dedication and selflessness to his community are examples to all who wish to lead.

HONORING SHERMAN FREDERICK
ON HIS ELECTION TO THE NE-
VADA NEWSPAPER HALL OF
FAME

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sherman Frederick on his election to the Nevada Newspaper Hall of Fame. I am pleased to join with all Nevadans in honoring him for his contribution to journalism and our community.

Sherman Frederick began his career in journalism as an intern at the Review-Journal, the paper he currently publishes. He also serves as President of the Stephens Media Group, allowing him to share his experience and expertise with newspapers around the country.

All of us who have been sworn to uphold the Constitution recognize the vital role our newspapers play in protecting our freedoms by remaining vigilant against any violations of our First Amendment. I urge all Nevadans and all members of this House to join with me in congratulating Sherman on winning this high honor.

NATIONAL DAY OF THE REPUBLIC
OF CHINA

HON. GARY L. ACKERMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. ACKERMAN. Mr. Speaker, October 10 marks the 92nd anniversary of the founding of the Republic of China and is celebrated internationally as Taiwan's National Day. As this historic day approaches, I would like to take the opportunity to congratulate President Chen Shui-bian and the people of Taiwan for their continuing political reforms and economic achievements.

Mr. Speaker, over the last decade, Taiwan has established itself as a strong and successful model of democracy. Under the leadership of President Chen, the government and people of Taiwan have continued to implement domestic reforms and strengthen diplomatic relations with surrounding nations. This continuing commitment to democratic progress can best be seen in next year's elections. With both the presidential and legislative elections scheduled for 2004, next year will likely prove to be a politically dynamic and exciting year for Taiwan. I applaud the robust multiparty democracy that Taiwan has become.

Mr. Speaker, along with its democratic development, Taiwan remains an important economic partner for the United States. We are Taiwan's largest market, but Taiwan is our 7th largest trading partner. This is a remarkable achievement for this island nation of 22 million people. Taiwan's accession to the World Trade Organization last year will set the stage for even greater opportunities for U.S. business.

Mr. Speaker, as Taiwan continues to earn international acclaim as a model of democratic progress and free market economics, I call on my colleagues to join me in commending Taiwan during the upcoming celebration of Taiwan's National Day.

CONGRATULATIONS ON TAIWAN'S
92ND ANNIVERSARY OF NA-
TIONAL DAY

HON. JIM McDERMOTT

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to offer my congratulations to the 23 million people of Taiwan; it will be celebrating the 92nd anniversary of its National Day on October 10, 2003.

Taiwan is a dynamic democracy, and world economic leader. With a total of more than 95 political parties, every public office is hotly contested through free elections. People enjoy full political freedom, including freedom of

press and assembly. Its per capita income ranks among the highest in the world.

The State of Washington, including the Seventh Congressional District, has enjoyed the close commercial, social and cultural ties that link our two nations. Many of our brightest leaders in the state trace their roots to Taiwan, and the Taiwanese American community is integral to our country's rich ethnic diversity.

The annual commemoration of this historic date is a valuable reminder that freedom and justice are paramount goals shared by our countries.

Again, congratulations to Taiwan and its people on their National Day.

REMEMBERING THE LATE JOE
LAPPIN

HON. JON C. PORTER

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the passing of my good friend and neighbor L.W. "Joe" Lappin. Joe passed away Monday, September 8, at the age of 85.

Joe, as everyone knew him, was a pillar of our community, as a member of the Boulder City Elks Club, Archeo Nevada, and the 31ers Club. Joe was a fountain of knowledge about Boulder City for all of those, including myself, who wanted to know about the origins and traditions of this unique community. As a former Mayor of Boulder City, I knew that I could count on Joe to know what needed to be done, and more importantly, what I was doing wrong.

Joe is survived by his wife Patricia, his two children and three grandchildren. We will all miss Joe, and I urge the members of this House to join me in expressing our condolences to his family and friends.

IN MEMORY OF ROMAN Q.
BENAVENTE

HON. MADELEINE Z. BORDALLO

OF GUAM

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of my dear friend, Roman Quichocho Benavente who passed away on September 30, 2003.

Roman was born on February 22, 1922. He was married to the late, Margarita Mendiola Mesa Benavente and father to Frances B. Leon Guerrero, Nora B. "Lola" Beck, Barbara B. "Bobbie" Vaira, Randolph Mesa "Randy" Benavente, Raymond Mesa Benavente, and Bernice B. Batson and the late Danny San Nicholas. He was also grandfather, great-grandfather, brother, uncle, godfather, and friend.

Roman was a shining example of the strength and courage of the Chamorro people. We are proud and grateful of his 50 years of service to his country and his people. He was a 30-year veteran of the United States Navy from which he retired as a Chief Petty Officer in 1970. He went on to serve with the United States Capitol Police, retiring after 20 years in 1991.

Although Roman and his family remained in the states after his retirement, his love for the island of Guam and his Chamorro heritage was constant. Together he and Margarita raised their children with a deep appreciation of their Chamorro heritage and a love of their island home. As a founding member of the Guam Territorial Society, now known as the Guam Society of America, Inc., he was an active member, planning and participating in all activities. More importantly, Roman has helped bring those of us residing in the area together to continue our local traditions and to help pass these traditions on to our children.

Roman was known for his kindness, generosity and his sense of humor. He was known for his love for God, his family and friends, his island and his country. He was known for his love of cooking, singing and dancing. Yet for the many things for which Roman will be remembered, I will especially remember Roman for his steadfast loyalty, support and friendship to me and my family throughout the years. Roman would open his home to us whenever we visited Washington, D.C. and I could count on his presence and participation at all my events. In fact, on the day I was sworn in as Guam's Delegate, he was the first person to arrive for the ceremony. He came early to offer his assistance. This was typical of Roman. Whenever anything needed to be done, he was the first to arrive and the last to leave, doing what needed to be done and having a great time doing it.

We have much to learn from Roman and the way he lived his life. He taught us to love, to laugh and to celebrate and to be there for each other. Though we mourn his death, we honor his life in living by his example. On behalf of the people of Guam, I extend our deepest sympathies and prayers to the family and friends of Roman Quichocho Benavente.

TRIBUTE TO MR. STEVE BARRON

HON. CHARLES F. BASS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. BASS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Steve Barron, a teacher at Claremont Middle School in New Hampshire. He passed away this summer, but has left behind a deep impression on his students. Because I cannot improve upon the sentiments expressed by one of his former students, Robin Lasko, I will simply include her letter to me and close by saying he will be missed.

DEAR CHARLIE BASS: On the night of July 25, 2003, one of the finest educators the state of New Hampshire has ever seen passed away. His name was Steve Barron, a seventh grade social studies teacher.

My name is Robin Lasko, and in the fall of 2003 I will become a junior at Stevens High School. Mr. Barron was my homeroom teacher in seventh grade. He will always be remembered for the things he taught me, things that books could never show. He taught me to have compassion for the earth, and to care even when no one else does. He taught me that being accepted by the public eye was not the only thing that mattered in life, and he taught me to think of the consequences of everything I do.

The first day of seventh grade, I walked into Mr. Barron's classroom and was very intimidated. My first thought was that I was

going to have to sit in this room everyday and listen to some old man talk about which countries lie on which longitudes. I soon found that I could not wait for my social studies class everyday. Mr. Barron did not only teach us the physical features of our world, but he showed us the culture, and the many different ways of life. Mr. Barron had a love for culture. He loved diversity and I am so very thankful that he passed a little of that on to me. To show how much he loved diversity I would have to know him like the back of my hand, but I don't. I do know a little about Steve Barron though, I know that he taught in an inner city school in New York City, and that he also lived in the Arctic Regions of Alaska, and if that is not a love for diversity, then I do not know what is.

Every year when it was time to do fundraisers, Mr. Barron always used the same two companies, one of them was called Humanities, and this company took a portion of their profit and gave it to an endangered animals foundation. Mr. Barron was a "devoted environmentalist". This was one way of showing that he cared about our planet. Another way was as part of our classroom grades we had to bring in plastic bags or some other form of recycling every week. He was helping the earth any way that he could. These two things are only a part of the great man that Steve Barron was.

I feel that Steve Barron should be Honored and Recognized as the wonderful educator and person that he was.

Steve Barron was born on August 22, 1943 in Brooklyn, New York. He was the loving husband to Linda (Kupiec) Barron for 29 years. He and Linda had two daughters, Jenny and Jenine. On July 25, 2003 Steven E. Barron died of Non-Hodgkin's Lymphoma. In an ending to this letter I would like to quote the motto that Mr. Barron lived by, "The choices we make dictate the lives we lead."

Sincerely,

ROBIN L. LASKO.

SPINA BIFIDA AWARENESS MONTH

HON. ILEANA ROS-LEHTINEN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to pay tribute to the more than 70,000 Americans and their family members who are currently affected by Spina Bifida. October is National Spina Bifida Awareness Month. Spina Bifida is the Nation's most common, permanently disabling birth defect. It is a neural tube defect that occurs when the central nervous system does not properly close during the early stages of pregnancy. Each year more than 4,000 pregnancies are affected and of these 1,500 babies are born with Spina Bifida.

I would like to especially recognize Angelina Gonzalez-Abreu, the niece of my Chief of Staff, Arthur Estopinan. Angie is a precious little three year old who was born with Spina Bifida. She is an absolute delight who brings great joy to all who are blessed to know her. I have had the great pleasure of spending time with this vivacious little bundle of joy, and am moved by the tremendous progress she has made in her life thus far.

The Spina Bifida Association of America (SBAA), an organization that has helped people with Spina Bifida and their families for nearly 30 years, works tirelessly to prevent

and reduce suffering from this devastating birth defect.

I would like to acknowledge and thank SBAA and the local chapters in my State for all that they have done for the Floridian families affected by this birth defect.

The exact cause of Spina Bifida is not known, but researchers have concluded that women of childbearing age who take daily folic acid supplements reduce their chances of having a Spina Bifida pregnancy by up to 75 percent.

I am proud to be a member of the newly established Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus. The Congressional Spina Bifida Caucus will bring increased attention to this condition and advance initiatives that will improve the quality of life for those individuals and their families living with Spina Bifida.

I again wish to thank the SBAA and its chapters for all of their hard work to prevent and reduce suffering from this birth defect and for their commitment to improve the lives of those 70,000 individuals living with Spina Bifida throughout our Nation. I wish the Spina Bifida Association of America the best of luck in its endeavors and urge all of my colleagues and all Americans to support its important efforts.

COMMENDING VICTORINE Q. ADAMS FOR BEING HONORED BY THE BLACK/JEWISH FORUM OF BALTIMORE, INC. FOR HER MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED SERVICE TO BALTIMORE

HON. ELIJAH E. CUMMINGS

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend and congratulate the Honorable Victorine Q. Adams who is deservedly being honored by the Black/Jewish Forum of Baltimore, Inc. (BLEWS) at their 25th anniversary dinner meeting in Baltimore on November 19, 2003.

Mrs. Adams served effectively in both the Maryland General Assembly and the Baltimore City Council, where she served for 16 years. While a member of the City Council, she led the successful effort to establish the Baltimore Fuel Fund, the first such assistance fund in the nation. Early in her career in 1946, she organized the Colored Women's Democratic Campaign Committee and initiated a voter registration campaign that enrolled 4,000 persons. In 1958, Mrs. Adams and Ethel P. Rich organized Woman Power, which was instrumental in desegregating Baltimore's downtown hotels.

Mr. Speaker, I proudly ask you to join me in commending Mrs. Adams for her significant contributions to Baltimore as an elected official, community leader, civil rights activist, businesswoman and humanitarian.

IN HONOR OF SHERIFF DON HORSLEY

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Ms. ESHOO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor an extraordinary leader of San Mateo County, California, Sheriff Don Horsley, who is being awarded the 2003 Distinguished Citizens Award by the Pacific Skyline Council of the Boy Scouts of America.

Don Horsley was first elected Sheriff of San Mateo County in June 1993, with a law enforcement career that spanned more than thirty years. He began as a patrol officer in Daly City and later served as a patrol deputy in East Palo Alto. In these positions, he learned to effectively respond to the needs and concerns of citizens as he worked directly with them in their communities.

Sheriff Horsley has been unwavering in his commitment to the people of the communities of San Mateo County. In 1992, when the small community of East Palo Alto was given the dubious title of being the nation's "murder capital," Sheriff Horsley made a promise to the people of East Palo Alto that the Sheriff's office would help the community and make it the safe place its residents deserved. Immediately, 18 Sheriff's Deputies began working with the East Palo Alto Police Department and within 3 years, violent crimes were down 54 percent and homicides decreased by an astounding 86 percent. Because of Sheriff Horsley's commitment, the San Mateo County Sheriff's office continues to work with the City of East Palo Alto to ensure that its law enforcement needs are fully met.

Sheriff Horsley is a caring and compassionate law enforcement leader. During the expansion of the Maguire Correctional Facility, Sheriff Horsley ensured that the project included facilities for mental and health care, substance abuse recovery, and educational and religious needs for inmates.

Sheriff Horsley is a leader among his colleagues in law enforcement. He has served on the Board of Directors of the California Peace Officers' Association, the San Mateo County Criminal Justice Council, the San Mateo County Vehicle Theft Task Force, the County Narcotic Task Force, and the Northern California High Intensity Drug Trafficking Area, among many other organizations.

Beyond his career in law enforcement, Sheriff Horsley is dedicated to improving the education and the lives of youth. He is not only a former classroom teacher and a Board Member of Redwood City's Garfield Charter School, but he is also a strong supporter of the Boy Scouts of America. He has been instrumental in the Law Enforcement Exploring program, the Boy Scouts' STAR Camp and the Sea Scouting program. Sheriff Horsley has served as Co-chair of the Attorney General and State Superintendent of Public Instruction's Safe Schools Task Force.

Mr. Speaker, I'm proud to call Don Horsley my friend and I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring and thanking Sheriff Horsley for his extraordinary service to our community, our state and our nation.

HONORING RITA C. KAY

HON. CAROLYN MCCARTHY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the numerous contributions made by Rita Kay for the children of Long Island. A selfless and dedicated woman, Rita has spent more than 30 years working on a variety of children's causes, and is well known for her intense involvement in Children's Medical Fund of New York (CMF).

Rita was compelled to ease the plight of sick children because of a combination of personal tragedy and great joy. After suffering several miscarriages and the pain of a stillborn child, Rita and her husband Barry were blessed with the births of their two sons, Brian and Bradley. In a fervent desire to help sick children and their parents, Rita joined CMF, the fundraising component of Schneider Children's Hospital of the North Shore—Long Island Jewish Health System. Through her many efforts, Rita has helped build the children's hospital into the 13th largest pediatric care center.

Rita's love for, and devotion to, children has been evidenced by the numerous events she has chaired and in which she has participated. Rita is best known for the longstanding relationship she has nurtured between Americana Manhasset shopping center and CMF, and the successful fashion luncheon sponsored by the Americana on behalf of CMF. The luncheon has helped CMF raise hundreds of thousands of dollars since its inception.

Rita's fundraising efforts have included an emphasis on corporate sponsorship. Under her leadership, Roslyn Savings Bank and Astoria Federal have become involved in CMF. Most recently, Rita co-chaired CMF's Wall Street Dinner Dance at Chelsea Piers, which raised an astronomical \$4,000,000 for CMF and Schneider Children's Hospital.

Rita's hard work is more incredible because of the number of other organizations in which she is involved. Rita supports and fundraises for Partner's in Women's Health, the Long Island Cancer Campaign, the Ronald McDonald House, the Mental Health Association of Nassau County, and the Nassau County Museum of Art. All of this, in addition to her full-time job as the Marketing Director for David Morse & Associates.

Despite all of Rita's volunteer efforts, her priority remains her family. Today, Rita is surrounded not only by her husband Barry and their sons Brian and Bradley, but also her daughters-in-law Helaine and Caren, and her four grandchildren, Jesse, Logan, Dylan and Zoe. They are incredibly proud of Rita for all of her hard work and accomplishments over the years.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Rita Kay for her dedication and devotion to the children of Long Island.

CONGRATULATIONS TO HANS AND ALMA ROEBBELEN ON 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to congratulate two good friends from my district in California, Hans and Alma Roebbelen, as they celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary this month.

Hans and Alma were born and raised in Europe, where they experienced the horrors of World War II firsthand. Hans endured challenges as a 15-year-old prisoner of war, while Alma had to flee her homeland before the advancing Russian army at the age of only 13.

When the chaos of war finally settled, Hans worked as a journeyman carpenter. Little did he know as such a young man that he would one day become a renowned builder half the world away. Later, Hans earned an architecture degree from the University in Buxtehude, and it was there that he met and fell in love with his future bride, Alma, who had embarked upon a career as a dental hygienist.

Shortly thereafter, Alma followed a professional opportunity that took her to Stockton, California. Although he wanted to follow her, it took Hans 20 months to leave Germany, given that the government did not want to lose its architects and other professionals abroad. Happily, the couple was married on October 18, 1953, within a week of Hans' arrival in Stockton. Indeed, that date marked the beginning of great things to come.

After starting a family and managing some of the largest construction projects ever undertaken in the Sacramento area up until that time, Hans and Alma desired to start their own company. Thus began Roebbelen Construction in 1957.

Roebbelen Construction has established a long history of excellent public construction projects, such as schools and prisons. However, over the last decade, the company has also successfully completed many design/build projects for private sector clients, including: J.C. Penney Co., MCI, General Motors, Aetna, Sears, SBC/Pacific Bell, Cable Data, Target, and other firms. Together with its sister company, Kleeman Roebbelen, it is now one of the largest local private companies in the Sacramento region. It is also the only general contractor in California to have received the ISO 9001:2000 designation from the International Organization for Standardization for the management of quality in a company's products and services.

Mr. Speaker, after spending so much of their lives with the firm they started, Hans and Alma recently retired from Roebbelen Construction. Now, they are blessed with the opportunity to enjoy the fruits of their labors. They often travel and spend quality time with their three children, eight grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren.

Undoubtedly, the life Hans and Alma Roebbelen created together is a great American success story—one rooted in a love that has endured and grown for 50 years and counting.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON S. 3, PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 2, 2003

Mr. MOORE. I am tired of coming to the House floor and pleading for Congress to pass a law that will truly stop late-term abortions and put this issue behind us. If not for the extreme politics of this issue, Congress could take up and pass today H.R. 809, the Late Term Abortion Restriction Act. The legislation, which I have cosponsored, would prohibit all late-term abortions, regardless of procedure, with exceptions only to protect the life of the mother and to avert serious adverse health consequences.

The House was not allowed to vote on H.R. 809 today, which is a great shame, since it goes to the heart of this issue rather than using it as a campaign message. H.R. 809 addresses what the American people truly want to stop: the termination of a viable fetus during late stages of a pregnancy.

Mr. Speaker, I am here today voting once again on legislation that I fully expect to be ruled unconstitutional—once again—by the U.S. Supreme Court.

On June 28, 2000, in the ruling *Stenberg v. Carhart*, the high court struck down a Nebraska ban on so-called "partial-birth abortion," ruling that the ban was an unconstitutional violation of *Roe vs. Wade* for two reasons. First, the ban, which is virtually identical to the one that will soon be signed into law, was found to be unnecessarily broad and without a necessary health exception to protect the well-being of the mother.

Despite this ruling, the bill before us today corrects none of the flaws that were clearly outlined by the Court. Today's vote is just another purely political exercise.

Like its predecessors, S. 3 does not include an exception to protect the health of the woman, despite clear instructions from the Court in more than one decision since 1973 that any law restricting abortion must include such an exception. This bill, despite cosmetic changes, is still unconstitutional.

I believe a woman has a right to make important decisions regarding her body and health. I also believe that the state can and should regulate abortion after the point of fetal viability. These two principles were set forth in the 1973 *Roe v. Wade* Supreme Court decision.

Today, I will vote against S. 3. I urge my colleagues who truly wish to ban post-viability abortions to consider H.R. 809 as a real solution to this personal and political issue.

CHANGE IN RUSSIA

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, it has been 12 years since the collapse of the Soviet Union and one of the most remarkable stories to

emerge from the wreckage of that failed system has been the steadily strengthening partnership between the United States and Russia. Two op-eds timed for President Vladimir Putin's recent visit to our country each highlight different facets of what is one of our most important international relationships. Ken Adelman explores the enormous successes of the Nunn-Lugar program, which has eliminated thousands of nuclear warheads and the systems that might have delivered them. Mark Medish, writing in the *Financial Times*, cites improvements in the Russian economy and the modernization and rise of free enterprise in Russia.

In the aftermath of the unpredictably timed and unexpectedly rapid demise of communism, Soviet assets were devolved to too few in too conflicted a way. Instead of a free market, the Russian economy became characterized by oligarchic enterprises. But with each passing year the Russian economy has become increasingly subject to the strength of individual market decisions, especially consumer oriented ones. A middle class is growing and saving.

Medish, in his article, optimistically emphasizes the positive. While it may not be the full picture, if sustained, the pace of entrepreneurial change in Russia bodes well for the future.

I commend these articles to my colleagues.

REAL ARMS CONTROL

(By Kenneth Adelman)

While hanging out at Camp David this coming weekend, Presidents Bush and Putin should toast an impressive—though largely unknown—joint win in their war against terrorism.

Over the past decade, their armsbuilders became arms-destroyers, cooperatively dismantling thousands of Russian nuclear systems. These weapons of mass destruction might otherwise have landed in terrorist hands.

When the Soviet Union collapsed a dozen years ago, we feared Russian hucksters would sell nuclear, chemical, and biological components to terrorists. After all, Russian arsenals were massive, while their state controls were piddly. Incentives to sell—to get big bucks quickly; and to buy—to get big bangs easily—loomed large.

Logic proved that what the late Secretary of Defense Les Aspin once dubbed “Russia's loose nukes” would be a staggering problem. But experience shows that it hasn't been one.

Parkinson's most perceptive law tells us that the success of any policy is measured by the catastrophes that do not occur. By that measure—or, really, any measure—the joint American-Russian effort to dismantle weapons has been a big win for international security, especially against international terrorists.

With Mr. Putin standing at his side last November, Mr. Bush said, “Our highest priority is to keep terrorists from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.” He went on to explain that “our nations must spare no effort at preventing all forms of proliferation.”

Surely the leading light in this campaign has been the Nunn-Lugar program. For a bargain price of some \$1.3 billion a year, America helps Russia disarm the meanest and most massive weapons in the world. According to the original co-sponsor, Senator Lugar, over the past dozen years, we've helped them destroy some: 800 ballistic missiles, over 800 launchers (followed by environmental restoration of the sites), over 100 bombers, more than 350 submarine launch-

ers, 20 ballistic missile carrying submarines, and, most importantly, more than 5,500 nuclear warheads.

That adds up to more than half of the old Soviet strategic nuclear arsenal. During the same period, much of the U.S. arsenal was eliminated as well, and newly independent former Soviet republics Ukraine, Kazakhstan, and Belarus were “denuclearized.”

In all my years of handling arms control issues—first, as an American ambassador at the United Nations, and then as director of the U.S. Arms Control and Disarmament Agency under President Reagan—I never imagined such a success. Indeed, nothing we achieved over the Geneva negotiating table produced anything on that order.

Mr. Lugar's colleague, former Senator Nunn, said earlier this summer in Moscow that “the gravest danger in the world today is the threat from nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons” and that “the likeliest use of these weapons is in terrorist hands.”

Always one to think big, Mr. Nunn proposed that “preventing the spread and use of nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons should be the central organizing security principle for the 21st century.”

It's hard to top his notion, especially since the prospect of the world's most vile terrorists getting their hands on the world's most vile weaponry makes every civilized person shutter.

To make sure we keep these weapons out of the hands of terrorists, there is still plenty of work to be done by Russia and the U.S. as partners. In Russia, for example, several thousand nuclear warheads are still housed in hundreds of weapons storage sites; several hundred metric tons of bomb-building materials are spread around Russia's nuclear facilities network; and millions of pounds of nerve agents are stored in vulnerable facilities. A single artillery shell, small enough to fit inside a brief case, if stolen from one of these facilities, could be powerful enough to kill 100,000 people.

Imagine that last year's scare had been true—when the U.S. intelligence community thought terrorists had gotten their mitts on a 10-kiloton nuclear bomb and smuggled it into New York City. It turned out, thank goodness, that such a report was false.

But if something like that could be true, as indeed it could be, then shouldn't we do everything possible to make it un-true? And to make sure it never happens?

Again, Mr. Nunn had the right take here: “If a nuclear weapon goes off in Moscow, Paris, Tokyo, or some other city, what would we wish we had done to prevent it? We may not be able to make these terrorists less evil, but we must make them less powerful. We must keep them from acquiring weapons of mass destruction.”

The success of the cooperative efforts between Russia and America should give Messrs. Bush and Putin some pride this weekend. It calls for a Camp David toast.

RUSSIA'S ECONOMIC STRENGTH BEGINS IN THE HOME

(By Mark Medish)

President Vladimir Putin comes to the U.S. this week bearing good news. The Russian economy continues to gain speed, and investment-grade status may be around the corner.

As he drives through New York, Mr. Putin will see something striking: the logo of Russia's Lukoil has replaced the all-American Getty sign at local petrol stations. The symbolism is powerful. Russia and the U.S. can be meaningful investment partners. But the real question for the Russian economy is whether it can become more than the world's newest petrol pump.

Russia's relationship with market capitalism has been dramatic. Russia emerged from the ashes of the 1998 financial collapse to log almost five years of steady growth in gross domestic product.

An emerging Russian middle class has begun to assert itself with raw spending power. Retail turnover in 2003 may reach \$150bn.

Initially, the retail trend was strongest in food sales, but consumer durables are now increasing as a share of household spending. Domestic manufacturing has responded to this demand. Whether Russia can also grow into an export platform, as China has done, is an open question. Russia's skilled workforce, low labour costs, and central Eurasian location suggest that such an opportunity may exist.

The trend, if sustained, could have profoundly positive implications for Russia's overall economic and political development. Promoting this trend is likely to be a theme of Mr. Putin's meetings, both with prospective U.S. investors and, at Camp David, with President George W. Bush and his team.

The Russian consumer story has not gone entirely unnoticed by foreign investors. Ikea, the mass-market Swedish furniture retailer, opened several megastores in Moscow and St. Petersburg in 2000. Ikea's sales have been strong enough to justify plans for a further dozen stores across the country, evidence of middle-class patterns spreading beyond the two biggest cities. The German supermarket chain Metro is following suit. Russia's wireless sector is among the hottest in emerging markets.

The rising middle class strengthens the business case for big western consumer-oriented companies to take a closer look at Russia. Russians want quality furniture, mobile phones, televisions, appliances, and cars. If this continues, a boom in commercial banking and other services should not be far behind.

Having endured decades of supply-side privation under the Soviet command economy, average Russians are becoming dictators of market demand. This change is fuelled by several factors. Russian households are much wealthier than previously supposed; they seem to have a high marginal propensity to consume; and they have few debts.

The strengths of Russia's new consumers are also tied to abiding weaknesses in the economy. First, the unexpectedly high disposable income reflects years of accumulated “mattress money”—the uncounted grey economy. Some analysts estimate Russia's current GDP at nearly \$450bn, 40 per cent higher than official figures.

Second, the high propensity to consume partly reflects the lack of sound channels for savings and investment. Finally, the low debt level is due largely to the absence of wide-scale consumer credit facilities. Changing this will take time.

Policy challenges remain, including management of the windfall from high oil prices, diversifying the productive economy, deepening the rule of law, and entering the World Trade Organisation. These tasks can be achieved if Mr. Putin and his government continue to recognise their central importance and act on it.

A surging consumer sector will both reinforce and ease the process. Consumers are natural proponents of market reform and a business environment that promotes predictability, transparency, and wealth creation. An active middle class is the most potent force for change in market economies.

Economics is also politics. Mr. Putin's political strategy may depend increasingly on satisfying middle-class constituencies. This would mean responding seriously to their interests, while balancing the demands of

super-rich oligarchs, the security apparatus, and pensioners. If he succeeds, Mr. Putin's legacy will be a genuinely modern Russia.

A TRIBUTE TO REVEREND DOCTOR
W.J. HALL

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Reverend Dr. W.J. Hall in recognition of his forty-two years of outstanding service as Pastor of the Bethel Baptist Church.

Dr. Hall was born August 1, 1928 in Oxford, North Carolina, the only son of four children born to Mr. and Mrs. Grant A. Hall. After attending High School in Oxford, Dr. Hall studied at Temple University from 1947 to 1949. Following his academic work at Temple, he returned to North Carolina where he enlisted in the United States Army, attaining the rank of sergeant. Dr. Hall resumed his academic studies at Shaw University, graduating with an A.B. degree in 1957. For the next two years, he earned 18 hours toward a master's degree while serving as the pastor of the Olive Grove Baptist church in Oxford and the Spring Street Baptist Church in Henderson, North Carolina.

In 1961, Dr. Hall was called to the Bethel Baptist Church. Since then, he has completed a Master of Theology degree from the Virginia Seminary and College. Later, the College conferred upon Rev. Hall three honorary degrees including Doctor of Divinity in 1965, Doctor of Humane Letters in 1977, and a Doctor of Laws in 1982.

Dr. Hall is widely recognized for his active civic involvement and several community accomplishments such as the Founder of the Self Help Council, the Omega Neighborhood Improvement Association of South Brooklyn, and chairman of the Bethel Baptist Day Care. He is also a member of the Board of Directors of the Baptist Educational Centers of Brooklyn and Long Island; the Board of Directors of the Bedford-Stuyvesant Restoration Corporation as well as the Chaplain of the New York City Housing Police and Past Protestant Chaplain of the Holy Family Hospital.

Under the leadership of Dr. Hall, the Bethel Baptist Church has greatly increased its membership and is in the process of erecting a new three-story building adjacent to the church.

Mr. Speaker, Reverend Dr. W.J. Hall has served his parishioners in exemplary fashion and has worked to improve the lives of everyone in his community for forty-two years. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION
DESIGNATING THE SENATOR
JAMES B. PEARSON POST OFFICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. MOORE. Mr. Speaker, joined by the three other members of the Kansas House

delegation—Representatives JIM RYUN, TODD TIAHRT and JERRY MORAN—I am introducing today legislation that will designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3710 West 73rd Terrace in Prairie Village, Kansas, as the "Senator James B. Pearson Post Office Building."

Appointed to the U.S. Senate in 1962, upon the death of Andrew Schoepel, James B. Pearson served our state with distinction from 1962 through 1978. Elected in 1962, and re-elected in 1966 and 1972, Senator Pearson was a workhorse, not a showhorse. A senior member of the Foreign Relations Committee, he also rose to become Ranking Republican member of the Commerce, Science and Transportation Committee. Senator Pearson represented our state during an important and turbulent era, addressing issues that included: the Vietnam War; the civil rights revolution; enactment of the Medicare and Medicaid programs; America's space exploration program; and deregulation of the trucking and airline industries. Senator Pearson was a voice of reason and common sense during these difficult times and I am proud that he was originally from Prairie Village, which is located in the Third Congressional District of Kansas. Naming the Prairie Village Post Office after Senator James B. Pearson recognizes, in a small way, the important service he provided to Kansans for 16 years in the U.S. Senate.

I also want to take this opportunity to thank my Kansas House colleagues: JIM RYUN [in whose district Senator Pearson now resides], TODD TIAHRT and JERRY MORAN, for joining with me to make this resolution honoring a former Republican Senator truly bipartisan. Additionally, I commend Senators SAM BROWNBACK and PAT ROBERTS, who are planning to introduce a companion Senate measure next week when the other body is back in session. Mr. Speaker, I hope we can bring this long-overdue measure to the floor prior to the adjournment of this session of the 108th Congress.

HONORING ROSA WALKER
DISTINGUISHED LABOR LEADER

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Ms. Rosa Walker for her 38 years of dedicated service to the working men and women of Texas.

Ms. Walker's dedication to public service is deeply ingrained in her character. A native Texan of Hemphill, her interest in the labor movement grew while employed with Southwestern Bell. As a member of the executive board for the Communications Workers of America (CWA), Ms. Walker was persistent in her commitment to protect and empower the working people of Texas.

She continued on this path as an organizer for the Industrial Union Department of the American Federation of Labor and Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO) and an employee of the Harris County AFL-CIO.

Ms. Walker is steadfast in her commitment to the principles of Democracy and citizenship, organizing numerous voter registration drives and get out the vote programs. She is also the

former Vice President of the Texas Coalition of Labor Women, founder of the Texas Consumer Association and a former member of the Texas Judicial Conduct Committee.

Ms. Walker's life exemplifies commitment to public service. Her many and significant contributions to the labor movement have helped color the landscape of the American political system by raising awareness of the issues affecting the working people of America.

IN COMMEMORATION OF THE 30TH
ANNIVERSARY OF
SACRAMENTO'S CH2M HILL

HON. DOUG OSE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. OSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor CH2M Hill's 30th Anniversary in Sacramento and to acknowledge its 30 years of service to the greater Northern California region.

In 1973 the firm of CH2M Hill established an office in Sacramento with an initial staff of 4 individuals and brought with it a vision for development, a commitment to prosperity, and a dedication to community service. Today, 30 years later, CH2M Hill employs more than 240 local engineers, scientists, planners, and administrative personnel and has succeeded in realizing its goals by bringing growth and progress to the citizens of Sacramento.

CH2M Hill's efforts and work can be seen virtually everywhere in Sacramento. Just a few of its accomplishments include completing tunnel access to the California State University at Sacramento in time for the 2000 Olympic Trials; being the first environmental consultant helping to create the DNA light rail connection; removing over a million pounds of contaminants from the soil and groundwater beneath McClellan Air Force Base; managing the CalFED program to sort out water storage, transfer, and distribution in the Central Valley; and delivering over 2,000 other local and regional projects in the last 30 years which include providing landmark engineering and scientific services throughout northern California, most notably for the restoration of the Owens Valley and the seismic stabilization of the Bay Area's major bridges.

Proving consistently to be an industry leader in sustainable business innovation, CH2M Hill is credited with piloting the first office-recycling program in the City of Sacramento, as well as becoming the USEPA Best Workplace for Commuters company and aggressively promoting alternatives to single-driver commuting. It prides itself most however, with its constant commitment to community service.

The Sacramento Blood Bank benefited last year from the quarterly blood drive hosted by CH2M Hill and named them the Blood Drive of the Year. The Sacramento Food Bank for the past 4 years has had to send two trucks over to gather all the food contributed for the Holiday Food Drive by this organization. And a few years ago CH2M Hill answered the call from the University of California at Davis to become the corporate underwriter for their new Engineering building by raising over \$16,000 from staff alone in order to complete a \$50,000 pledge it made to the University. Individuals in CH2M Hill's office are constantly engaged in supporting 14 other community service and charity programs.

On behalf of myself and the citizens of Sacramento, I congratulate and thank CH2M Hill on 30 years of continued success and service.

CHINA'S TORTURE OF THE FALUN GONG

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, you may recall, I have been endeavoring to bring to our colleagues' attention the egregious abuses of human rights by the Chinese government toward its own citizens. Today I will provide information regarding the perpetual and unjustifiable harassment, torture and death of Falun Gong practitioners at the hands of the Chinese government. Many of the victims are old men simply trying to pursue their religious beliefs peaceably. They hope only for what we in America take for granted—the right to follow one's conscience. Instead they are brutalized by the state. I offer these accounts and hope that our colleagues will come to the same conclusion that I did—that we must act to help the persecuted people of China.

"IN THEIR OWN WORDS" STATEMENTS ON THE TORTURE OF THE FALUN GONG

Imagine the leader of the world's apparently most-promising emerging market suddenly banning the faith of one out of every twelve of his/her own citizens, subjecting them to arbitrary detention, forced-labor, brainwashing sessions, physical torture and death, and using a shocking amount of foreign investment capital to do it. Imagine no more. This is the reality.

According to the testimonies of thousands of victims, the Chinese government implemented the persecution through a three-prong directive to all levels of government:

Destroy Falun Gong practitioners physically through systematic, state-sanctioned forced-labor, torture and killings.

Destroy Falun Gong practitioners' reputations through a worldwide media campaign to demonize Falun Gong and falsely depict its practitioners as dangerous "cult" members and a menace to society.

Destroy Falun Gong practitioners financially, which, in a Communist nation where the government can exercise significant control over employment and housing, allowed the government to deny Falun Gong practitioners basic necessities for living, such as salaries/pensions, employment, education, housing, etc. in addition to suffering widespread extortion, confiscation of property and state-enforced fines when detained by police.

Almost 800 deaths from torture have been verified. Thousands more people have been forcefully incarcerated in mental hospitals where many are tortured. More than 100,000 have been sent to forced labor camps, typically without trial.

In January 2003, after more than 3 years of torture and abuse, 65 year-old Mr. Quanfu Zhang was beaten to death in a Chinese forced-labor camp. His 38-year-old son, Qifa Zhang, died 16 days later from sustained torture in the same labor camp.

In January of 2003, a U.S. citizen was detained and later imprisoned where he has been beaten and repeatedly subjected to brainwashing sessions in an attempt to force him to renounce his beliefs. His fiancé leads a grassroots call for his release in the U.S.

Sixty-seven year-old Li Jianhou from Nanchong City, Sichuan Province was tor-

tured to death in Deyang Prison, Sichuan Province on March 27, 2003. His wife is being held at a local detention center.

On July 18, 2003, After three years of torture and abuse, a university teacher from Jilin Province with a master's degree in philosophy was detained on several occasions for his practice of Falun Gong. He died in a Chinese Labor Camp.

In August 2003, Ms. Zhengshu Cui, an ethnic Korean and a graduate of the Baicheng Finance and Trade Training School who lived in northeastern China, died on August 12, 2003, from extended torture and abuse sustained while imprisoned for her beliefs in a forced-labor camp.

In August 2003, after being abducted multiple times and tortured by local police for his practice of Falun Gong, a 56-year-old farmer from Heilongjiang Province was subjected to forced-feeding with boiling water. Emaciated and unable to stand on his own, he died in a Chinese prison.

DEATH OF DONALD HOLLAND

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina has lost one of its best public servants recently when State Senator Donald Holland of Camden, South Carolina, died at the age of 75. He was my colleague during my seventeen years of service in the South Carolina State Senate. He will always be remembered as a gentleman who conducted his chairmanship of the Judiciary Committee with civility. He was respectful of the minority and promoted open debate. His legacy will be the fair election laws appreciated by South Carolinians due to his chairmanship of the Election Laws Study Committee, where he was always respectful and understanding of my minority role. The Wilson family extends its deepest sympathy to the Holland family.

The following is his obituary printed in the State newspaper.

SEN. DONALD HOLLAND

CAMDEN.—The Honorable Donald Harry Holland, husband of Betty Bell Holland and father of Elizabeth Alberta (Lisa) Holland, died October 5, 2003, at his home. Funeral services will be held at Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church at 1 p.m. Wednesday, October 8, with the Reverend T. Lee Bryant Jr. and Chaplain George G. Meetze officiating, followed by committal in Beulah United Methodist Church Cemetery.

Holland, son of the late Eugene and Alberta Branham Holland, was born on a farm in the rural Kershaw County community of Cassatt on August 19, 1928. A graduate of Midway High School (1945), Holland entered the United States Army and was posted to the Asiatic-Pacific Theatre. At the age of 18, Holland served with U.S. Forces occupying Japan at the conclusion of World War II. As part of his duties with the Judge Advocates Office, Holland developed a proficiency for speaking Japanese and served as a translator.

Upon his honorable discharge from the military in 1948, Holland reentered the University of South Carolina and, under a combined program of undergraduate and law school studies then available, earned a law degree in 1951.

While concluding his studies at the University, Holland sought election to the South Carolina House of Representatives for

Kershaw County. His election in 1950, at age 21, began over one-half century of continuous public service under 11 governors. Holland's six terms in the House of Representatives were followed by five years of service on the State Highway Commission and 35 years of service in the South Carolina Senate.

At the time of his death, Holland was the longest-serving lawmaker in South Carolina. In South Carolina's post-colonial history, only three persons have provided more years of combined House and Senate service than Holland. In 1999, Holland was honored by the National Conference of State Legislators for having a tenure of service placing him among the ten most senior legislators in the country.

His long tenure was one of remarkable accomplishment. In addition to chairing the Senate's standing committees on Judiciary, General Laws, Corrections and Penology and Fish, Game and Forestry, Holland was the catalyzing force and chairman behind many of the body's most influential study committees and special committees. In the 1970s and 1980s, Holland led the state's efforts to reform and modernize its election laws and laws governing criminal prosecution and conviction. A champion of an effective and fair criminal justice system, Holland served as chairman of nearly all legislative conference committees, which produced significant legislation within the past 20 years in the areas of support of victims of violent crime, substantive criminal reform and drug interdiction.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee from 1995 until 2001, Holland devoted much of his energy and attention to children's issues and domestic violence. In recognition of his efforts, the South Carolina Victim Assistance Network named Holland "The Outstanding Legislator of the Year for 1999-2000."

In 1988, Holland, serving as chairman of the General Assembly's Screening Committee for Candidates for the Public Service Commission, began a 15-year effort to reform the qualifications of public service commissioners. Within the most recent legislative session and working in the bipartisan manner with which he was most comfortable, Holland's crusade for change in the Public Service Commission brought to the forefront legislation accomplishing significant reform. Holland also provided stable leadership to the Senate as chairman of its Redistricting Committee during the late 1980s and 1990s.

Of his accomplishments, Holland was most proud of his ability to serve his neighbors. His able service to the far-flung reaches of his geographically-large Senate district resulted in progress coming to areas where it was not a common visitor. Often recollecting the dire needs of South Carolinians during his boyhood, Holland stubbornly held to making sure that rural South Carolinians were not forgotten. His well-known devotion to these interests resulted in his having a statewide constituency. Holland was a member of Lyttleton Street United Methodist Church, the VFW, American Legion and Woodmen of the World. He was a 33rd degree Mason and a Shriner. Consistent with his abiding love of history, Holland was a member of the Kershaw County Historical Society and the South Carolinian Society, the repository for his personal and political papers.

Holland was predeceased by his stepmother, Ruby Gordon Holland. Besides his widow and daughter, he is survived by brothers of Camden, Dr. Alton Holland and Carl Holland; four sisters, Margaret Holland Ford of Camden, Maxine Holland Humphrey of Camden, Zulene Holland Dougherty of Camden, Sandra Holland Hatcher of Florence; a number of nieces and nephews; his beloved dog, Maggie, and cat, Bully.

The family suggests those wishing to make memorials may do so to Cassatt Baptist Church Building Fund, P.O. Box 110, Camden, SC 29032; the Beulah United Methodist Church Cemetery Fund, 820 Beulah Church Road, Camden, SC 29020; the South Carolina Troopers Association, 4961 Broad River Road, Columbia, SC 29212; or to the charity of one's choice.

THE PEOPLE OF THE TAIWAN
REPUBLIC OF CHINA

HON. THOMAS G. TANCREDO

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, October 7, 2003

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere congratulations and

best wishes to the people of the Taiwan Republic of China as we celebrate the National Day of the Republic. For over half a century, our two nations have celebrated a close friendship, and common values.

With the election of President Chen a few years ago, and the first substantial transfer of power, Taiwan has helped to set an excellent example for many nations about the importance, and successful exercise, of democracy, liberty, self-government, and self determination.

Mr. Speaker, as President Chen said in his address last year, "Despite twists and turns along the course of democracy, the people of Taiwan have never lost sight of the need for change . . . Looking toward a better tomorrow requires us to be vigilant today. The opportunity to create change is often transient, and

every minute wasted increases the cost of reform. We will not back down from our advocacy of reform and we will not stop until we achieve our aim."

President Chen's passion and his commitment to democratic ideals is commendable. I know I speak for many when I say that I am proud to count President Chen and the Republic of China among America's closest allies.

In closing, let me again express both my heartiest congratulations as Taiwan celebrates her birthday, and my deepest hope for our continued cooperation, friendship and shared progress.

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

The Senate was not in session today. It will next meet on Tuesday, October 14, 2003, at 9:30 a.m.

Committee Meetings

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 9 public bills, H.R. 3250–3258; and; 1 resolution, H. Con. Res. 295, were introduced. **Page H9281**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H9282–83**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed as follows:

H.R. 982, to clarify the tax treatment of bonds and other obligations issued by the Government of American Samoa (H. Rept. 108–102, Pt. 2);

H.R. 542, to repeal the reservation of mineral rights made by the United States when certain lands in Livingston Parish, Louisiana, were conveyed by Public Law 102–562 (H. Rept. 108–297);

H.R. 2055, to amend Public Law 89–366 to allow for an adjustment in the number of free roaming horses permitted in Cape Lookout National Seashore (H. Rept. 108–298);

H.R. 884, to provide for the use and distribution of the funds awarded to the Western Shoshone identifiable group under Indian Claims Commission Docket Numbers 326–A–1, 326–A–3, and 326–K, amended, (H. Rept. 108–299);

H.R. 2048, to extend the period for reimbursement under the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967, and to reauthorize the Yukon River Restoration and Enhancement Fund, amended, (H. Rept. 108–300);

H.R. 1521, to provide for additional lands to be included within the boundary of the Johnstown Flood National Memorial in the State of Pennsylvania, amended, (H. Rept. 108–301);

H.R. 3062, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas, (H. Rept. 108–302);

H.R. 2685, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to reauthorize the Matching Grant Program for School Security (H. Rept. 108–303);

H.R. 2359, to extend the basic pilot program for employment eligibility verification, amended, (H. Rept. 108–304, Pt. 1); and

H.R. 3159, to require Federal agencies to develop and implement plans to protect the security and privacy of government computer systems from the risks posed by peer-to-peer file sharing (H. Rept. 108–305). **Page H9281**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Aderholt to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H9219**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:37 p.m. and reconvened at 2:00 p.m. **Page H9220**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Amending the E-Government Act of 2002: H.R. 1303, amended, to amend the E-Government Act of 2002 with respect to rulemaking authority of the Judicial Conference; **Pages H9221–23**

Condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans: H. Res. 234, condemning bigotry and violence against Arab-Americans, Muslim-Americans, South Asian-Americans, and Sikh-Americans; **Pages H9223–28**

Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998: H.R. 2655, amended, to amend and extend the Irish Peace Process Cultural and Training Program Act of 1998; **Pages H9228–31**

Awarding the Congressional Gold Medal to Jackie Robinson: H.R. 1900, to award a congressional gold medal to Jackie Robinson (posthumously), in recognition of his many contributions to the Nation, and to express the sense of the Congress that there should be a national day in recognition of Jackie Robinson; **Pages H9231–35**

FHA Multifamily Loan Limit Adjustment Act of 2003: H.R. 1985, amended, to amend the National Housing Act to increase the maximum mortgage amount limit for FHA-insured mortgages for multifamily housing located in high-cost areas; **Pages H9235–37**

Amending the U.S. Code: H.R. 3229, to amend title 44, United States Code, to transfer to the Public Printer the authority over the individuals responsible for preparing indexes of the Congressional Record; **Pages H9237–38**

Recognizing the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry: H.J. Res. 52, recognizing the Dr. Samuel D. Harris National Museum of Dentistry, an affiliate of the Smithsonian Institution in Baltimore, Maryland, as the official national museum of dentistry in the United States; **Pages H9238–41**

Commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the U.S. and Bulgaria: H. Res. 355, commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria (a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote on agreeing to the resolution will be taken on Wednesday, October 8); **Pages H9241–43**

Expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh: H. Res. 372, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh (a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote on agreeing to the resolution will be taken on Wednesday, October 8); **Pages H9243–44**

Commending the National Endowment for Democracy: H. Con. Res. 274, commending the National Endowment for Democracy for its contributions to democratic development around the world on the occasion of the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the National Endowment for Democracy by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 391 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 532; and **Pages H9244–45, H9248–49**

Congo Basin Forest Partnership Act of 2003: H.R. 2264, to authorize appropriations for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 to carry out the Congo Basin Forest Partnership (CBFP) program. **Pages H9245–48**

Recess: The House recessed at 4:47 p.m. and reconvened at 6:34 p.m. **Page H9248**

Medicare Prescription Drug Benefit—Motion to Instruct Conferees: The House rejected the Bishop of New York motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1, Medicare Prescription Drug and Modernization Act of 2003 by a yea-and-nay vote of 181 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 533. **Page H9249**

The House also rejected the Flake motion to instruct conferees on the bill by a yea-and-nay vote of 161 yeas to 234 nays, Roll No. 534. **Page H9250**

Later Representative Schakowsky announced her intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on the bill. **Page H9252**

Order of Business—Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order at any time to consider the conference report to accompany H.R. 1474, that all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration be waived. **Page H9250**

Order of Business—Postpone proceedings on Wednesday, October 8: Agreed by unanimous consent that the Speaker be authorized to postpone further proceedings on any question postponed under clause 8(A)(2) of Rule 20 considered on Wednesday, October 8, 2003, until Wednesday, October 15, 2003. **Page H9250**

Order of Business—Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003: Agreed by unanimous consent that it be in order at any time without intervention of any point of order to consider H.R. 3108, that the bill shall be considered as read for amendment; that the amendment in the nature of a substitute placed at the desk shall be considered as adopted; that all points of order against the bill, as amended, be waived; that the previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, to final passage without intervening motion except one hour of debate, equally divided and controlled, and one motion to recommit, with or without instructions; and that the amendment placed at the desk shall be considered as read for the purposes of this unanimous consent request. **Pages H9250–51**

Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act—Motion to Instruct Conferees: Representative Crowley announced his intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 1308, Tax Relief, Simplification, and Equity Act. **Page H9251**

Energy Policy Act of 2003—Motion to Instruct Conferees: Representative Capps announced her intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, to enhance energy conservation and research and development, to provide for security and diversity in the energy supply for the American people. **Pages H9251–52**

Senate Message: Message from the Senate appears today on page H9219.

Senate Referrals: S. 1642 was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary and S. Con. Res 66 was ordered held at the desk.

Page H9279

Adjournment: The House met at 12:30 p.m. and adjourned at 11:40 p.m.

Committee Meetings

FEDERAL CHILD NUTRITION PROGRAMS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Held a hearing entitled "Improving the Quality and Efficiency of Commodity Distribution to Federal Child Nutrition Programs," Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Eric M. Bost, Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services; and A. J. Yates, Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service; and public witnesses.

EMERGING THREATS: ASSESSING DOD CONTROL OF SURPLUS CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL EQUIPMENT AND MATERIAL

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on National Security, Emerging Threats and International Relations held a hearing entitled "Emerging Threats: Assessing DOD Control of Surplus Chemical and Biological Equipment and Material." Testimony was heard from Gregory Kutz, Financial Management and Assurance Team, GAO; and the following officials of the Department of Defense: Sheldon Young, Director, Readiness and Logistic Support Directorate, Office of Inspector General; Alan F. Estevez, Assistant Deputy Under Secretary (Supply Chain Integration); Frederick N. Baillie, Executive Director, Distribution and Reutilization Policy, Defense Logistics Agency; and Col. Patrick E. O'Donnell, USA, Commander, Defense Reutilization and Marketing Service.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8, 2003

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

House

Committee on Armed Services, hearing on Iraq: Reconstruction and Rehabilitation, 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn.

Committee on Education and the Workforce, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections, hearing on H.R. 1943, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to permit certain youth to perform certain work with wood products, 10:30 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "Challenges Facing the Medicaid Program in the 21st Century," 10 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

Committee on Financial Services, to consider the H.R. 2575, Secondary Mortgage Market Enterprises Regulatory Improvement Act, 11 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, to consider the following bills: H.R. 3166, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Old Tappan Road in Tappan, New York, as the "John G. Dow Post Office Building;" H.R. 3175, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2650 Cleveland Avenue, NW in Canton, Ohio, as the "Richard D. Watkins Post Office Building;" H.R. 3185, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 38 Spring Street in Nashua, New Hampshire, as the "Hugh Gregg Post Office Building;" H.R. 2744, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 514 17th Street in Moline, Illinois, as the "David Bybee Post Office Building;" and S. 1591, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 48 South Broadway, Nyack, New York, as the "Edward O'Grady, Waverly Brown, Peter Paige Post Office Building;" and to hold a hearing on "Winning the Peace: Coalition Efforts to Restore Iraq," 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Government Efficiency and Financial Management, oversight hearing entitled "25th Anniversary of the Inspectors General Act—Where Do We Go From Here?" 2 p.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Human Rights and Wellness, hearing on "The Environmental Impact of Mercury-Containing Dental Amalgams," 3 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Technology, Information Policy, Intergovernmental Relations and the Census, hearing entitled "The IT Roadmap: An Overview of Homeland Security's Enterprise Architecture," 10 a.m., 2247 Rayburn.

Committee on International Relations, to mark up H.R. 1828, Syrian Accountability and Lebanese Sovereignty Restoration Act of 2003, 11:30 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

Committee on the Judiciary, to mark up H.R. 3214, Advancing Justice Through DNA Technology Act of 2003, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Resources, oversight hearing on tribal self-governance issues, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Committee on Science, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, to mark up the following bills: H.R. 3245, Commercial Space Act of 2003; H.R. 912, Charles 'Pete' Conrad Astronomy Awards Act; H.R. 1292, Remote Sensing Applications Act of 2003; and H.R. 2450, Human Space Flight Independent Investigation Commission Act of 2003, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Tax, Finance, and Exports, hearing on the August 14, 2003 Blackout: Effects on Small Business and Potential Solutions, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, to mark up H.R. 1585, to establish an office to oversee research compliance and assurance within the Veterans Health Administration of the Department of Veterans Affairs, 1:30 p.m., 334 Cannon.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, briefing on the Administration's National Intelligence Priorities, 10:30 a.m., H-405 Capitol.

Select Committee on Homeland Security, hearing on H.R. 2886, Department of Homeland Security Financial Accountability Act, 1 p.m., 2318 Rayburn.

(House Program for Wednesday continued from page D1100)

(7) H.R. 3159, Government Network Security Act of 2003;

(8) H.R. 3054, District of Columbia Military Retirement Equity Act of 2003;

(9) H.R. 2755, to authorize the President to issue posthumously to the late William "Billy" Mitchell a commission as major general, United States Army;

(10) H.R. 2998, to amend title 10, United States Code, to exempt certain members of the Armed Forces

from the requirement to pay subsistence charges while hospitalized;

(11) H.R. 408, to provide for expansion of Sleeping Bear Dunes National Lakeshore;

(12) H.R. 3062, to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to issue separately, for the same area, a lease for tar sand and a lease for oil and gas; and

(13) H.R. 708, to require the conveyance of certain National Forest System lands in Mendocino National Forest, California, to provide for the use of the proceeds from such conveyance for National Forest purposes.

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Next Meeting of the SENATE

9:30 a.m., Tuesday, October 14

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Wednesday, October 8

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: After the transaction of any morning business (not to extend beyond 10:30 a.m.), Senate will resume consideration of S. 1689, Emergency Supplemental Appropriations Act.

At 2:15 p.m., Senate will resume consideration of S. 1053, Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, with a vote on final passage of the bill to occur at approximately 2:30 p.m.

(Senate will recess from 12:30 p.m. until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Wednesday: Vote on H. Res. 372, expressing the condolences of the House of Representatives in response to the murder of Swedish Foreign Minister Anna Lindh;

Vote on H. Res. 355, commemorating the 100th anniversary of diplomatic relations between the United States and Bulgaria;

Consideration of the conference report on H.R. 1474, Check Clearing for the 21st Century Act (unanimous consent agreement);

Consideration of H.R. 3108, Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003 (unanimous consent agreement);

Consideration of Suspensions:

(1) H.R. 3182, Adoption Promotion Act of 2003;

(2) H. Res. 342, supporting the National Railroad Hall of Fame, Inc., of Galesburg, Illinois, in its endeavor to erect a monument known as the National Railroad Hall of Fame;

(3) H.R. 2297, Veterans Benefits Act of 2003;

(4) H.R. 2452, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 339 Hicksville Road in Bethpage, New York, as the "Brian C. Hickey Post Office Building";

(5) H. Con. Res. 71, recognizing the importance of Ralph Bunche as one of the great leaders of the United States, the first African-American Nobel Peace Prize winner, an accomplished scholar, a distinguished diplomat, and a tireless campaigner of civil rights for people throughout the world;

(6) H. Res. 262, supporting the goals and ideals of Pancreatic Cancer Awareness Month;

(Continued on page D1099)



Congressional Record

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