

hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### AMERICANS STRANDED AGAIN

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. Madam Speaker, I spoke of this earlier in the discussion of the resolution regarding the statement on Israel, but I think as a member of the Homeland Security Committee and having experienced just almost a year ago the watching of Americans in the gulf region, Louisiana, Alabama and Mississippi remain stranded for days upon days, as confusion continued in how to evacuate Americans who looked to the Federal Government as their umbrella on a rainy day, the images of Americans sitting on rooftops, floating in water, and the terrible stories that were told as many of them were evacuated to Houston is still very, very strong and very, very potent in our minds.

It bothers me that we stand here again watching the newsreels report over and over again of the 25,000 stranded Americans in Lebanon. The seemingly slow process of reaching those particular citizens, families, children, who are looking for relief from the Federal Government.

I think it is imperative that there be some briefing of the United States Congress immediately to detail how we can swiftly move up the throngs of Americans who are begging to be able to come home. It simply seems untenable that we do not have the resources necessary to evacuate our citizens more quickly than it has been done.

Many of them are in need of medical care, many of them with young families, and the stories are just heartbreaking. Children who are left on the pier. The 11-year-old girl who watched a ship go off and ultimately had to be redirected to a ship in the morning.

There is a conflict, there is a violent conflict going on. American lives are in jeopardy, and this administration needs to provide to the United States Congress their detailed plan of how they will evacuate Americans. We have their loved ones in our districts. They are pained to understand why the most powerful Nation in the world cannot even get its citizens out of Lebanon. There is no excuse.

We know the military, although it is stretched in Iraq and elsewhere, is well able to take orders and to move quickly, and if it is not the military, then we know that you can capture civilian commercial aircrafts and direct them to be able to secure those who need to get out because of medical emergencies and other needs that would warrant them getting out more swiftly than others.

Mr. President, the United States Senate and this Congress, this House, can do a far better job responding to this crisis while protecting the American

people. It is a shame, simple shame that loved ones here in the United States are still facing this crisis without knowing whether their loved ones can be returned home safely and securely.

Hurricane Katrina was a dastardly, devastating experience for this country. In fact, there is no excuse. We cannot defend the incompetence of the departments that were responsible for evacuating those citizens from the gulf coast, a natural disaster. Now we have been at war in conflict and crisis for six, seven, eight days, and there are Americans still stranded in Lebanon. I hope that will be a wake-up call and that we will get a response immediately.

My door is open. My number is available, (202) 225-3816. We want to be of help to those families who are stranded, and we also want to be of help for a resolution of the conflict, of which all of us are looking for an immediate engagement and the opportunity for the U.N. and other bodies to be able to bring a solution to this terrible tragedy.

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□ 2300

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss McMORRIS). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURGESS 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 Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. OSBORNE 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 Virginia (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Virginia 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 Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GILCHREST 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 Texas (Mr. POE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. POE 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 gen-

tleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. McDERMOTT 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 Kansas (Mr. MORAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MORAN of Kansas 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. MEEHAN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. MEEHAN 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 Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BILIRAKIS 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 Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. ALLEN 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 Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SHAYS 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 Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. FRANKS of Arizona addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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#### TERRORISTS NO LONGER A THREAT TO THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. McCOTTER) is recognized for half of the time remaining before midnight as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. McCOTTER. Madam Speaker, throughout this unsought struggle, which is the world war on terror, our Nation's citizen soldiers have expended their fullest measures of devotion to our defense. The cost of their heroic sacrifices, especially our fallen soldiers' ultimate sacrifices, upon themselves and their loved ones has rightly

been solemnly noted on the floor of this, the people's House.

The success of their heroic sacrifices in protecting our families and freedoms, however, has yet to be fully enunciated and honored, for as the men and women of the United States Armed Forces themselves, and their loved ones, have expressed to myself and my colleagues, their sacrifices have not been in vain.

Thus, tonight my colleagues and I will endeavor to emphasize but a portion of our noble military's and our Homeland Security personnel's victories in defending our lives and our liberties from our evil terrorist enemies.

To commence, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. BARRETT).

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Mohammed Atef aka Abu Hafs Al-Masri, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmed Homood Al-Khaldi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Abdul Fattah Mohammed Kiram, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hanan Abdullah Raqib, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hassan bin Hamid Hazimi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ali Kudhair Fahd Al-Khudhair, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ali Al-Khudair, no longer a threat to the United States.

Al-Iyadiyah Ahmed Mohammed Al-Sayyad, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hisham Mubarak Al-Hakami, no longer a threat to the United States. Hani Al-Sayegh, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdul Monim Ali Mahfouz Al-Ghamdi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Zubayr al-Rimi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khalid Jehani, no longer a threat to the United States.

Badr Al Sobei, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ghaidah Ahmed Mohamed Souidah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Fayez bin Awad Juhaini, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdul Wahab Adel Abdul Wahab Al-Sheridah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Qasim al-Raimi aka Qasim al-Taizi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ali Abd al-Rahman al-Faqasi al-Ghamdi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdullah Ibn Ibrahim Ibn Abdullah Al-Shabrami, no longer a threat to the United States.

Eid bin Dakhil Allah Juhaini, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khaled Ahmed Mohammed bin Sanan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Muhammad Atef, no longer a threat to the United States.

Narseal Batiste, no longer a threat to the United States.

Stanley Grant Phanor, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Ajmal Khan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Saif al-Adel, no longer a threat to the United States.

Major Khalid Hmood, no longer a threat to the United States.

Safwan al-Hasham, no longer a threat to the United States.

Saif Alwahid, no longer a threat to the United States.

Yasser al-Jaziri, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammd Salah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Sheikh Ibn al-Liby, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Omar Abdel Rahman, no longer a threat to the United States.

Aso Hawleri, no longer a threat to the United States.

Omar Hadid, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ali Wali aka Abbas bin Farnas bin Qafqa, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hassan Ibrahim Farhan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abd al-Tahki al-Nissani, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdullah al-Janabi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Umar Baziyani, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Waleed Saudi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Faraj Ahmad Najmuddin aka Mullah Krekar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Muhammed Hila Hammed al-Ubaydi aka Abu Ayman, no longer a threat to the United States.

Nayef Abbas al-Zubaydi aka Abu Moawiy, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Tallah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Shahab Ahmed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Abdallah Suri, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mo'ayed Ahmed Yassin aka Abu Ahmed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Mohammad Hamza, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Zubayr, no longer a threat to the United States.

Muhammad Khalid, no longer a threat to the United States.

□ 2310

Ridha Baziyani aka Fadil al-Kurdi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mr. McCOTTER. Reclaiming my time, Madam Speaker, I wish to yield to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

Omar Rahman, no longer a threat to the United States.

Syed Adnan Shah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Amjad Hussain Farooqi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Osama Nazir, no longer a threat to the United States.

Yousaf bin Yousaf, no longer a threat to the United States.

Wahid Khan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Omar Abdel Rahman, no longer a threat to the United States.

Shamshad Khan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Shafique, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammad Hassan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khalid Ansari, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mian Abdul Mannan Samejo, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Abdul Jalal, no longer a threat to the United States.

Nek Mohammed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Dost Mohammad, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Abdul Razaq, no longer a threat to the United States.

General Abdul Qadeer, no longer a threat to the United States.

Maulavi Abdul Razaq, no longer a threat to the United States.

Qari Ahmadulla, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Fazel M. Mazloom, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hazrat Ali, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Angar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Sattar Sadozai, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Badar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Abdul Salam Zaeef, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdul Kabir, no longer a threat to the United States.

Maulavi S. Ahmed Shahid Khel, no longer a threat to the United States.

Reza Khan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Toor Mullah Naqibullah Khan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdul Razzak, no longer a threat to the United States.

Maulavi Qalamuddin, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hilmi Tugluoglu, no longer a threat to the United States.

Zahir Salaamah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ziyad Dabdoob, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khalid al-Haaji, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hilal Altah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Imad ad-Deen an-Naqib, no longer a threat to the United States.

Jamil Dawud, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ibrahim Eid, no longer a threat to the United States.

Alauddin Hammad, no longer a threat to the United States.

Fuad Mubarak, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mazin al-Qasir, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mansor Hasnu, no longer a threat to the United States.

Saad bin Laden, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmed Zaoui, no longer a threat to the United States.

Qari Saifullah Akhtar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abd al-Hadi al-Iraqi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Mohsen Yahya Zayed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Madam Speaker, reclaiming my time, I wish to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. Hazil Mohsen Shalesh, no longer a threat to the United States.

Amir Saleh Ismael, no longer a threat to the United States.

Moayad Ahmed Yasseen, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hamdi Tantawi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Majid Abdul Hameed Kazim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmed Qumra Isaa, no longer a threat to the United States.

Arkan Jawad Jari, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdul Aziz Sa'dun Ahmed Hamduni aka Abu Ahmed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ammar Abu Bara, no longer a threat to the United States.

Muthana Kahdum Al Madawwere, no longer a threat to the United States.

Omar Sayel, no longer a threat to the United States.

Yasser Fathi Ibrahim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Muawiyah Muhamna, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmed Mohammed Ali Ayed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Jamil Mohammed Kutkut, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ibrahim Ahmed Abdel Majeed Al Reemy, no longer a threat to the United States.

Thamer Khamis Abdel Aziz Al Khamis, no longer a threat to the United States.

Salem Saad Salem bin Soued, no longer a threat to the United States.

Saud Abdullah Al Jadhii, no longer a threat to the United States.

Harbi Khudair Hamudi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abed Sattar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Karem Abed Ibrahim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Adel Mujtaba aka Abu Rim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hazif Sattar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Haidar Abu Bawari, no longer a threat to the United States.

Salah Suleiman Loheibi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Anad Mohammed Qais, no longer a threat to the United States.

Sami Ali Faidy, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Omar al-Kurdi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Fares Younis, no longer a threat to the United States.

Sheikh Yusef, no longer a threat to the United States.

Nidal Arabiyat Agha Hamza, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mullah Noor Mohammed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khalid Shaikh Mohammed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Muhammad Hamza al-Zubadyi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Taha Yasin Ramadan al-Jizrawi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Zuhayr Talib Abd al-Sattar al-Naqib, no longer a threat to the United States.

Maulvi Abdul Ghaffar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abd al Tawab Mullah Huwaysh, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu-Musab Al-Zarqawi, no longer a threat to the United States.

□ 2320

Qusay Hussein, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khalid Shaikh Mohammad, no longer a threat to the United States.

Uday Hussein, no longer a threat to the United States.

Saddam Hussein, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdel Basset Ali Al-Megrahi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ali Asad Chandia, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mr. MCCOTTER. Abu Abbas, no longer a threat to the United States.

Atta Kumar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Saifullah alias Gori, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdullah of Parnot, no longer a threat to the United States.

Burez Begum, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mustaqim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Farouk Hijazi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Nasser Al-Fahd, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammad Salim Al-Ghamdi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Tariq Mikhail Aziz, no longer a threat to the United States.

Hassan Ghul, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khala Khadr Al-Salahat, no longer a threat to the United States.

Nayif Shindakh Thamir, no longer a threat to the United States.

Adil Abdallah Mahdi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Humam Abd al-Khalil Abd al-Ghafur, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmad al-Ali, no longer a threat to the United States.

Lt. Colonel Khaled Rajab, no longer a threat to the United States.

Sabawi Ibrahim Hasan al-Tikriti, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdul Hadi Dagħħas aka Abu Taisir, no longer a threat to the United States.

Shihab al-Sab'awi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed al Harahse, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdullah al-Shami, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ayoub Hawle, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Saeed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammad Salman Eisa aka Ibrah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Sultan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mo'ayed Ahmed Yassin aka Abu Ahmed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Husam al Yemeni, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Abdallah Hasan bin Mahmud, no longer a threat to the United States.

Didar Khalan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Anas Ahmad al-Issa, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Najm Ibrahim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Zubair al-Haili, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mahmud Hameeda, no longer a threat to the United States.

Isa al-Milly, no longer a threat to the United States.

Kasir al-As'ad, no longer a threat to the United States.

Madam Chairman, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr. BARRETT.

Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina. Bassim Mohammad Hazeem, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mahi Shami, no longer a threat to the United States.

Zain Abdallah Salah Khalaf al-Jib aka Abu Karam, no longer a threat to the United States.

Saleh Arugayan Kahlil, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ami Mohammed al-Jafi aka Abu Omar al-Kurdi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu al-Hasan, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abd al-Hafiz Shamma, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdel Karim Sayyid Sulayman, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abd al-Khalil Hakimi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abd ar-Rahman as-Suways, no longer a threat to the United States.

Aamir Nawfal, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ihab Dafaa, no longer a threat to the United States.

Jamal Ba Khorsh, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmad al-Shinni, no longer a threat to the United States.

Fatha Abdul Rahman, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohsen Al Fadli, no longer a threat to the United States.

Juma Ibrahim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammad al-'Owhali, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mr. McCOTTER. Reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentlelady from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Yusus a-Balkhi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mohammed Saeed Kazim al-Saha, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abd al-Rahim al-Nashiri, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ibrahim Bah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Munib Zahragic, no longer a threat to the United States.

Qaed Salim Sinan al-Harethi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Tawfiz Attash Khallad, no longer a threat to the United States.

Aziz Nassour, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdallah Muhammed Rajab Abd al-Rahman, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Ubaida, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mamdouh Mahmud Salim, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Yasir al-Jaziri, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mosabir Aroochi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mamoun Darkazanli, no longer a threat to the United States.

Adil al-Jaziri, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ali Ahmed Hamdoosh, no longer a threat to the United States.

Taha Ahmed Kalif, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abdul Rahim Riyadh, no longer a threat to the United States.

Youssef Mustafa Nada, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mr. McCOTTER. Reclaiming my time, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER. Mulvi Nida Mohamed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmadullah, no longer a threat to the United States.

Khalfan Khamis Mohamed, no longer a threat to the United States.

Ahmed Khalfan Ghailani, no longer a threat to the United States.

Abu Faraj al-Libbi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Patrick Abraham, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mir Aimal Kansi, no longer a threat to the United States.

Mustafa Setmariam Nasar, no longer a threat to the United States.

Jose Padilla, no longer a threat to the United States.

Rotschild Augustine, no longer a threat to the United States.

Naudimar Herrera, no longer a threat to the United States.

Lyglenson Lemorin, no longer a threat to the United States.

□ 2330

Mr. McCOTTER. Reclaiming my time, Madam Speaker, as the hour is almost upon us.

Madam Speaker, these were but a random portion of the thousands of

names which could have been read into the RECORD. But I trust we have proven our point of how honorably and effectively our citizen soldiers and our homeland security personnel have been defending and continue to defend our lives and liberties against our evil terrorist enemy.

### 30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Miss McMORRIS). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for the remaining time before midnight as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to come before the House once again. As you know, the 30-Something Working Group, we come to floor if not every other day, every day, to not only share with the Members but also the American people about many of the issues that we fight for for them here in this U.S. House of Representatives.

I must say that there are a number of things that we can talk about this evening. But I just want to start off, because I know that not only the Democratic leader, but also the entire Democratic Caucus is looking to hopefully put America in a new direction. We want to make sure that we provide the leadership on behalf of all Americans.

As you know, I want to start off tonight, but as you know, we have been sharing it with the Members so that hopefully it will have some sort of lift here in the House. It has not had thus far, but we are willing to provide the leadership, even in the minority, even though the majority is not willing to pick up the philosophy that we are pushing here on behalf of the American people, making sure that we have more affordable health care.

Madam Speaker, this is on housedemocrats.gov. Also lower gas prices to achieve energy independence, which we have our energy plan on housedemocrats.gov. And, Madam Speaker, our innovation plan that has been there for some time, and filed legislation here in the House that has not been heard.

We want to talk about homeland security. We have a Real Security Plan also on that website that is there for the Members. They have to have the will and the desire, Madam Speaker, to be able to take up these plans and these initiatives. And if we were able to work in a bipartisan way, these plans would already be passed, not only in the Appropriations Act, but also here on the floor.

The two other things that I want to mention, as it relates to cutting the cost of college cost. As you know, the cost to go to college has gone up. This Republican-led Congress last not helped in that area. They have not helped the every-day average American to be able to meet the increases that they have been asked to pay.

And also, Madam Speaker, in a new direction for America is making sure that we follow through with fiscal responsibility, pay as we go, not just on a credit card, not just saying because we can give tax cuts to millionaires, and we will just put it off on future generations, or we will go to foreign nations and borrow a record number of dollars.

These nations, Madam Speaker, that I am holding up here, they own a part of the American apple pie, not because of what the American people have done, it is what the Republican Congress has done, and allow these countries to buy our debt because we are not fiscally responsible.

I think it is also important to make sure that we encourage working families, people that are making minimum wage. Madam Speaker, I just want to make this point, then I am going to give it to my friend, Mr. RYAN from Youngstown, Ohio.

As you know, Madam Speaker, we have had, time after time again, three or four occasions in the 109th Congress that we have asked the Republican majority to join us in raising the minimum wage, to make sure that the American workers are able to keep up with the costs of not only living but inflation.

But it has been well said, and Mr. RYAN will point it out with his chart that he has there in a moment, that the Republican Congress is in no way and in no shape ready to give minimum wage workers an increase. Since 1997 they have not had an increase.

But here in the 30-Something Working Group, Madam Speaker, we actually take time to find out the facts, because we want to make sure that we are not telling the American people nor Members of this House something that is inaccurate.

I must say that in 1998, Madam Speaker, Members of Congress received \$3,100 in a pay increase. And we are not minimum-wage workers. In 1998, minimum wage workers zero, Mr. RYAN.

In 2000, Members of Congress received a pay increase of \$4,600. Guess what? Same year, minimum-wage workers, zero. 2001, Members of Congress received \$3,800. Minimum-wage workers, zero. In 2002, Members of Congress received another pay increase, \$4,900, almost \$5,000 pay increase. Remember we just got one in 2002, I was not a Member yet but it happened. Minimum-wage workers, zero.

2003. Members of Congress, \$4,700 pay increase. Just got one last year, getting another one in 2003. Of course, minimum-wage workers, zero. Punch in and punch out every day. They work a 40-hour work week, catch the early bus, trying to raise their children.

Members of Congress, 2004, \$3,400 pay increase. Same year, minimum-wage workers, zero, Mr. RYAN, thanks to the Republican majority.

2005, it is great to be in Congress. Too bad every American cannot be and minimum-wage workers cannot be. 2005