The Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Speaker pro tempore announced that the question is on the resolution."

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, DC.

Mr. CASTLE, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MOORE, Mr. MOORE, Mr. W:D. MILLER, Mr. MILLER, Mr. MOORE, Mr. MOORE, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. NELSON, Mr. NYA, Mr. NYA.

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Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. CUMMINGS changed their vote from "aye" to "no." So the resolution was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table. Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, DC.

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 182, had I been present, I would have voted "no."

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO HOUSE DEMOCRACY ASSISTANCE COMMISSION

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERY). Pursuant to section 4(a) of the Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution (House Resolution 135, 109th Congress), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment of the following members of the House to the House Democracy Assistance Commission.

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERY). Pursuant to section 4(a) of the Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution (House Resolution 135, 109th Congress), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker’s appointment of the following members of the House to the House Democracy Assistance Commission.

America, California, Chairman; Mr. KOLBE, Arizona; Mr. GILLMORE, Ohio; Mr. KIRK, Illinois; Mr. BOOZMAN, Arkansas; Mr. WILSON, South Carolina; Mr. COLE, Oklahoma; Mr. MILLER, Michigan; Mr. FORTEBNERRY, Nebraska.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE NANCY PELOSI, DEMOCRATIC LEADER

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DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 4(a) of the House Democracy Assistance Commission Resolution (House Resolution 135, 109th Congress), I hereby appoint the following members to serve on the House Democracy Assistance Commission.

Mrs. MILLER, Michigan; Mr. FORTEBNERRY, Nebraska.

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We must remember that the Department of Homeland Security in the executive branch and the Committees on Homeland Security in this House and in the other body were formed because the congressional leadership and the President recognized that neither branch of Government, when then constituted was properly organized to deal with the 21st century threat of terrorism directed against Americans on our own territory. On an ongoing basis, the Congress and the executive need to focus attention on this vital process and the annual authorization is the means for doing so.

The Department of Homeland Security authorization bill that is before the House today reflects an impressive bipartisan effort. That is due, in large part, to the strong and able leadership of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON). The Members on both sides of the aisle have never forgotten for a single day since September 11, 2001, that the security of American people must be placed above politics.

So as we meet today to consider the Department of Homeland Security authorization bill for fiscal year 2006, we find that we have forged agreement on many important challenges facing our country and the Department, and on ways to begin to address them. In establishing the procedures for bringing this annual authorization bill to the floor, we have been guided by the long-standing practices of the intelligence community. Those committees have always brought to the floor bills that live within the spending committee’s jurisdiction and that that communication be secure. That is exactly what this bill accomplishes, both within the Department of Homeland Security and across the Federal Government and with our State, local and private sector partners. It provides the Department of Homeland Security with new tools to build a robust intelligence capability. It strengthens the partnership with these other stakeholders.

Those partnerships are essential in sustaining the counterterrorism mission into the foreseeable future, and the bill will help the Department of Homeland Security to streamline and integrate the multitude of different background checks and security screenings that are mandated for travelers, workers and other critical personnel who are required to undergo security checks by the Department.

The bill revises the color-coded homeland security advisory system to make sure that threat warnings are specific and informative, and wherever possible, that these warnings are targeted. By targeting these warnings to the areas of the country or sectors of the economy that are threatened, we can be sure that we are warning the right people and not needlessly scaring the wrong people. We also need to make sure that the Federal Government gives clear guidance and speaks with one voice when it issues such warnings. This bill will ensure this happens.

This authorization bill is shorter this year than it will ever be in future years. That is because, first, the Department of Homeland Security budget that this House has already approved, we have authorized $80 million in additional funds to support the training of State and local law enforcement personnel so they can help enforce Federal immigration laws. This provision is contained in a separate amendment that today with the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENIBRENNER) of the Committee on the Judiciary.

On these and all other funding decisions in the bill, we have had to make the right choices and I will confess the difficult decisions that we have made. But what we have done is based on our funding decisions on the best intelligence available, on terrorist capabilities and intentions, and on the actual risk of terrorist attack. The bill also advances our prime objective of preventing terrorism by building our intelligence capability within the Department of Homeland Security. Prevention of terrorism requires that information sharing about terrorist threats be seamless, that it be timely, and that that communication be secure. That is exactly what this bill accomplishes.