many reasons I support the efforts of MADD and I encourage MADD to con-
tinue their good fight. I admire the women who started MADD and those
countless women who are still working.

It reminds me of one of the state-
ments my grandmother made many years ago. She said, “There is nothing
more powerful than a woman who has
made up her mind.” Mr. Speaker, that
is just the way it is.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION WAIVING
REQUIREMENT OF CLAUSE 6(a)
OF RULE XIII WITH RESPECT TO
CONSIDERATION OF CERTAIN
RESOLUTIONS

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from
the Committee on Rules, submitted a
privileged report (Rept. No. 109–239) on the resolution (H. Res. 468) waiving
a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain
resolutions referred from the Committee on Rules, which was referred to the
House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO-
VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF
H. J. Res. 68, CONTINUING APPO-
PRIATIONS, FISCAL YEAR 2006

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, from
the Committee on Rules, submitted a
privileged report (Rept. No. 109–239) on the resolution (H. Res. 469) providing for
consideration of the joint resolution (H. J. Res. 68) making continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; for consideration
of motions to suspend the rules; and addressing a motion to proceed under section 2906 of the Defense Base Closure and Realignment Act of 1990, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent to speak out of
order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gentle-
woman from California?

There was no objection.

IRAQ AND THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S GREED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a
previous order of the House, the gentle-
woman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY)
is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, for the
last 2 years, Halliburton and subsidi-
aries such as Kellogg, Brown, and Root,
have received billions of dollars in con-
tracts to rebuild Iraq. Despite the
handsome profits, Halliburton, which
used to be run by the Vice President,
DICK CHENEY, has not had to offer com-
petitive bids on the vast majority of
these projects. Earlier this week a Hal-
iburton subsidiary received yet an-
other no-bid contract for reconstruc-
tion efforts.

This should not come as a surprise to
anyone, anyone who has monitored the
greed, the selfishness, the sheer corrup-
tion with which the Bush administra-
tion has administered Iraq's recon-
struction. Only this time, the contract
was not for Iraq. It was for hurricane
relief and reconstruction efforts here in
the United States. Finally, the chick-
ens have come to roost.

Mr. Speaker, my colleagues might re-
call that Halliburton is the company
that overcharged the United States
Government for meals served to sol-
diers serving in Iraq. It is also the com-
pany that made the United States Gov-
ernment pay a ridiculous markup on
gasoline purchased from nearby Ku-
wait. Unfortunately, the Bush adminis-
tration did not seem to mind.

Halliburton's corruption certainly did
not stop the White House from turning
to them yet again as its primary
source for no-bid government contracts
in the Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, my hope is that last
week's hearing will help begin a discus-
sion that we desperately need, one
that is long overdue, one that will help save
lives, how to end the war in Iraq, and
how to bring our troops home.

CALL FOR PEACE IN ETHIOPIA

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise
today to discuss democracy and elec-
tions in Ethiopia. As this country has
been a close ally of the United States
in the war on terror, it is critical that
we encourage their evolution from
monarchy to communism to democ-

I used to live in Ethiopia as a child,
and I lived there when Haile Selassie
was the emperor. And even under a
monarchy, Ethiopia had a lot of good
tings going for it. And as they have
always been an ally of ours, strangely,
we often forget them.

Ethiopia is divided into nine states
along linguistic and ethnic lines. It is a
3,000-year-old civilization which until
the 1970s was under the rule of
then a brutal Marxist junta through
him over. Civil war and famines racked
the country in the 1980s. Calm finally
began to return in 1991 when Meles
Zenawi, who assisted in the overthrow
of the junta, became president and fi-
nally prime minister 4 years later.

Since that time, Ethiopia has partici-
pated in a total of three elections. That
is three elections in a 3,000-year his-
tory.

This past spring, Ethiopia held their
second election since the introduction of multiparty politics and the first
under international scrutiny. Thirty-
five political parties vied for seats in

2005 CONGRESSIONAL RECORD — HOUSE H8487
547 seat lower house of parliament called the Council of People’s Representatives. Voters also chose representatives in nine regional state parliaments that will appoint members of parliament’s upper house, the Council of the Federal States.

Twenty-five million people registered to vote in the election. With 200,000 of those registered to vote living in villages inaccessible by roads, election officials on camels, pack animals, and boats fanned out to distribute ballots in time for the election. The electoral board drafted 38,000 ballots, 65 donkeys, 20 horses and 10 mules to carry election workers, ballots, stamps, counting sheets, and indelible ink to rural parts of a country twice the size of Texas.

In the weeks leading up to the May elections, peaceful mass rallies were held by both the ruling party and opposition parties in Ethiopia’s capital of Addis Ababa. At one of the rallies, 220,000 demonstrators—one of the main opposition parties, the Coalition for Unity and Democracy, rallied in the capital’s main Meskel Square. A government rally attracted 600,000 people the day before.

Opposition leader Solomon Aseffa, told reporters that after witnessing two public rallies in two days, democracy finally really was flourishing in Ethiopia. Another resident said that the peaceful rallies were indicative of the increasing political consciousness of the community. An Addis Ababa resident, Fitsum Argaw, urged young people to cast their votes in order to safeguard a democratic system that had been achieved through great sacrifice.

During the campaign, there was unprecedented media access for the opposition. They received equal time on state-run radio and the opportunity to participate in broadcast debates. One main opposition party even launched a text message campaign to get out the vote. European observers praised the openness to the run-up to the election. European observers praised the openness to the run-up to the election.

Ethiopia has come so far. From a monarchy the democratic process. We know it is not perfect, as we are still working on ours; but we wish them success in this great and noble endeavor.

I would like to take this time to urge peace and calm in Ethiopia. There has already been too much violence and bloodshed in the wake of these elections. However, in an ominous sign, on Monday forty-three members of the main opposition were arrested ahead of Sunday’s assembly and the branch offices of the opposition parties were raided and are now closed. Authorities have threatened “severe consequences” for any illegal acts or violence that occur during Sunday’s polls. Mr. Speaker, the path to democracy is never a smooth and easy process. We are seeing that now in Iraq. In Ethiopia, democracy is in its infancy and it must be nurtured along by its leaders.

To that end, I would urge Prime Minister Zenawi and the Ethiopian authorities to allow this rally to occur peacefully. As pre-election rallies were held without violence and bloodshed, post-election rallies should be equally violence and bloodshed-free.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Speaker recognizes Mr. Gohmert for five minutes.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, a number of our friends across the aisle yesterday once again demanded that an independent commission is vital to what they said is getting to the truth about the response to Hurricane Katrina. They want a commission like the 9/11 Commission. They put their hope and their avowed trust in a so-called independent commission.

They also said, in fact, that there had been no adequate investigations in recent years, even though their glorified 9/11 Commission occurred during that time. Yet it was their glorified 9/11 Commission that recommended putting FEMA under Homeland Security. (Even though it had been working just fine.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Mr. Speaker, is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.