Mr. PALONE. There was an editorial in the New York Times on September 26 about faking the Katrina inquiry. The last paragraph, if I could just read it, said this. It says, There is no way to whitewash a hurricane. A government dominated by one party should be disqualified from investigating itself. Just as President Bush repeatedly fought the creation of the 9/11 Commission until public pressure forced him to yield, should the public now demand the administration and Congress get real about Katrina.

That is what we are getting with this Republican-dominated committee. It is just going to be another whitewash, and we cannot allow it. So I appreciate the opportunity.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I think what is important here are several points that the gentleman has already made.

You have this chart here dealing with the whole gas price issue on the middle class, and I just want to take a couple of minutes of this hour just to talk a little bit more about what is called an energy bill.

We had an alternative, and the reason why I call it an alternative to the gas tax or to the bill is the fact that we were in the majority and it would be called an energy bill dealing with price gouging and also making future investments and bringing out alternative fuels to be done by a certain date. Also, our alternative said if you price gouge, we are not talking about someone at the pump, we are talking about the oil industry that has soaring, through-the-roof profits in a time that we have individuals who cannot even make it to works because they cannot afford to buy a tank of gas. They did not get an increase. Their employer did not say, listen, we are going to give you about three hundred more dollars a month so you can pay for gas. They did not say that.

So we dealt with those individuals in our alternative by saying that if you price gouge the American people, not only will it allow State Attorneys General to enforce the law, but you will pay serious fines, up to $3 million a day. Every day you price gouge, you pay. You do not get your profits and run off and the stockholders are happy. No, you are punished, and it not only dealt with gas. It dealt with oil and LP Gas and heating gas.

I think it is important for folks to understand that we were for real about it, and the majority side was really defending the industry. I know we are going to have more time.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Let me do this. We want to give the e-mail address, 30somethingdems@mail.house.gov.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP: REFORMING GOVERNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to be back and continue our discussion here. I hope for the next hour, my good friend, we can talk about something that I think is very important for the Democratic Party and what the future of the Democratic Party is all about, and that is reforming government. There are the party of reform. We have offered alternatives, as we have talked about in the past hour and over the past several weeks, that have been ignored; but we are not going to let that stop us. We are going to continue to talk throughout the rest of this year and into next year about the different reform measures that we are going to propose, and we are going to be critical of what we think is a broken system in general and broken systems in general, all of these different systems in our government.

I was thinking about this and talking about this last night, about how our government runs today; and our government really runs today totally different from what it was 30 years ago.

Governments in the 21st century need to be integrated and unified. A health care system that does not teach us about eating healthy habits and has a diverse physical education requirement in our schools or gives our kids good food in our schools, that is a comprehensive health care system. Because at some point we are going to have to pay the price.

I want to just talk for a couple of minutes about what is going on with Delphi and their bankruptcy and how I think the system right now is a bit broken. Basically, over the last 30 years or so, this company and their workers have generated a lot of wealth over the past 30 years. A lot of people in Ohio and in Mississippi and all over the country have made money. Workers have paid well, pensions and benefits and health care coverage and everything else. The wealth that these workers created was taken and invested in China, first in Mexico, then in China. And now, because of all of what that has happened, we increased the global supply of labor, that is driving down the wages here in the United States of America, which leads to Delphi filing bankruptcy because they cannot compete with their competitors who are doing a lot of business in China.

It just is something broken when a worker or a group of workers who create wealth and that money is taken...
and invested somewhere else comes back to bite you on the behind. And now their company is filing for bankruptcy. The workers are going to be asked to take, they are asking them now to take about a 60 percent pay cut. Now, there is not a person in the world, there is not a company in the United States for sure who could take a 60 percent pay cut. Now, there is not a person in the world, there is not a company in the United States for sure who could take a 60 percent pay cut. Now, there is not a person in the world, there is not a company in the United States for sure who could take a 60 percent pay cut.

So the squeeze is on the workers here in the United States. Many people may say, well, those workers are making $27 an hour, that is a lot of money; and that is a whole other argument. But the bottom line is, there is going to be in my community $150 million pulled out of our local economy.

Mr. MEEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, let me just say that there is that for a minute. A 60 percent pay cut, the gentleman does know that a 60 percent pay cut, some folks are going to lose their homes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Absolutely, they are going to lose their homes.

Mr. MEEEK of Florida. The media quick-fix probably would be to try to go out and get a loan. Now you make a little bit less than what you used to make, and you may not be able to get the loan because you do not make the money you used to make and the uncertainty of how long your company is going to be able to provide the money that you thought that you were going to be able to make. I think this is a real issue. I think it is a real issue, and I think it is something that we need to be very concerned about.

I agree with the gentleman 110 percent. I have been reading in the paper what is going on. The gentleman from Ohio was right. This is a percentage because it is right there in his district. But guess what, I say to the gentleman, it is happening throughout America. A number of other communities are going through it. And once again, I think it is important, it falls back on the heels of government again, and also our stronghold and our love affair with China.

I mean, it goes far beyond, far beyond what is going on. The gentleman from Ohio was right. This is a percentage because it is right there in his district. But guess what, I say to the gentleman, it is happening throughout America. A number of other communities are going through it. And once again, I think it is important, it falls back on the heels of government again, and also our stronghold and our love affair with China.

It means, trying to apply it to a society that really no longer exists.

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vulnerabilities here in the United States, that community was ranked number one as it relates to a storm, a natural disaster in a catastrophic way as it relates to the damage that would be done.

Mr. WAXMAN. Made him Speaker, I think it is also important for me to point out, when we start talking about this issue, the gentleman mentioned Democrats having to stand up and make sure that we deal with the whole corruption and cronyism issue, and I think that that is important.

And I think it is also important to make sure that we deal with that, but to deal with that, A, we are trying to deal with it by calling out some of this stuff out here on the floor.

We are trying to do the best we can. And there are others who are trying to do the best they can. The gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), who is the ranking member on the Committee on Government Reform, can only do all that he can do to point out some of these issues.

And I have a number of reports as it relates to contracting under the Bush administration. But guess what? If we were in the majority we could do these things and make sure that we save the Federal taxpayor money, we save those dollars. We make sure that they are paying taxes, which we all are, okay, that it is being spent in the way that the American people want us to spend it, in a responsible way.

Now, this whole issue, once again, this corruption and cronyism issue is so deep here in Washington, DC. I do not even have to say, well, let me pick up the paper a week ago because there were some stories in there that I think I need to bring to your attention, or I hear there is a story coming out on Thursday about some of this stuff that is going on in the Capitol.

You can just walk out the door here in Washington, DC or in your local community and pick up the paper on any given day, be it a Saturday or Sunday or Monday or Tuesday, it does not matter what day, there is always something here, because there are several things that are here because there are several things that are going on in this town, and that is just in the present.

That is just what has happened already, what is happening as we speak, and what is not happening under the culture of corruption of cronyism. What do not we know about now that we will know 6 months from now, because it will have worked on someone’s conscience to be able to say, hey, you know something, this is wrong. And it is not wrong because of a personal decision that someone has made, it is wrong because they made a decision that changed the very fiber of the Congress. I mean changed the culture of Congress, that’s what we are supposed to be doing and not doing.

Yes, we know we have individuals that make bad independent decisions. Oh, I have made some. But they were independent. Did not affect my constituents. Did not affect this country, a bad decision that I have made.

But you have folks that are knowingly and willfully making bad decisions this Congress, this Congress, this Congress, that will alter many Americans’ lives and the way they live and the way they provide for their children, and it is happening every day without a conscience.

Now in the Washington Post, there are some folks here, and we know that there are some folks here in the Capitol that have said, okay, we have to deal with this Katrina issue. It is $200 billion and we are going to have offsets and we are going to deal with it.

Where are we going for the offsets? Well, in this story, it is not saying, well, maybe we need to look at some of our advanced weapons systems that possibly may be useful to us sometime in the future. Maybe we need to say that we are spending $50 billion or $50 billion or $130 billion out there on advanced weapons systems, maybe since they are, you know, advanced, maybe there are some other areas we can take 5 billion here or ten billion there and that maybe we can come up with some offset.

No, not that. Maybe we can go to the tax cuts that we gave to the billionaires. All right. I am not even talking about the billions. I am talking about the millionaires. Maybe ask them to give a little sacrifice under this time that the country is going through a lot. Maybe, you know, maybe just a 5 or 2 percent cut from there.

No, they are not mentioned. No, where we are going to go, this is the Republican leadership. This is the discussion that is taking place over there.

This is not my report, because I am going to tell you right now this is the Washington Post. House GOP leaders are setting up third party validator, set to cut spending as it relates to Medicaid.

Wow. Let us go after the big people. Let us, you know, the folks that catch the early bus in the morning. Let us go after them. Yeah. They are really strong. In a program that has already been cut.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And the poverty numbers are up so there are going to be more people applying for this, or qualifying for this.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Let us go pick on someone that is not our own size. Yeah, let us go after individuals and make them, because they are not giving in the way maybe some of these other folks are. Okay. Let us go after them.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. They are not pharmaceutical lobbyists.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, let us go after some folks that we were sent up here to protect. Let us go after them. Let us turn on our own. I am bigger than that person. So maybe that guy, you know, that is driving the pickup truck running around here shopping where he is bundling T-shirts and clothes and leaving the truck now parked because he cannot take the kids to the recreation center where they can stay out of trouble, let us beat up on them.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I mean changed the culture of corruption for me to provide health care for you, because there is no incentive as a business person for me to provide health care for you, because there is no incentive as a business person for me to provide health care for you.

Let us pick on them. Let us take Title I lunch programs to help poor kids to have the nutrition to be able to go to school and think correctly so they can learn, and so they have to pass a standardized test that this Congress has called for to make sure that they learn, or they retain, whatever the test is supposed to pull out of them, let us take that, let us reduce that.

Yeah. Let us take away from the kids, because guess what, they cannot vote. They are definitely not going to give a campaign contribution. Let us vote with them.

Now I am going to tell you something. And I know there are some well-intended Members here in this Congress. And I know that there are some leadership individuals that are saying, well, you know, maybe that is a great idea. But I can tell you right now, if you are going to do it, we are not going to be sitting here watching and allowing you to do it. You are not going to talk about it in the back halls of Congress and then come to this floor under regular order and say, well, we are doing this because we have to help the people in the devastated area.

As a matter of fact, not only are we helping you, the folks in the devastated area, and I must add there is no discussion in here, well, we are going to take away benefits toaddock that we think is a great idea. I can tell you right now, if you are going to do it, we are not going to be sitting here watching and allowing you to do it. You are not going to talk about it in the back halls of Congress and then come to this floor under regular order and say, well, we are doing this because we have to help the people in the devastated area.

Meanwhile, whatever Mr. Rumsfeld calls for out of the Pentagon, and whatever the White House says that needs to happen, without an exit strategy or even a discussion of the exit
strategy on what is our goals and objectives outside of the several elections that are going on in Iraq and that will continue to go on. What we are going to need as long as we are going to need it. Do not ask any questions. What are you asking questions about?

You are asking me a question of me about what I am asking for for the troops as it relates to money? My question is, is it really for the troops or is it really to continue to feed family and friends that are out there making billions in this war, billions they are making?

And I will tell you this also. They can run commercials. I know Halliburton is the shining example of what goes on under a culture of cronyism and corruption and a lack of oversight. I just gave an analysis of what took place of oversight hearings and how the decline has taken place, because no one wants to call out the next person, because we have an oversight hearing; oh, my goodness, we may start to govern around here.

I think it is important for us to also understand that we are sitting here talking about we are for the troops and you know all of this kind of stuff, but we also need to lead in a way. Sometimes I would say that, hey, excuse me, excuse me, Mr. President, can we talk about maybe when will this be over? Or maybe what is the strategy?

Is the strategy as long as there is an insurgency going to be there? Well, that is a 20-year strategy. Madam Speaker, because we are spending billions to fight an insurgency, not the troops, not the individuals that a train was not ready.

The individuals that said that we should go did not do what they were supposed to do as it relates to the planning. We are going to run to Baghdad, we are going to have bombs and stuff. We are going to get there and this is a race and a little bit of a clock going, and the news media like we are here now. Wow, record time. Wow.

There was nothing after that. And because of that, hundreds upon hundreds of Americans have lost their lives, thousands upon thousands of Americans are injured that have come back to their community, that have served their country because their country asked them to serve.

And I am going to tell you, and I want to make it clear that we get clarity on this, that is our job to govern here in the Congress. It is our job to protect these individuals. It is not our job to continue to hold on and to cover for individuals that are making bad ideas or that are sharing bad ideas and continuing to compound on these ideas, and to continue to come here and say, well, you know, why are you asking me the question, and with great arrogance.

Now I am going to share this with you. It is our job, and you know it, for us to not only call out the fact of a lack of governance, a look of oversight, a lack of bipartisan working on these very issues, and bringing to a head of what is important here. The head is, is making sure that we govern in the way we are supposed to govern.

And for some of the individuals that are calling out saying that we have to have offsets. Hey, we have been calling for offsets. We have been saying, if you want to have one, you have to find it, you have to have a plan on how you are going to pay for it but, listen, did not get religion now when we are talking about the American people.

Do not stand up and say, well, I am going to get religion on this week. I am going the make them pay when you will not even stand up to big companies, when you come to the floor with an energy bill that is a gift to the industry.

You did not come here on behalf of the American people. You came here on behalf of oil company profits. Tell the truth. At least come to the floor and be straight with the American people. Because if you are not, we will. And let me tell you something. It really infuriates me that folks will run around here and even hold their head up going after poverty programs saying that we are going to balance the budget on the back of poverty.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Can I ask a question? Where is the Christian Coalition? Where is the Christian Coalition when you are cutting poverty programs? Where are you? You know, they are fighting over Supreme Court justices and meanwhile poverty programs are being cut out of the budget.

Now I do not know. 12 years of Catholic school, and I know you had a religious upbringing as well. Where is the Christian voice in all of this? All of a sudden silence. Medicare, Head Start, No Child Left Behind, which would help more in high poverty schools than any other. Where is the Christian right? Silence. Because they are getting overrun by the corporate greed and the corruption and the cronyism that is going on, this is the problem, right under their nose.

Join us. You talked about Medicaid. You talked about poverty. You talked about Head Start. You talked about helping people that cannot help themselves. I cannot think of anything more Christian. I do not want to get religious, because this is a public forum. But it has been invoked time and time again from the other side.

□ 2230

We hear it every day.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I will put it to your pointblank. Never apologize for representing not only what you feel spiritually about because I am going on, because I think your spirit makes religion act right. That is the bottom line. Spirit brings about the kind of change that we call and pray for in government and in our regular lives.

When we talk about young children, when we talk about the weak, physically, maybe financially, these are individuals that are going to pay the high prices for the heating oil. These are the individuals that we ask to go out and vote. They do not need to be Democrat, Republican or Independent, Reform Party, Green Party or no party; and we ask them to go out and take part in this democracy. They are the ones that we need to go after. And they are going to pay a price, as we all will, when we talk about cutting those programs. That is a serious discussion.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Let us put all this together here because as I am listening
here; I am beginning to see how this is coming together. Let us see if we can outline this here. If you are poor or working poor, which is the dark underbelly of the United States of America, the working poor that do not qualify for Medicaid so they do not have health care, but they are working hard to make ends meet. So if you are in that class, this outfit, the Republican outfit that we have in right now wants to cut Medicaid, is not funding No Child Left Behind, is not funding Head Start and we have a health care system that is a wreck. Watching health care in America is like watching a train wreck happen. It is terrible.

So if you are poor or working poor, those programs are getting cut, school lunches, all the other good stuff. And you probably live in a community where you are having criminal justice issues like we are having in a lot of our communities where you cannot afford the police. You do not have enough sheriffs, deputies to run the jail. You do not have enough police on the beat. And if you do, you put them in the court system and they wait and wait and they get back on the street. A whole new level.

If you are in the middle class, the Republican majority has done nothing for Pell grants to try to reduce the cost of college tuition when tuition has doubled in just about every State in the Union in the last 10 years. If you are in the middle class trying to provide health care, if you are a union worker in Delphi or some other UAW or something else, you are getting squeezed. If you are part of the 45 million or 50 million now that do not have health care, you are getting squeezed. If you are a middle-class small businessperson, you are getting squeezed. We get calls every day in my office about small businessmen and women who cannot afford to provide health care for their workers. Squeezed.

If you are in the upper middle class and you are trying to provide health care, it is not working. These systems that we have in place are broken; and instead of fixing them, instead of reforming the system or the systems, our ideas are so antiquated, old school, supply-side economics in a world where that does not work. Look around. I mean, look around. This does not work. It is not working.

What are we doing here? We have a reform agenda that invests in education, invests in research and development, helps kids with math and science, fully funds No Child Left Behind, puts money into the Pell grants so your kids can go to college and afford it, reforms the health care system to move the investment on the preventative side instead of on the tail end when people are so sick and acutely ill that it costs so much more money.

The reforms that we want to make on the preventative side provide for mental health coverage so people do not go out and commit crimes who are mentally ill because they have medication or they have some basic counseling which saves us money. We are cheating the taxpayer right now. They want to tell us we were tax and spend. They do not understand they are not even spending it right. They are spending at a billion and a half a week in Iraq. They are giving it to billionaires. That is not good government.

That does not work. Look around. It is just not right. We are not helping people suffering. Let me say this, we do not come to this floor for what this week will probably be 3 or 4 hours. All day we are here and we get an opportunity to come at night. We are not doing this because we like to come down here and listen to each other talk. If we wanted to do that, we would go out and grab a hamburger and a Starbucks’s and go talk and drink some water. That is the most more to here in the country is unraveling before our very eyes, and the Republican leadership is either doing nothing or doing something to make it worse.

The Democrats have an agenda on health care, education, we are ready to reform. We are ready to take over. We just need the chance. And I know from people in my district and from the gentleman’s district and from the district of the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MEEK of Florida) that is back in their apartment and the government is part of the problem now. Maybe Ronald Reagan was right, government is the problem. Right now it is. But I think government can be a positive, progressive leading force in society with the proper leadership. And right now it is just not happening. But we are not doing this stuff for therapy. We could be going out and having dinners and everything else. We have come here because this country needs someone to talk about it, then the 30-something group is going to step up and implement an agenda and talk about the agenda that is going to make this country better.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Let me just say that it is important that we realize the time that we are in now. I think the gentleman is 110 percent right. I was in my district recently and I went to New Shiloh Baptist Church. One of my local pastors was celebrating his third pastoral anniversary of the church. And I went over and worshipped with him and some parishioners. When I was there, a couple of folks came up to me and said, It is really something that is going on in Washington right now. Are you not shocked? And I am, like, I am not. Oh, no. I am not. No. Not only did I see it coming, but some more is to come.

How do you know that? Well, I am not a prophet, but I am your Congressman representing our jobs as Members of Congress, not individuals. Folks make sure to keep the district offices open, respond to constituent mail, return phone calls, this, and the other, not the individual policing of our own districts, but the policing of the Federal budget, the policing of having oversight over all the Federal agencies. When we are not doing that, then that means we are not doing our job. We are doing our job that the Constitution calls for and that the rules of the House calls for of how we do our job and conduct our job and we violate the rules of this House, then we have issues.

So, when the historians start looking at what happened and how did we get here? Did we do this for therapy? We are not doing this because we like to come down here and listen to each other talk. If we wanted to do that, we would go out and grab a hamburger and a Starbucks’s and go talk and drink some water. That is the most more to here in the country is unraveling before our very eyes, and the Republican leadership is either doing nothing or doing something to make it worse.

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This is just in today’s Washington Post. It is not an article found just the other day. It is important. And we talked about sitting in church or a synagogue or a mosque or whatever the religion may be of policymakers here in Congress and you hear about the on the side of our society. You hear about the tragedies and the tough times that parishes are going through. The only difference between the average American that goes to those institutions of religious practice, the only difference between the rest of the American people is that they could have done something about it. That is the bottom line.

Now, that is not about how I feel about it or how you feel about it. Because I could walk into any religious institution and say, you know something, we are here to govern on behalf of the American people. Period. Dot. If given the opportunity to do more we will do more.

 Matter of fact, we want to do more. You need us to do more. But I feel for that Member that goes into these religious institutions in their mind knowing that they could have done more and they could have stood up at such a time as this.

So there is a spiritual component to what we do. We cannot get religion on certain things. We do not have to have it. That is what my colleague pointed out when he said where is the faith community when it comes down to dealing with issues such as this. For openers, we will start with the poor. That is what we are going to do, we are going to start with them first.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Where is the outrage? Where is the outrage? They are outraged about Harriet Miers? Wait a minute, here is a woman who has a distinguished legal career. And I do not want to give the whole Supreme Court thing here, because that happens on the other side of the Capitol, but here is a distinguished lawyer. Now, I am not so convinced that she may be the best Supreme Court Justice pick, but, my goodness, to be outraged at that? How about being outraged at both? How about that? Be outraged at both. Be outraged about Harriet Miers, and be outraged about this too. My goodness.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Let me just say this. There are faith-based groups that are very concerned about cuts to Medicaid and will speak out, that will come to Washington and will talk to the appropriators and to some of the individual things that have but those individuals that have relationships with the President of the United States, those very high individuals within the very, very conservative groups should go and say this is wrong, in my opinion.

I think that those voices on a spiritual level need to be worked on, and also in this House. We need to be worked on about making the right decisions as it relates to the masses of Americans who need us the most. That is just where it is. So that is where the responsibility is.

But guess what? Ultimately, we make the decision. They do not. We are elected, they are not. And I do not want to put this on an outside group saying it is their responsibility, but as it relates to what people are reacting to here in Washington, DC, as it relates to the leadership and what the leadership is reacting to here in Washington, DC, we just may need that intervention.

We may very well need that intervention on behalf of individuals who cannot fight for themselves. And they have a lobbyist. It is supposed to be Members of Congress. All Members of Congress. Not folks that are saying that well, we care more about our philosophy and we are going to start with the individuals who cannot protect themselves, because I am their lobbyist. They do not have the power to elect un-elect individuals, but they do not have the money to send a lobbyist knocking on my door saying, No, I know you want to start offsets, but do not start with us. Matter of fact, do not even look at us. Do not even come this way.

They do not have that. We are here as Members of Congress to make sure they have lobbyists, because we are their lobbyists. We sit at the table. We come to the majority behalf. So when we back out, when we see the majority side and this philosophy being pushed onto the front page of the local paper here and other papers throughout the United States that this is where we are going to start, and we are the individuals that are supposed to be here blocking on behalf of the folks that need us most, then we are in trouble.

So we need to start talking about leadership and standing on behalf of every American. We need to start talking about oversight. And tomorrow, if we can, I want us to talk more about this oversight committee, talk about House Resolution 3838 that has this commission that is looking at fraud over contracting. I have a report here that has been put together by the minority side on the committee dealing with the whole issue of protecting against contractor fraud, making sure the American taxpayers are not made victims due to oversight.

One thing I do know is that the majority, not the White House, not any other group here in Washington, DC, has the ability to oversee the Federal tax dollar in an administrative no-bid contract scenario, on they do not have it. They are not moving fast enough to be able to protect the Federal tax dollar.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I want to just go back, and I think this week, whenever we get our hour to come this week, I think that is a great idea, to talk about that. As you were going through the poor and the middle class that is getting squeezed harder and harder, you made a great point that it is our job as Members of Congress to advocate on behalf of those people. I think that has a moral component to it. I want to set that moral component aside. I want to talk for 2 minutes, because we are wrapping up here, about economics.

We talked about who is investing in the United States. Not many people. We are talking about even the government now is cutting programs that we need to invest in those young people and these poor middle-class people that we need economically, like the 30-some-things are calling for a million new scientists and engineers over the next decade in the United States of America Left Behind, and investments in the Pell grants are going to lead to more wealth in the United States of America. We are going on the field right now with half of our society not eligible to play in the game.

All these poor kids that we saw down in New Orleans, it is the same in Miami, it is the same in Youngstown, Cleveland, Akron, Canton, Toledo, Cincinnati, and Columbus. There are core pockets of very, very poor in our country. And all we are saying is, invest in those people so that they can go out and create wealth for the United States of America.

The Ohio State football team would not go on the field with five players. It does not make sense. You need to have everybody on your team. And quite frankly, our country is only 300 million. We are competing against over a billion Chinese citizens and over a billion Indian citizens. If you are going to compete with them, you better have every single player on the field prepared, conditioned, and ready to move forward.

When we talk about Medicaid, Head Start, No Child Left Behind, and Pell grants, we want reform on these systems because we want to make them better and convert them into the 21st century, but we have to make the proper investments into our people. That is the bottom line.

There is the moral component that we talk about, hopefully not just on
Sundays, but there is also this economic component too that I think is going to help stimulate the economy in the 21st century if we make those investments. But today we are not making them. So we cannot expect something to happen when we are not doing anything. It just does not make any sense.

I will let my colleague make a final comment or two and then we will wrap it up and give out the e-mail address.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, I want to thank my colleague for bearing with me.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I hope you feel better. My colleague from Florida was down last week, sick as a dog.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Down last week, but came back in on behalf of the country. The fact is we have to continue to do what we have to do as Members of Congress. I think that it is very, very important that we continue to pay very close attention to these issues.

I want to commend many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle for standing up in ways that are unprecedented in this institution and trying to change the tide of not only thinking but also making us get back to governing this country of ours and that we stand up on behalf of those Americans who need us to stand up for them. I can tell you right now they come in all ages and all economic backgrounds, and some of them have even children. It is important that we work on their behalf in an honest way.

If anything comes out of this, I would be happy if the leadership on the Republican side was to say, you know, I think there are some points that have been made and I think we need to implement some of those things; or at least have a fair discussion on some of those issues to make sure that we will govern in a way that does not violate the spirit of our existing rules. That would be a victory.

Or if the American people were to say enough is enough, it has affected my household personally, and make other decisions based on the representation here in Washington, D.C. And this will not be a discussion; it will be action on what we are talking about. So there is a long time before that happens, because the election is not up until 2006.

But on behalf of the country, there are some things that just cannot wait that long, and there are some issues that need to be brought to the forefront and hopefully change will come out. So my spirit is the American spirit and dream that things will get better and should get better because it is the right thing to do.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Well, we are going to do our best. If you are not watching baseball tonight and you were watching the 30th-something Dems, our e-mail is 30thsomethingdem@house.gov. We have been receiving a ton of e-mails lately, so do not be afraid to drop us an e-mail. We appreciate everybody who is listening and watching, and I appreciate my colleague fighting through a cold to be down here with us.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. FOXX). Members are reminded that their remarks are to be addressed to the Chair and not to the television audience.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE
By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and account on official business.

Mr. CARDIN (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and account on official business.

Mr. GRIJALVA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 18 on official business.

Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Mr. REVPRO (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and official business in the district.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. SCHIFF (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and October 18 on account of attending a soldier's funeral in California.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mr. KING of Iowa (at the request of Mr. BLUNT) for today on account of official business.

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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 Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. McCARTHY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OWENS, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. MORAN of Kansas) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material.)

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, for 5 minutes, October 19 and 20.

Mr. MORAN of Kansas, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. OSBORNE, for 5 minutes, today and October 18 and 19.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today and October 18.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, today and October 18 and 20.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, today and October 18 and 19.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED
The SPEAKER pro tempore, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1858. An act to provide for community disaster loans.

ADJOURNMENT
Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 18, 2005, at 10:30 a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

(Missed from the Record of October 7, 2005)

4443. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Office of Housing, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Multifamily Accelerated Processing (M AFP; MAP Lender Quality Assurance Enforcement (Dock No. FR 4836-F 02) (RN: 2502-A01) received August 4, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

4444. A letter from the Acting Director, OSHA Directorate of Standards and Guidance, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—OSHA Standards Based On Natural Consensus Standards; General, Incorporation by Reference; Hazardous Materials, Flammable and Incombustible Liquids; General Environmental Controls, Temporary Labor Camps; Hand and Portable Powered Tools and Other Hand-Held Equipment, Guarding of Portable Powered Tools; Welding, Cutting and Brazing, Are Welding and Cutting; Special Industries, Sawmills. [Dock No. S-023A] (RN: 1218-AC0) received September 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4445. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Prohibited Transaction Exemption (PTE) 84-14 for Plan Asset Transactions Determined by Independent Qualified Professional Asset Managers [Application Number D-11947] received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

4446. A letter from the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Regulations Implementing the Longshore and Harbor Workers' Compensation Act and Related Statutes (RN: