

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—Thursday, December 17, 1998

Pursuant to section 3 of House Concurrent Resolution 353, One Hundred Fifth Congress, the House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker, Hon. NEWT GINGRICH.

NOTIFICATION OF REASSEMBLING OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER. The Chair lays before the House the text of the formal notification sent to Members on Monday, December 14, 1998, of the reassembling of the House, which the Clerk will read.

The Clerk read as follows:

OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,

Washington, DC, December 14, 1998.

Pursuant to section 3 of House Concurrent Resolution 353 and after consultation with the Minority Leader, the public interest requires the Members of the House of Representatives to reassemble at 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 17, 1998. The Sergeant at Arms is directed to notify all Members of the reassembly of the House of Representatives for the second session of the One Hundred Fifth Congress.

Sincerely yours,

NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

We pray, almighty God, that Your spirit will lead and guide all those who turn to Your word of peace and of light. In times of conflict we seek Your abiding grace, and we pray that Your special blessing will be with all those who experience any pain or suffering.

We remember the men and women of our armed forces that the duty and honor of serving their country will enable them to be faithful in their tasks and steadfast in their responsibilities. May each person in every opportunity use the abilities You have given them to help fashion a world where justice flows down as waters and righteousness like an ever-flowing stream.

In the words of the hymn writer Daniel Roberts, we continue to pray: "From war's alarms, from deadly pestilence, Make Your strong arm our ever sure defense. Your true religion in our hearts increase; Your bounteous goodness nourish us in peace." Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

Mr. SPENCE 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.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS OF THE ADVISORY COMMISSION ON ELECTRONIC COMMERCE

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to section 1102(b)(1)(C) of the Internet Tax Freedom Act and Section 5 of House Resolution 594, 105th Congress, the Speaker on Friday, November 27, 1998 appointed the following individuals on the part of the House to the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce:

Mr. Grover Norquist, Virginia;
Mr. Richard D. Parsons, New York;
Mr. David Pottruck, California;
Mr. James Gilmore, Virginia; and
Mr. Dean Andal, California.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER laid before the House the following communication from Hon. RICHARD A. GEPHARDT, Democratic leader:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 3, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker of the House, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to section 1102(b)(1)(C) of Public Law 105-277, I hereby appoint the following individuals to the Advisory Commission on Electronic Commerce: Governor Gary Locke of Olympia, WA. Mayor Ron Kirk of Dallas, TX. Mr. Robert Pittman of Dulles, VA.

Yours very truly,

RICHARD A. GEPHARDT.

APPOINTMENT AS MEMBERS TO TWENTY-FIRST CENTURY WORKFORCE COMMISSION

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to Section 334(b)(1) of Public Law 105-220 and Section 5 of House Resolution 594, 105th Congress, the Speaker on Friday, November 13, 1998, appointed the following members on the part of the House to the Twenty-First Century Workforce Commission:

Mr. Thomas J. Murrin, Pennsylvania;
Mr. Kenneth Saxe, Pennsylvania;
Mr. Frank Riggs, California; and
Mr. Frank Roberts, California.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The Speaker laid before the House the following communication from the chairman of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure; which was read and referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 13, 1998.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
The Capitol, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Enclosed please find copies of resolutions approved by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure on October 9, 1998, in accordance with 40 U.S.C. §606.

With warm regards, I remain
Sincerely,

BUD SHUSTER,
Chairman.

EXPRESSING UNEQUIVOCAL SUPPORT FOR MEN AND WOMEN OF OUR ARMED FORCES CURRENTLY CARRYING OUT MISSIONS IN AND AROUND PERSIAN GULF REGION

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I offer a resolution (H. Res. 612) expressing unequivocal support for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are currently carrying out missions in and around the Persian Gulf region, and ask unanimous consent for its immediate consideration in the House, with the previous question ordered to its adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except 2 hours of debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and the ranking minority member of the Committee on National Security or their designees.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 612

Whereas the President of the United States has ordered military action against Iraq in response to its refusal to comply with international obligations under United Nations Security Council resolutions;

Whereas up to 24,000 men and women of the United States Armed Forces are presently involved in operations in and around the Persian Gulf region with the active participation of British Armed Forces and the support of allies in the region;

□ 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.

Whereas additional United States Armed Forces are being deployed to the region;

Whereas Congress and the American people have the greatest pride in the men and women of the United States Armed Forces and strongly support them in their efforts. Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives That:

(a) the Congress unequivocally supports the men and women of our Armed Forces who are carrying out their missions with professionalism, dedication, patriotism, and courage;

(b) the Congress reaffirms that it should be the policy of the United States to support efforts to remove the regime headed by Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq and to promote the emergence of a democratic government to replace that regime.

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) each will control 1 hour.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE).

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to inquire, is either gentleman opposed to the resolution?

The SPEAKER. The unanimous consent request did not allocate time on the basis of opposition.

The gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) is recognized.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH), the Speaker.

Mr. GINGRICH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from South Carolina, for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise because I think this resolution offers us a very important opportunity to talk with ourselves and to talk with the world.

The United States represents two enormous burdens that we have to live out: first, that we are the center of freedom, and that we are engaged in the process of self-government; and second, that we must carry the burden of leading the world, and that is an operational day-to-day which never suspends: It does not suspend for elections, it does not suspend for Christmas, it does not suspend under any circumstance. We have an obligation to prove to ourselves and to the world that we can simultaneously govern ourselves in freedom under the rule of law, and provide leadership wherever it is needed around the world.

Let me expand on that for just a moment, because it is a topic I have thought a great deal about since the fall of the Berlin Wall.

The United States has to lead. There is no alternative. There is no other country capable of organizing against an Iraqi dictator who wants to get weapons of mass destruction. There is

no other country capable of sustaining freedom against a North Korean dictatorship actively seeking to get nuclear weapons. There is no other country that can lead the world's financial system when it is under stress. There is no other country capable of bringing together on a global basis people trying to solve problems.

Yes, it would be nice to run and hide. Yes, it would be nice to find some grand isolation in which we could cower behind the walls of the Atlantic and Pacific Ocean if this were 150 years ago.

But today, in the age of the Internet, in the age of worldwide instantaneous financial communications, in the age of weapons of mass destruction delivered by missiles and by terrorists, for the United States to fail to lead is in fact to guarantee chaos and to guarantee pain across the planet, and ultimately, pain here in the United States.

So let me be very clear. I believe the United States has to lead, and I believe, as a practical matter, both under our Constitution and in the nature of how human beings function, the daily leadership has to be an executive function, and the President of the United States has to provide that leadership every day, 365 days a year.

Now, we have a second and in many ways even more important burden, because it is the heart of who we are as a people. We are a Nation under law. We are a Nation of systems. As Ronald Reagan said in 1981, this magic of the transfer of power as a Democratic president yielded to a Republican, and then in 1993, as a Republican, George Bush, yielded to a Democrat, President Clinton, there is a magic to the capacity of the American people to subordinate themselves to the rule of law, and that means we are going to have open debates. It means newspapers are going to have lurid headlines. It means we are going to have television shows that are confusing.

If you are a dictator, it is easy to look at the turmoil and chaos and confusion of a free people and say to yourself, this is the week to hit America, because now they must be divided. So we have a chance today to say to the world, no matter what our constitutional process, whether it is an election eve or it is the eve of a constitutional vote, no matter what our debates at home, we are, as a Nation, prepared to lead the world.

So I support what was done this week. I was briefed on it in advance. I can assure my colleagues that as Speaker of the House, I felt, and I think that the next speaker, Mr. LIVINGSTON, can also report that he felt we were being legitimately consulted. We were not just informed but we had conversations of substance, and this has been an ongoing process.

But let me say two things on the domestic side about my qualified support,

because I believe the President has two obligations beyond this week's activities. First, we need to have a clear and decisive commitment to replacing the dictatorship in Iraq, because it has consistently now, from 1990 through 1998, proven that even with 8 years of sanctions, even with 8 years of economic hardship for the Iraqi people, who do not deserve it, they should not be made to suffer because their dictator is irrational, they should not be made to pay the price because their dictator holds them in slavery with an armed Republican Guard and secret police, but for 8 years we have adopted a policy which has punished the people of Iraq while the dictatorship has continued.

The President owes it to this Nation in January and owes it to this Congress in January to provide us with a systematic, thorough, and methodical campaign plan by which the most powerful Nation in the world replaces a dictator who has proven beyond any reasonable doubt that he is desperate to get weapons of mass destruction, and no student of Saddam can doubt that he will either give them to terrorists or use them directly.

So just as in the 1930s there was a magic moment when it would have been easy to have destroyed Adolph Hitler and the democracies didn't take it, this is our last warning, because sooner or later, our allies in the Security Council will falter, and sooner or later Saddam will get weapons of mass destruction, and then the genie will be out of the bottle.

Second, I would say, in addition to a strategy for replacing the dictatorship, this President owes it to the men and women in uniform and to the men and women in our intelligence services to come back to this Congress in the beginning of next year and renegotiate the amount of funding we need for those two.

We cannot lead the planet on the current defense budget, and we cannot get the information to lead the planet on the current intelligence budget. I know that will be unpopular in some quarters, but you cannot lead the world on the cheap. If you are not going to be for isolation, then you need to rely on the distinguished professionals to tell you the truth about what it is going to cost to recruit and build the systems we need.

□ 1015

So I rise today to say to Saddam Hussein and any other dictator who has any doubt the United States can both govern itself and lead the world simultaneously, and I say to our allies across the planet, we have been, since 1941, the bulwark on which your freedom was based, we have been the arsenal on which your freedom has been assured, and we have been the power on which your security has been procured.

We will retain those capabilities. And no matter what the temporary arguments, no matter what the temporary issues, no one anywhere on this planet should doubt the will of the American people to support freedom and the will of the American people to provide leadership and our capacity to subordinate our personalities and subordinate issues to ensure that we as a Nation are strong on this planet.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the President and our troops in this latest phase of the Iraqi crisis. I urge all Members to join me in voting for this resolution.

It is extremely important that we be here today to support these actions and to support these young men and women who are in the Middle East doing their best to follow the orders of the Commander in Chief in putting an end to this Iraqi threat to the American interests and to the Iraqi neighbors.

I urge all Members to join in this effort today. We, the representatives of the American people, need to express our full support of this measure.

Mr. Speaker, last November the 14, the President called off an attack against Iraq at the very last minute while aircraft were in the air because Iraq promised to allow the United Nations Special Commission to do its job. The President's decision at that time was a tough call. Many individuals, including some of his closest security advisors, disagreed with the choice that he made. I, however, believed that he made the right decision and publicly supported his decision.

I supported the decision because it allowed the United States to show the world that we would give Iraq one last chance. As George Robertson, the British Minister of Defense, said at the time, "Even in the Wild West, when someone put up their hands, did you not shoot them?"

Almost 8 years ago, President George Bush ordered American military forces into action against Iraq. At that time I supported the decision. There was bipartisan support for the action that he took. Yesterday, 8 years later, President Clinton ordered American military forces into action against Iraq. I find myself once again in support of the decision of our President. We gave ample warning one month ago that if Saddam did not comply with the promises he made to the United Nations, that the consequences would be severe. In effect, our national credibility was on the line. Had the President not ordered the attack, many would have bitterly criticized him for not having followed through with the tough words he uttered just one month ago. Others in the world, in North Korea and Yugoslavia and elsewhere, would have come to the conclusion that the United States, though militarily strong, was lacking in will.

As we proceed with this action, we should have a sustained bombing campaign that targets Saddam Hussein's centers of power, especially the revolutionary guard and his security services. We should also hit known chemical, biological and nuclear weapons sites. This effort will help contain Iraq, maybe even spark a coup, but will surely retard his effort to rebuild his ability to produce weapons of mass destruction.

I also hope it will help encourage the internal opposition. There are no good options, but to have done nothing now would have been the worst of all options.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly support the President in his decision. I wholeheartedly support those in uniform who are carrying out those orders today, the difficult orders. I respect their determination and their professionalism. They are the cream of the crop. And our heartfelt and best wishes go with them.

This resolution will help let them know that we, the representatives of the people of America, are in their corner today and in the days ahead.

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

This resolution, which I have sponsored, along with my colleague the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), expresses the strong support of the Congress for the courageous, patriotic and dedicated service of our men and women in uniform serving in the Persian Gulf who are currently conducting military strikes against Iraq.

Once again, our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines have demonstrated that they comprise the finest fighting force in the world today. For years they have selflessly defended America's national security interests in the Persian Gulf at great personal sacrifice. All Americans can be proud of our troops and the way they have performed. They are a credit to our Nation and an inspiration to us all.

Mr. Speaker, it is unfortunate that the situation with regard to Iraq has come to this point. For the past 8 years, since the end of the Gulf War, Iraq, under the leadership of Saddam Hussein, has repeatedly defied the will of the international community and ignored all resolutions of the United Nations Security Council designed to ensure that Iraq could not reconstitute its weapons of mass destruction capability. Saddam Hussein has relentlessly pursued the acquisition of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and the ballistic missiles that can deliver them. He has invaded his neighbors, launched ballistic missiles against Saudi Arabia and Israel, and used chemical weapons against his own people. To prevent international weapons inspectors from further uncovering his prohibited weapons activities, he has obstructed inspections, refused to turn

over documents and thumbed his nose at the world. In short, he has worked methodically to undermine the international effort to prevent him from rearming.

The challenge to United States security posed by Saddam Hussein's actions in Iraq is stark. Simply put, the United States cannot allow Saddam Hussein to frustrate the efforts of the international community and to reconstitute his weapons capability. Doing so would again allow him to threaten his neighbors, United States' friends and allies in the region, and our own interests.

Unfortunately, I am concerned that our military action against Iraq attacks only the symptoms of the problem rather than the problem itself. The root cause of our problems with Iraq is Saddam Hussein himself. The time is long overdue to implement a broader and more aggressive strategy that has as its ultimate goal the replacement of Saddam Hussein's dictatorial regime. The Iraqi people have suffered long enough.

Whatever one's view is on the timing of this latest military strike against Iraq, we are all unified in support of our servicemen and women. We are proud of each and every one of them.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and urge all Americans to pray for the safety of our sons and daughters, husband and wives and those of our allies who are currently in harm's way in the Gulf. It is important for them to know that the American people and the people's representatives in Congress are behind them 100 percent.

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I must comment and say that I wholeheartedly agree with the comments of the chairman, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), regarding the outstanding young men and women that we have in uniform today. I would like the RECORD to show that I feel as strongly and I support those words of support for them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. REYES).

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I rise this morning in support of President Clinton and our military troops dispersed in the Persian Gulf.

Yesterday the United States military began strikes to subdue the chemical, biological and nuclear weapons capability of Iraq. For some time now Saddam Hussein has flaunted the will of the United Nations by impeding the activities of weapons inspectors. Strikes against him, in my opinion, and against his regime have been greatly needed and greatly overdue.

I believe, however, that President Clinton has demonstrated great restraint and patience and has waited the

appropriate time to initiate these strikes. Had the United States moved towards strikes at another time, we would have been perceived as a bully and would have been condemned by much of the world.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that in this time of crisis, we must put aside partisan quarrels and show unified support for our troops. We should send our thoughts and prayers to the men and women in uniform who are carrying out this attack. We should also keep in our prayers the families of these fine men and women. It will be especially difficult for them because this is the holiday season.

In the Middle East today, along with thousands of military personnel, are more than 1100 soldiers from Fort Bliss, Texas. These men and women are manning Patriot missile systems. I am proud to say that these soldiers are led by the first woman ever to command an air defense battalion. The Patriot systems are in place to defend our troops against possible Scud missile launches from Iraq.

We know from our experience in the Gulf War that Saddam is willing to use Scud missiles against our troops. The presence of these Patriots demonstrates how significant our military leaders believe that the threat of ballistic missiles is. Every month we learn of more tests of ballistic missiles that are faster and reach further distances. The countries testing these systems are not our friends and would likely actually use these ballistic missile systems armed with chemical, biological or even nuclear warheads against others, including the United States.

The strikes to Iraq are significant to slow the development of such weapons by that government. But countries like Iraq, Iran, North Korea and Libya will continue to seek the technology to deliver weapons of mass destruction. As such, we must continue to develop as quickly as possible defensive systems like the Army's THAAD missile system, the theater high altitude area defense system. We must ensure that we are capable of meeting the ever growing threat of ballistic missile to our troops and to our allies.

□ 1030

Today we must stand together and support our President and our troops. Once again, our thoughts should be with our men and women in uniform. God bless each one of them and God bless America.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. HEFLEY).

Mr. HEFLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and commend the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) for bringing it to the floor today.

While the American people and the Congress may have some question

about the timing of this attack, one thing remains unquestionable, our support for the troops. Once the planes are in the air and the ships are at full steam and the troops are on the ground, we categorically and wholeheartedly believe in the mission and we believe in the wisdom of our military leaders.

The provocations are many and the time for action is long overdue. Saddam Hussein is a psychopathic bully in the international playground. As we all know, the only way to deal with a bully is swiftly, directly, and harshly. It is unfortunate that over 24,000 brave men and women have to be apart from their families during the holiday season, but the extraordinary task they are performing will allow the United States and its allies to reaffirm that we will not stand idly by while this threat to safety, liberty and freedom exists.

I proudly salute our servicemen and women all over the globe, and our thoughts and prayers are with you and your families and our support will not waiver.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. HASTINGS).

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my absolute support for the steps that our President has taken to degrade Iraq's ability to terrorize her neighbors and destabilize the Persian Gulf.

The international community has given Saddam Hussein more than enough opportunities to comply with United Nations resolutions. Unfortunately, he has chosen to ignore the United Nations and has repeatedly blocked the ability of U.N. weapons inspectors to access strategic sites. Saddam Hussein clearly has something to hide.

I am appalled that Members of Congress in both bodies could be so crass and thoughtless as to suggest that President Clinton initiated this attack to avoid impending legislation addressing his office. To question the integrity of this decision is insidious, damaging, and can be destabilizing to the presidency and dangerous and demoralizing to our troops.

Those, the leaders of our armed forces, need our support. They do not need doubts as regards their motives. I, for one, am proud of our President, our military leaders, and our men and women on the ground, the air, and the sea who are leading the strike force and showing the world once again that America is not afraid to do the right thing.

I was with the President in the Middle East and witnessed his courageous actions in pursuing peace in that region. I was on Air Force One with the President, the Secretary of State, the National Security Advisor, and Republican and Democratic Members of Con-

gress. The President and Secretary of State briefed us just before landing here at Andrews regarding the circumstances of Iraq's deliberate misconduct.

Confluence of events notwithstanding, the President, with professionalism, dedication, patriotism, wisdom and courage, took the appropriate steps. We stand with the President and our troops and may God bless them and all of us.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), the chairman of our Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend the leadership of the House in bringing this bipartisan resolution to us in support of our military initiative in Iraq in response to Saddam Hussein's defiance of U.N. Security Council's resolutions pertaining to his cooperation with the U.N. inspectors. I commend, too, the remarks of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) in support of this resolution supporting our Nation's military action against Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, in rising in support of this legislation before us today, I am pleased that we understand scoring congressional unequivocal support for the men and women of our armed forces who are now engaged in our Nation's operations against Iraq. We must, as this measure points out, take appropriate action to remove the regime headed by Saddam Hussein and to promote the emergence of a democratic government to replace that regime.

Mr. Speaker, we must not permit Saddam Hussein to defy the U.N. Security Council. It is the U.N. Security Council that empowered UNSCOM inspectors that are now being denied access to the sites that need to be inspected in Iraq. We cannot permit any suspicious sites to go unchecked when someone such as Saddam Hussein is determined to develop weapons of mass destruction capable of being unleashed on neighboring nations in the Gulf region.

While there has been some debate on whether earlier actions by Saddam should have triggered earlier U.S. military initiatives, the fact remains that we are now involved and we must direct our energies toward making certain that our military efforts are going to be successful and as effective as possible. But we must also make certain that ours is a comprehensive policy that seeks to end Saddam's ability to taunt and endanger the international community.

We must also reach out to those groups within Iraq who are willing to rise up against Saddam Hussein. And I refer my colleagues to the recently enacted Iraq Liberation Act of 1998,

which spells out how we can best accomplish that purpose.

My colleagues, Saddam has demonstrated no compunction in reaching out against his own people and nations in the region in reprehensible ways long strongly condemned by the international community. Accordingly, I urge strong support for this measure which underscores the need that military action which can stop Saddam Hussein be effective and continued. We also support and will keep in our prayers the safety and early return of those young men and women who are now securing and fighting for our nation so gallantly at this time of crisis.

Hopefully, then, our response is part of a comprehensive strategy that not only targets Saddam Hussein's weapons of mass destruction, but has, as its ultimate objective, the eventual removal from power of Saddam and his regime, a goal that the President himself has iterated.

To that end, the Administration should employ an integrated strategy in which military action is not an end in itself, but part of a larger plan that includes support for the efforts of democratic opponents of Saddam to remove him from power.

Such an approach should include air strikes, not only against facilities related to weapons of mass destruction, but also against elements that Saddam uses to suppress organized democratic opposition, such as military command and control centers, heavy weapons, and installations of the Republican Guard and the Special Security Organization.

The President should also declare no-drive zones in northern and southern Iraq—in addition to the existing no-fly zones—from which Iraqi armor and artillery would be totally excluded by U.S. air power.

Moreover, the President should utilize the authority under the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998, Public Law 105-338, to provide military assistance and training to Iraqi democratic opposition groups fighting to overthrow the Saddam Hussein regime.

In short, U.S. military power needs to be used in a way that will complement and reinforce the efforts of Iraqi democratic opposition groups to remove the Saddam Hussein regime from power.

Such a strategy is more likely to succeed than air strikes alone. While there is no guarantee that such a strategy will succeed in overthrowing Saddam, this approach is more likely to lead to that result than other strategies that presuppose Saddam's continued grip on power.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), our whip on the Democratic side.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker and colleagues, I rise today in support of this resolution and in support of our men and women who are engaged in combat as we speak. As I look at this issue that is facing us this morning, I look at it from two perspectives, Mr. Speaker. Number one, the need to deal with Saddam and the

production, the sale, the use, the delivery of weapons of mass destruction, the destabilizing influence of these nuclear and biological and chemical agents and the pain and the suffering that they have caused and could cause our community.

The other issue that we will not hear very much about on this floor today or perhaps in the dialogue that we will have over this issue in the coming days and months is the policy that we have with respect to sanctions in Iraq, which I think that policy is wrong. And I will tell my colleagues why I think it is wrong and why it has not worked.

It has been 8 years, Mr. Speaker. We do not read about the fact that there have been over a half a million children in Iraq who have died prematurely as a result of this policy. According to preliminary numbers in a study conducted by Richard Garfield, Columbia University, an epidemiologist and a specialist on health effects of the embargo, the death rate of Iraqi children age 5 and under has spiraled up nearly tripling since the sanctions were imposed in 1990. At that time, child deaths in Iraq were on par with much of the Western world.

And it is not just children under 5, it is what has happened to the total society. They do not have medicine, anesthesia for operations. They do not have insulin for diabetics. They do not have heart medicine for those with heart problems, and it has caused enormous pain and suffering.

So what we are confronted with today are two real issues here, one affecting the security of our people and the region in which we are now engaged in a very serious way, threatening way, destabilizing way, and the other with a real humanitarian need to address the concerns of the Iraqi people who are suffering unimaginable pain as a result of the policies of Saddam Hussein but also as a result of the policies of these sanctions which have not worked.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUYER), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Military Personnel.

Mr. BUYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) for yielding time to me, and to the Speaker-elect, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), let me extend a great compliment to him yesterday. While there were many people who were questioning the President's motives, questioning the President's decision-making process, the gentleman was very thorough, he was very methodical in his decisions approaching the Nation's business, and I extend a compliment to him for having done that. Because I think he made the right decision.

We were facing the impeachment vote and then we have this response to Saddam Hussein. I think many of us

here were here last night and we listened to the briefing by the Secretary of Defense and the Director of the CIA and in particular the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff.

What is difficult here is that the President, as the Commander in Chief, he is always entitled to the benefit of the doubt in his decision-making process as he comes to judgment. His policies and his judgment are always of question. But how he makes the decision, he is given the benefit of the doubt. The benefit gets removed in this case because of the diminished credibility and the self-inflicted wounds that the President has caused himself.

Turn and give the benefit of the doubt to the Secretary of the Defense, to our military intelligence and to the present circumstances. I support this measured and tempered response to the recalcitrance of Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein is a repeat offender. He is a habitual offender, and he needs to be put back in his place. He is a Third World tyrant who is a prisoner in the border of his own nation. He loves to be elevated and thumb the nose not only to the world but elevated to the superpower status where he attempts to stick the eyes of America.

Now, this is measured. There will be a cease to this. Do not over blow or over play what this is. This is not an equivalency of the House coming to its debate of the use of force during the Gulf War. Do not over play your hand to the House.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS).

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, when our troops are in harm's way, we all support them and we all pray that they will come home safely and as promptly as possible. Having said that, let me express my serious concerns about the current military action ordered by the President.

I am concerned that this action took place with no discussion in the United States Congress despite the fact that the Constitution makes it very clear that it is this body which declares war. I am concerned that while we are ostensibly supporting a United Nations resolution, the U.N. did not vote for this attack, does not support this attack, and that country after country throughout the world are condemning this attack.

This is important because if the United States is to have credibility in the future in terms of condemning aggression, how do we go forward with countries saying, hey, we felt aggrieved, we wanted to do it, that is what you did, you did not come to the United Nations.

This article of war, this act of aggression, is not supported by the Vatican. Let me quote from the Vatican. "The Holy See agrees fully with the

Secretary General of the U.N. that today is a sad day for the United Nations and for the world. The Holy See hopes that this aggression will end as soon as possible and that international order is restored."

□ 1045

Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator who should be overthrown, and his ability to make weapons of destruction must be eliminated. I have serious doubts, however, whether the action that we are taking today will take us one step forward in that direction, and I fear that innocent civilians, that women and children in that country, will be killed.

Mr. Speaker, when American troops are in harm's way we all support them and pray that they will come home safely and promptly. There can be no disagreement over that.

Having said that, let me express my serious concerns about the current military action ordered by the President.

I am concerned that this action took place with no discussion in the U.S. Congress, despite the fact that war making responsibility rests with the Congress under the Constitution.

I am concerned that while we are ostensibly supporting a United Nations resolution, the United Nations did not vote for this attack. Not only was there no vote by the U.N., it appears quite clearly that the Security Council does not support this action. And this is an issue of grave concern. How will the United States, in the future, be able to condemn aggression anywhere in the world when, for all intent and purposes, this country has acted unilaterally and without the force of law? If Russia, China, North Korea, Great Britain or any country on Earth commits unilateral military aggression that we disapprove of, how will we be able, in good faith, to condemn them? They will simply respond that they are doing precisely what the United States did against Iraq.

While I opposed the Gulf War in 1991, the United Nations and the world community supported it. That is not the case now. Today, our attack is opposed by countries throughout the world, including France, Russia, China, India, Pakistan, Sweden, and others.

On Thursday, Arab-League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid denounced the U.S. led attack on Iraq as aggression against an Arab country that would not solve Baghdad's dispute with the United Nations over arms inspections. It is also opposed by The Vatican. Let me quote from The Vatican, "The Holy See agrees fully with the Secretary General of the United Nations that 'today is a sad day for the United Nations and for the world.' The Holy See hopes that this aggression will end as soon as possible and that international order is restored."

Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein is a brutal and illegitimate dictator who should be removed from office, and his capability to make weapons of mass destruction must be eliminated. In order to do that, we must develop a political strategy and support the democratic forces in Iraq who are prepared to overthrow him. I have serious doubts whether this military action today will take us one step forward in that direction.

For years now, the women, children and innocent civilians of Iraq, whose only "crime" is that they live under the tyranny of Saddam Hussein, have been punished terribly. They lack medicine, adequate food, clean water, and other basic necessities of life. We should not add to their suffering with attacks like this.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. BATEMAN) chairman of the Subcommittee on Military Readiness.

Mr. BATEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to tell Members how strongly I endorse and applaud the decision of our Commander in Chief and his military advisers to take the action which was taken yesterday and which continues today.

Yes, we all ought to recognize the fact that it was a sad day, sad that it had to be taken. But it did have to be taken. I am not one of those who object and point and accuse that there is something peculiar or wrong in the timing of this decision, not in the context of what we expected in terms of the ongoing debate on the subject of the presidency and its tenure. I object to it on the basis that in the first 2 weeks of November when Saddam Hussein had ceased the opportunity for inspections, the Gulf cooperating states, Syria, Egypt and an alignment of people or nations favorable to our having done so agreed that he was at fault and that military action was justified. But we did not undertake that action until 3 days or more after that had happened with more forces deployed in the Middle East than there are now. Then at the last moment, as we could have predicted Saddam Hussein would have done, he says, "Okay, I'll cooperate" and in mid flight the planes were called back. That never should have happened. We should have gone forward when we had the circumstances and the window of opportunity to have done it then. If I thought it should have been done earlier, I certainly am in no position to complain that it is being done now.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS).

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to speak from my perspective as cochairman of the bipartisan House Army Caucus and as the representative of Fort Hood in Texas, the largest Army installation in the world. In 1991 when President Bush sent U.S. forces into Kuwait and Iraq, our Nation stood united in support of our troops. Even congressional Democrats and Republicans who preferred economic sanctions rather than war against Iraq at that time put aside their personal and partisan differences once our armed forces were in harm's way. I can tell everyone here that it meant everything to the morale of our troops in Iraq in 1991, including 25,000 of my own constituents, that Congress and the American people stood together in support

of them. That is why I am glad to be here to support this resolution today.

However, Mr. Speaker, a resolution supporting our troops must be backed up by our words on this floor and off this floor, by our words and our deeds. I am saddened that last night a number of Republican Members of this House precipitously and without fact charged that the timing of this action was totally political. One representative was even quoted as saying, without any proof whatsoever, that the President was willing to risk the lives of American service men and women to protect his own political standing. Mr. Speaker, that type of unsubstantiated personal attack against our President at a time when brave American pilots and armed forces are in harm's way is wrong. It is irresponsible. It does harm to the morale of our forces in the Persian Gulf.

This morning former Secretary Henry Kissinger, a Republican, said that political attacks on our Iraqi missions such as some of those made last night by Members of Congress would demoralize our troops in the Persian Gulf. The truth is the timing of this attack was unanimously supported by the United States Joint Chiefs of Staff, and an attack on the integrity of this operation is in effect an attack on the integrity of our Joint Chiefs. Secretary of Defense William Cohen, a Republican who served with dignity and integrity in this House and in the Senate said this yesterday, and I quote: "I am prepared to place 30 years of public service on the line to say the only factor that was important in this decision is what is in the American people's interest. There were no other factors."

Mr. Speaker, today is a time to put partisanship and these kind of attacks behind us. I urge some of my colleagues to reconsider their ill-advised comments of last night. Today we must have two goals: One is to say together, the vast majority of Republicans and Democrats do indeed support our troops. Finally let us send a clear message to Saddam Hussein, do not underestimate the ability of the American Congress and people to come together when our national security interests are at risk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LIVINGSTON). The Chair must remind all Members that although it is permissible to debate and speak critically of the President or the administration on matters of policy or politics, remarks in debate must not descend to personality by arraigning the President's personal conduct or by charging other Members with having done so off the floor and by detailing those arraignments.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. FOWLER).

Mrs. FOWLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to rise in strong support of the resolution before us today. While questions have been raised about the unique circumstances under which this attack has occurred, I believe that all Members of this House, Republicans and Democrats alike, need to pull together today in support of the young men and women that are now in harm's way in support of our Nation's vital interests. I hope we will wreak havoc on Saddam's ability to develop weapons of mass destruction, to threaten his neighbors and to repress his own people. But beyond that, I hope that these strikes are only part of a broader strategy by this administration to dismantle this Iraqi regime.

I also want to express my thanks to the government of the United Kingdom which again stands shoulder to shoulder with us in opposition to Saddam's defiance to international law. I know that all Americans join me today in praying that our men and women in uniform in the Gulf, including some 2,000 troops from my northeast Florida area, complete this endeavor safely and return home to their families soon.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. SKAGGS).

Mr. SKAGGS. I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, of course we want to support American troops as they carry out this dangerous and important mission. But let us not lose sight of the sad fact that President Clinton has acted in violation of the Constitution in ordering these attacks without authority of Congress. And let us not forget as well that the decision to go to war is vested in Congress and not in the Commander in Chief and that we too share the blame for this violation of the Constitution because we have time and again defaulted in our responsibility and obligation to insist on our proper constitutional role.

The President, to the extent that he relies on a strict reading of the Constitution for other purposes, would be well advised to adhere to a strict reading of the war powers clause as well. But instead this administration engages in a contrived bit of legal sophistry to conjure up a pretext of legality where none exists.

Shame on him. And shame on us for letting other Presidents and this one take away one of the most important powers vested in Congress, which the American people have a right to expect us, here, to exercise in their behalf.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS), chairman of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished chairman of the committee for yielding me this time. There is certainly no question that every Member whether Democrat, Repub-

lican, liberal, conservative, moderate, independent, whatever, however we describe ourselves, every Member of this House today stands in unequivocal support of our troops in the Persian Gulf at this time of danger and risk for them. We wish them Godspeed, we wish them good luck, we wish them safe return, we wish them swift return. We express our gratitude to them and to their families for their sacrifice in support of a peaceful world we all want and the security of our Nation that all Americans deserve and demand and expect, especially when these heavy duties come during the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, the President has outlined a policy of containment with respect to this military action. Degrading Saddam Hussein's program of deadly weapons and fear is a good interim step but it is not the end game. I implore the administration not to be satisfied with an interim result of containment but rather to work toward dismantling Saddam Hussein's destructive regime. Otherwise, we will be doing this again.

We have no quarrel with the people of Iraq. We all know that. They have suffered too long at the hands of a war criminal leader who is ruthless and uses chemistry for genocide in his own country. We want the Iraqis to have a peaceful chance to live in this world community and that cannot happen as long as Saddam Hussein is the ruler of Iraq. We must stand firm. Saddam Hussein must go. He is a war criminal. We should bring him to justice. If we are going to risk the lives of American troops, that is the purpose that the risk should take place. God bless all of them who are doing this heavy, dangerous work now. Amen.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. TRAFICANT).

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, I support our troops like every American. Saddam Hussein deserves this. He earned it. He had it coming. But I do not support this process. What has happened to the backbone of the Congress of the United States? We have allowed the executive branch to usurp nearly all of our authority. If these were political actions, we would send the police. If these were peacekeeping missions, we would send the Peace Corps. Ladies and gentlemen, what we are doing is placing troops on foreign soil in harm's way that could precipitate a major problem and the truth of the matter is we are allowing one person to do this.

We all support our troops after the fact. I say it is time to throw out the War Powers Act. Throw it out. Get back to the Constitution. My God, no one man in America should be able to declare war, and that is where we are.

What is even more problematic today is there are many skeptics out there. Everybody is afraid to say what they feel down here. From patriots to "Wag

the Dog" skeptics, people are questioning motives. I blame Congress for this. If we get back to the Constitution, do it the right way, we would never allow doubt and politics to raise their ugly head when our troops are in foreign lands under attack.

God almighty, what has happened to us? Yes, maybe the constitutional process is clumsy, maybe it lacks surprises but you know what? Doing it the right way will not only save lives, it will ensure our great republic and our freedom.

I support our troops but I oppose with every fiber in me this process. The war declaration powers in Congress are clear. Wise up, Congress, before we replace America at great risk.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. DUNCAN).

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to place a statement in the RECORD in support of this resolution but in strong agreement with the previous speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I have always tried to support our men and women in the military, and I support this Resolution.

I supported the original Gulf War, but I must say that I think the situation is very different today.

Eight years ago, Saddam Hussein had what some described then as the largest, most-powerful military in the Middle East.

He was moving into Kuwait, and most analysts felt that if he was not stopped, he would try to take over the entire Middle East.

Today, after major losses in the Gulf War and 8 years of sanctions, Iraq essentially is a defenseless nation in comparison to the U.S.

We have not been told of any overt military action by Iraq, or even of any threatened action, against us on anyone else.

Several nations, including us and some of our strongest allies, have weapons of mass destruction and chemical and biological weapons. We cannot bomb every nation that has such weapons.

We have always prided ourselves as being a peace-loving nation.

War should be our most reluctant action. We should go to war only as a last resort—only if there is no reasonable alternative.

And we should go to war only if there is a serious threat to our national security or there is a vital U.S. interest at stake.

In this instance, as in the bombing a few weeks ago of Sudan and Afghanistan, we have been far too eager to go to war.

We are now bombing innocent men, women, and children who have done nothing to us and have not even threatened us, simply because they are ruled by a mad dictator.

Saddam Hussein is without doubt a horrible tyrant and I would agree with anything bad that is said about him.

But this bombing now is the wrong thing to do, and it is the wrong time to do it. In the long run, it will do far more harm than good.

This Resolution, however, expresses support for our troops in combat and supports the removal of Saddam Hussein. Both of these are things that all Americans can support even

if they have questions about the policy and its timing.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. HAYWORTH).

□ 1100

Mr. HAYWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) for yielding this time to me, and I, too, rise in strong support of our men and women in uniform who find themselves today in harm's way, indeed of all those who wear the uniform of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note in response to the criticism from my friend from Texas that came earlier that there are many who confuse dissent with lack of resolve. Indeed the tyrant whom we now confront, Saddam Hussein, was heard to brag to the international press that he remained in power while George Bush was deposed. Mr. Speaker, the tyrant does not understand our constitutional republic, and, Mr. Speaker, in that spirit today I rise to celebrate the ability of every Member of this House and of every American citizen to come to this floor and freely express his or her opinion. That is for one of the freedoms we fight, that is one of the freedoms that must be preserved, that is part of the constitutional process we confront.

Mr. Speaker, let us all remember that and embrace it.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. FURSE).

Ms. FURSE. Mr. Speaker, this resolution has two parts. Of course we support the troops, of course we do. But the second part of this resolution confirms that we should remove a ruler. I cannot believe it is in our best interests to decide who rules in what country. Democracies are not created by attacks from outside.

Mr. Speaker, I know mine might be a minority voice today, but I want us to take a moment, just a moment to mourn, to mourn the thousands of children who will die today and tomorrow. Iraqi children, yes, but they are loved by their parents as we love ours. Those children will die because they are victims of a world problem. No, they are children, they will die.

Mr. Speaker, war is very seldom an answer. But war is always, always a tragedy.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. SOLOMON), the chairman of our Committee on Rules.

Mr. SOLOMON. Mr. Speaker, I will not take the 2 minutes, but let me just say that any Member can stand and perhaps be critical of the timing of the attack, but what can not be questioned is the fact that the attack should come. It should have come 90 days ago, 60 days ago, 30 days ago, 2 weeks ago. The truth of the matter is that the attack is needed.

Let me just say that I have stood on this floor and lectured Members for many years about the need for a strong military. This is just one more example of why we have to maintain a strong national defense that will be able to protect the strategic interests of Americans across this world. And in doing so, when we depend on an all voluntary military, it is absolutely imperative that we give these young men and women the best possible weaponry that we possibly can as long as we have to ask them to go in harm's way.

Mr. Speaker, I would just appeal to my colleagues on my way out of here in a couple of weeks that they continue to maintain a level of defense so that the military can continue to attract and recruit the kind of young men and women from a cross-section of America that we have now. They are the finest young men and women that have ever served in the military, going all the way back to my days in 1950 in the United States Marine Corps.

So I praise this body for what they have done, and I certainly support this resolution. I hope it passes unanimously.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and urge its unanimous adoption by the House.

I would have preferred supporting a resolution of this kind 30 days ago, 90 days ago, last February, or at any number of other times over the past several years. On each and every such time, military strikes against Iraq would have been entirely justified.

Since 1992, Saddam Hussein has established a pattern of noncompliance with the international inspection regime, a pattern of outright defiance that is so unrelenting and unmistakable that military action was called for long before now.

Personally, I believe the last straw came this past September, when Major Scott Ritter described the collapse of the inspection regime in such telling detail that we shouldn't have waited another day. The fury and abuse that were heaped on him by the higher-ups served only to confirm the truth of his warnings.

But, we play the cards we are dealt, and later is better than never.

Mr. Speaker, American forces have been committed to action. Troops are in the field. Our pilots are in the skies over Iraq. Now is the time to pull together and give them the unwavering support they deserve. Every one of them is a volunteer—never forget that—and they deserve everything we can give them.

America stands united behind them. Congress stands united behind them. Let there be no doubt in anyone's mind about that.

And as other of our colleagues have said here today, let this present action against Iraq be the first strike in a comprehensive effort to deal with the source of the problem once and for all—not just with the symptoms.

Let us also seize this situation as an urgent reminder that we need to maintain a strong military. General Norman Schwarzkopf has put it so well; "It is better to sweat in peace than to bleed in war."

One of the clearest lessons of history is this: Peace is only secure when the good are strong enough to deter the bad. It is just that basic.

And that is why Congress must continue to be vigilant in making sure that our military is the best-trained, best-equipped, best-motivated fighting force in the world. We must continue to make sure that the incentives we use in recruiting an All-Volunteer Force are the best that America can possibly offer.

Mr. Speaker, standing behind the troops is a full-time obligation. They deserve our support in peace, as well as war. Let's send them that message today and every day.

I urge unanimous support for this resolution.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCHALE).

Mr. MCHALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a Member of Congress and perhaps more importantly as a veteran of the Gulf War to strongly support the resolution now before the House. Mr. Speaker, it is my belief that we of this Chamber have a profound obligation to those who fought and died in the Gulf War to resolutely compel Iraq's compliance with the terms of peace negotiated at the end of that conflict.

Mr. Speaker, I remember almost 8 years ago I stood in the chow line, I believe in northern Saudi Arabia, perhaps in Kuwait, behind a young Marine who had written on his helmet cover:

"It's not about oil."

The wisdom of that young Marine was true then, it remains true today. It was not about oil during the Gulf War. The action taken by the President yesterday was also about more strategic and significant concerns.

Mr. Speaker, this is about denying access to one of the world's tyrants to weapons of mass destruction, nuclear, chemical and biological capabilities. The action taken by the President yesterday was fully justified.

Our tactical bombardment must now lead to a strategic objective, the removal of Saddam Hussein from power. For the past 8 years that tyrant has exercised brutal authority in a manner not only adverse to the interests of the United States but detrimental to the peace of the world. I welcome the President's action and urge him to take all necessary steps sufficient to strip Iraq of offensive military capabilities, most especially weapons of mass destruction.

Now I would say to my colleagues:

Regardless of how we may vote on other issues within the next few days, now is the time for nonpartisan national unity in support of our President and our forces overseas.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as a 5 yr Air Force veteran I rise in strong support of the troops: we all do. Everybody supports the troops. But this resolution is a lot more than supporting the troops.

Even by the very nature of our debate today, most of the debate has been about the military action. I see this as nothing more than a rubber stamp on a war that has already been started, and it has not been started in the proper way.

Mr. Speaker, it is clearly stated in the Constitution that only Congress has the authority to declare war. It is precisely because of the way we go to war these days that we are continuing to fight the Persian Gulf War. We did not win the Persian Gulf War because we did not declare war since there was no justification to because there was no national security interests involved.

Saddam Hussein is not threatening our national security. This is a concocted scheme to pursue bombing for oil interests and other reasons, but it has nothing to do with national security.

This resolution is an endorsement for war. We are rubber stamping this action.

We should follow the rule of law. The rule of law says that resolutions, to begin war, should come to the House of Representatives and pass by the Senate. But we have been too careless and too casual for many, many decades, and this is the reason we do not win wars any more.

We are in essentially perpetual war. We have granted too much authority to our President to wage war. Even under the most unusual of circumstances we permit him to wage war. This is wrong. We, as a House, must assume our responsibilities.

I cannot support this resolution because it is a rubber stamp, it is an endorsement for an illegal war. We should argue the case for peace. We should argue the case for national sovereignty. We should not allow our President to use U.N. resolutions to wage war.

First and foremost, the notion that the United States can dictate the political leadership of a foreign policy is immoral. What right have we to determine these things for any nation other than our own? The answer, clearly, is "none," we have no such right.

There is an idea known as sovereignty, and that idea is integral to nationhood. Among other things, sovereignty dictates that a people be responsible for their own leadership, without the interference of other nations. Is it any wonder that the same American leaders who would invade other sovereign nations spend so much time surrendering the sovereignty of the United States? I think not. Simply, their efforts are designed to undermine the entire notion of sovereignty.

One evident outcome of the anti-sovereignty philosophy is our dependence on institutions such as the United Nations. It is an affront to our nation's sovereignty and our constitution that the President presently launches war on Iraq under the aegis of a UN resolution but without the Constitutionally required authorization by the United States Congress.

As Americans we are rightly offended by the notion that the Chinese Government has influ-

enced our domestic elections. However, we are not free from hypocrisy. For recently this Congress passed legislation appropriating money for the sole and express purpose of changing the government of a sovereign nation.

Next, we ought to consider the morality of the means which must be employed to change the government of Iraq. Yesterday I sat on a panel with Harry Summers, a man of considerable military knowledge. Summers stated that it would take ground troops to overthrow Saddam Hussein. Moreover, he unequivocally stated that military history shows that no war has ever been won simply via air strikes. This statement is not only factually accurate, it is also a stark reminder of what the price of this policy will be. Namely, the price of successfully changing the government of Iraq is the blood of many thousands of innocent human beings. And, lest we fool ourselves, many of these people will be American troops, brave young men and women who patriotically agreed to defend the United States but have now been placed like pawns in a chess game, perhaps to remove the leader of Iraq, or perhaps to stave off the removal of the US President. At any rate, these brave young Americans ought not be sacrificed for either of these improper political purposes.

Finally, even by the amoral measure of "realpolitik" the policy of Saddam's removal is unwarranted. The reason that the US has hesitated to actually complete successful enactment of its stated policy is because the result of such enactment is fraught with uncertainty. Iraq is a country made up of many different factions. And many of its neighbors are interested in increasing their influence and control over areas which are now within Iraqi territory. Hence, if Saddam ever were to be removed by force of US efforts, we would face a very real risk to regional stability. Stability being the key concern of those who practice "realpolitik" this points to the fact that by the measures established by the "pragmatists" the stated policy of Saddam's removal is wrongful. Let me be clear, while I reject the notion of divorcing politics from moral considerations, I do believe we should understand that our current policy is not only devoid of morals, but is also doomed to failure from any practical viewpoint.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SISISKY).

Mr. SISISKY. Mr. Speaker, I support the President's decision to attack Iraq. The cat and mouse game with inspection has gone on far too long. It is clear that Saddam Hussein does not intend to comply with the agreement made at the end of the Gulf War. Our best evidence is that Saddam has continued to focus resources on weapons of mass destruction. The problem is that chemical and biological weapons are relatively unsophisticated. It is relatively easy to produce them and hide the production facilities.

In addition, evidence indicates Saddam continues to produce an array of conventional weapons, but the possibility of chemical, biological and even nuclear weapons and delivery system production is clearly the most trou-

bling issue. Our certainty about what is happening in these areas is clouded by Iraq's mistreatment of inspection teams, and this is what has precipitated this crisis.

I was with the President and the congressional delegation, both Democrats and Republicans, to the Middle East. We came back Tuesday night. There was a paradox here. In the West Bank and in Gaza, instead of seeing American flags being burned we saw American flags being waived, and we saw the Palestine Committee raise their hands and knock out a covenant in their charter that says Israel will be destroyed. The President of the United States really was the King of Peace in the Middle East, and then on the way back the paradox is that unfortunately he had to order an attack on Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, we are the luckiest people in the world by having young men and women ready and willing to serve. I would add that they deserve our undying support.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BURR).

Mr. BURR of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution.

The men and women of the United States Armed Forces have once again been called on to defend our country's interests abroad. We can no longer stand idly by while Saddam Hussein flaunts the will of the world and thumbs his nose at the inspectors. This action was not only necessary, Mr. Speaker, it was long overdue. Our military personnel currently serving their Nation in the Persian Gulf should know that this Congress and this country is fully behind their new mission.

One of those sailors is a former intern from my staff, and today I would like to tell her that we are thinking about her. The relatives and friends of our officers and our enlisted men and women should know that their mission is a just one and is clearly in our national security interests. While the prospects of their absence over the holiday season is discouraging, they should take heart from the knowledge that their service today preserves the future for tomorrow's generation.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution, and of our men and women in the Armed Services and of our Commander in Chief, the President who has made a courageous and correct decision. This action has been undertaken for strategic reasons and pursuant to tactical judgments of our military and civilian leaders in the Pentagon. The President has taken appropriate action to confront and weaken one of the world's most dangerous tyrants who has savaged his own people and threatened

Iraq's neighbors and the world with weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, too often we have historically learned the lesson of failing to act in the face of eminent dangers. Saddam Hussein, through his policies of dissembling and lack of cooperation and following the promises he made following his loss in a war that he precipitated, has made the Middle East a more dangerous region and the world a more dangerous place.

□ 1115

The world is a safer place because of the courage and willingness of our brave men and women in our armed forces, willing to go in harm's way to protect, not only this country, but the interest of international stability.

I hope that all of my colleagues will stand with the President, stand with our brave young men and women in the armed services, and stand, yes, indeed, with our allies in confronting this, one of the world's most dangerous tyrants.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from San Diego, California (Mr. DUNCAN HUNTER), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Military Procurement.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, the President has decided to take this action that should have been taken any time over the last several years. We have gathered today to commend the troops and to pledge our loyalty to them. We know they have a very difficult task. I hope that they finish the job. It is going to be a very, very difficult job in rooting out and destroying these sites where Saddam Hussein is building weapons of mass destruction.

But we are going to have an obligation to them. I hope that all my colleagues who are coming to the floor to pledge undying loyalty to the troops will join us on the Committee on National Security in moving to increase the defense number to close the 13 percent pay gap that right now exists between the civilian sector and the uniform sector, to buy that \$1.6 billion worth of ammunition that the Army is presently short of, to buy the \$193 million worth of ammunition that the Marine Corps is short right now, and to increase the defense budget by at least \$28.5 billion a year. Because that is what the Joint Chiefs of Staff tell us we are going to have to spend if we want to fill all those unfunded requirements that they have been giving this President over the last several years and that he has not been responding to.

So let us reciprocate to these troops in the next several weeks. We will have a chance to demonstrate our commitment to them. I hope everyone will join with me and other members of the Committee on National Security in seeing to it that we, in fact, do reciprocate and do rebuild our national defense.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN).

Mr. SHERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, the President is doing the right thing at the right time, for the right reasons. I hope that we give him the support necessary so that this campaign continues until we achieve our objectives. The President's action have the support of the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, the Republican Secretary of Defense, and the British Prime Minister, none of whom would risk the lives of American and British troops for the President's political purposes.

We needed to act now, while the reports of the inspectors still provide limited but fresh intelligence; now, before Saddam can complete hiding his weapons; now, before the commencement of the holy month of Ramadan; now, before the reason for the bombing—Tuesday's U.N. report—becomes old news rather than the final straw justifying immediate action; now, before the world concludes that America has lost its nerve.

Some critics say that the President should have bombed Iraq on November 14th. Mr. Speaker, if the President had done so, those same partisan critics would have savaged him, claiming that he was merely trying to distract us from the November Judiciary Committee Hearings. And if the President had not commenced the bombing yesterday, those same critics would be attacking him today for inaction.

Mr. Speaker—Never underestimate a desperate partisan whose lust for the President's blood causes him to make statements which unintentionally give aid and comfort to the enemy.

Those that have made such statements should apologize to our troops, to the President, and to the nation.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. CALVERT).

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution and in support of our troops overseas. We as a Nation and a Congress must focus now on the servicemen and women who are risking their lives and standing bravely in the days of adversity to ensure safety for all Americans.

Iraq will continue to be a threat to the United States and the rest of the world as long as Saddam Hussein is in power and has the ability to manufacture weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein has been given too many chances to comply with United Nations inspections. We cannot continue to play this dangerous game of cat and mouse.

I support the use of force in this region to ensure the safety of America and global interests. In what should be a season of peace, my thoughts and prayers are with our servicemen and women and their families as they help make the world a safer place. God bless them.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, now is the time for all of us to join together, not as Republicans and Democrats, but as Americans, to express our support and offer our prayers to the young men and women in American uniform who are responsible for carrying out the current military operation against Saddam Hussein.

Whatever our troubles and conflicts may be at home at this time, I submit that they are rather unimportant compared to the sacrifice these young men and women and their families are making at this time.

Last night, Secretary of Defense Cohen and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff General Shelton came to this chamber and provided an excellent briefing to us Members of Congress about the military operations, their objective, and their timing. I am convinced now more than ever that this was the right decision at the right time and for the right reason.

I want to just take a moment to thank our British friends and allies who have been partners in peace with us standing together against tyranny to help ensure peace and stability, not only in the Persian Gulf, but throughout the world.

This partnership has grown out of commonly held principles of democracy, freedom, security and peace.

Let me conclude by offering my heartfelt thanks and prayers to the military personnel and their families for the sacrifice they make to their country. This is especially true this time of year when everyone would prefer to be home during the holidays and with their loved ones.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CHAMBLISS).

Mr. CHAMBLISS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman of my committee, along with the ranking member, for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support this resolution in the strongest terms. I rise to support the two-part resolution which supports our military men and women now engaged in the Gulf region. Once again, our military has been called upon to beat back an over-aggressive Hussein regime in Iraq, a regime that, against the will of the global community, has perpetrated the development of weapons of mass destruction.

We have been down this road before. Time and again, we have threatened to use force against Hussein's indiscretions. Time and again, we have failed to send an adequate message of our resolve. This time, we must not fail to punctuate our interest in the region and our commitment to peace in the Middle East.

I would like to highlight the participation of the many brave men and women deployed from Robins Air Force Base in Warner Robins, Georgia. One hundred forty representatives of the 5th Combat Communications group and another 15 from the 78th Security Forces Squadron have been deployed since our last buildup in the region. They will be joined by 150 members of the JOINTSTARS unit and a yet-to-be-determined number of our aircraft.

May God go with them in this holiday season as they carry out their duties on behalf of every American to bring peace in the world.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following for the RECORD:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
February 26, 1998.

The Honorable WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
The President of the United States, 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: In September, 1996, I wrote you with my thoughts and concerns about U.S. policy toward Iraq (see attached), particularly with regard to the Iraqi government's suppression of the Kurd rebels in the north. I write again to express my concerns about this nation's policy toward Iraq and to urge that you make the overthrow of the current Iraqi government a central element of U.S. policy.

In late 1996, Saddam Hussein and his regime moved aggressively to ensure that anti-Hussein elements in northern Iraq would not pose a political challenge to his authority. In that effort, 2,500 were arrested or murdered by the government. At the same time, some 7,000 of the rebels were evacuated by the U.S. to Guam, and all financial and arms support that had been given to a group of exiled former Iraqi military and political figures (the Iraqi National Accord) was discontinued. The net effect of U.S. policy then was that nearly 10,000 members of the anti-Hussein movement were neutralized in Iraq and all financial backing dried up.

As an indication of how concerned Hussein is about an internal revolution, intelligence indicates that when a U.S. attack became imminent some weeks ago, Hussein immediately moved to consolidate ground forces toward northern Iraq to deal with a possible uprising. Hussein is clearly concerned about the Kurds. Unfortunately, this nation has done little to promote that threat from within Iraqi borders. In my view, the anti-Hussein element represents the best opportunity for internal change in Iraq. Hussein's regime, which operates as a Republic in name only, is guilty of human rights violations, political oppression and crimes against other nations. This, together with a track record of developing weapons of mass destruction make the restoration of a true Republic in Iraq within the national security interests of the U.S. government.

Rough parallels may be drawn to longstanding U.S. policy in Central America where this nation's anti-Communist policy not only prevented the spread of Communism in our hemisphere, but also promoted democracy to the extent that only one non-democratic government remains. Parallels may also be drawn to our policy late in the Cold War toward the Soviet Union and Poland.

Your administration's policy that has recently placed little or no emphasis on internal Iraqi resistance has left the U.S. with very few options in the frequent cases when

Hussein has sought to challenge the authority of the U.N. resolutions. Without a credible resistance force to support, the proposition of U.S. military strikes leaves the U.S. in the perceived position of "global bully."

On the other hand, if the U.S. does not move to enforce U.N. sanctions, we abandon a situation that is clearly in the national security interests of this nation. Neither position yields acceptable results.

In light of the recent agreement negotiated by the United Nations, it seems that we may be averting our current course of conflict with Iraq. This offers you an opportunity to reassess your policy in the region. I have supported, and continue to support, American troops in the Middle Eastern theater as well as your authority as Commander-in-Chief. For this reason, I strongly encourage you to adopt a long-term policy that includes the following tenets: maintains as its ultimate priority the elimination from power of the Hussein regime, and the restoration of a true Iraqi republic, or even democracy; fosters internal resistance to the Hussein regime within Iraq to include financial, political, and physical support; if necessary in the short term, limited tactical airstrikes focusing on Iraq's ability to produce weapons of mass destruction; and institution of a comprehensive, nationwide no-fly/no-troop movement zone while the above initiatives are pursued.

If the U.S. is truly the world leader you and I know it to be, we must act within the accepted rule of law and lead by example. I believe the above-described policy directive meets such a standard. As always, I stand ready to work with you to meet these very real global challenges.

Very truly yours,

SAXBY CHAMBLISS,
Member of Congress.

Enclosure.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
September 5, 1996.

The Honorable WILLIAM J. CLINTON,
The President of the United States,
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I write to express my sincere concern over recent events in northern Iraq and to ask your consideration of potential policy changes. As a Member of the House Committee on National Security, let me make very clear at the outset that I will firmly and unconditionally support the troops of the United States when they are deployed anywhere in the world. The lessons of history have taught us that irrespective of the debate over policy priorities, our troops must be absolutely certain that they act with the support of our entire nation.

In addition, let me make it clear that I support your authority as the Commander-in-Chief of our Armed Services. Your recognition of strife in northern Iraq is well-founded, and U.S. action in response is entirely warranted. However, allow me to make several observations about subsequent military action you have taken.

First, President Reagan's leadership in this nation's defeat of communism has left us a very different world than the one we faced for over 40 years. Today, we alone stand as the world's superpower, yet we are surrounded by countless areas of ethnic strife and political insurrection around the globe. Iraq is only the latest example.

As a result, we have involved our military men and women in more places and more often than ever before. It is critical that while every situation has its individual circumstances, we must maintain a predictable

and identifiable set of criteria that guides this nation's military intervention and involvement around the world. In Iraq, I am concerned that our strategic objectives have not clearly been delineated. As a result, it is impossible to determine whether Iraqi military movements satisfy the demands of the United States.

Second, I am more concerned about the lack of international support for our current military operations in Iraq. While I do not assume international support to be required for this nation's military intervention abroad, I do believe it should be obtained when and if time and circumstances permit. Our efforts in Operation Desert Storm should serve as a blueprint for dealing with hostile aggressors.

Consequently, I would like you to consider the following courses of action:

Issue a short-term ultimatum to Saddam Hussein calling for the removal of all soldiers and tanks from the lands around and north of Irbil, Iraq—a "no troop zone" north of the 36 degree north parallel. In the event that the troops are not removed, Iraq will face the destruction of military targets selected from a predetermined list created by our intelligence sources.

Extend the current "no-reinforcement zone" from the 32 degree north to the 33 degree north parallel in accordance with the "no-fly zone" extended earlier this week.

In advance of the issuance of the "no troop zone" deadline, increased diplomatic efforts should be made to garner the support of the western powers and at the very least a sampling of the Arab world.

As I am certain you are aware, this regional instability in Iraq has the potential for blossoming into a full-blown regional conflict involving friend and foe, alike. Reports today indicate the interest of Turkey and Iran to involve their militaries in the region. Clearly, this is a situation that must remain in the control of U.S. forces in the region.

I appreciate your time and consideration of these concerns. I look forward to working with you as we attempt to resolve this very difficult situation in this very critical region of the world. If there is anything I can do to assist in your efforts to achieve success, please do not hesitate to call on me.

Very truly yours,

SAXBY CHAMBLISS.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and the steps our President has taken in ordering military strikes against Iraq. Almost 8 years ago, on January 12, 1991, I, along with 86 other Democrats, supported President Bush in going to war against Iraq.

I strongly believed then that it was important to support the President in a bipartisan spirit, and I strongly believe now that we need to support our President in the same manner. We need to express our full support of the President's decision and the American troops.

We cannot tolerate Saddam Hussein's actions any further. Iraq refuses to live up to its promise to allow the United Nations to conduct on-site inspections for weapons of mass destruction. Iraq has repeatedly blocked Unscorm from

inspecting suspect sites. Saddam Hussein has continued to thumb his nose at the United Nations and has no intention in keeping his word, and the United States is right to strike.

This military action serves to protect the interests of the United States and the interest of people throughout the Middle East. This was a difficult decision for the President. The United States is never eager to use force. But with the advice of the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State and the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the President acted appropriately.

Our prayers go out to the men and women of the military. We need to show our utmost support of the troops during this difficult time. Their courageous acts will not be soon forgotten by the American people.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. COOK).

Mr. COOK. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Carolina (Chairman SPENCE) for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution. I believe this military action is absolutely necessary. I believe that it should have been undertaken well before now.

Like others, I am troubled by the timing of yesterday's bombing. I do not think it is coincidental that the bombs began falling on Iraq only a short hour before caucuses were convening here in Washington to discuss the impeachment vote.

I understand those that believe the public, Congress, the judiciary, and now even the military may have been manipulated. But while the timing may be offensive, the action is absolutely necessary. We must support it as a Congress and as a Nation.

This vote today sends a strong signal to the world and to our troops that, while we will investigate our President when he flaunts the law, we stand united behind him when he acts to protect our national security.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members that it is not in order to engage in personalities toward the President. Although remarks in debate may include criticism of the President's official actions or policies, it is a breach of order to question the personal conduct of the President whether by actual accusation or by mere insinuation.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WEXLER).

Mr. WEXLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution supporting our troops in the Persian Gulf. But, Mr. Speaker, it should not have taken a formal resolution to articulate our unwavering support for our brave men and women and our military operation. It should have been instinctive as it was for most persons.

For one day, we should have been patriots, not partisans. Politics should have stopped at the water's edge. I pray that this resolution undoes the damage done yesterday by the majority leader of the Senate and others who questioned the judgment of the President, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and our British allies who outlined the urgency for this action against Iraq.

They risk handing Saddam Hussein his only hope, a divided America. Our troops and this operation deserve our unqualified support.

□ 1130

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUKE CUNNINGHAM), our Top Gun.

Mr. CUNNINGHAM. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, one day I was fortunate enough to shoot down a MIG 21 over Vietnam, and all 5,000 men and women were up on the flight deck. And as they crowded around the airplane, my plane captain, Willy White, an African-American, broke through the crowds. He knocked over Admiral Cooper. He jumped up on the left wing, just as I am trying to get the ejection seat pin, and he reaches over and grabs me by the arm and he says, Lieutenant Cunningham, Lieutenant Cunningham, we got our MIG today, didn't we?

What was Willy telling me? That every single member of the armed service is a part of a team, and they feel very, very much a part of each of those victories and those losses. I saw plane captains cry when their pilots didn't come back; cry, it is that tight.

We don't need any L.A. protesters, the Tom Haydens, the Jane Fondas, and Americans protesting in foreign countries. What we need is to be 100 percent behind our troops. Regardless if we agree or disagree politically, we need to get behind the President. We need to fly his wing on this. We need to go in and take care of Saddam Hussein. That is important. It is not important to you and I, it is important to those men and women that are serving.

I would ask my colleagues, some on the other side of the aisle that continue to want to cut defense, our kids are operating at 300 percent above the op tempo level of Vietnam. Our procurement is down 70 percent. We are only keeping in 23 percent of our enlisted. Our experience is gone. We have 1970s technologies in the F-14s, F-15s, and F-18s.

We want to support our kids, not just in our speeches, but support our kids in deed, and make this country the strongest country, with peace through strength, not walk softly and carry a big stick of candy.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ).

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. Speaker, a few feet from where I stand is a portrait of George Washington. He reminds all of us that our Nation was founded in a fight for freedom, and that the price for freedom is eternal vigilance. Therefore, the President was right to take this action, and to take it now.

Today in this hallowed hall, surrounded by reminders of that heritage, our troops are in the Gulf risking their lives to preserve freedom, to preserve our way of life, standing against a tyrant who has invaded and bombed his neighbors, murdered his own citizens, threatened world peace, and refused to comply with international law.

To our brave troops, I say, we stand with you. Our hearts, our prayers, our thanks, our admiration is with you, and we will do all that is necessary to support you.

But the one clear message from the Congress today to Saddam Hussein should be, we are at one with our president, the Commander in Chief, in support of this military action in order to protect the world from Iraq's chemical and biological weapons, and no domestic issue will deter or divide us in this resolve.

Yesterday's actions are the result of Iraq's refusal to grant access to UNSCOM inspectors. The United States, the international community, and the President have shown great restraint in the past in dealing with Iraq.

The United States has always viewed the use of force as a final option, but international aggressors like Saddam Hussein should not misinterpret that as a sign of weakness in our resolve to demand that Iraq comply with international law and destroy its weapons of mass destruction.

The battles may change, the times may change, the ships may be called by different names, but the fight remains the same, the fight for liberty, peace and security; the fight we began more than 200 years ago for freedom.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY).

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Let me take strong umbrage to a comment by the gentleman from California, who suggested if we question the motives of the President, somehow we are aiding and giving comfort to the enemy; followed by the gentleman from Texas, who said on this floor that he was among 86 who signed a resolution supporting President Bush. What does he say about the rest of Congress at that time, they were unpatriotic?

Mr. Speaker, we are debating about the lives of men and women in the field, and I ask that this House conduct themselves appropriately, and discuss that very essential and vital task they have in front of them.

I want to strongly thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Speaker-elect

LIVINGSTON) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Chairman FLOYD SPENCE) for calling together Congress last night to hear our defense leaders discuss the grave dangers our men and women would face and the importance of this mission, because at a time like this, we must rally ourselves for those same people.

I rise in support today of the resolution commending our troops in the Persian Gulf. With everything else going on here and the world over, too often as a Nation we neglect to note the sacrifices performed by our men and women in uniform. As we are reminded last night with the sobering images of anti-aircraft fire in Baghdad, our brave service men and women put their lives on the line to preserve peace and democracy in this world.

Whatever any of us think of the effectiveness of our U.S. foreign policy in the Persian Gulf, no one can question the performance of our armed forces in carrying out their duty in the Gulf. Time and time again our troops have mobilized in response to Saddam Hussein's provocations, and each time their professionalism, dedication, and courage have inspired fear in the enemy, awe in our allies, and pride in our country.

Let us never forget, when we take to the floor of the House Chamber, that it is our men and women in uniform who preserve our right to debate what is best for our Nation. In expressing my gratitude to those noble men and women, I also want to thank their families, many of whom are in my district, and want them to know that our thoughts and prayers are with them at this perilous time.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ROTHMAN).

Mr. ROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to affirm my unconditional support for our troops involved in the mission against Saddam Hussein, to affirm to the world and to Saddam Hussein that the American people and America's elected representatives are united behind the work of our Armed Forces.

We offer each member of our Armed Forces, over 20,000 strong in the Gulf, this united support, and we want to tell them that the American people stand shoulder to shoulder with them. Their mission, Operation Desert Fox, is a continuation of President Bush's efforts to stop a dangerous and evil madman who threatens his neighbors and all the world with his continuing efforts to manufacture, stockpile, and use political, chemical, and nuclear weapons.

The President's decisive action was the right move at the right time. We have given Saddam Hussein enough chances. With or without allies, it was time to act, to stand up for our national interests, and to stand up for what is right. God bless our service

men and women, and God bless America.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HUTCHINSON).

Mr. HUTCHINSON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. I commend the House leadership for suspending the scheduled business to set aside this time for a bipartisan expression of support for our Armed Forces. This is in the finest tradition of the United States Congress, and sends a signal to the enemies of the United States that we are united in the protection of our national interest.

I have advocated publicly the development of a clear long-term strategy in our dealings with Iraq, but despite this wish on my part, I certainly support the military strikes, and believe that they are justified. I fully support the actions by our President at the recommendation of the Secretary of Defense and the Joint Chiefs.

But most importantly, today, I rise to support our troops that are overseas. I understand that there are men and women from the Arkansas National Guard and other areas of the service serving in the Persian Gulf region. I want to express my support for them and recognize their service to our country, as well as the men and women from all parts of the country.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me. I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, of course I support our troops and I will support this resolution. But I have profound concerns about not only long term United States policy toward Iraq, but about the lack of congressional authorization for the President's use of force.

Congress, not the President, has the constitutional authority to declare war or initiate broad, non-defensive hostilities against foreign nations. Yet every Congress in modern times has failed to protect its prerogatives. As a result, Presidents from Harry Truman to Ronald Reagan to Bill Clinton have run roughshod over weak-kneed congressional leaders, and spent the Nation's wealth and the lives of its young people in overseas entanglements. During my time in Congress, I have consistently opposed Presidential war-making, whether it was initiated by Republican Presidents or Democrats.

Saddam Hussein is a brutal dictator and a war criminal who threatens the long-term peace and stability of the Middle East. His continuing efforts to build weapons of mass destruction cannot be tolerated. The United States needs to continue to work with its allies and the international community to nullify this threat.

But after being briefed by the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff last night, I am not aware of any immediate threat that justifies this nearly unilat-

eral action by U.S. forces—an action that has not been authorized by the U.S. Congress and an action that is opposed by a number of our allies. There was no reason in this instance that the President could not have come to Congress for its support in this action. There is no reason that we could not have taken the time to garner more support from our allies.

Ultimately, it is up to Congress and its leaders to insist that this and future Presidents seek and gain the approval of Congress when U.S. Armed Forces are sent to war. Otherwise we can look forward to an endless series of foreign entanglements and overseas wars.

So, while I support this resolution supporting our troops, I will continue to oppose Presidential wars and question United States policy toward Iraq.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, over the last couple of weeks I have been dealing a lot with the Constitution of the United States, which starts, "We, the People of the United States, in order to form a more perfect Union," and which has, as one of its responsibilities, to ensure the common defense.

I am glad we are governed by a Constitution that lives and breathes, so it is very important for me to come today to express the abundant confidence that I have in the United States military, our men and women, who now go to fight for freedom. Freedom is what they fight for, for I am sure that as we stand together as a Nation, that we stand with them in our prayers and our support as they conduct this vital operation.

The United States and its international partners have long tried to preserve a fragile peace, but at every corner in this long road the international community has been met with defiance by the leader of Iraq.

Saddam Hussein has refused to live up to the agreements which Iraq agreed to at the end of the Gulf War. The weapons inspectors have been repeatedly denied access to several suspect sites. I would hope that we as a body would stay away from irresponsible remarks, and realize that we must stand together.

Despite these exhaustive efforts to bring peace, Saddam Hussein's regime, by its own conduct, has abused every opportunity for peace that was granted by the international community. As our president and Commander in Chief said last night, this situation presents a clear and present danger to the stability of the Persian Gulf and the safety of people everywhere. Hussein, if unchecked, would use these weapons again. We must ensure that nuclear arms, poison gas, or biological weapons.

I also say that we in this body, along with the Commander in Chief, must have a definitive policy to protect the suffering women and children, and to

make sure that democracy comes to that region. So I join this Congress in supporting our Commander in Chief, and staying away from ugly words and bringing our Nation together. God bless our troops and God bless America.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. PACKARD).

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, not thinking that there would be sufficient time, I have already submitted my statement for the RECORD, but I would like to simply say that it is refreshing to have a bipartisan across-the-board support of this resolution that calls for us to support our troops.

I also think it is wise that we use this opportunity to indicate how important it is that we increase the defense budget to allow us to meet these kinds of crises. We have pared away on the defense budget to where it is almost impossible for us to meet these kinds of crises and still do what is needed to strengthen our support for the troops with equipment and with facilities.

I hope that every one of those that are supporting this resolution will come to support an increase in the defense budget when the time comes. I certainly have great love and respect for the servicemen that are serving, I wish them well, and certainly pray to God that they will be protected as they serve.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MEEHAN).

Mr. MEEHAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding time to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and the underlying decision to strike military targets in Iraq. Since the end of the gulf war, Saddam Hussein has done everything in his power to continue to amass and produce weapons of mass destruction. He is a threat to our country, and indeed, the world.

Ambassador Richard Butler has now concluded that UNSCOM can no longer effectively conduct weapons inspections in Iraq because of the obstacles Saddam has placed in its path. Clearly Saddam's defiance of the international community knows no bounds. He has left us with no choice but to use force.

To my colleagues who have questioned the President's motives in the midst of this crisis, shame on them. Shame on them for breaking the long-standing tradition that leaves party politics at our Nation's shores. They have set yet another dangerous precedent.

□ 1145

Shame on you for playing into the hands of Saddam, who clearly staged his latest act of defiance to coincide with the impeachment process. You have empowered our Nation's enemy.

Instead of playing petty partisan politics, I hope my friends across the aisle heed the words of JOHN MCCAIN, a war hero and a leading expert on national security: I believe it was essential to support the President. Here, domestically, I think the American people have the ability to divide the two issues because they are very separate.

Mr. Speaker, a majority of the American people not only support the President's decision but also discount the reckless and irresponsible accusations of an ulterior motive. I hope that we can do the same in this Chamber.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. CLEMENT).

Mr. CLEMENT. Mr. Speaker, as a veteran National Guardsman and member of the Committee on International Relations, I stand in strong support of this resolution to support our men and women in uniform.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution. As a member of the House International Relations Committee, I commend the President and his top military advisors for their decision to launch Operation Desert Fox and I support the brave service men and women charged with carrying out this important mission. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all.

Yesterday, the U.S. military took strong, decisive, and necessary action to degrade Saddam Hussein's capabilities to produce chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction and the strikes continue today. Yet again, Saddam Hussein rebuffed efforts by the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) to conduct thorough inspections of possible weapons manufacturing sites. Enough is enough. After Chief Inspector Richard Butler reported of continued acts of Iraqi non-compliance with the UNSCOM team, the United States was left with no choice but to take such strong actions.

The United States has done everything it can to diplomatically find solutions to the situation in Iraq. Saddam has done everything he can to thwart the efforts of UNSCOM, ignore diplomatic remedies and has left no alternative but military force. His shell games and deception of the UNSCOM inspectors must stop. I look forward to the day when there is a new Iraqi government in place, rid of the horrors of Saddam's dictatorship. We must do everything in our power to once and for all totally eliminate Saddam's capabilities to threaten regional and world peace.

No matter what party divisions, differences in opinion, or domestic circumstances we face, now is the time we must unite. We must support our troops, support the mission of Desert Fox and support our President. May God bless our troops in the Persian Gulf and God bless America.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GEKAS).

Mr. GEKAS. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues in full support of the resolution at hand. I not only support the troops in all of their endeavors but I

support the decision of the President to take this action. There are those, some puzzling developments that I want to make clear at least from my own satisfaction in the days to come.

One is this, the President and later the Secretary of Defense emphasized the fact that this strike had to occur now because of the advent of Ramadan, the holy period in the Iraqi and Middle Eastern world. And that was understandable until the Secretary of Defense went on further to say that plans were being implemented for further action down the road to include continuous bombing, perhaps after the advent of Ramadan.

If that is the case, then there might be a rationale more consistent to wait until more intelligence had been gathered to find out where the dispersements could occur of the Republican guard, et cetera. So these questions are still unanswered. But this will not deter us from full support of the resolution at hand.

However, the other pausing factor in my appraisal of this entire situation is this, that if indeed we did not have to take the first strike before the advent of Ramadan, because some of the plans called for bombing after the advent of Ramadan, then perhaps we could have had a full congressional approval of any forthcoming action so that the President would be armed with a resolution from the Congress, as George Bush was so armed before launching Desert Shield and Desert Storm.

In that regard, these are only remarks meant for the record so that I, myself, can pursue them. I support this resolution.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, recognizing the need to halt Saddam Hussein's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, concerned about the harm to Iraq's children but eternally grateful to our young people, to American troops, I rise in strong support of the resolution.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Intelligence Committee, I am keenly aware that the proliferation of chemical and biological weapons is an issue of grave importance to all nations. Saddam Hussein has been engaged in the development of weapons of mass destruction technology which is a threat to countries in the region and he has made a mockery of the weapons inspection process.

The responsibility of the United States in this conflict is to eliminate weapons of mass destruction, to minimize the danger to our troops and to diminish the suffering of the Iraqi people. The citizens of Iraq have suffered the most for Saddam Hussein's activities; sadly, those same citizens now stand to suffer more. I have supported efforts to ease the humanitarian situation in Iraq and my thoughts and prayers are with the innocent Iraqi civilians, as well as with the families of U.S. troops participating in the current action.

I believe in negotiated solutions to international conflict. This is, unfortunately, not going to be the case in this situation where Saddam Hussein has been a repeat offender, ignoring the international community's requirement that he come clean with his weapons program. While I support the President, I hope and pray that this conflict can be resolved quickly and that the international community can find a lasting solution through diplomatic means.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL).

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution, our troops and our President making the decision. I was one of the Democrats 8 years ago to support President Bush. I urge my friends on the other side of the aisle to support President Clinton in this endeavor.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

Mr. GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution and our troops.

Mr. Speaker, it is important for this Congress and this country to show unity and support for the service men and women who are risking their lives to protect our freedom. I rise in strong support of the resolution.

I am deeply disappointed in my colleagues who have chosen to question the President's motives to launch this attack. Keep in mind that Operation Desert Fox has the full support of this nation's entire national security team, which includes a former Republican Senator. It is also being coordinated with our international allies who are equally concerned about Saddam Hussein's willingness to ignore the will of the world. Finally, this military action was launched after the U.N. inspectors reported Iraq had once again prevented them from doing their jobs to make our country and our citizens safe.

This is not an attempt to avoid the impeachment debate. This is not an attempt to delay the impeachment debate. This is the President of the United States acting in the interests of the country he was elected to lead.

When the lives of American service men and women are at stake we owe it to them and their families to put our partisan differences aside.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. BALDACCI).

Mr. BALDACCI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's decision to strike Baghdad. It is in our country's best interest. We have to ensure that these biological and chemical weapons no longer pose a threat.

Mr. Speaker, the United States and the United Nations have shown a great deal of restraint by choosing to first deal with Iraq through many rounds of negotiations and diplomacy. However, Iraq's most recent actions to prevent weapons inspectors from investigating its weapons of mass destruction program have left the world community with no choice but to respond with force.

While I regret that this is the situation, I support the President's decision to strike Bag-

dad. It is in our country's best interest that we do all that we can to ensure Saddam's biological and chemical weapons no longer pose a threat to his neighbors and the world.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. TURNER).

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Committee on National Security in support of this resolution and in support of the President's decision to act swiftly and decisively in response to Saddam Hussein's defiance of the United Nations resolution requiring Saddam to grant permission to the inspection team for full and unfettered access to suspected sites as well as to documentation relating to the production of chemical and biological weapons.

Just one month ago, Saddam Hussein was given a second chance to demonstrate his willingness to comply with the United Nations resolution. In spite of Saddam's record of noncompliance, the President agreed to withhold the use of force. However, the President stated unequivocally that the trigger would remain cocked and if Saddam failed to keep his word, there would be no further delay in our actions.

When Saddam refused to keep his word and the U.N. inspection team leader, Mr. Butler, withdrew his inspectors and filed his report, the United States had no option but to carry out military action. Our credibility, our Nation's word and our credibility as a leader of world peace was at stake.

May God be with our Nation and with our troops as they defend liberty and freedom on this day.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the time of my distinguished colleague.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I rise today as always to support the American military personnel. In fact, we may give the administration the benefit of doubt on the timing. But I question his overall long-term foreign policy in dealing with Iraq. The Clinton administration has carried out for 6 years the most feeble policy against Iraq. Saddam Hussein has done everything in his power to block full weapons inspections.

Do not take my word for it. On August 14 of this year, the Washington Post reported, "the Clinton administration has intervened secretly for months, most recently on August 7, 1998, to dissuade the United Nations weapons team from mounting surprise inspections in Iraq because it wished to avoid a new crisis with the Baghdad government, this is according to knowledgeable American and diplomatic accounts."

Mr. President, I hope you will inform the American people why the administration did all it could to block secret

weapons inspections by the United Nations team for months, if not for years. And now that Iraq predictably continues to block weapons inspections, explain to us the timing of this launch.

Yes, Mr. Speaker, I support the American troops. But I question the overall long-term policy of the administration in dealing with Saddam Hussein.

Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the article from the Washington Post of August 14, 1998.

U.S. SOUGHT TO PREVENT IRAQI ARMS INSPECTIONS; SURPRISE VISITS CANCELED AFTER ALBRIGHT ARGUED THAT TIMING WAS WRONG

(By Barton Gellman)

The Clinton administration has intervened secretly for months, most recently last Friday, to dissuade United Nations weapons teams from mounting surprise inspections in Iraq because it wished to avoid a new crisis with the Baghdad government, according to knowledgeable American and diplomatic accounts.

The American interventions included an Aug. 4 telephone call between Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright and Richard Butler, executive chairman of the U.N. Special Commission responsible for Iraq's disarmament, who spoke on a secure line from the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain. As a team of specialists stood poised in Baghdad, according to persons acquainted with the call, Albright urged Butler to rescind closely held orders for the team to mount "challenge inspections" at two sites where intelligence leads suggested they could uncover forbidden weapons components and documents describing Iraqi efforts to conceal them.

After a second high-level caution from Washington last Friday, Butler canceled the special inspection and ordered his team to leave Baghdad. The disclosure was made yesterday by officials who regarded the abandoned leads as the most promising in years and objected to what they described as the American role in squelching them.

U.S. efforts to forge a go-slow policy in Iraq have coincided with the announcement by the Baghdad government that it would halt nearly all cooperation with the U.N. commission, known as UNSCOM, and the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Administration. The two panels are responsible for ridding Iraq of ballistic missiles and biological, chemical and nuclear weapons.

The behind-the-scenes campaign of caution is at odds with the Clinton administration's public position as the strongest proponent of unconditional access for the inspectors to any site in Iraq. Led by the United States, and backed by American threats of war, the U.N. Security Council has demanded repeatedly since 1991—most recently in Resolution 1154 on March 2—that Iraq give "immediate, unconditional and unrestricted" cooperation to the inspection teams. That last resolution, at U.S. insistence, promised "the severest consequences for Iraq" for further defiance and was voted under Chapter VII of the United Nations Charter, which is legal grounds for use of military force.

Last week, as Albright reportedly sought to rein in Butler, the administration was retreating from the vows it made six months ago to strike immediately and with significant military force if Iraq failed to honor a Feb. 23 agreement that resolved the last such crisis over inspections. At that time, administration spokesmen described a "snap back"

policy of automatic military retaliation if Iraqi President Saddam Hussein violated his agreement with U.N. Secretary General Kofi Annan.

Now the administration argues, as White House spokesman P.J. Crowley said yesterday, that Iraq is proposing "a cat-and-mouse game" and "we're not going to play." He said the United States would continue its "encouragement" of Iraq's compliance with its obligations and would not allow economic sanctions to be lifted until it does so.

Albright, in a one-sentence statement issued through a spokesman, said last night: "U.S. policy has been to fully support UNSCOM in its inspections and I have never told Ambassador Butler how to do his job." She said those speaking for her declined to answer further questions about her Aug. 4 "private discussions" with Butler and would not address specifically whether she had advised him to cancel the planned raids.

Butler, reached by telephone yesterday, said any suggestion that he received orders from Albright would be "a very considerable distortion of what took place." He added, "No member of the [Security] Council, including the United States, has purposed to give me instructions. They all recognize that their job is policy, my job is operations."

Asked whether Albright urged him or advised him not to go forward, Butler said any answer "would be a very slippery slope" in which "I'd have to tell you what the Russian ambassador said, what the French ambassador said. Forgive me, but I won't get into that." Asked to confirm he spoke to Albright last week, he said, "I'm becoming concerned now about this line of inquiry."

Beginning in June, according to knowledgeable officials, the U.N. inspectors developed secret plans—withheld from most members of their own staff—for surprise raids at two sites where they believed they would find evidence of forbidden chemical and biological weapons and the ballistic missiles capable of deploying them. The officials declined to describe the sites further, noting that they are still in operation.

In a little-known practice that all parties are loath to acknowledge, Butler dispatched senior lieutenants to London and Washington in late June to provide highly classified briefings on the intended inspection "targets," the sources said. Formally, Butler reports equally to all members of the Security Council and does not give them advance operational plans. But one official said he understands "it's suicide to go forward with an inspection like this" without informing his principal sponsors, the United States and Britain.

The two governments, according to knowledgeable officials, acknowledged to Butler's deputies that UNSCOM had the right to make its own decisions. But they worked in concert in the weeks that followed to dissuade Butler from going forward with the inspection plan.

After consultations in Washington, Derek Plumbly, director of the British Foreign Office's Middle East Command, flew to New York for a July 15 meeting with Butler. He told the Australian diplomat in no uncertain terms that the time was not ripe for a provocative challenge to Iraq, in part because Baghdad was still cooperating, ostensibly, on a "schedule of work" intended to resolve open questions, the sources said.

Shortly after that meeting, U.S. Ambassador Peter Burrell, the second-ranking delegate to the United Nations, called in Butler for a consultation in which he raised a long list of U.S. questions and concerns

about the planned raids. Reading from prepared guidance, he told Butler the decision was UNSCOM's but left the inspection chief with the plain understanding that the United States did not support his plan, according to a knowledgeable account of the meeting.

Butler canceled the raids in July but laid contingency plans to reschedule them this month after meetings on Aug. 3 and 4 in Baghdad with Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz. Aziz announced late on the first day that Iraq would answer no further questions about its forbidden weapons, asserting that all the answers had long since been made.

Butler had brought a senior inspection team led by Scott Ritter, who heads UNSCOM's efforts to penetrate Iraqi counterintelligence efforts against the inspectors. Included on Ritter's team, officials said, were language and computer experts, experts on import and export records, and scientists knowledgeable about missiles, chemical and biological weapons.

On Aug. 4, Butler notified the U.S. government that he had authorized Ritter's team to conduct the raids on Aug. 6. That same day, he got word that Albright wished to speak with him and traveled to the U.S. Embassy in Bahrain for a secure discussion. Albright argued, according to knowledgeable accounts, that it would be a big mistake to proceed because the political stage had not been set in the Security Council.

Butler agreed to a three-day delay, to Aug. 9, in hopes that he could build broader support for UNSCOM during informal consultations with the Security Council. But after he briefed the council governments in New York, he got another high-level American call on Friday urging him to have the Ritter team stand down. The same day, he ordered them home.

In a letter to the council Wednesday, Butler said Iraq's new restrictions "bring to a halt all of the disarmament activities" of his inspectors. On Tuesday, Mohamed Baradel, director general of the IAEA, sent a similar letter to the council saying he could no longer give confident assurance that Iraq is not attempting to reconstitute its nuclear weapons program.

Both men are awaiting further instruction from the Security Council, which is scheduled to take up the matter Tuesday. Yesterday in Baghdad, U.N. special envoy Prakash Shah said he conveyed a message from Annan that "Iraq should continue its cooperation" with the weapons inspectors. He announced no results from what he described as a "cordial" meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The Chair would advise all Members to address their comments to the Chair.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA).

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

I stand here today to say I wholeheartedly support the decision of our President and Commander in Chief to launch a series of air strikes against Iraq and that I support 100 percent the resolution we will be voting on shortly.

While it is a sad day, this action was necessary. It is an action that is justified. Every avenue has been exhausted to prevent this, but ultimately, it is action prompted by Saddam Hussein

and his contempt for complying with the international rule of law.

Now the consequences for that disdain must be realized. In a closed door session in this House last night, all Members, Republicans and Democrats, met with Defense Secretary Cohen. I think any reservations with regard to timing were put to rest at that time. But if further questions linger, I should point out that important congressional and Senatorial voices of support are strongly behind the President's actions. These voices include House Committee on International Relations member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. GILMAN), incoming Senate Committee on Armed Services chairman, JOHN WARNER, Senate Committee on Foreign Relations chairman, JESSE HELMS, Senator DASCHLE and Senator RICHARD LUGAR, who said the attack came at exactly the right time, that any other decision would have severely damaged the credibility of our United States.

I wish to conclude by saying to our men and women in uniform, you have our undivided support. You represent our Nation's finest. You defend not only our freedom but also the ideals of democracy across the globe. Our thoughts and prayers are with you.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would remind all Members that they should not make reference to Senators' comments.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCREST), a Vietnam veteran.

Mr. GILCREST. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

I want to make two quick points on the floor this morning. The first point is that this is a representative body, based on constitutional provisions that provide for differences of opinion. The strength of this country is that we, as Representatives, critically analyze the decisions of other elected officials and even the President. So for us to discuss the issue of an invasion of Iraq is totally proper.

The other issue I want to bring up is that all of us, regardless of our party and regardless of our perspective on this issue, have total and absolute support when we focus on those troops in the Persian Gulf. Those troops in the Persian Gulf have our heartfelt, secure support that what they are doing is just. And we wish them an absolute successful mission and we await their arrival back home.

We wish them all a happy holiday.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. FARR).

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the troops and in support of the Commander in Chief of the troops, the President of the United States.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE).

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of our Commander in Chief, the President, and our soldiers who are on the front line today in the Gulf and in Saudi Arabia.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the military strike by American and allied forces against the Saddam Hussein regime in Iraq.

For far too long, Saddam Hussein has felt free to defy the international community. For far too long, he has menaced his own people and threatened his neighbors in the region. For far too long, he has failed to live up to his obligations under the terms that ended the Persian Gulf War. For far too long, he has sought to develop weapons of mass destruction and the means to deliver them. Our exertion of military strength against his regime is an appropriate step to communicate to Saddam that he cannot continue his outlaw ways with impunity.

All Americans should pray for the safe return of our men and women in uniform as they embark on this inherently dangerous but necessary mission. Let me state clearly that no one bears any ill will toward the Iraqi people. In fact, the actions of Saddam Hussein and his regime have long constituted the greatest threat to the security of the Iraqi people. In the spirit of the holidays, let us all hope that today's action may advance the day when Peace on Earth can become reality.

As a veteran of the United States Army, I know that our military personnel will perform their duties with professionalism, diligence and bravery. I am also confident that the leadership of my fellow North Carolinian, General Hugh Shelton, will help bring this action to successful conclusion. I call on all Americans to support this mission and our men and women in uniform.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. GEJDENSON), distinguished ranking member on the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend particularly the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and a number of my colleagues on the other side for their actions here today. There is a difference in the timing of the use of force. I think there is no question that many of the colleagues on the Republican side of the aisle and some on the Democratic side of the aisle would have acted earlier. We will never know whether that would have been a better policy or a worst policy.

One of the reasons I trust this President's use of force is that he has consistently been reluctant to use it and with the post-Soviet era, where we no longer can intimidate our friends and allies that if you do not go along with us, you will be overrun by the Communist hordes, it has been his reluctance to use force that has given him wide public and international support when he used it.

This President was elected and spent years trying to solve the Yugoslavian situation without force. Not until 1995 did he begin substantial air strikes that finally brought people to the table and the Dayton agreement of 1995.

□ 1200

In Haiti the deadline for force was September 18. General Colin Powell, Sam Nunn and former President Carter called the President up and said, give us 24 hours more. It is a hard thing to do. The whole world is watching. Is he blinking? Does he really hope to get an agreement without bloodshed?

The President took that political risk, and 24 hours later American forces could land without any fire, without the loss of life on our side or theirs. And the same is here. The President could have said, gee, the letter had not reached me and therefore the strikes occurred on November 15. But I think what the President did again is recognize the world's concern about the one superpower and so he sent a very clear message, I will take every possible step not to use force.

When Saddam Hussein acted again, I met with the President, and I said this and I think every member of this House ought to understand it, the only considerations in this decision were and ought to be American national security and the security of our forces in the region. We have a Secretary of Defense who is a Republican. We have a Secretary of State who has an outstanding record unmatched. They understood and they spoke to us, telling us this decision was made on the facts. The military individuals, our top foreign policy and defense advisors said take this action now, the President has done the right thing. And I applaud again my friends on the other side of the aisle for their support of the Commander in Chief and our troops in the field.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART).

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the armed forces of the United States of America and specifically House Resolution 612.

Mr. Speaker, At this extraordinary time in our nation's history, no one should doubt for a moment that Americans are a people of strong resolve and a people who take our country's international responsibilities seriously. Last night, like every other time in the past, the men and women of our Armed Services answered to call to duty and risked their own lives to preserve our freedoms.

We owe them a debt of gratitude. It is fitting, therefore, that we gather today to express the support of the American people for their service and for their mission. And we do this unreservedly.

Saddam Hussein, the Iraqi dictator, has continued his provocation and intransigence in the face of international condemnation and

warnings. It is imperative that he not be allowed to manufacture weapons of mass destruction. He has, since 1980 demonstrated his willingness to attack his neighbors and threaten the peace and stability of the Middle East. This in turn is a direct threat to the national interests of the United States.

From all reports, our military forces have acted with bravery and professionalism to minimize injury to Iraqi civilians. We are all aware that taking such care often places our own pilots at greater threat to themselves. They are to be commended for their actions that are above and beyond the call of duty.

Mr. Speaker, especially at this time of year we pray for peace on earth and goodwill for all mankind. However, so long as tyrants continue to oppress their own people and threaten the peace of the world, we must not rest.

Our thoughts and prayers are also with the families of the men and women of our Armed Forces who are separated during this holiday season. We thank them for their sacrifices.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON. Mr. Speaker, our thoughts and prayers today are with other sailors, airmen, and soldiers in the Persian Gulf and their families. Our support of them is unconditional. We wish them success in their missions and pray that every one of them will return home safely to their families, friends and loved ones.

We cannot allow Saddam Hussein to have nuclear, chemical, or biological weapons or the means to deliver them. He has shown himself willing to use them, including against his own people.

I would also like to say a word about the family who await anxiously at home today wondering if their loved ones will survive, wishing that they were home out of harm's way preparing for the holidays. Operations like this are often hardest on the families, and as a nation we must rally around them. We have an obligation to keep them informed as much as we can and supported by their nation and by their neighbors.

As a veteran myself and the only woman veteran to ever serve in the United States Congress, I also want to remind everyone that our obligation does not end when the guns fall silent.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, Members of the House, as a member of the Committee on National Security, I rise today in firm support of our soldiers and sailors in the Gulf. The American people have asked these men and women to put their lives on the line to defend freedom all over the world, and it is entirely fitting that today in this House we dedicate ourselves to support their cause.

My colleagues, in the post Cold War theater of our country, we are faced with new threats of all kinds. Rogue nations that have the capability of creating biological, nuclear and chemical

weapons comprise the next generation of challenges that our Armed Services face.

Saddam Hussein has found out last night why he should never take our national commitment and dedication to the preservation of peace for granted. Time and time again we warned him that if he persisted on this course, that if he prevented the agreement of inspections, and that if he continued to snub the wishes of the international community, then the United States would let loose the awesome power of its military to force Iraq's compliance with U.N. resolutions.

Our nation has sent a clear signal to the international community that Saddam's kind of terrorism will not be tolerated. The careless manufacture of these weapons of mass destruction is an affront to all civilized societies. While the people of Iraq search for food, Saddam Hussein searches for a new palace to build for himself once again.

These weeks are going to take another important step to changing that situation. Saddam Hussein's days should be numbered and we must commit ourselves to the installation of a fair and democratic government in Iraq.

In conclusion, the President has acted with leadership, he has taken the appropriate action; and it is clear by today's action that the Congress stands by our men and women in uniform and the President of the United States. I want to thank the leadership for setting aside our other business so that we can tend to this important issue of life and death.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEWIS), the chairman elect of our appropriations Subcommittee on National Security.

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I want to express my appreciation to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) and to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) for their marvelous leadership insofar as our national security is concerned.

Today, I simply want to rise and say to my colleagues that today we are seeing the Congress of the United States at its finest. We come together in support of the Commander in Chief and in support of our troops when their lives are put in danger. In defense of freedom, we are the leader of the world.

In these days ahead of us, we are going to have more difficult times in which we will see some division in the House. But at this moment, Democrats and Republicans alike are standing hand in hand in support of this resolution, which is an expression of bipartisan and nonpartisan support of our troops facing danger overseas and defense of freedom.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire at this moment just how much time remains, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) has 11 minutes remaining, and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) has 12½ minutes remaining.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the President's decision to take action in Iraq and in strong support of the troops who have once again shown that we have the finest military in the world.

I want to recognize the units from my area of Jacksonville, Florida, including two bomber units from Cecil Field Naval Air Station; Viking, Shadow, and Seahawk units from Naval Air Station Jacksonville; and the missile cruisers U.S.S. *Philippine Sea* and U.S.S. *Gettysburg* based at Naval Station Mayport. I salute their service and offer a prayer of support for their families here and at home.

Mr. Speaker, it is very important that we put political rhetoric and fighting aside as we once again face down the enemy of peace, stability and democracy. We must be a strong and unified nation during this time, and I urge my colleagues to support our President and support our troops.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), the chairman of our Subcommittee on Research and Development.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank our distinguished chairman for allowing me this opportunity to speak, and I thank our ranking member for his leadership on defense issues.

I rise in full and strong support of this measure. But I want to remind our colleagues that while we are here to state our support for the troops in words, we need much more than words in the current environment in this city.

We are going through massive problems right now, Mr. Speaker, as the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE) have said over and over again. This is in fact our 27th deployment of our troops in 6 years. Each of these deployments has not been planned for, has not been budgeted for; and, therefore, we have had to take money out of modernization and quality of life to pay to put the troops in harm's way. And when our colleagues vote in favor of this amendment today, this measure, I would ask our colleagues to understand, this is not just a cheerleading session where we stand up and go, rah-rah, yeah for the troops. We need the funding to support these troops. We need to put the dollars on the table. Because when we send these bombers into Iraq, when we send these troops overseas, there are

added costs that we do not have the money for.

And while I stand here fully unequivocally supporting the deployment that is taking place today, I ask my colleagues to understand that they need to provide the support for the funding shortfalls that will continue in the next year.

I also rise to say that, Mr. Speaker, this action I support today but it should have taken place a year ago. In fact, I would like to insert into the RECORD an article from the Washington Times where it was cited that at least on 6 occasions, beginning in November of 1997, the Secretary of State or other top administration officials sought to stop the U.N. inspector from moving on surprise inspections in Iraq. We actually over the past year have stopped the inspection teams. And now we are saying we must proceed forward very quickly.

Mr. Speaker, I include the following articles:

The interventions included at least six occasions, beginning in November 1997, in which Secretary of State Madeleine K. Albright or other top administration officials sought—with success in each case but one—to persuade chief U.N. inspector Richard Butler to rescind orders for surprise searches for weapons of mass destruction or to remove a controversial inspector from Iraq.

[From the Washington Times, Aug. 31, 1998]
RITTER GIVES REASON FOR NSCOM'S
PLIGHT—SAYS U.S. HAS NO SUPPORT VS.
SADDAM

(By Joyce Howard Price)

U.S. officials are afraid of a confrontation, with Saddam Hussein because they don't have international support to enforce access to suspected sites of weapons of mass destruction, says former U.N. weapons inspector William Scott Ritter.

"Since April . . . the United States has placed considerable pressure" on the U.N. inspection team "to hold off from carrying out inspections that could cause a confrontation with Iraq," he said yesterday on ABC's "This Week."

"They are afraid of confrontation because of the ramifications," said the 37-year-old former Marine, who resigned last week as a weapons inspector.

"Confrontation with Iraq over inspections requires the United States and the Security Council to live up to their promise of enforcement . . . in [U.N.] Resolution 1154," he said, which calls for the "severest consequences" if Iraq does not allow access to suspected sites of nuclear, biological or chemical weapons.

"Right now I believe that the United States does not want such confrontation because it believes it cannot muster the support for such confrontation," Mr. Ritter said.

Saddam broke off cooperation Aug. 5 with weapons inspectors of the U.N. Special Commission, or Unscm.

U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, interviewed on TV talk shows yesterday, rejected Mr. Ritter's charges that Washington has gone soft.

"There's been no change of policy. . . . The record shows that the Clinton administration support for Unscm, the weapons inspectors, has been unparalleled," Mr. Richardson said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

"There have been times where timing and tactics had to be discussed with [chief U.N. weapons inspector Richard] Butler. But the record shows . . . that because of U.S. action, inspectors like Scott Ritter were able to conduct their inspections," he said.

On CNN's "Late Edition," Mr. Richardson said "timing and tactics" were discussed as part of efforts to build international support in the Security Council for the U.S. position toward Iraq.

"At no time did we go to Butler and say, 'Don't inspect, don't do this,'" said Mr. Richardson. "This is a U.N. decision. This is Butler's decision. He is very independent."

Mr. Ritter said U.S. threats of military force earlier this year, when Iraq denied entrance to some sites and sent weapons inspectors packing, were not convincing—certainly not to Saddam.

"There are indications that this saber-rattling was nothing but a bluff to begin with, an effort to force Saddam to back down in the face of force," Mr. Ritter said on ABC.

"One of the problems is it has to be credible force in order for Saddam to flinch, and I think the Iraqis just called the bluff. I don't think there was ever the credible use of force or threat of use of force."

Mr. Ritter said last week that at least six intrusive inspections had been stopped since November under pressure from Washington. Yesterday, he detailed two instances.

"There was a case in July when we actually deployed a team of 45 inspectors in the country to carry out inspections . . . to uncover how Iraq hides these weapons from the Special Commission, and the United States together with the United Kingdom intervened and conferred with Richard Butler to put pressure on him to cancel this inspection, despite the fact that we had a team in country, ready to go," Mr. Ritter said.

"In August, we had another team deployed, ready to go. We had very, very good sites, based upon sound intelligence, and once again . . . the United States, through intervention from both [Secretary of State] Madeleine Albright and [National Security Adviser] Sandy Berger, had the inspection first postponed for a matter of days and then canceled outright."

Mr. Speaker, we must have a clear and consistent policy with Iraq and that policy means when Saddam does not comply we move in military, and I support this. But this action should have taken place months ago and this action requires our financial support as well as our verbal support.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. MEEK).

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution. I rise in strong support of our President. I rise in strong support of our troops.

I have always been a supporter of our military troops. I came through World War II. I know exactly what it means to protect our country. I know exactly what it means to be ready. And sometimes I am taken aback on this floor when I hear many of our well-meaning people on this floor question things which they have very little background to know about.

We have many experts in this Congress. We need more people who are willing to say, let's see what the score

is, let's look at this thing and find out what it is all about.

Our President is the Commander in Chief. It is his job to make these decisions. I am not here to question his decision. I am here to say I stand behind him and I stand behind those troops. Timing, we are no experts on timing. We have heard the Joint Chiefs of Staff. We have heard Secretary Cohen. They are experts. We are merely generalists, Mr. Speaker.

I stand to support this wonderful resolution brought by the majority party.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROHRBACHER).

Mr. ROHRBACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution and strong support of our troops who are in action in the Persian Gulf.

Today, even amidst a political crisis at home, our military personnel are engaged in a major operation against the regime of Iraqi dictator Saddam Hussein. Over the last year, Saddam Hussein has violated the agreements that he made to end the Gulf War. And I would agree with my colleague who just stated, the actions taking place today should have started long ago, because Saddam Hussein was committing these same violations 6 months ago and 6 weeks ago that he is violating today and was violating today which precipitated the President's decision to call in military actions.

Saddam Hussein agreed to give up the right to possess weapons of mass destruction in order to end the Gulf War 8 years ago. By violating his pledges that ensured that he gave up those weapons of mass destruction, he is the one who has called this military action upon his people.

Let us resolve today that we are not the enemies of the people of Iraq. The people of Iraq are our friends. The Members of Congress have stated we should, in fact we passed a resolution here and allocated money to support those people who believe in democracy in Iraq and who would wish to overthrow Saddam Hussein's vicious regime.

So today, as we tip our hats and as we sing the praises of our military personnel who are willing to put their lives on the line for stability and peace in the Gulf which ultimately tied to the security of the United States of America, let us also resolve that we are for peace and freedom and we are for the peace and freedom of the people of Iraq as well and they can join with us and bring about a more peaceful world and end these military operations by getting rid of the Saddam Hussein dictatorship. It is that dictatorship that is the enemy of the people of the United States, not the people of Iraq.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS).

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this joint resolution

before us in the House of Representatives that we may speak as a unified body and give our support to our President, to our Joint Chiefs of Staff, to our allies who have joined with us in this effort to curtail totalitarianism and to make a strong statement on behalf of peace.

It is important for us to get behind our troops now and to be unified as a country that our fighting men and women, and I am thinking particularly today of those at Vandenberg Air Force Base in my district and the colonel with whom I spoke this morning, urging those troops well, knowing that they are giving up their time with their families over this holiday season. We must be with them in spirit and offer our prayers. Speaking also for the people of Iraq, wanting to work with them to find peace in their land and let us all be unified as we do this together.

□ 1215

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GRANGER).

Ms. GRANGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the men and women of our armed forces. I thank them for their sacrifice and their patriotism and I pray for their safe return home.

Saddam Hussein is not in compliance with the terms and conditions of the agreement that ended the Persian Gulf War. He has consistently violated international law and he is insistent on development and proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. There is no question he needs to be stopped.

However, I want to remind my colleagues that real support of our troops takes more than a resolution from Congress when they are sent into combat. It takes a real and serious financial commitment from this body. We need to increase the size of our annual defense budget. We need to address the military retirement system. We need to make sure our troops have the best equipment available when they are sent into harm's way.

During the Persian Gulf War there were 18 active Army divisions. Today there are 10. During the Persian Gulf War there were 24 active fighter wings. Today 13. There were 546 Navy ships. Today 333. I do not want to belabor this point today, Mr. Speaker, but we need to address those shortfalls next year.

Again let us pray for our troops and offer them our heartfelt thanks for their service to our country.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT) the minority leader.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the resolution that is before us and think it is the right thing for us to do on this important day. I fully support the mission of our armed forces currently carrying out this military action in Iraq. These efforts are

part of a long-standing bipartisan effort to degrade the Iraqi government's capacity to develop and deliver weapons of mass destruction and to diminish its ability to threaten its neighbors in the region.

Over the last 8 years Presidents Bush and Clinton have pursued a policy to contain the threat that Saddam Hussein poses to the region, the Mideast region and the international community. Today our troops bravely are continuing this effort. I believe that this Congress must give them and is required to give them our undivided support and encouragement.

The U.S. action is the latest chapter in our efforts. It came at the end of a long pattern of Iraqi games to thwart the work of weapons inspectors and frustrate implementation of United Nations Security Council resolutions.

The most recent act of defiance was in October. The United States was ready at that time to use military force with the support of the international community, including eight Arab nations, and the unanimous support of the United Nations Security Council to enforce implementation of these U.N. resolutions. Saddam Hussein in October backed down under these threats, and he pledged and his regime pledged to resume cooperation unconditionally with the weapons inspectors. At that time our President made clear that if Saddam Hussein failed to cooperate fully, without equivocation, the United States would be prepared to act, and to act without delay, to act without going back to the Security Council, to act without coming anywhere to get authority to do it.

The President then said, and I quote, "Until we see complete compliance, we will remain vigilant, we will keep up the pressure, we will be ready to act." As Members all know over the past 3 weeks, Saddam Hussein has engaged in new acts of defiance of the United Nations Security Council resolutions and the weapons inspectors known as UNSCOM. These acts are a clear violation of the international community's determination to ensure that Iraq no longer poses a threat to the region.

The timetable for action was perfectly clear. We have known that Richard Butler would submit the report for several weeks. This is no surprise to anyone in Iraq, in the region, across the world who is involved in these foreign policy issues. Congressional leaders were briefed by the President's national security team on the evolving situation and the military options which were being considered in response. Any suggestion that this action has been affected by the impeachment debate one way or the other is blatantly false.

I sincerely hope that we can temporarily put aside partisanship and direct our efforts to fully supporting our troops, our young people, in this crit-

ical mission. We should never let Saddam Hussein dictate the nature or the timing of our response. We must have the ability to carry out our mission effectively to ensure that Iraq cannot reconstitute its arsenal of weapons of mass destruction, and most importantly we must give our commanders in the field the flexibility they need to succeed in their mission with the least risk to the men and women who are putting their lives on the line right now to achieve these goals.

This Congress must stand firmly and in a united way behind the defense of our national interest. We must send a strong message, the strongest possible message to Saddam Hussein that domestic politics will never, ever affect our resolve, and we must send a clear and unequivocal message to the brave young men and women of the United States armed forces that they have our unqualified support as they undertake this serious and dangerous mission.

We must join together today as Republicans, as Democrats, as independents, but as Americans. We must speak with one voice, one crystal clear voice behind our men and women, behind our President and behind our Nation at this time of critical emergency.

If my son or daughter were in the field today, right now, I would want nothing more than every American to stand behind and be proud of their effort on our behalf. By voting for this resolution, we do that today.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Savannah, GA (Mr. KINGSTON).

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank Chairman SPENCE for yielding me this time and also Ranking Member SKELTON for bringing this to the floor along with Speaker LIVINGSTON. I think it is very timely and important that at this day we stop and pause in a bipartisan, united fashion and support our troops. For all Americans, we are united against Saddam Hussein but for those folks that I represent in Hinesville, Georgia, many of their friends and neighbors will be packing and saying good-bye to loved ones as members of the Third Infantry Division start to deploy. We do not know how long they will be there. We do not know how many. But we think it is very important that they know, those of us in southeast Georgia who love Fort Stewart and General Riley and all the fighting men and women that we support them and we want to get them home safely.

Here in Congress we are going to do everything we can to protect them and America's interests. That is why we have fought so hard under Chairman SPENCE's leadership for quality of life, equipment modernization and readiness.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SHIMKUS).

Mr. SHIMKUS. Mr. Speaker, as a West Point graduate, a former active duty officer and a current reservist, the time is right to tell our young men and women in the armed forces that we support them. That is our mission today, a united front. However, our mission tomorrow is to ensure that our forces have the means at their disposal to conduct necessary operations in the future. Talk is cheap. Rebuilding our military strength is the clearest sign to our young men and women in uniform and their families that we support them, we care for them, and that we are going to do everything with the means at our disposal to protect them. Let us commit today as we talk on this resolution to do the necessary work at hand to strengthen our military for the future.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. BISHOP).

Mr. BISHOP. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Missouri for yielding me this time, and I thank the chairman and the ranking member for bringing this resolution to the floor.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my strong support for this resolution. I believe it is important that we demonstrate America's resounding and unequivocal commitment to our Nation's armed forces. We must voice our support, not as Democrats, not as Republicans but as Americans. We know our troops will give us 100 percent and we can afford to give them no less. The President in consultation with America's top military leaders has given sound, rational support for his decision to launch new attacks on Iraq at this time. Members of the Moody Air Force Base in the Second Congressional District of Georgia will soon be called upon to support this endeavor. More than 200 Air Force personnel will be part of a combat search and rescue package that will be deployed within the next few days. This is a very difficult time to ask our service men and women to be separated from their families. That is another reason why it is so important that we have the morale of our troops uplifted by the solidarity to that mission.

I would extend my prayers for all of the deployed men and women and their families for a safe and speedy return. God bless our troops. God bless their families. God bless America.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER).

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to submit for the RECORD a statement on behalf of our troops in this very difficult time in their lives as well as the life of our Nation.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. WELLER).

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the chairman and the ranking

member for the time and the opportunity to speak in support of our military men and women. I rise in support of this resolution. I ask for bipartisan support in this House, a statement of support for our military men and women. Not only must we support our military men and women who defend our freedoms but we must also stand in support of the regular folks, the people of Iraq, suffering under the yoke of the dictator Saddam Hussein.

Iraq is now governed by a terrorist government driven under the iron hand of dictator Saddam Hussein. Saddam Hussein continues today to threaten the security of his neighbors with efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. Our military men and women stand ready to defend our freedoms. Today they are in action. Let us speak loudly, let us speak clearly, let us speak with a united voice, with a bipartisan statement of support today.

□ 1230

We support our military men and women with this firm statement of support contained in our resolution. Let us keep our defenders of freedoms and their families in our prayers today and tomorrow, and also let us take time to thank those every day who defend our freedoms.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. BORSKI).

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 612, which expresses strong support for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are participating in Operation Desert Fox. I believe this is an appropriate expression of bipartisan support for a difficult but necessary military strike against Saddam Hussein.

At the conclusion of the Persian Gulf War, Saddam Hussein agreed to a cease-fire resolution which explicitly committed him to the destruction and termination of his nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs. To verify his compliance, Saddam agreed to full and unfettered access to United Nations weapons inspectors.

Since then, Saddam has played a cat-and-mouse game with the United Nations and the international community. The United States has repeatedly threatened the use of force against Iraq if it failed to cooperate, and Iraq has backed down. President Clinton has gone out of his way to resolve these disputes with diplomacy, but Saddam Hussein has failed to reciprocate with a long-term compliance to his international obligations.

Only a few weeks ago, Saddam Hussein once again defied the international community and blocked UNSCOM's access to important sites and documents pertaining to weapons of mass destruction. President Clinton ordered a military strike, but, at the last minute, terminated the operation when Saddam Hussein agreed to allow the inspectors back in to Iraq. The President gave Saddam one last chance,

but very clearly warned Saddam that future violations would be met with immediate and decisive military action.

Unfortunately, Saddam Hussein failed to heed these warnings. On December 15, UNSCOM Executive Chairman Richard Butler issued a report to the UN stating that Saddam Hussein was once again preventing UN inspectors from doing their job. In response, Chairman Butler removed his inspectors and President Clinton launched Operation Desert Fox.

Saddam Hussein thought he could exploit what he perceived as a weakness in our country caused by the domestic turmoil over impeachment. But what Saddam once again miscalculated—and what we are demonstrating here today with this resolution—is the strength of our country in times of international crises. Despite domestic problems, the people of the United States of America will always rally behind our President and our troops when our national interests are threatened.

Mr. Speaker, I support Operation Desert Fox, and I support our troops who are doing a magnificent job protecting our national interests in the Persian Gulf. These proud men and women would certainly rather be home for the holidays, but they know their mission and how important it is that Saddam Hussein not be allowed to develop weapons of mass destruction and once again threaten his neighbors in the region.

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

Mr. Speaker, this morning I had the rare opportunity to have breakfast with three bright young United States Navy lieutenant commanders, one a submariner, one a surface warfare officer and the other a pilot of F-14s. It was interesting in talking to them about their future, the future of the United States Navy, that they reflected to me what I know all the young officers must say and feel about their work and about their contribution to national security. In relation to the pilot, I heard about the dire need for spare parts, about the need for more highly trained mechanics and the need of the help we should give to the families.

Mr. Speaker, these are the young men and young women who are flying missions last night and tonight over Iraq. They are the ones of whom we are asking so very much, and yet we, who are constitutionally required to raise and maintain the military, have left some of them with spare parts problems and inadequate personnel, and yet we expect them to be letter perfect. Thus far they have.

I say a thanks to my friend and colleague, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPENCE), the chairman of this committee, for he and I worked early this year in a letter to the President and other leaders making a strong case for additional funding for national security of this country. It was good to see the additional dollars in the supplemental this last year. But in order for

us to come to this floor and praise the young men and young women for their courage and bravery, we must do our part first, and that part is making secure those jobs, making sure that they have spare parts, making sure that their airplanes fly and that they have bright young people who are strongly motivated to fix their airplanes and to sail the ships. That is our job.

We are here today, and it has been almost overlooked, because of Saddam Hussein's recalcitrance in not allowing inspectors from the United Nations to look for and find the weapons of mass destruction. That is our purpose, to make sure that he does not have those weapons; biological, chemical, nuclear, that could wreck havoc not just on America and Americans' interests and Americans across this globe, but our allies and our friends.

I fully support the President's decision. I fully support him, and yesterday I had an early meeting with the Secretary and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs when they told me of this plan, and I told them I was for them.

We must, as a body, speak with one voice to support this decision and to support the young men and young women. But I must say more than anything we must support the young men and young women in uniform regardless of the branch in which they serve by doing our part, by adequately funding what they do, by giving them the message that we are with them, more in words, more in resolution, but by adequate funding and resources so they can continue to do the job that we ask them to do and that the Commander in Chief asks them to do.

So I fully support this resolution. I hope it will pass unanimously, that the message will be sent to our friends and foes alike that we stand together as a Nation supporting the President's decision and supporting those in uniform who are doing such a masterful job for us and for our country.

Mr. SPENCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I might consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are gathered here today to make comments in support of our troops who are presently deployed in the Persian Gulf carrying on operations against certain targets in Iraq. I think it is worth noting at this time, it is important to note, that we are prepared to carry out this type operation and our men and women are equipped to do this. But I have to point out that this is a limited type operation. It is not an all-out type war that we must be prepared to defend against. There is serious question as to whether or not our military is sufficiently strong, with all the cutbacks we have been making, to carry out our national strategy of being able to fight and win two major regional contingencies. That is my concern.

I reiterate we are here supporting our people today in this type of operation.

We must, we must, do more to prepare our country to defend against the other threats we will be faced with in the future.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, one of the most grave decisions that a Member of Congress must make is the decision to go to war. Fewer than 24 hours ago, President William Jefferson Clinton launched missiles in response to continued intransigence by President Saddam Hussein of Iraq. Over the past two months, President Clinton has judiciously and skillfully negotiated a truce with President Hussein, and even aborted a launched air strike against military targets in Iraq. As President Clinton clearly stated, that November 15, 1998 cease-fire was the last effort in the continued work to have Iraq comply with the terms that ended the Gulf War over seven and one-half years ago.

As a person of peace and prayer, I have grave reservations any time force or violence is used to solve any problem, conflict or difference. It is unfortunate that we have not yet progressed to the point where violence is not an element of international problem-solving. Each and every life on earth is too precious to be wasted as a result of the collateral damage that inevitably happens as the result of war. The use of force should be used only as a last resort when all other options have been thoroughly examined and exhausted.

Along with 434 of my colleagues in the House of Representatives and 100 of my colleagues in the Senate, I took an oath to protect and defend the Constitution of the United States of America against all enemies, foreign and domestic. This recent action is in the defense of the best interests of the United States. President William Jefferson Clinton, acting upon the advice of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of Defense, and the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, ordered the most recent air strike. There have been some Members of Congress who have questioned the timing and necessity of this air strike. Now is not the time for Members of Congress to question this joint and unanimous decision of the military leaders of our Nation, all of whom support this needed action. Now is the time to offer our prayers, our aid, and our support to men and women of our Armed Forces, their families and our President.

I have long expressed my support for the ending of humanitarian sanctions on Iraq, and along with over 40 of my colleagues, sent a bipartisan letter to the President asking for a revisiting of the economic sanctions against Iraq. While leveled at the Iraqi regime, these sanctions have had the unintended effect of taking a deadly toll on the innocent civilians of Iraq. History is proof that it is in the United States' best long-term interests to shape a policy that embraces humanitarian concerns and allows new ways to address the legitimate security concerns of the United States. Maintaining humanitarian principles and having a tough stance on Iraq are not mutually exclusive.

On June 26 of this year, we celebrated the 50th year of the Berlin Airlift. After the Soviet Union banned all travel to and from East Germany shortly after the end of World War II, aircraft from U.S. Air Forces in Europe delivered 156 tons of supplies during 64 sorties. During

the Berlin Airlift, almost 18 million tons of coal, food, medicine, heavy machinery, newsprint, construction equipment, vehicles, and household goods were flown in to the people, not the government, of East Germany. The Berlin Airlift saved the lives of thousands of people yearning for freedom and justice from the shackles of oppression. The strong, aggressive stance that the United States took against the regime of the Soviet Union complemented its compassion for the people of East Germany.

Fifty years later, we live in the wake of the Berlin Airlift. Through the skill and courage of United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan, former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations Bill Richardson, President Clinton, and concerned citizens, we were able to previously step back from the brink of war. This is, unfortunately, no longer the case. There are certainly many challenges against lasting peace and stability in Iraq, and it is vital that Iraq fully and completely comply with the inspection teams authorized by the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq. The monitoring and dismantling of Iraqi weapons of mass destruction must take place.

In our letter to President Clinton, we urged the separation of humanitarian sanction from military sanctions. We also asked for improving the oversight and mechanisms for the oil-for-food trade, and the expeditious reform of the federal regulations impeding the flow of humanitarian goods to the people of Iraq. Like East Berlin before the airlift, we have heard several official and unofficial reports of the horrible starvation of children, medical deprivation of senior citizens, and general devastation faced by ordinary, everyday citizens in Iraq.

It is unfortunate that the President of the United States was forced to use missiles in order to get Iraq to comply with reasonable U.N. requirements. Along with Secretary General Kofi Annan, I am deeply saddened and personally hurt that Saddam Hussein did not give peace a chance. Any coordinated policy regarding Iraq should not further punish the women, children, and senior citizens already wincing beneath the thumb of a dictator. In the long run, Saddam Hussein, like any other dictator, will fade away. It is important and vital that the United States forge a humanitarian pact with the people of Iraq and revisit the effect of our economic sanctions and this recent missile strike on Iraq. Fifty years ago, the people of East Germany hailed the collective wisdom and humanitarian courage of America. Fifty years from now, the Iraqi people, and all citizens of the Middle East, will praise the continued fight for freedom, justice and liberty of the American people.

I support our troops. I support the families of our troops. Along with my constituents, I pray that during this month of the most holy of holidays for so many citizens, the collective peace and love that we all so desperately need envelop our troops, their families, and the people of Iraq.

Rest assured that children, women, and senior citizens will die. Rest assured that some of our troops, who are someone's father or mother, brother or sister, niece or nephew, will never return home. Military action of this, or any, scope requires deep prayer, temperance, and patriotism of our country's leaders.

Along with the citizens of the 15th Congressional District of Michigan, I hope that my colleagues in Congress will join me in prayer for our country, our troops, the Persian Gulf region, and the Iraqi people, who deserve a better leader than Saddam Hussein.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I support our troops in their mission to eliminate Saddam Hussein's ability to use weapons of mass destruction.

Although I prefer a tight, multinational embargo around Iraq to disable Saddam's regime, that path was not taken. At this juncture, with repeated warnings to Iraq by the United States to comply with Iraq's pledge to disarm and with repeated violations by Saddam, we have little choice but to proceed with military action.

For these reasons, I will vote for the resolution before the House of Representatives today to support our troops and to reaffirm that the policy of the United States to drive Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, December 16, 1998, the United States and Great Britain responded to the litany of abuses long propagated by Saddam Hussein, the President of Iraq. Saddam Hussein has repeatedly and consistently violated the terms of the cease-fire agreement that ended the Persian Gulf war in 1991. The terms of that treaty, endorsed by the international community including a significant number of Middle Eastern and Persian Gulf states, called for, among other things, Iraq to dismantle its program for weapons of mass destruction (WMD). Saddam Hussein agreed to these terms and agreed to international inspection, destruction and verification of Iraq's chemical, biological and nuclear weapons.

The creation of the United Nations weapons inspection team, known as UNSCOM was heralded as proof that the international community was living up to its part of the bargain with Saddam Hussein. But Mr. Speaker in the seven years since UNSCOM's creation, Saddam Hussein has been duplicitous and callous by continuing to thwart international efforts to rid Iraq of its capability to produce these WMD. All the while, this Iraqi regime has explored every effort to exploit, cajole and employ chicanery to disrupt UNSCOM's important work. And after reviewing the record, one can only draw the conclusion that Saddam Hussein was never serious about giving up his WMD program. He has violated countless U.N. resolutions and obstructed weapons inspections ad infinitum.

Even after Iraq's defeat by coalition forces in 1991, Hussein was biding his time to regain regional hegemony and hold hostage the world community. Saddam Hussein has shown through out his time in power that he is the archetypical rogue leader akin to a gangster of the 1920s. He has gassed his own people, launched ballistic missiles at Israel and Saudi Arabia, invaded a sovereign nation, murdered scores of his political enemies, terrorized minority Shiites and Kurdish civilians and embarked on a seven year campaign that is resulting in the mass starvation of thousands of Iraqi citizens. In short, he has turned the Iraqi nation, one with a proud people and ancient history, into an international pariah state.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in strong support of House Resolution 612, our men and women in

uniform and our President. While this necessary action is being conducted as we speak, this is not a time to rejoice, or strike up the bands, or begin to celebrate. This difficult decision was one of last resort, precipitated by the violation of commitments made by Saddam Hussein. If anyone doubts that this course of action is necessary, they have not been paying attention to the last seven years of broken promises.

Moreover, the timing of the attack is being called into question by some pundits and newspapers. But this too is accountable only to Saddam Hussein. It is equally tragic and regrettable that some of our nation's leaders (thankfully only a handful) have questioned the timing of this attack as well. This military action is serious business. The impeachment proceedings are serious business. But both matters before us are governed by the nature of the constitutional process and the unfolding of international events. The only one capable of corrupting these two matters into one, is Saddam Hussein. And his sense of timing should not constrain our freedom of action nor inhibit us from pursuing our moral obligations. For this reason alone, we must remain vigilant to our purpose and unwavering in our task. I am confident that in this distressing moment in our history, the true spirit of our nation will rise to carry out its appointed duty. In this regard, we are unified in our support for our brave servicemen and women. We are proud of the work that they do each and everyday in their selfless sacrifice of protecting our country and fighting for our ideals. May God bless each and everyone of them and their families. And may God bless the President, his advisors, and the United States of America.

Ms. CHRISTIAN-GREEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in voicing my strong support for our men and women in our Armed Forces who have answered their Nation's call to serve in the effort to rid the world of the threat of Saddam Hussein to develop and use weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, our troops deserve our full support and our Commander in Chief does as well. This was a courageous and necessary action by President Clinton and he deserves our unconditional support.

My colleagues, I recall when our country first engaged Saddam Hussein and Iraqi at the start of the gulf war in 1991, my constituents and I were saddened but proud when we learned that a Virgin Islander was among the first casualties. All Americans, no matter where they make their homes, proudly answer the call of their nation to serve when it is necessary for them to do so.

And so I support this resolution today. I support our troops and pray for their safe and speedy return home in this season of peace. And I support our Commander in Chief.

Mr. QUINN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of House Resolution 612, a resolution of support for our men and women of the armed forces during the present engagement with Iraq.

Following the gulf war, Iraq agreed with the Gulf War Alliance and the United Nations requirements that it must cease production of weapons of mass destruction. Iraq has continuously reneged on this agreement and thwarted the efforts of United Nations' arms inspectors.

The presence of chemical and biological weapons poses a serious threat to our national security. In fact, these weapons pose a threat to every nation on earth. Saddam Hussein has proven to be a rogue and reckless tyrant who cannot be trusted. He has shown that he will use these weapons, both on his enemies and his own people.

After learning that our troops engaged Iraq, my thoughts and prayers went out to them and their families. The men and women of our Armed Forces have selflessly defended America's national security interest in the Persian Gulf. We can all be proud of their commitment and loyalty to this country.

During this grave time, our troops should know that Congress and the Nation are unified in support of them.

Mr. GALLEGLY. Mr. Speaker, the flu precludes me from taking part in this important debate on the Floor today. Nevertheless, I support this resolution, which expresses our strong support for the men and women of our military forces in their current action against the brutal regime of Saddam Hussein. This resolution also reaffirms the policy of the United States to support efforts to remove Saddam Hussein from power in Iraq.

Over the past year, Saddam Hussein has been playing this cynical game of failing to fulfill the very inspection agreements which he, himself, signed as part of the peace agreement following his ill-fated invasion of Kuwait. Several weeks ago when Saddam Hussein notified the United Nations weapons inspectors that he was no longer going to cooperate with them and was halting the inspections, the world knew that Saddam was not serious about cooperation and that he was attempting to protect a dangerous arsenal of nuclear, biological and chemical weapons which he intended to use on his neighbors and enemies in the future.

At that time, 6 weeks ago, the U.S. military leadership drafted a plan to resume military air strikes against Saddam's weapons of mass destruction. The President ordered those plans to be executed and the air strikes were given the green light. We all know that at the last minute Saddam backed down and agreed to allow the U.N. inspectors to resume their work and the military strikes were called off.

Many of us in the Congress, and in the country, were disappointed that the President backed down because we all knew that Saddam would not keep his word and that we would once again face down the road the need to strike at his weapons arsenal. Many argued that the failure to respond to Saddam at that time would create a greater threat to the region and to the world and would further embolden Saddam to flaunt his word and create these crises over and over again, betting that no action would ever be taken.

Saddam's refusal last week to again honor his commitments, thus forcing the withdrawal of the U.N. inspection team from Iraq, had to be the last straw. The decision to bomb by the Commander in Chief, with the full support of our Joint Chiefs of Staff, was the correct decision because Saddam through his lack of compliance presented a clear and present danger to the stability of the region and the security of the international community. Last night's air raids despite their curious timing,

represented the kind of decisive action which has been inevitable and unavoidable as long as Saddam felt he could get away with his acts of noncompliance.

Mr. Speaker, Saddam Hussein has proven time and time again that he is intractable. If Saddam had felt he could continue to get away with his actions without incurring any penalty, he seriously miscalculated the will of the people of the United States and that of the international community. As a Member of the International Relations Committee, and as one who has been a leader in support of decisive military action against Saddam Hussein as far back as 1991, I support the decision to take these actions against the regime of what can only be called a tyranny and a menace to society. I support the courageous men and women our military forces in these critical times and I wish them and their families God-speed on this important mission.

Mr. FALOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I join strongly with our colleagues in urging passage of this resolution of support for our men and women in the U.S. Armed Forces now confronting Saddam Hussein in the Persian Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, the Iraqi Government has repeatedly shown contempt for the diplomatic resolution of the crisis created by their nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs. Over the last year, Saddam Hussein has pushed the United States and the International community three times to the brink of war, only to dance away under cover of diplomatic ruses.

With the UNSCOM report issued days ago and Ramadan to begin this weekend, it is clear that the time for diplomacy is over. The Iraqi Government has lied again and U.N. weapons inspectors have been stopped from doing their job.

U.S. and British military forces in the Persian Gulf are now ensuring what diplomacy could not—that Iraq will not threaten the region nor the world with weapons of mass destruction.

I commend President Clinton for making this courageous decision at this very difficult time—knowing opponents at home and overseas would charge him with undercutting the impeachment proceedings.

I don't buy into these charges, as we all know, as does the President, that the impeachment shall continue and the outcome will not change. If anything, his action at this time will only harden the impeachment vote against him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge our colleagues to support the Commander-in-Chief and our Armed Forces in the Gulf that have placed their lives at risk to ensure that nuclear, chemical and biological weapons from Iraq or other rogue nations do not threaten our shores and that of our allies.

Mr. ROEMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution expressing support for U.S. and British air strikes in the Persian Gulf region. We offer our thoughts and prayers to our brave men and women in uniform who are fighting for our national security during our holiday season. I support our troops to be successful and safe, and I support the decision made by the President and our military commanders.

President Clinton provided a targeted and calibrated military response to Iraq's reckless

disregard for United Nations arms inspections and our policy to remove weapons of mass destruction from tyrants like Saddam Hussein. The timing of the air strikes was dictated strictly by national security needs. This was confirmed by defense Secretary William Cohen, CIA Director George Tenet, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs, General Hugh Shelton in a meeting last night. It was the unanimous view of our military and national security advisors that the air strikes were justified and that the timing of this week was critical to the success of the mission in the weeks ahead.

Saddam has repeatedly attempted to erode or violate international standards concerning biological and chemical weapons. He has and is intent on building the most vile weapons in the history of man, weapons outlawed by nearly every country in the world. Saddam Hussein must not go unchallenged. Therefore, I accept the judgment of the President's military and national security advisors, and I will provide all the support I can for our troops while they are engaged in this military endeavor.

The military action initiated yesterday by the United States sends a direct and appropriate message: Iraq must fully comply with the terms of the weapons inspections. We must continue to protect our troops and vital interests in the Middle East and reduce the ability of Saddam Hussein to threaten innocent civilians and his neighbors in the region. I support the intent of yesterday's air strikes and look forward to the safe return of our troops after a successful mission.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the resolution, and of President Clinton's decision to order airstrikes against Iraq.

In 1981, Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin ordered the Israeli Air Force to destroy Saddam Hussein's Osirak nuclear reactor, because of growing evidence that this French-supplied "research reactor" was being transformed into a covert nuclear bomb factory. World reaction to the attack was swift and harsh. The French, the Russians, and even the U.N. Security Council condemned the bombing. The Reagan Administration criticized the raid and temporarily suspended arms shipments to Israel.

But in reality, Israel had done the world an enormous favor. It has set back Saddam Hussein's efforts to obtain weapons of mass destruction by several years.

During the Gulf War, the U.S. and its Allies again targeted Iraq's efforts to acquire nuclear, chemical, biological, and ballistic missile capabilities. In the aftermath of that struggle, international inspectors found clear and convincing evidence of a massive Iraqi program to acquire weapons of mass destruction.

Since that time, one of the fundamental goals of U.S. foreign policy has been to assure that Iraq's weapons of mass destruction capabilities are dismantled, and to prevent Saddam Hussein from rebuilding the capacity to hold the world hostage.

That is what yesterday's air strikes against Iraq were all about. This isn't Wag the Dog; it's Enemy of the State. It's Target the Tyrant.

Does anyone really want the President to give that madman even more time to hide his weapons, fortify his military, and spawn terrorism?

This is a cruel and savage dictator who has already used chemical weapons against both the Iranians and his own people. He fired Scud missiles at innocent Israeli civilians, and he is hellbent on amassing an arsenal of nuclear, chemical, biological, and ballistic missiles so that he can again threaten stability in the Persian Gulf region.

Yes, the President should comply with the consultative provisions of the War Powers Act as he proceeds with this military action. And he has in fact been consulting with the Congressional leadership, as provided for under that Act. But he had no choice but to take a prompt decisive action in this matter.

President Clinton deserves our nation's support in this decision, and the heroic men and women in our armed services who are carrying out his order deserve our support and our prayers. They are engaged in a noble mission, whose objective is no less than to avert the threat of a nuclear holocaust and reaffirm the sanctity of international law.—

Mr. EWING. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of our brave men and women in our armed forces who have answered their Nation's call, and who are now standing tall for the United States of America. In the name of national unity and in the spirit of peace and freedom, I believe this Congress must fully embrace and strongly support the mission currently underway in Iraq.

It must be said that I am troubled by the Administration's failure to consult with Congress before sending our troops into harm's way. A close review of the War Powers Act clearly states that the President must do this before engaging our military in armed action. The fact that this was not done illuminates a subtle shift of power from the legislative branch of government to the administrative branch. In matters as serious as unleashing the might of our military on another country, this shift of power should trouble us all.

It is my deepest hope that this military action has been well planned, will be well executed, and will be brought to a quick and decisive conclusion. The brave men and women who have taken an oath to protect and preserve peace and freedom throughout the world deserve nothing less.

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, yesterday evening the United States launched an attack on Iraq. It is unfortunate that we were forced into such an action. I support the decision to use military force and offer my unequivocal support to the men and women of our armed services. I also offer my prayers for their speedy and safe return.

Saddam Hussein has been given chance after chance to live up to the agreements he made at the end of the Gulf War and time after time refused to comply with that agreement. Last week, Saddam Hussein announced, once again, that he would not cooperate with the United Nations Special Commission's (UNSCOM) attempts to find weapons of mass destruction. The UNSCOM inspection teams are a critical tool in monitoring and preventing Iraq from developing chemical, biological and potentially nuclear weapons. Iraq's refusal to allow those inspectors to do their jobs is a direct threat to the United States, and our allies. Therefore, we cannot sit by while Saddam continually defies the inter-

national community and continues to develop weapons of mass destruction.

By continually refusing to comply with agreements it made at the end of the Gulf War, and again after November's agreement, Iraq has proven itself to be a menace and threat to its neighbors and to the people of the United States. Preventing Iraq's development of weapons of mass destruction is crucial to preserving the safety and well being of all of our citizens and our national security.

It has become crystal clear that Saddam Hussein will not abandon his efforts to develop weapons of mass destruction. We gave Saddam Hussein every opportunity to end hostilities and economic sanctions. All he had to do was comply with the agreement and stop developing weapons of mass destruction. I believe we had no choice but to use military force.

Again, I offer my full and unequivocal support for our men and women in the armed service and pray for their quick return and a speedy end to this conflict.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Mr. Speaker, we are at an interesting juncture in history. We are juxtaposed between great divisions on how to discipline our President and how to demonstrate unanimous support for the men and women of our armed forces as they proceed into armed conflict miles away in Iraq. Make no mistake, that even during these times we live in the greatest country on earth. For even in the fell clutch of circumstance our resolve is clear and our vision is focused. We will not allow Saddam Hussein to build and develop weapons of mass destruction; we will not allow him to continue to circumvent international law; we will not allow him to continue to obstruct and mislead U.N. weapons inspectors as they attempt to locate and inspect weapons sites. We will not allow him to threaten his neighbors; and we will not allow Saddam Hussein to threaten the future of American families and children. We will not allow Saddam Hussein to threaten the new peace in the Middle East and we will stand united against him, no matter the domestic crisis, and mete out the severest punishment that our military resources will allow us. Just as we punish serial killers for their crimes, we will punish this serial promise breaker for his!

I rise to support the President's actions against Saddam Hussein and I rise in unwavering support of our brave and loyal troops who willingly lay their lives on the line for our freedom. We owe it to them to lay down our political differences and stand together in support of the President's decision to initiate military action against Saddam Hussein. These actions are both appropriate and necessary to prevent the rise of a tyrant who is determined to immortalize himself in the world's history books. Saddam Hussein has a record of using chemical and biological weapons against his enemies, both, inside and outside of Iraq. He has launched SCUD missiles against Israel, Saudi Arabia, and other Arab countries. He has used chemical weapons against his Kurdish minority, and if given the opportunity and the means, he would not hesitate to launch an attack against the United States.

We have given the Iraqi leader every opportunity to comply with weapons inspectors. We have warned Saddam that his actions would

be met with the severest of consequences. The President's actions are in the best interest of our country and our children, and he deserves the full support of this House and the American people. We owe this much and more to Lt. Colonel Heidi Brown, the first woman to command an Army air defense battalion, and the rest of our brave soldiers who are risking their lives for our national sovereignty.

I would like to thank the Leadership of the House for setting aside other business to support our Commander in Chief and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of carrying out the military mission in the Persian Gulf. I commend the U.S. troops and I commend the President for carrying out his responsibility as Commander in Chief.

The decision to strike strategic defense locations in Iraq was not made by the United Nations. It was not made by the President. The decision to take military action was made by Saddam Hussein himself. On November 15, Hussein was given final warning by the United Nations and the United States that there would be no more discussion if he stood in the way of U.N. inspectors. When he in fact did so, as detailed in the U.N. inspector's report submitted on December 15, we had no choice but to carry out the military mission in order to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

Those Republicans in Congress who criticize the President by saying he is attempting to delay the impeachment vote are the same Members of Congress who would have accused the President of delaying the vote of the Judiciary Committee had this action been necessary last week. And these are the same Members who would have said the President was trying to delay an impeachment trial if this military mission was ordered 30 days from now.

The bottom line is that we must not allow Saddam Hussein the ability to manufacture and possess weapons of mass destruction. If we do, I have no doubt he will use them on his neighbors and ultimately on the United States.

I strongly support the President's actions and I support our U.S. troops in the gulf.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join my colleagues to express my support for the US troops in the Persian Gulf and the important work they are doing to protect our national security. The President is our Commander in Chief, and he has my support.

The President's military and foreign policy advisors, as well as our allies, unanimously concluded that Saddam Hussein must be stopped now. His nuclear, chemical and biological weapons pose a serious and immediate threat. We cannot sit back and watch while he rebuilds and strengthens his arsenal.

In times like these, the Congress and the leaders of both parties should set aside our differences to support our Commander in Chief, the President, and our Armed Forces. Such ought to be our instincts at this critical moment, and I applaud all those who have risen above partisan debate to support this action by our country.

It is unclear we did in the 1991 Gulf War.

Mr. Speaker, thank you for this opportunity to speak. It is important for Members from all across this country to lend their voices and support for our Nation's efforts to eliminate these weapons of mass destruction. Thank God we have taken on this task.

Mrs. KENNELLY of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of our men and women in the field, and pray for their safety and the completion of this mission. As a former member of the Intelligence Committee, I speak from experience, and familiarity with the evolution of these matters. You are embarked on a mission vital to our national security and the stability of the Middle East region, and you go with the full support of the American people. This mission has been developed and planned over the last several months, and is consistent with the policy requirements set forth by the President and the United Nations in November, keyed on the final notification of noncompliance from the international UNSCOM team.

There are those here who have questioned the timing of this attack. To those, I say we need look no farther than Saddam Hussein himself. Because we live in a free society, our political schedule and debate is not kept secret. There is no secret as to why our membership is gathered here today during this holiday season and able to vote on this resolution today. It is not hard to surmise that the enemies of our state throughout the world, unfamiliar and unversed in the practice of freedom and the expression of liberty, would mistake our spirited and philosophical debate for a disintegration of our collective strength, and choose to capitalize on it. In unity, let us send a clear message of restraint to those who would seek to test our resolve. We do this with this resolution.

To the American people, your courage and support during this time is a credit to your resolve and faith in democracy. There has been much debate about our Constitution over the last several weeks, especially around the separation of our three branches of government. I submit to you a living example of the wisdom of our founders, that while in the throws of partisan and philosophical division gripping this House, the Nation still has the ability to respond quickly and directly to crisis. This is our strength, this is our Constitution, this is our Nation, and the legacy I stand before you to support and protect. The President, our Commander in Chief, and our men and women in the armed services have our complete and unwavering support in their mission.

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this resolution and the heroic men and women who serve in our Nation's Armed Forces.

Even in the midst of a critical domestic debate, we stand firmly united in the face of threats to our interests abroad. Saddam Hussein continues to violate the terms of the agreement that ended the gulf war, and we must contain the threat he poses to the security of the region. Saddam Hussein's proliferation of weapons of mass destruction continues to threaten lives in the Persian Gulf and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, our Armed Forces risk their lives every day to protect American families against threats like that posed by Saddam

Hussein. I would like to take this opportunity to express my heartfelt gratitude for their loyal service. It is critical that our troops have a clear and unequivocal understanding that Congress and the American people are one hundred percent behind them. They deserve nothing less than our full and unwavering support in this and all their endeavors.

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, world peace has been jeopardized because of Saddam Hussein's continued reluctance to cooperate with UN weapons inspectors. In the past 13 months, the United Nations Special Commission on Iraq (UNSCOM) has evacuated from Baghdad, in full or in part, four times. These include an incident in November of 1997, when Iraq refused to allow Americans to participate in UNSCOM, a second time when Iraq refused to grant unconditional access to sensitive sites in February of 1998, and the beginning of the most recent crisis in November of 1998 when Iraq stopped cooperating with UNSCOM until yesterday when Ambassador Butler reports that Iraq was not cooperating with UNSCOM.

When dealing with a dictator as ruthless and unpredictable as Saddam Hussein, that has developed weapons of mass destruction, it is imperative that the United States take a firm stand and refuse to continue to give ground. The information available to us from the previous inspections and intelligence reports show that Iraq is still working diligently to build an arsenal of weapons. It is my firm belief that the military strikes which were launched were necessary to show Iraq that their behavior is unacceptable.

I strongly favor this resolution of support for the men and women of our armed forces in and around the Persian Gulf. This Nation must stand as one, despite politics, when we confront terrorists such as Saddam Hussein.

Mr. POSHARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the concurrent resolution and urge its adoption.

Our moral authority and the military might enforcing that authority exist in large part thanks to the men and women wearing the uniform of the United States of America.

Their voluntary commitment to serving this country, its people and its principles is what makes us strong and capable of taking the action that is currently underway.

We work for peace and for resolution to conflict that puts our men and women in harm's way. And we are eternally thankful for their devotion and sacrifice.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution and commend America's armed forces in Iraq. We must destroy Saddam Hussein's ability to make and use weapons of mass destruction and eliminate his ability to wage war against his neighbors.

Inspectors began their mission to oversee the elimination of Iraq's weapons seven years ago. Since then, Saddam Hussein has repeatedly failed to comply with UN inspection agreements. Iraq has continued to block UNSCOM from inspecting sites, and has restricted UNSCOM's ability to obtain critical evidence. This defiance poses a clear and present danger to countries in the Gulf and people across the world.

In November, the President made it clear that if Saddam Hussein failed to cooperate,

we would strike without warning or delay. The President's advisors informed him that mid-December would be the appropriate time for this mission. Failure to act decisively at this juncture would provide Saddam Hussein with time to protect his weapons and prepare for potential action against him.

The President's decision was based upon the unanimous recommendation of the Vice President, the Secretary of Defense, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of State and the National Security Adviser. Tony Blair, Prime Minister of Great Britain, concurred that now is the time to strike. In the President's address to the American people yesterday, he had "no doubt that left unchecked, Saddam Hussein will use these terrible weapons again." I strongly support the President's decision and believe that we must stand united behind our troops. Our men and women in uniform are putting their lives in danger to protect the interests of the people of the United States and our allies around the world.

Mr. SCARBOROUGH. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Res. 612, a resolution supporting our troops in the Persian Gulf. Despite strong concerns over the timing behind these air strikes, it is imperative that we stand in support of our armed forces. Many troops from my northwest Florida district will be involved in this operation and they deserve the full support of Congress and the American people.

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the men and women of the U.S. armed forces deployed in the Persian Gulf for their professionalism, patriotism, dedication and courage.

As the new millennium approaches, the greatest threat to our national security is the proliferation of biological and chemical weapons. Saddam Hussein's regime has demonstrated again and again its desire to manufacture and use these weapons of mass destruction. We simply cannot allow Saddam the capability and the resources to complete this awful task.

Day in and day out, the men and women of our armed forces perform the vitally important job of protecting our national security. I'm proud of their work, and I am deeply grateful to those who have accepted this challenge in the Persian Gulf. With over 24,000 U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf, we must give our brave soldiers our unequivocal support and encouragement at this difficult time.

We applaud our brave troops and thank them for their service to our country. Our thoughts and prayers are with our troops and their families.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleagues in expressing my unqualified support for our troops as they undertake this important mission. I cannot overstate my admiration for our troops as they put their lives on the line to make the world safer for all. Saddam Hussein is a threat to many nations, as the President made clear last night, and we must make sure that his ambitions are contained and his capabilities limited.

This is a time when Americans must come together. This mission is a logical and justified step in an American policy that began during the Bush Administration. Having been briefed on the incidents that led up to this mission, I have faith that our military and political lead-

ers—those with the best information—have made an appropriate and entirely defensible decision. And I applaud the willingness of the British to join us, which underscores the military and political credibility of the mission.

We must put aside partisan and other divisions now. I agree wholeheartedly with Speaker-Elect LIVINGSTON's decision to postpone the impeachment debate. We need to pause, take in the magnitude of what has been happening, and support our troops. I believe that is what the House is now doing and I hope all Americans will follow suit.

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, anytime young Americans are carrying out our foreign policy with parts of our national security apparatus, Congress should stand in support of them, of the Commander in Chief and of the policy they propound. If anyone disagrees with the policy, it is their duty to speak up in this democracy.

As a member of the National Security Committee, I know what sort of threat is posed by Saddam Hussein's arsenal of terror of the biological, chemical and nuclear sort. He has exploited our biggest weakness, a lack of committed, long-standing allies in the Gulf region. It is important to note the recent diplomatic breakthrough in the Middle East at Gaza, which no doubt reinforced in the minds of our Arab and Jewish friends the good will intended to Gulf states on the part of the United States.

Also, it is of tremendous importance to note that the uniformed services, who have been openly critical of President Clinton and this Administration from time to time, have spoken in unison and with passion about the timing and the need for the strikes at this time. Just as the United States took strong action against terrorism in the embassy bombings in the midst of Congress' impeachment activities, we again move forward unaffected by a domestic partisan squabble in the Congress.

I support the President, the troops and the policy of a long-term commitment to the disarming of the terrorist nation that has been a thorn in the world's flesh for nearly a decade. I commend the President for moving forward on U.S. policy around the world when military events dictate.

Mr. KLECZKA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the men and women of our military participating in Operation Desert Fox. Their willingness to risk their lives defending our Constitution and freedom is the highest form of patriotism.

Saddam Hussein has stood in the way of allowing the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) to conduct their inspections that were mandated in the 1991 cease-fire one-too-many times. He has continued to break promises and put the people of Iraq in harm's way. On November 14, Saddam was given his last chance to resume full cooperation as a condition of the 1991 cease-fire. Nonetheless, Iraq has blocked the United Nations Special Commission (UNSCOM) from inspecting suspect sites and restricted its ability to obtain necessary evidence. Iraq has failed to cooperate. His actions have jeopardized the security and stability of the Persian Gulf that our troops fought so hard for in 1991. This is simply unacceptable. Saddam has now run out of chances.

The President is completely justified in his use of force. The leaders he depends on to

advise him on national security matters, the Secretary of Defense, the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Secretary of State, and the National Security Advisor, have unanimously endorsed not only the use of force, but the timing of the attack as well. Furthermore, this attack was in coordination with the British military. The credibility of the United Nations as a peace-keeping organization is predicated on the ability of its members to enforce its mandates.

But let's not lose sight of the most important reason we are on the floor today: to recognize the bravery of our soldiers. What our troops are doing is very dangerous and extremely important. It is not us who honor them with this resolution, it is they who honor us with their service. Their readiness, skill, and courage that they have demonstrated and continue to demonstrate are a credit to the great military tradition of this nation. It is that tradition that we are supporting.

I want to express my most heartfelt appreciation to the troops and their families for their tremendous sacrifice and my most sincere hope that this conflict will be over soon so our men and women serving in the Persian Gulf will celebrate safe and blessed holidays at home.

Mr. LAHOOD. I rise in support of House Resolution 612, a resolution of support for the men and women in uniform. They have been called upon to once again "check" Saddam Hussein's refusal to comply with world demands that he stop the mass production of chemical weapons.

Mr. Speaker, after learning that the U.S. military forces had engaged enemy forces, my prayers and undeniable support went out to them and their families. For years, they have selflessly defended America's national security interests in the Persian Gulf at great personal sacrifice. All Americans can be proud of the way our troops have performed. They are a credit to our nation and an inspiration to us all. Regardless of the questions raised by the unique circumstances, Mr. Speaker, it is important that our troops know that Congress and the nation are behind them.

The challenges to U.S. security posed by Saddam's actions in Iraq is stark. Simply put, the United States cannot allow Saddam to continue to frustrate the efforts of the international community and to rebuild his weapons capabilities. Doing so would again allow him to threaten his neighbors, U.S. friends and allies in the region, and direct U.S. interest.

Whatever one thinks of the timing of these latest U.S. military strikes against Iraq, we are all unified in support of our service men and women. We are proud of each and every one of them. I urge all my colleagues to support this resolution and urge all Americans to pray for the safety of our sons and daughters, and husbands and wives who are currently in harm's way in the Gulf.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues for their unanimous support.

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of President Clinton's decision to order military strikes against Saddam Hussein and especially in support of our troops in action.

Since committing at the end of the Persian Gulf War to full and open inspections of his

nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons capabilities, Saddam Hussein has repeatedly blocked the work of the United Nations inspectors. Time and again he has refused to turn over key documents and he has continually refused UNSCOM inspectors entry to suspect facilities.

On November 14, Saddam asked for one more chance, and we gave it to him. Once again he reneged on his commitment. Military action is now necessary to stop his efforts to produce weapons of mass destruction.

Our troops engaged in Iraq are doing good, important, and dangerous work. They deserve our prayers and support.

As a member of the National Security Committee, I returned on Tuesday from a trip to visit our troops deployed in the Balkans. I had the opportunity to see first-hand the sacrifices our men and women in uniform make in service to our nation. Americans in the Gulf are now making the ultimate sacrifice and it is our responsibility to be steadfast in our support.

This is not a time for partisan bickering. This is a time when we must come together as a nation in support of our men and women fighting for a just cause.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the resolution and provide their full backing to our fighting men and women in Iraq.

Mr. PACKARD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to rise today in support of our troops in the Persian Gulf. In my mind, there is no more honorable duty than that of our members of the armed services.

Since the close of the Persian Gulf War, Iraq has repeatedly refused to comply with U.N. resolutions concerning its weapons of mass destruction. Saddam Hussein continues to thumb his nose at the United States. Iraq is a threat to both our allies and our troops currently stationed in the region. I have always and will always support military action to contain Iraq's dangerous development of chemical, biological and nuclear weapons. It is time we put a stop to Saddam Hussein and his ludicrous ways.

As a former member of the Navy I understand the commitment and love for country which is needed to serve in our armed services. These soldiers are giving the ultimate level of commitment by defending freedom.

Mr. Speaker, my thoughts and prayers go out to our troops and their families.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of this resolution that expresses our strong and absolute support for the men and women of the U.S. armed forces deployed in the Persian Gulf for their professionalism, patriotism, dedication, and courage. I am deeply grateful to the soldiers and the families of these troops for their contribution to the cause of peace and the national security of the United States. When our troops are engaged in hostilities or are in harms way, we unconditionally support them in the dangerous work that they do to protect the interests of the United States. While the President's timing of this attack is questionable, I leave that question to the best judgment of the American people.

Saddam Hussein is a murderous dictator who cannot be permitted to continue to release his terror on his people and the world. He has repeatedly proven that he cannot be trusted, and Iraq will remain a threat to peace

as long as this dictator remains in charge. The mission by our troops against Saddam Hussein is a just one and it is absolutely necessary, but it should have come months ago.

I am very proud of all the American men and women who currently serve our country in the Middle East. The presence of the greatest fighting force in the world—the United States military—in the Middle East plays a vital role in keeping peace there. These troops have our unwavering support. May God be with each of them as they carry out their task with patriotism and courage.

Mrs. CAPP. Mr. Speaker, as the representative for Vandenberg Air Force Base on the Central Coast of California, I have always supported our servicemen and women and their families. Today, I rise today in strong support of our troops and of this critical mission to protect our national interest and safeguard our global stability.

Yesterday, we entered a new phase in our multilateral campaign to rein in Saddam Hussein's ability to terrorize his people and his neighbors, and to destabilize the Middle East and the international community. There can be no doubt that this action is justified and brought on solely by Saddam's refusal to allow UNSCOM to complete its inspections in a thorough and timely manner. Decisive action was undertaken at precisely the right time to bring about the greatest impact with the least cost.

Hussein's attempts to manufacture chemical, biological and nuclear weapons of mass destruction is well known, and so is his willingness to use them. He must be stopped—by diplomatic measures if possible, but by force if necessary. Only by confronting Saddam can we end his reign of terror which has inflicted untold human suffering on his own people.

Mr. Speaker, this morning I spoke with the commander at Vandenberg to express my support for the selfless work that he and his troops do everyday in the service of this country. This dedication is always brought into sharp focus during times like this, but make no mistake—our military men and women are on the job every day to safeguard our freedom. We owe them a debt of gratitude for their devotion to duty and country which is present everyday and so particularly evident today.

I urge my colleagues to support our troops and their important mission by passing this important resolution.

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to return to Washington, DC, today in time to cast my vote in favor of the House Resolution supporting our military operations and personnel in the current action against Saddam Hussein. The Majority Leadership in the House failed to inform Members of the scheduling of a recorded vote until it was too late for me to catch any flight last night from my district to Washington. I fully support our military service men and women as they carry out their duties in support of President Clinton's order for an air and missile attack of Iraqi weapons-producing and military targets. Now is the time for our nation to support the Commander in Chief who was forced into this decision after United Nations arms inspectors reported that Baghdad continues to obstruct the will and mandate of the U.N.

Again, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on the resolution of support.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of President Clinton's decision to order U.S. naval and air forces to strike at military and government targets in Iraq in response to Saddam Hussein's latest refusal to allow international arms officials to inspect weapons facilities for biological and chemical weapons.

As long as weapons of mass destruction are in Hussein's possession, Iraq poses a deadly threat to security in the already volatile Middle East. In addition, he is capable of wreaking havoc anywhere in the world—including the United States—using only a minimal amount of his chemical/biological stockpile. Let me be clear, allowing Hussein to continue gathering his weapons of mass destruction would have far reaching consequences for the safety of mankind beyond the physical boundaries of the middle east. One only has to see one of the well publicized photos of a field of Kurdish corpses to see an example of the chemical genocide he inflicted on his own people.

Hussein has tested the will of America and the world community one too many times, and now he bears full responsibility for his actions. The terms of the agreement that averted a November air strike were clear: comply or face the consequences. However, Hussein continues to engage in a long pattern of games in hiding Iraq's nuclear and biological warfare capabilities. As long as Iraq plans to continue to defy the United Nations and the world community by attempting to continue to develop weapons of mass destruction in the face of international condemnation, the United States must remain vigilant and ready to act. This strike sends a firm message to Hussein that the United States is not going to tolerate his failure to comply with required weapons inspection obligations any longer. The United States, as leader of the world community, must be prepared to act forcefully to end Iraq's defiance, and I firmly support the use of this force to eliminate Iraq's ability to produce weapons that threaten its neighbors.

Terrorism is the single greatest threat to the United States and its security. We need to stand behind the President's decision when our national security is threatened. The brave men and women of the U.S. Armed Forces deserve our unwavering support and gratitude, and I commend each and everyone one of those brave soldiers carrying out this important mission.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support for the U.S. troops who are bravely carrying out this current action against Iraq. Being deployed and separated from one's country and family is difficult at any time, but especially during the Christmas season. I join millions of Americans and others around the world in praying for their safety during this time.

I also pray the Iraqi people will find a way to create for themselves a government headed by legitimate leaders who can bring them back into the fold of law-abiding nations. Until such change takes place, I fear that the military presence of the United States, Britain, and other nations will have to be maintained at great financial cost.

For several years, President Clinton has submitted to Congress a defense budget in which he refused to include funding for the expensive peacekeeping mission in Bosnia. This

forces Congress to add so-called emergency funding beyond the budget agreement or else seriously damage the readiness of our other military forces by transferring money from their budgets. With the almost certain end of the weapons inspection mission, we face yet another prolonged, expensive deployment of U.S. troops and equipment.

In light of his continued use of military forces for a wide range of missions, I call upon the President to ensure a timely release of all funds in the FY99 defense bills and the one billion dollars included in the omnibus bill for national missile defense. I also ask that he respond in a positive way to the many calls for a defense budget which will meet the demands placed upon our military. We need to support our troops not only in word, but also in deed, by providing the resources they need to do their job.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). All time for debate has expired.

The resolution is considered read for amendment.

Pursuant to the order of the House of today, the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 417, nays 5, answered "present" 1, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 539]
YEAS—417

Abercrombie	Brady (TX)	Cummings
Ackerman	Brown (CA)	Cunningham
Aderholt	Brown (FL)	Danner
Allen	Brown (OH)	Davis (FL)
Andrews	Bryant	Davis (IL)
Archer	Bunning	Davis (VA)
Armey	Burr	Deal
Bachus	Burton	DeFazio
Baker	Buyer	Delahunt
Baldacci	Callahan	DeLauro
Ballenger	Calvert	DeLay
Barcia	Camp	Deutsch
Barr	Campbell	Diaz-Balart
Barrett (NE)	Canady	Dickey
Barrett (WI)	Cannon	Dicks
Bartlett	Capps	Dingell
Barton	Cardin	Dixon
Bass	Carson	Doggett
Bateman	Castle	Dooley
Becerra	Chabot	Doyle
Bentsen	Chambliss	Dreier
Bereuter	Chenoweth	Duncan
Berman	Christensen	Dunn
Berry	Clay	Edwards
Billbray	Clayton	Ehlers
Blirakis	Clement	Ehrlich
Bishop	Clyburn	Emerson
Blagojevich	Coble	Engel
Billey	Coburn	English
Blumenauer	Collins	Ensign
Blunt	Combest	Eshoo
Boehlert	Condit	Etheridge
Boehner	Cook	Evans
Bonilla	Cooksey	Everett
Bonior	Costello	Ewing
Bono	Cox	Farr
Borski	Coyne	Fattah
Boswell	Cramer	Fawell
Boucher	Crane	Fazio
Boyd	Crapo	Filner
Brady (PA)	Cubin	Foley

Forbes	Latham	Redmond
Ford	LaTourette	Regula
Fossella	Lazio	Reyes
Fowler	Leach	Riggs
Fox	Levin	Riley
Frank (MA)	Lewis (CA)	Rivers
Franks (NJ)	Lewis (GA)	Rodriguez
Frelinghuysen	Lewis (KY)	Roemer
Frost	Linder	Rogan
Ganske	Lipinski	Rogers
Gedjenson	Livingston	Rohrabacher
Gekas	LoBlondo	Ros-Lehtinen
Gephardt	Lofgren	Rothman
Gibbons	Lowe	Roukema
Gilchrest	Lucas	Roybal-Allard
Gillmor	Luther	Royce
Gilman	Maloney (CT)	Ryun
Grinch	Maloney (NY)	Sabo
Gonzalez	Manzullo	Salmon
Goode	Markey	Sanders
Goodlatte	Martinez	Sandlin
Goodling	Mascara	Sawyer
Gordon	Matsul	Saxton
Goss	McCarthy (MO)	Schaefer, Dan
Graham	McCarthy (NY)	Schaffer, Bob
Granger	McCollum	Schumer
Green	McCrery	Scott
Greenwood	McDade	Sensenbrenner
Gutierrez	McDermott	Serrano
Gutknecht	McGovern	Sessions
Hall (OH)	McHale	Shadegg
Hall (TX)	McHugh	Shaw
Hamilton	McInnis	Shays
Hansen	McIntosh	Sherman
Harman	McIntyre	Shimkus
Hastert	McKeon	Shuster
Hastings (FL)	McNulty	Sisisky
Hastings (WA)	Meehan	Skaggs
Hayworth	Meek (FL)	Skeen
Hefley	Meeks (NY)	Skelton
Hefner	Menendez	Slaughter
Herger	Metcalf	Smith (MI)
Hill	Mica	Smith (NJ)
Hillery	Millender-	Smith (OR)
Hilliard	McDonald	Smith (TX)
Hinchee	Miller (FL)	Smith, Adam
Hinojosa	Minge	Smith, Linda
Hobson	Mink	Snyder
Hoekstra	Moakley	Solomon
Holden	Mollohan	Souder
Hooley	Moran (KS)	Spence
Horn	Moran (VA)	Spratt
Hostettler	Morella	Stabenow
Houghton	Myrick	Stark
Hoyer	Nadler	Stearns
Hulshof	Neal	Stenholm
Hunter	Nethercutt	Stokes
Hutchinson	Neumann	Strickland
Hyde	Ney	Stump
Inglis	Northup	Stupak
Istook	Norwood	Sununu
Jackson (IL)	Nussle	Talent
Jackson-Lee	Oberstar	Tanner
(TX)	Obey	Tauscher
Jefferson	Olver	Tauzin
Jenkins	Ortiz	Taylor (MS)
John	Owens	Thomas
Johnson (CT)	Oxley	Thompson
Johnson (WI)	Packard	Thornberry
Johnson, E. B.	Pallone	Thune
Johnson, Sam	Pappas	Thurman
Jones	Parker	Tiahrt
Kanjorski	Pascrell	Tierney
Kaptur	Pastor	Torres
Kasich	Paxon	Towns
Kelly	Payne	Trafficant
Kennedy (MA)	Pease	Turner
Kennedy (RI)	Pelosi	Upton
Kennelly	Peterson (MN)	Velázquez
Kildee	Peterson (PA)	Vento
Kilpatrick	Petri	Visclosky
Kim	Pickering	Walsh
Kind (WI)	Pickett	Wamp
King (NY)	Pitts	Waters
Kingston	Pombo	Watkins
Kleczka	Pomeroy	Watt (NC)
Klink	Porter	Watts (OK)
Klug	Portman	Waxman
Knollenberg	Poshard	Weldon (FL)
Kolbe	Price (NC)	Weldon (PA)
Kucinich	Pryce (OH)	Weller
LaFalce	Quinn	Wexler
LaHood	Radanovich	Weygand
Lampson	Rahall	White
Lantos	Ramstad	Whitfield
Largent	Rangel	Wicker

Wilson	Woolsey	Young (AK)
Wise	Wynn	Young (FL)
Wolf	Yates	

NAYS—5

Conyers	McKinney	Sanford
Lee	Paul	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Furse

NOT VOTING—12

Baesler	Manton	Sánchez
DeGette	Miller (CA)	Scarborough
Doolittle	Murtha	Snowbarger
Gallegly	Rush	Taylor (NC)

□ 1300

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.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SANCHEZ. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall vote 539, I was unavoidably detained with business in my district. Had I been present I would have voted "aye."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. SNOWBARGER. Mr. Speaker, the system for alerting Members of a pending vote was not in operation when the vote was called on H. Res. 612, to express Congressional support for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are conducting operations against Iraq. I strongly support our troops and support this resolution. I would have voted "yes" on this measure.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

The SPEAKER. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from South Carolina?

There was no objection.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, we will continue to work on this whole subject of the schedule for the remainder of the day and ensuing. I know Members on both sides of the aisle are very anxious about this schedule, and let me just suggest that we will need to perhaps put the House into recess for an hour.

We will continue with our meeting and our negotiations with the minority, and hopefully within the hour we can return with an announcement of what the schedule will be for the remainder of this day, this week, and that time ensuing.

Mr. Speaker, I should encourage Members to stay close to their offices.

We would like to, on behalf of all the Members, be able to give you definitive word within that hour time period, and at that point, of course, each and every Member can follow up as they and their family's needs dictate.

If I may ask the indulgence of the Chamber, that we take that recess, come back within the hour, and make that announcement.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would say to the gentleman from Texas, the majority leader, let me just state from the perspective of many on this side of the aisle, and I assume some even on the gentleman's side of the aisle, that we would look down upon any activity in this body to go forward with impeachment while American men and women are engaged in armed conflict.

I hope in your deliberations, I hope in your deliberations, that you consider the message that that will send to people around the world, and more particularly, those who are fighting on behalf of this country.

Mr. ARMEY. I thank the gentleman from Michigan for his advice.

RECESS

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1457

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) at 2 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING QUESTION OF PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a resolution which raises a question of the privileges of the House. The form of the resolution is as follows:

Whereas rule IX of the Rules of the House of Representatives provides that questions of privilege shall arise whenever the rights of the House collectively or the Members individually in their representative capacity are affected;

Whereas under the precedents, customs, and traditions of the House pursuant to rule IX, a question of privilege has arisen in cases involving the constitutional prerogatives of the House and of Members of the House; and

Whereas the House is prepared to consider a resolution impeaching the President, and

the Delegate to the Congress from the District of Columbia seeks to assert the constitutional prerogative to cast a vote in the consideration of the resolution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved,

SECTION 1. PROVIDING VOTE FOR DELEGATE FROM THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA IN CONSIDERATION OF PRESIDENTIAL IMPEACHMENT RESOLUTIONS.

Pursuant to section 2 of article I of the Constitution and the twenty-third article of amendment thereto granting the people of the District of Columbia the right to vote in presidential elections, the Delegate to the Congress from the District of Columbia shall be permitted to cast a vote in the House of Representatives in the same manner as a member of the House in the consideration by the House of any resolution impeaching the President or Vice President of the United States.

SEC. 2. EFFECTIVE DATE.

Section 1 shall apply with respect to any resolution impeaching the President or Vice President of the United States that is considered by the House of Representatives after the adoption of this resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) will appear in the RECORD at this point. The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

□ 1500

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD). Without objection, the gentleman from Texas is recognized for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I asked for this 1 minute for purposes of discussing the calendar for the remainder of the week.

Mr. Speaker, of course, as we all know, we have been called back to Washington in this session late in the year for the purpose of considering House Resolution 611. There is, of course, a uniform agreement across the country and between both sides of the aisle, as well as the White House, that the Congress fulfill this constitutional responsibility as soon as possible. We have been called upon to do so on so many times. And so, Mr. Speaker, you were quite right to call us back to take this up.

As you know further, Mr. Speaker, prior to your calling us back to town and prior to our taking up this resolution, we became engaged in hostile activities with Iraq. The House, quite appropriately, yesterday made the decision that we would devote today to a time where we would give deference to that activity and give or pay our respects and our tribute, exhibit our support for our troops in that activity. I am very gratified to tell you, Mr. Speaker, that it has been a very broad based bipartisan tribute to our troops and pledge of support to our troops' activity, but as those troops are engaged now, even now, defending the freedoms of this great Nation and the Constitution of this Nation, they have a right to know that the work of the Nation goes forward.

In consideration of this it is our intention, Mr. Speaker, to begin consideration of House Resolution 611 at 10 o'clock tomorrow morning. Should we do so under the regular order of the House, as has been the basis by which we have considered each resolution of impeachment brought to the House ever in the history of the Nation, there would be within the rules of the House that have prevailed for the last 200 years only a very limited time for debate. All of us in this body on both side of the aisle feel that that limited period of time is insufficient. Consequently we have worked very hard trying to reach an agreement by which we might have had a unanimous consent request to extend that time of debate. Had we been able to come to agreement on unanimous consent, we would have been able to proceed tomorrow at 10 o'clock, debate the resolution from 10 o'clock to 4 o'clock Saturday morning, giving all Members an opportunity to express their point of view on the matter. The debate would have been equally divided between the chairman, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), of the Committee on the Judiciary. On Saturday, 9:30 a.m., there would have been a quorum call, and at 10 a.m. there would have been a period of wrap up speeches for approximately one-half hour. After that, the minority would have offered a motion to recommend, perhaps, which would have been their right, and we would have allowed 10 minutes of debate on that motion for both sides, and we would have tried to complete this important work on Saturday afternoon so that in fact the need of this Nation for this to be completed would have been fulfilled.

Unfortunately, we are not able to gain that unanimous consent agreement, and therefore we must proceed at the outset tomorrow under the regular order with the limited time. We will between now and 10 a.m. tomorrow work diligently with the minority to try to find perhaps another agreement

that might be able to in an orderly fashion extend the debate time in the interests of all Members wanting to participate. If we are not able to get that, there are prerogatives that rest with us by which, perhaps, we might even still be able to, and certainly the majority is willing to use those prerogatives to extend the debate time for a matter of this consequence.

I am presuming that the debate would go in an orderly manner with a demeanor that befits the stature of this great legislative body. We would exercise those prerogatives on behalf of all Members, but, as it stands now, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that we must proceed tomorrow morning at 10 a.m., and we must proceed under the regular order of the House.

As I have said before, we will do everything we can on behalf of all Members wishing to participate to find some manner either by agreement and unanimous consent or by that exercise of the prerogatives of the body available to us under the rules of the House to afford more Members an opportunity to participate in this debate.

So that being the case, Mr. Speaker, it is my duty to inform Members that we will proceed tomorrow at 9 a.m. under regular order, and we will do so with the hope that perhaps we can extend this debate time to some reasonable measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and Speaker-elect.

Mr. LIVINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the distinguished majority leader yielding to me, and I would hope that the Members of the minority might reconsider their position on this unanimous consent request because I think it is a reasonable one which would afford all Members the opportunity to discuss this very important subject. I think the concerns of the minority will be expressed by the distinguished minority leader shortly, and anticipation of his argument is that we are carrying on this activity at the same time as our troops are in the field, and that is true. For that very reason we adjourn today, canceled our plans to bring the issue of impeachment before the floor of the House today, as was planned and which was the reason that all Members are here at this time solely because the President has deployed the troops as recently as yesterday evening.

Mr. Speaker, I had the opportunity of speaking with the President yesterday, the day before and today, and I understand that the initial reports are that our troops are doing an outstanding job. Our hearts and best wishes and prayers go with all the troops, and may they all return safely and sound having completed their mission in a full and successful manner. But in order for the

House to simply close down its constitutional responsibility and its role in compliance with its agreement under both Republican and Democrat resolutions back in August or September when we were dealing with the Committee on the Judiciary prospective report, the fact is that we really must go forward tomorrow.

When the Special Counsel had concluded his business and made his recommendations to the Committee on the Judiciary and the referrals were made by this House by a vote of virtually almost all of the Members of the House to send the matter to the Committee on the Judiciary, virtually all Members said that if we have got to have this investigation, and admittedly it is not popular among many Members; if we have got to have this investigation, it should be completed by the end of the year. The Democrat resolution called for that, the Republican chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary said it was his intention to complete by the end of the year.

As a personal matter, I would like to finish it this year, and I can tell my colleagues that the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGRICH) would rather not have it as the last item of his role as Speaker of the House.

This is a terribly unpopular measure. No one wants to deal with impeachment except that it is before us and we must deal with it, and the question is when we deal with it. Do we just anticipate that the troops in the field will complete their business by Ramadan or by a time certain or by Tuesday or by Christmas Day or by New Year's Day or by 2 weeks into January? How do we assess when that mission is going to be complete? There is no way to know when the troops will have completed their mission. There is no way to know whether or not Saddam Hussein in his mindless self absorption decides to lash out at American troops, at British troops, at Kuwait, at his neighbors anywhere in the Middle East. We cannot anticipate what Saddam Hussein will do, and yet we cannot refrain from advancing the people's business under this critical issue.

This is an issue of impeachment which has not been before this body in 120 years, if I recall correctly. Excuse me, with one exception. That was Richard Nixon. The committees entertained impeachment proceedings of Richard Nixon, and that happened at the end of the Vietnam War when troops, American troops, were deployed in the field in Vietnam, and yet the Democrat Congress at the time undertook the responsibility of impeaching Richard Nixon, but he resigned.

When President Bush called upon the majority of the Members of the House of Representatives and the Senate to support him in his efforts to deploy troops to Desert Storm to combat Saddam Hussein just several years ago,

fact is the troops were in the field weeks at a time. They prepared for months in order to accomplish Desert Storm, and then were actually in the field for many weeks. The Congress never wavered, the Congress never slowed down, the Congress conducted its constitutional responsibility, engaged in its activities while the troops were in the field.

And so we find ourselves in the waning days of the Calendar Year 1998 with the Judiciary chairman having committed that we would finish our business on this unpopular, undesirable issue before the end of the calendar year with virtually all of the Democrat members of the Committee on the Judiciary and virtually all of the Members of the House with some exceptions claiming that they wanted to complete this business by the end of the year, not let it drag on incessantly, not force the country to suffer under a cloud of impeachment. How often we hear the arguments now that if we impeach this President, that the cloud of impeachment will hang over the country into the weeks and months ahead as the Senate conducts deliberations.

Let us not proclaim or prolong the harm to the country by hanging this issue out in this body. Let us do our business. Yes, there are people outside the Capitol demanding action in one form or another. People are calling in and jamming our switchboards by demanding that we take action on one side or another. Let us disregard the outside influences and do our constitutional responsibility, which is to present the case of impeachment, and if a majority of the Members by their own consciences wish to vote for or against that issue of impeachment, let them cast their votes without pressure, without pressure from the majority, without pressure from the minority, without pressure from the White House. Let us debate the issue, let them cast their votes, do our constitutional responsibility, live up to exactly the principles for which our young people in the Armed Services are risking their lives at this very moment, and adjourn this 105th Congress, and send the issue to the United States Senate if it passes and let it die if it does not.

I urge my colleagues, reconsider the motion that was going to be promoted and promulgated by the majority leader. It provides for an orderly debate, it provides for us to engage in this issue without undo harangue, it provides for Members not to avoid the issue by procedural harangues and folderol, it allows us to face the issue head on. If it is meritorious it will pass, and if it is not, it will fail. We can go home and understand that we have done our constitutional responsibility, and the rest is either in our colleagues' hands or in God's hands or in the President's hands, but it will be simply ended for us.

I urge the minority leader to reconsider the position on the unanimous consent request.

□ 1515

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, if I may reclaim my time just very briefly for one final point; and prior to that point, let me thank the gentleman from Louisiana for his comments. They were well taken.

Mr. Speaker, just this morning in the Oval Office of the White House, the President of the United States was asked with respect to the engagement of American military in Iraq. I quote: "Would it undercut your authority if the House opens the impeachment debate during this operation?"

The President's response, Mr. Speaker, was "No."

FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, first, the minority respects the right of the majority to decide the agenda and decide when we will vote on important matters like the one that is to be before us tomorrow. The minority also wants debate and wants as much debate as we can have so that Members can express their views on this very important subject. The minority also wants this to be completed this year if at all possible. We have said that over and over again. I agree with those views.

But I must say that we strongly object to this matter coming up tomorrow or the next day or any day in which our young men and women in the military are in harm's way protecting the interests of the people of the United States.

I would simply say the reason we believe that and we believe it strongly is that we think, we must think, not only of how this activity will be received by Members or other Americans around the country, we believe we have got to also look at how Saddam Hussein will perceive the idea and the information that, while he is under physical attack by the United States and its people, we are having a debate in our House of Representatives to remove the Commander in Chief from his office. I do not think we can assume that Saddam Hussein understands all the nuances and all the facts surrounding this debate and this activity.

We also have to ask how this will be received by the Russians, how it will be received by the British, how it will be received by the French, the Chinese, and people all across this world, that we are seeking to ally ourselves with or to at least get their understanding and their help and their cooperation as we go through this very difficult activity.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield at that point?

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from Missouri.

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, I think more important to that, if I can comment on the remarks of the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), it is how the sailors, marines, airmen, and the soldiers would receive this.

Who would think of removing General Schwarzkopf in the middle of Desert Storm? We are talking about taking up a motion to remove the Commander in Chief of the troops who are actively engaged in a military effort, to remove him during a military crisis of the United States of America.

We have come back at other times in this Congress, at the end of the year, when there is no conflict, and I say this not to be of help to the President, but to be of assistance to the morale and to the steadiness of the young men and young women who are engaged in this. I think we really ought to rethink taking this matter up during this military crisis that we are in.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, I would sum up; and I know we have one or two other speakers who want to speak. Let me just put it this way: We have had a lot of partisan rancor in the years past, and that always is part of a political body like this.

But I want to say to my friends in the Republican Party in the majority, I feel very strongly that this is a high moment for the House of Representatives. I feel strongly that we must perform at a high level. I hope we can. I also hope that there is not partisan rancor in this debate on impeachment, because we have a high duty and responsibility to carry forward.

I hope and pray that we could have this debate when it will not be misperceived by Saddam Hussein or by somebody else in the world that we have to depend upon. I ask the majority to reconsider its decision, its legitimate decision to hold this debate while our troops are in the field.

I know that Members may feel that there is inconvenience in waiting here until this military action is finished tomorrow or the next day or the day after that. I would like us all to think of the inconvenience that our young people are undergoing, the danger that they face, and how they will see this action and perhaps misperceive what is happening in their House of Representatives.

I want them to see nothing from us but support and unity of purpose at this time of danger in their lives.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GEPHARDT. I yield to the gentleman from Rhode Island.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman brings up a very important point. I would like

to honestly ask the majority leader to answer it.

As a member of the Committee on National Security, we get briefings constantly on intelligent reports and the implications of United States foreign policy around the world. It is hard for me to believe for one moment that, if this House engages in impeachment debate tomorrow while the bombs are being dropped and our men and women in uniform are actively engaged in a wartime activity, that we do not invite some action on the part of our enemy in this war to take advantage of this situation at the cost of the lives of men and women in uniform.

I would ask the gentleman whether he has gotten a full briefing from George Tenet, the Director of the CIA, to give us some satisfaction that, if we embark on this precarious road, that we are not putting in jeopardy the lives of our men and women in uniform.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), the majority leader.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the minority leader for yielding to me.

If I might just make a quick response to the gentleman's comments. Mr. Speaker, I believe the Nation has fully well understood the schedule that was prepared for this week and announced for this week.

The President certainly must have known about this. The President must have weighed that. Indeed, I think, by press reports, it is clear that he did weigh that matter as he made the decision to engage in this effort in Iraq.

When he made that decision, knowing full well that this debate might be happening at this time, he very likely addressed in his own mind the question: Can I effectively complete this mission under those circumstances? Indeed, he must clearly have concluded he can; and perhaps that is why he felt so confident this morning when asked in the Oval Office: "Would it undercut your authority if the House opens the impeachment debate during this operation?" The President replied, "No. I think that, first of all, I am going to complete this mission."

He clearly understands that, as the Commander in Chief and the President of the United States, he has the ability to complete his mission. He clearly understands that we, too, have our ability to complete our mission.

One of the wonderful things about a democracy that perhaps Saddam Hussein may never be able to understand is different, important missions can be carried out by different branches of the government simultaneously at peace and with decorum and with effectiveness and with conclusion.

That, ladies and gentlemen, is why our democracy is so wonderful and the message that our men and women in the field fighting should have the right to see; that as we engage in conflict,

democracy does not stop in America, and, therefore, it is all the more worth our fight and our risk.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR).

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding to me. I would like to reference the remarks that were made by the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the Speaker-elect, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON).

The gentleman from Louisiana said let us disregard the outside influence. I would suggest that, as a body, when we are dealing with the two most profound questions this institution could ever deal with, sending our young men and women into combat and deciding the fate of a President, that the country has a right to be involved and involved intimately in those decisions, and that we ought not to disregard their voice, disregard the election results, disregard, as the distinguished leader has just said, the minority leader, the effects it will have on 24,000 men and women who are engaged in combat at this very hour.

It would be a grave mistake to go forward with this vote while our Nation is engaged in military action. I cannot believe that we are even having this debate. It was totally inappropriate, if I might say, for some in the Republican leadership, to call for the President's resignation when he was trying to bring peace just this last week in the Middle East. So it should not surprise us that this decision would flow from that.

Our angst about moving forward rests on another pillar; and that is the inability of this side of the aisle to have the chance to offer a reasonable alternative, a censure alternative which the majority of Americans now support. It is unfair. It is wrong. There is something about this whole process that shows a lack of judgment, a lack of proportionality, a lack of common sense.

We have time to reach some resolution on these important questions before we engage in the debate. But I think it behooves us all to take a step back, to take a deep breath.

My goodness, if Bob Dole and Jerry Ford could offer a way out of this mess through the censure resolution, why cannot we have that choice on the floor? Why is that fundamental choice supported by the majority of the people in this country being denied to us on the most fundamental question that we could be dealing with in this Congress?

So I just would ask the distinguished chairman of the Committee on Appropriations and the Speaker-elect to reconsider the path that I think we are about to follow regretfully tomorrow; to pause. There will be time to have this debate. It will, I suspect, be before

the end of the year. But my sense, it makes no sense, to go forward when our young men and women are under arms.

Mr. GEPHARDT. Mr. Speaker, if I can reclaim my time and conclude, I would simply ask again in an earnest way, in a heartfelt way, that the majority would consider what we have said about doing this debate and taking this under consideration while our young men and women are in harm's way and also consider the wisdom of denying an alternative motion of censure when this debate takes place.

We feel that both of these requests are reasonable and make common sense, and we make them with respect, and we make them with heartfelt feeling among most of the Members on this side.

We appreciate the opportunity to communicate this with the majority. We feel this is a moment of great responsibility for the House of Representatives. We want nothing more than all of the House and all of its Members to bring praise on ourselves as an institution, that we carry out these grave responsibilities in the best possible way for the American people.

FURTHER LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY) is recognized for 1 minute. There was no objection.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I do have a couple of Members that have been anxious to speak. With the indulgence of the minority, I would like to yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. JOHNSON) for brief remarks.

□ 1530

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to comment on several remarks that have been made here. But before I do, let me just say that our fighting men are fighting for our constitutional privilege to do just exactly what we are doing here today. It is the Constitution that we are following. That is why we are doing it.

The remark was made that we did not remove any generals during a war. I kind of recall MacArthur was removed by a Democrat administration during Korea, which I fought in. It did not bother the war effort at all.

I also remember when I was a POW in Vietnam that there were people on the Democrat side that called for our President's impeachment. That process may have started. I am not sure how that happened, but some of those people may even be here today.

When our president, George Bush, attempted to get involved in Desert Storm, every single Democrat leader voted against it.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, may I just intercede with a thought. I have a couple of other Members here who have been waiting. They want to speak. I would hope, and I am sure that we all would agree that we perhaps could allow these Members to speak, but perhaps we could be brief and then conclude the day's business.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ARMEY. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I voted with the President. I did not vote against him. I voted with the President on that matter.

Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will yield further, let me just make another point. I think the President has just said that this military action that is currently going on could be opened, so we do not know when it is going to end.

Furthermore, most of the veterans' organizations around this country support us continuing. I have not seen a war in the past of any sort, whether it is a limited conflict or a total out war, that has stopped the Congress of the United States from doing its business. We can look back in almost any case, even the Civil War, where they were on the doorsteps of this building.

I would suggest that it is important that we carry out the responsibilities of this Congress under the Constitution of the United States and get on with it.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, who was a prisoner of war for 7 years, much of which was spent in solitary confinement. I know from previous discussion during those difficult days he was sustained by his knowledge that God was in his heaven and Congress was in session doing the Nation's business.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. DUNCAN HUNTER), another gentleman who served in Vietnam.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the majority leader for yielding to me.

Let me just say, it is something that happens regularly here in the House that two parties, both in good faith, can look at the same facts and come to totally different conclusions. I have come to a totally different conclusion from the esteemed minority leader and others who feel that troops will be demoralized if we do not stop this constitutional process. I think just the opposite. From talking with them and with a number of people who are veterans, I have come to the conclusion that they will be demoralized if we do stop this constitutional process.

There is one term that I think is common to both this House and to our military. That term is duty. We refer to it often, and it is clear now that our uniformed people are carrying out

their duty in difficult circumstances to defend the liberties and security of this country. They are doing that so we can perform our duty. Our duty is to carry out the Constitution.

With respect to other nations that are watching this process around the world, they have been watching the Committee on the Judiciary on television for the last many months. We do not hide our internal problems and our internal debates. They are always out there for the world to see. I think that is a sign of strength, not a sign of weakness.

I think we would be sending the message to not only our military people but to others around the world. If we hold up on our constitutional duty because of this strike, then we are sending the message that somehow there are political implications in the timing of this strike. I think it helps the President's authority and I think it helps the credibility of this House, and I think it helps the morale of our armed services if we continue to do our job.

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I think we have had a very good example of the kind of debate we might be able to have and the kind of debate we should have.

I want to personally, if I may, thank the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. GEPHARDT), the minority leader, and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR), the minority whip. I would like to thank the Speaker-elect, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. LIVINGSTON), and the other Members who have spoken for their demeanor, their presentation, the professionalism by which we have had this sampling of the kind of important debate we should have and can have tomorrow.

It is my hope that we can reach agreement, or by other parliamentary matters available to us we can find a way to extend an orderly, serious debate of such a grave nature on such a grave matter tomorrow. Again, let me that all the gentlemen who participated.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that concludes any proceedings for today. Tomorrow we will proceed at 9 a.m. under the regular order for debate time of 1 hour. If perhaps we can find a better way to extend that, it is my hope we can do so.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ARMEY. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 36 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 18, 1998, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XXIV, executive communications were taken from

the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

11864. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Regulations Under the Perishable Agricultural Commodities Act (PACA); Renewal of License [Docket No. FV98-359] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11865. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Mexican Fruit Fly Regulations; Addition of Regulated Area [Docket No. 98-082-3] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11866. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Tuberculosis Testing of Livestock Other than Cattle and Bison [Docket No. 97-062-2] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11867. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Importation of Fruits and Vegetables [Docket No. 97-107-2] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11868. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Importation of Coffee [Docket No. 97-011-2] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11869. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Two-Part Documents for Commodity Pools [17 CFR Part 4] received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11870. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Adverse Registration Actions by the National Futures Association With Respect to Agricultural Trade Option Merchants and Their Associated Persons and Applicants for Registration in Either Category—received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11871. A letter from the Administrator, Rural Development, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Electric Program Standard Contract Forms (RIN: 0572-AB42) received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11872. A letter from the Director, Procurement and Property Management, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Uniform Procedures for the Acquisition and Transfer of Excess Personal Property (RIN: 0500-AA00) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11873. A letter from the Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Relaxations to Substandard and Maturity Dockage Systems [FV99-989-1 IFR] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11874. A letter from the Administrator, Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Clear Title—Protection for Purchasers of Farm Products (RIN: 0580-AA63) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11875. A letter from the Administrator, Farm and Foreign Agricultural Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—American Indian Livestock Feed Program (RIN: 0560-AF29) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11876. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Fruit from Hawaii [Docket No. 97-005-2] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11877. A letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Cotton and ELS Cotton Crop Insurance Provisions (RIN: 0563-AB62) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11878. A letter from the Manager, Federal Crop Insurance Corporation, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Common Crop Insurance Regulations; Basic Provisions (RIN: 0563-AB69) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11879. A letter from the Deputy Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Uses (RIN: 0596-AB35) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11880. A letter from the Administrator, Marketing and Regulatory Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Colorado; Exemption From Area No. 2 Handling Regulation for Potatoes Shipped for Experimentation and the Manufacture or Conversion Into Specified Products, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11881. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Closure of Harry S Truman Animal Import Center [Docket No. 98-070-3] received November 17, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11882. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Mediterranean Fruit Fly; Addition to Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 98-083-3] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11883. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Limes and Avocados Grown in Florida; Relaxation of Container Dimension, Weight, and Marking Requirements [Docket No. FV98-911-2 FIR] received November 18,

1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11884. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Relaxation of Quality Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches [Docket No. FV98-916-2 FIR] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11885. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dairy Promotion and Research Order; Amendment to the Order [DA-98-05] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11886. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Kiwifruit Grown in California; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV98-920-3 FIR] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11887. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida and Imported Grapefruit; Relaxation of the Minimum Size Requirement for Red Seedless Grapefruit [Docket No. FV99-905-1 IFR] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11888. A letter from the Regulatory Review Officer, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Domestically Produced Peanuts; Decreased Assessment Rate [Docket Nos. FV98-997-1 FIR and FV98-998-1 FIR] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11889. A letter from the Regulatory Review Officer, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Raisins Produced From Grapes Grown in California; Relaxations to Substandard and Maturity Dockage Systems [FV99-989-1 IFR] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11890. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Combinations for Tobacco Allotments and Quotas (RIN: 0560-AF14) received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11891. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Asian Longhorned Beetle; Addition to Quarantined Areas [Docket No. 98-088-1] received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11892. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Tobacco Warehouses (RIN: 0560-AD92) received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11893. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final

rule—1998 Marketing Quota and Price Support for Burley Tobacco (RIN: 0560-AF18) received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11894. A letter from the Administrator, Farm Service Agency, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—1998 Marketing Quota and Price Support for Flue-Cured Tobacco (RIN: 0560-AF19) received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11895. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York [Region II Docket No. NY29-1-187a; FRL-6193-5] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11896. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Azoxytobin; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300759; FRL 6045-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11897. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Carfentrazone-ethyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300751; FRL 6040-7] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11898. A letter from the General Counsel, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Zinc phosphide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemption [OPP-300760; FRL 6046-1] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11899. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Harpin; Temporary/Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300750; FRL-6040-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11900. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tebufenozide; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300766; FRL-6049-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11901. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Triazamate; Time-Limited Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300702; FRL-6024-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11902. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule—Imidacloprid; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300758; FRL-6045-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11903. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Primsulfuron-Methyl; Extension of Tolerance for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300755; FRL-6041-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11904. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Tebuconazole; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions [OPP-300745; FRL-6036-3] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11905. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Triasulfuron; Pesticide Tolerance [OPP-300700A; FRL-6040-4] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11906. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Organization; Balloting and Stockholder Reconsideration Issues (RIN: 3052-AB71) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11907. A letter from the Administrator, Foreign Agricultural Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Regulations Governing the Financing of Commercial Sales of Agricultural Commodities (RIN: 0551-AA54) received November 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11908. A letter from the Executive Director, U.S. Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Rules of Practice; Final Rules—received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

11909. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report of two deferrals of budgetary resources, totaling \$167.6 million, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 684(a); (H. Doc. No. 105-335); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11910. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to make available \$4.2 billion in previously appropriated emergency funds for the Department of Agriculture, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-338); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11911. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to make available \$732.2 million in previously appropriated emergency funds for the Departments of Agriculture, Defense, Justice, State, Transportation, and the Treasury; the Executive Office of the President; and, Federal Drug Control Programs, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-339); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11912. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to make available \$216,922,000 in previously appropriated contingent funds for the Department of Health and Human Services, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-340); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11913. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his request to make available \$100 million in emergency appropriations for the Department of Transportation, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-342); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11914. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his request to make available \$120.5 million in previously appropriated emergency funds for the Department of Defense, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-343); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11915. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to transfer \$891 million from the contingent emergency fund for Year 2000 (Y2K) compliance to 18 Federal agencies, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-344); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11916. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to make available \$1.2 billion in previously appropriated emergency funds for the Departments of Commerce, Defense, State, and Transportation, the Executive Office of the President, and for International Assistance Programs, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-345); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11917. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to make available \$1.1 billion in previously appropriated emergency funds for the Department of Defense, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-348); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11918. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to make available emergency funding to support trade and investment activity with India and Pakistan in the national interest of the United States, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-349); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11919. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting his requests to transfer \$338 million from the Information Technology Systems and Related Expenses Account for year 2000 (Y2K) compliance to 20 Federal agencies, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1107; (H. Doc. No. 105-351); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11920. A letter from the the Director, the Office of Management and Budget, transmitting the cumulative report on rescissions and deferrals of budget authority as of November 1, 1998, pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 685(e); (H. Doc. No. 105-347); to the Committee on Appropriations and ordered to be printed.

11921. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the National Security Strategy of the United States, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 99-433, section 603(a) (100 Stat. 1075); to the Committee on National Security.

11922. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legislative Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Commander of Air Force Materiel Command is initiating a single-function cost comparison of the Base Supply Functions at Tinker Air Force Base (AFB), Oklahoma, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

11923. A letter from the Chief, Programs and Legislation Division, Office of Legisla-

tive Liaison, Department of the Air Force, transmitting notification that the Commander of Keesler Air Force Base (AFB), Mississippi, has conducted a cost comparison to reduce the cost of the Training Equipment Maintenance and Precision Measurement Equipment Laboratory functions, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2304 nt.; to the Committee on National Security.

11924. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Technology, Department of Defense, transmitting the Selected Acquisition Reports (SARS) for the quarter ending September 30, 1998, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2432; to the Committee on National Security.

11925. A letter from the Director, Office of Administration and Management, Department of Defense, transmitting a report to Congress on the printing and duplicating services procured in-house or from external sources during Fiscal Year 1997, pursuant to Public Law 104-724; to the Committee on National Security.

11926. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Supplement; Reform of Affirmative Action in Federal Procurement, Part II [DFARS Case 98-D021] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

11927. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Adoption of Interim Rules as Final Rules Without Change [48 CFR Parts 209, 213, 219, 225, 231, 235, 236, 252, and 253] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

11928. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Action Reporting—1998 [DFARS Case 98-D009] received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

11929. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Contract Action Reporting—Reform of Affirmative Action [DFARS Case 98-D018] received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

11930. A letter from the Director, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Compensation of Certain Former Operatives Incarcerated by the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (RIN: 0790-AG67) received December 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

11931. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Weighted Guidelines—Federally Funded Research and Development Centers [DFARS Case 97-D025] received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on National Security.

11932. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule—Membership of State Banking Institutions in the Federal Reserve System; International Banking Operations; Loans to Executive Officers, Directors, and Principal Shareholders of Member Banks; Bank Holding Companies and Change in Bank Control;

Rules of Practice for Hearings; and Rules Regarding Delegation of Authority [Regulations H, K, O, and Y; Docket No. R-1021] received October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11933. A letter from the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Organization and Functions, Availability and Release of Information, Contracting Outreach Program [Docket No. 98-18] (RIN: 1557-AB65) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11934. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Affordable Housing Disposition Program covering the period from January 1, 1998 through June 30, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 102-233, section 616 (105 Stat. 1787); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11935. A letter from the Director, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the 1998 annual report on the activities of the Affordable Housing Advisory Board; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11936. A letter from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Activities of Insured State Banks and Insured Savings Associations (RIN: 3064-AC12) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11937. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Federal Home Loan Bank Standby Letters of Credit [No. 98-49] (RIN: 3069-AA61) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11938. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Community Investment Cash Advance Programs [No. 98-48] (RIN: 3069-AA75) received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11939. A letter from the Managing Director, Federal Housing Finance Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Election of Federal Home Loan Bank Directors [No. 98-47] (RIN: 3069-AA55) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11940. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Financial Management Policies; Financial Derivatives [No. 98-116] (RIN: 1550-AB13) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11941. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Electronic Operations [No. 98-119] (RIN: 1550-AB00) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11942. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison Officer, Office of Thrift Supervision, transmitting the Office's final rule—Assessments and Fees [No. 98-118] (RIN: 1550-AB20) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

11943. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting

OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 4068 and S. 414, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

11944. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 6 and H.R. 4382, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

11945. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 3616, H.R. 449, H.R. 930, H.R. 1836 and H.R. 3790, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

11946. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 4060, H.R. 4103, H.R. 4112 and H.R. 4194, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

11947. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 4328, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

11948. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of S. 1718, H.R. 4110, H.R. 1023, S. 1733, H.R. 633, H.R. 4283, S. 391, S. 1693 and S. 2364, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

11949. A letter from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, transmitting OMB's estimate of the amount of change in outlays or receipts, as the case may be, in each fiscal year through fiscal year 2003 resulting from passage of H.R. 1659, H.R. 3796, H.R. 4558, H.R. 2675, H.R. 3687, S. 1333, H.R. 2000 and H.R. 3874, pursuant to Public Law 101-508, section 13101(a) (104 Stat. 1388-582); to the Committee on the Budget.

11950. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Educational Research and Improvement, Department of Education, transmitting a report on the Standards for Conduct and Evaluation of Activities Carried Out by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)—Evaluation of the Performance of Recipients of Grants, Cooperative Agreements, and Contracts (RIN: 1850-AA54) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11951. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule—Standards for Conduct and Evaluation of Activities Carried Out by the Office of Educational Research and Improvement (OERI)—Evaluation of the Performance of Recipients of Grants, Cooperative Agree-

ments, and Contracts (RIN: 1850-AA54) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11952. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Class Exemption Relating to Certain Employee Benefit Plan; Foreign Exchange Transactions Executed Pursuant to Standing Instructions [Prohibited Transaction Exemption 98-54; Application Number D-09643] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11953. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Powered Industrial Truck Operator Training [Docket S-008] (RIN: 1218-AB33) received December 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11954. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Occupational Safety and Health, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule—Permit-Required Confined Spaces [Docket No. S-019A] (RIN: 1218-AA51) received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11955. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Disclosure to Participants; Benefits Payable in Terminated Single-employer Plans [29 CFR Parts 4011 and 4022] received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11956. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Valuation of Benefits and Assets; Expected Retirement Age [29 CFR Part 4044] received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11957. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Payment of Premiums (RIN: 1212-AA79) received December 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11958. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits—received December 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11959. A letter from the Deputy Executive Director and Chief Operating Officer, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule—Allocation of Assets in Single-Employer Plans; Interest Assumptions for Valuing Benefits—received November 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

11960. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Communications and Information, Department of Commerce, transmitting a report to Congress exercising the option to substitute alternative spectrum for the 15 Megahertz (MHz) from the 1990-2110 MHz that the Federal Communications Commission would otherwise be required to reallo-

cate and assign by competitive bidding; to the Committee on Commerce.

11961. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; School Bus Body Joint Strength (National Highway Traffic Safety Administration) [Docket No. NHTSA-98-4662] (RIN: 2127-AC19) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11962. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century; Interim Implementation of the Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program (Federal Highway Administration) [FHWA Docket No. FHWA-98-4317] (RIN: 2125-ZZ07) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11963. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Schedule of Fees Authorized by 49 U.S.C. 30141 [Docket No. NHTSA 98-3781; Notice 2] (RIN: 2127-AH26) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11964. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Lamps, Reflective Devices and Associated Equipment [Docket No. NHTSA 98-4723] (RIN: 2127-AF73) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11965. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revocation of Significant New Use Rules for Certain Chemical Substances [OPPTS-50633A; FRL-6044-6] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11966. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Any Edible Food Commodity Used as a Pesticide; Exemption from the Requirement of a Tolerance [OPP-300749; FRL-6039-5] (RIN: 2070-AB78) received December 1, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11967. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Oklahoma [OK-15-1-7399a; FRL-6183-5] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11968. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans, South Carolina: Approval of Revisions to the South Carolina SIP Regarding Volatile Organic Compounds (VOC) Definition Adoptions [SC-21-1; SC-23-1-9832a; FRL-6197-6] received December 1, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11969. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware and District of Columbia; Revised Format for Materials Being Incorporated by Reference [DE100-2014 &

DC100-1017; FRL-6193-6] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11970. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Interim Final Determination of Correction of Deficiencies in 15 Percent Rate-of-Progress and Contingency Plans; Rhode Island [RI-6987a; A-1-FRL-6192-7] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11971. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; New Hampshire; 15 Percent Rate-of-Progress and Contingency Plans; Vapor Recovery Controls for Gasoline Distribution and Dispensing [NH-7162a; A-1-FRL-6196-1] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11972. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, San Diego Air Pollution Control District and Ventura County Air Pollution Control District [CA 211-0105; FRL-6195-8] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11973. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Kentucky [KY-102-106-9903a; FRL-6192-1] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11974. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [Region VII Docket No. MO-057-1057a; FRL-6197-1] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11975. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Control of Air Pollution from Motor Vehicles and New Motor Vehicle Engines; Modification of Federal On-board Diagnostic Regulations for Light-Duty Vehicles and Light-Duty Trucks; Extension of Acceptance of California OBD II Requirements [FRL-6196-4] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11976. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Source Categories: Organic Hazardous Air Pollutants from the Synthetic Organic Chemical Manufacturing Industry and Other Processes Subject to the Negotiated Regulation for Equipment Leaks; Rule Clarifications; Correction [AD-FRL-6197-8] (RIN: 2060-AC19) received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11977. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmit-

ting the Agency's final rule—Pesticide Worker Protection Standard; Respirator Designations [OPP-00541; FRL-6022-3] received December 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11978. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval of the Clean Air Act, Section 112(l), Delegation of Authority to Three Local Air Agencies in Washington [FRL-6187-8] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11979. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans for Designated Facilities and Pollutants; Illinois; Control of Landfill Gas Emissions from Existing Municipal Solid Waste Landfills [IL173-1a; FRL-6191-1] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11980. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval of Section 112(l) Program of Delegation; Michigan [MI49-01(a); FRL-6189-8] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11981. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Maryland; Approval of Revision to the VOC Rule Governing Automotive and Light-Duty Truck Coating Operations [MD060-3032a; FRL-6183-9] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11982. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans (SIP); Texas: 1990 Base Year Emissions Inventories, 15% Rate of Progress Plans, Contingency Plans, and Motor Vehicle Emission Budgets [TX-80-1-7353; FRL-6173-8] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11983. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Clean Air Act Reclassification; Arizona-Phoenix Non-attainment Area; Ozone; Extension of Plan Submittal Deadline [AZ-001-BU; FRL-6183-7] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11984. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Designation of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes: State of Idaho and the Fort Hall Indian Reservation [ID-21-7001, ID 22-7002; FRL-6185-8] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11985. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans For Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Alabama [AL-048-1-9901a; FRL-6188-9] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11986. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of Missouri [MO 055-1055; FRL-6134-3] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11987. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans and Designations of Areas for Air Quality Planning Purposes; State of Connecticut; Approval of Maintenance Plan, Carbon Monoxide Redesignation Plan and Emissions Inventory for the Connecticut Portion of the New York—New Jersey—Long Island Area [CT051-7209a; A-1-FRL-6182-2] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11988. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances; Correction [OPPTS-50632A; FRL-6042-2] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11989. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Commonwealth of Pennsylvania; Interim Final Determination that Pennsylvania Continues to Correct the Deficiencies of its Enhanced I/M SIP Revision; Extension of Comment Period [PA 122-4078c; FRL-6182-4] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11990. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—National Emission Standards for Hazardous Air Pollutants for Ethylene Oxide Commercial Sterilization and Fumigation Operations [AD-FRL-6192-8] (RIN: 2060-AC28) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11991. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Oklahoma: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions [FRL-6198-9] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11992. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of Maine; Interim Final Determination that Maine has Avoided the Deficiencies of its I/M SIP revision [ME060-7009; A-1-FRL-62034] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11993. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; State of New Hampshire; Interim Final Determination that New Hampshire has Avoided the Deficiencies of its I/M SIP

revision [NH037-7164; A-1-FRL-6203-5] Received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11994. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; South Carolina [SC-035-1-9833a; FRL-6204-1] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11995. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans For Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Tennessee [TN 183-1-9824a; FRL-6204-4] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11996. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans: Washington [WA 67-7142a; FRL-6188-1] received November 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11997. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Arizona: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management [FRL-6178-3] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11998. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Asbestos-Containing Materials in Schools; Financial Decision of State Request for Waiver From Requirements [OPPTS-62155A; FRL-6038-1] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

11999. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule—Michigan: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revision [FRL-6179-7] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12000. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Significant New Uses of Certain Chemical Substances [OPPTS-50627A; FRL-6033-6] (RIN: 2070-AB27) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12001. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of State Plans For Designated Facilities and Pollutants: Georgia [GA-41-9829a; FRL-6187-4] received November 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12002. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Use of Alternative Analytical Test Methods in the Reformulated Gasoline Program and Revision of the Specification for the Mixing Chamber Associated with Animal Toxicity Testing of Fuels and Fuel Additives [FRL-6187-6] re-

ceived November 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12003. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Department's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Pennsylvania; Approval of VOC and NOxRACT Determinations for Individual Sources [SIPTRAX No. PA-4082a; FRL-6194-3] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12004. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; California State Implementation Plan Revision, Santa Barbara County Air Pollution Control District [CA 162-0109; FRL-6194-5] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12005. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and RECORD Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Closed Captioning and Video Description of Video Programming; Implementation of Section 305 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996; Video Programming Accessibility [MM Docket No. 95-176] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12006. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—The Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements For Meeting Federal, State and Local Public Safety Agency Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010; Establishment of Rules and Requirements For Priority Access Service [WT Docket No. 96-86] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12007. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Yuma, Colorado) [MM Docket No. 98-101 RM-9289] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12008. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Gaylord, Michigan) [MM Docket No. 98-107 RM-9288] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12009. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (STEVENSVILLE, Montana) [MM Docket No. 98-115 RM-9292] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12010. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Hum-

boldt, Nebraska) [MM Docket No. 98-110 RM-9311] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12011. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Whitefish, Montana) [MM Docket No. 98-124 RM-9305] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12012. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.303(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Elko, Nevada) [MM Docket No. 98-111 RM-9299] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12013. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Biennial Regulatory Review—Amendment of Parts 0, 1, 13, 22, 24, 26, 27, 80, 87, 90, 95, 97, and 101 of the Commission's Rules to Facilitate the Development and Use of the Universal Licensing System in the Wireless Telecommunications Services [WT Docket No. 98-20] Amendment of the Amateur Service Rules to Authorize Visiting Foreign Amateur Operators to Operate Stations in the United States [WT Docket No. 96-188 RM-8677] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12014. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Twin Falls and Hailey, Idaho) [MM Docket No. 97-131] (RM-9078, RM-9155) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12015. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Las Vegas, New Mexico) [MM Docket No. 98-49] (RM-9248) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12016. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (King Salmon, Alaska) [MM Docket No. 98-139] (RM-9312) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12017. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Chehalis, Washington) [MM Docket No. 97-7] (RM-8947) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12018. A letter from the AMD-Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—

Changes to the Board of Directors of the National Exchange Carrier Association, Inc. [CC Docket No. 97-21] Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service [CC Docket No. 96-45] received November 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12019. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Galesburg, Illinois and Ottumwa, Iowa) [MM Docket No. 97-130 RM-8751] received December 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12020. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Daingerfield and Ore City, Texas) [MM Docket No. 97-253 RM-9198] received December 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12021. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Bunker, Missouri) [MM Docket No. 98-126 RM-9293] received December 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12022. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Linn, Missouri) [MM Docket No. 98-164 RM-9357] received December 8, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12023. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Parts 21 and 74 to Enable Multipoint Distribution Service and Instructional Television Fixed Service Licenses to Engage in Fixed Two-Way Transmission [MM Docket No. 97-217; File No. RM-9060] received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12024. A letter from the AMD—Performance Evaluation and Records Management, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Center and Jacksonville, Texas) [MM Docket No. 98-57] (RM-9251) received November 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12025. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adhesives and Components of Coatings [Docket No. 97F-0428] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12026. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Paper and Paperboard Components [Docket No. 98F-0054] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12027. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F-0292] received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12028. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—General and Plastic Surgery Devices: Reclassification of the Tweezer-Type Epilator [Docket No. 97N-0199] received October 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12029. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers; Technical Amendment [Docket No. 96F-0164] received October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12030. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adhesives and Components of Coatings [Docket No. 98F-0433] received October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12031. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Paper and Paperboard Components [Docket No. 96F-0401] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12032. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Mutual Recognition of Pharmaceutical Good Manufacturing Practice Inspection Reports, Medical Device Quality System Audit Reports, and Certain Medical Device Product Evaluation Reports Between the United States and the European Community [Docket No. 98N-0185] (RIN: 0910-ZA11) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12033. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Labeling: Warning and Notice Statement: Labeling of Juice Products; Correction [Docket No. 97N-0524] (RIN: 0910-AA43) received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12034. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food For Human Consumption; White Mineral Oil, USP [Docket No. 94F-0454] received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12035. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Medical Devices; Investigational Device Exemptions [Docket No. 98N-0394] (RIN: 0910-ZA14) received November 30, 1998, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12036. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Administrative Practices and Procedures; Internal Review of Decisions [Docket No. 98N-0361] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12037. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Drug Labeling; Warning and Direction Statements for Rectal Sodium Phosphates for Over-the-Counter Laxative Use; Final Rule; Stay of Compliance [Docket No. 78N-0361L] (RIN: 0910-AA01) received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12038. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Labeling: Health Claims; Reopening of Comment Period [Docket Nos. 98N-0426, 98N-0427, 98N-0423, 98N-0424, 98N-0419, 98N-0422, 98N-0421, and 98N-0420] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12039. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Internal Analgesic, Antipyretic, and Antirheumatic Drug Products for Over-the-Counter Human Use; Final Rule for Professional Labeling of Aspirin, Buffered Aspirin and Aspirin in combination With Antacid Drug Products; Correction [Docket No. 77N-094A] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12040. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Polymers [Docket No. 96F-0489] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12041. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Tamper-Evident Packaging Requirements for Over-the-Counter Human Drug Products [Docket No. 92N-0314] received December 15, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12042. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Dental Devices; Classification of Sulfide Detection Device [Docket No. 98P-0731] received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12043. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—General Hospital and Personal Use Devices; Classification of the Apgar Timer, Lice Removal Kit, and Infusion Stand [Docket No. 98N-0087] received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12044. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Effective Date

of Approval of an Abbreviated New Drug Application [Docket No. 85N-0214] received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12045. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Quality Mammography Standards; Correcting Amendment [Docket No. 95N-0192] (RIN: 0910-AA24) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12046. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F-0390] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12047. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Office of Policy, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Indirect Food Additives: Adjuvants, Production Aids, and Sanitizers [Docket No. 98F-0292] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12048. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Standard Review Plan for Trial Use For the Review of Risk-Informed Inservice Inspection of Piping—received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12049. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Criticality Accident Requirements (RIN: 3150-AF87) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12050. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Boiling Water Reactor Licensees Use of the BWRVIP-05 Report to Request Relief From Augmented Examination Requirements on Reactor Pressure Vessel Circumferential Shell Welds [NRC Generic Letter 98-05] received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12051. A letter from the Director, Public Health Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—National Institutes of Health Clinical Research Loan Repayment Program for Individuals from Disadvantaged Backgrounds (RIN: 0925-AA09) received November 5, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12052. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Dissemination of Information on Unapproved/New Uses for Marketed Drugs, Biologics, and Devices [Docket No. 98N-0222] (RIN: 0910-AB23) received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12053. A letter from the Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Reports to be Made by Certain Brokers and Dealers [Release No. 34-40608; FR-53; File No. S7-7-98] (RIN: 3235-AH36) received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12054. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, trans-

mitting the Commission's final rule—Regulations of Exchanges and Alternative Trading Systems [Release No. 34-40760; File No. S7-12-98] (RIN: 3235-AH41) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12055. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendment To Rule Filing Requirements For Self-Regulatory Organizations Regarding New Derivative Securities Products [Release No. 34-40761; File No. S7-13-98] (RIN: 3235-AH39) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12056. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Year 2000 Readiness Reports to be Made by Certain Non-Bank Transfer Agents [Release No. 34-40587; FR-52; File No. S7-8-98] (RIN: 3235-AH42) received October 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Commerce.

12057. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia and Montenegro), pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-331); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12058. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order No. 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-332); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12059. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the Iran emergency declared in 1979 is to continue in effect beyond November 14, 1998, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 105-333); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12060. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Burma that was declared in Executive Order 13047 of May 20, 1997, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-334); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12061. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to significant narcotics traffickers centered in Colombia that was declared in Executive Order No. 12978 of October 21, 1995, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-336); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12062. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Angola that was declared in Executive Order 12865 of September 26, 1993, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-337); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12063. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on the status of efforts to obtain Iraq's compliance with the resolutions adopted by the U.N. Security Council, pursuant to Public Law 102-1, section 3 (105 Stat. 4); (H. Doc. No. 105-341); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12064. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report on developments concerning the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, and matters relating to the measures in that order, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); (H. Doc. No. 105-346); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12065. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the Sudanese emergency is to continue in effect beyond November 3, 1998, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 105-350); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

12066. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the listing of all outstanding Letters of Offer to sell any major defense equipment for \$1 million or more; the listing of all Letters of Offer that were accepted, as of September 30, 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

12067. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department of the Navy's proposed lease of defense articles to Greece (Transmittal No. 05-99), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

12068. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department of the Navy's proposed lease of defense articles to Greece (Transmittal No. 02-99), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

12069. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department of the Navy's proposed lease of defense articles to Greece (Transmittal No. 03-99), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

12070. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the Department of the Navy's proposed lease of defense articles to Greece (Transmittal No. 04-99), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2796a(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

12071. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Navy's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Greece for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 99-03), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

12072. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 03-99 which constitutes a Request for Final Authority to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and Sweden concerning a technology demonstration program, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

12073. A letter from the Acting Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 01-99 which constitutes a Request for Final Approval for the Memorandum of Understanding between the U.S. and the United Kingdom concerning cooperation in the production of the Universal Modem System, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

12074. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a memorandum of justification for use of section 506(a)(2) authority to draw down articles, services, and military education and training, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1); to the Committee on International Relations.

12075. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting certification of a proposed license for the export of defense articles or defense services sold commercially under a contract [Transmittal No. DTC 144-98], pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

12076. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

12077. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Presidential Determination No. 99-04 regarding the drawdown of defense articles and services for Honduras, Nicaragua, El Salvador and Guatemala, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1); to the Committee on International Relations.

12078. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the bi-monthly report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period August 1 to September 30, 1998, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

12079. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Copies of international agreements, other than treaties, entered into by the United States, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

12080. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule—Iraqi Sanctions Regulations [31 CFR Part 575] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

12081. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—India and Pakistan Sanctions and Other Measures [Docket No. 98-1019261-8261-01] (RIN: 0694-AB73) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

12082. A letter from the Secretary of Agriculture, transmitting the department's Semiannual Report to Congress covering the 6-month period ending September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12083. A letter from the Secretary of Education, transmitting the 37th Semiannual Report of the Inspector General of the Department of Education ending September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12084. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12085. A letter from the Secretary of the Interior, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1998, through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12086. A letter from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Department of Labor's Inspector General and

Management report covering the period April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12087. A letter from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12088. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, General Accounting Office, transmitting a list of all reports issued or released by the GAO in September 1998, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 719(h); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12089. A letter from the Chairman, African Development Foundation, transmitting the consolidated report to meet the requirements of the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act for the years 1997 and 1998, pursuant to Public Law 100-504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12090. A letter from the Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission, transmitting the FY 1998 annual report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the 1988 Amendments to the Inspector General Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12091. A letter from the Federal Co-Chair, Appalachian Regional Commission, transmitting the semiannual report for the period of April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12092. A letter from the Chair, Architectural and Transportation Barriers Compliance Board, transmitting the consolidated report to meet the requirements of the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to Public Law 100-504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12093. A letter from the Attorney General, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1998 through March 30, 1998, and the Management Report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12094. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the semiannual report for the period of April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12095. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions and Deletions—received October 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12096. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions and Deletions—October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12097. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee for Purchase From People Who

Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Additions to and Deletions from the Procurement List—received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12098. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List: Additions and Deletions—received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12099. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List: Additions and Deletions—received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12100. A letter from the Executive Director, Committee For Purchase From People Who Are Blind or Severely Disabled, transmitting the Committee's final rule—Procurement List Additions—received November 19, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12101. A letter from the Acting Comptroller General, Comptroller General, transmitting General Accounting Office's monthly listing of new investigations, audits, and evaluations; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12102. A letter from the Chairman, Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting notification of its response to the legislative recommendations of the District Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority regarding street vending dated August 31, 1998, pursuant to Public Law 104-8, section 207; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12103. A letter from the Director, Administration and Management, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule—DoD Freedom of Information Act Program Regulation [DoD 5400.7-R] (RIN: 0790-AG58) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12104. A letter from the Chief Management Officer, District of Columbia Financial Responsibility and Management Assistance Authority, transmitting the fiscal year 1998 annual performance report entitled, "A Report on Service Improvements and Management Reform," pursuant to Public Law 103-62; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12105. A letter from the Chairwoman, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the semiannual report for the period of April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12106. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting the semiannual report for the period of April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12107. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 1997, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12108. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting the Federal Maritime Commission's Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period April 1, 1998—September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12109. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting the consolidated report in compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12110. A letter from the Executive Director, Federal Retirement Thrift Investment Board, transmitting the 1998 annual report in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100—504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12111. A letter from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Federal Acquisition Regulation; Taxpayer Identification Numbers [FAC 97-09; FAR Case 97-003; Item I] (RIN: 9000-A114) received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12112. A letter from the Administrator, General Services Administration, transmitting a semiannual report on the Office of Inspector General auditing activity, together with a report providing management's perspective on the implementation status of audit recommendations, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12113. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting Updated version of the International Trade Commission's Strategic Plan; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12114. A letter from the President, James Madison Memorial Fellowship Foundation, transmitting the consolidated reports under the Federal Managers Financial Integrity Act and the Inspector General Act, 1978, as amended, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12115. A letter from the Executive Director, Japan-United States Friendship Commission, transmitting the Japan-U.S. Friendship Commission's Fiscal Year 1998 year-end report on the related activities of the Japan-United States Friendship Commission, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12116. A letter from the Chairman, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting the FY 1998 combined report pursuant to the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act and the 1988 Amendments to the Inspector General Act, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12117. A letter from the Chairman, National Endowment of the Arts, transmitting the semiannual report for the period of April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12118. A letter from the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmit-

ting the semiannual report for the period of October 1, 1997 through March 31, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12119. A letter from the Deputy Independent Counsel, Office of the Independent Counsel, transmitting Audit and Investigative Activities, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12120. A letter from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting the consolidated report in compliance with the Inspector General Act and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12121. A letter from the Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the Annual Report on Audit and Investigative Activities, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12122. A letter from the Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting a Statement Regarding Adequacy of Management Controls Systems, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3512(c)(3); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12123. A letter from the Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the Consolidated Annual Report on Audit and Investigative Activities and Management Control Systems, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12124. A letter from the Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the Annual Report on Audit and Investigative Activities for the period ending September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12125. A letter from the Deputy Independent Counsel, Office of Independent Counsel, transmitting the Annual Report on Audit and Investigative Activities for the period ending September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12126. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Student Educational Employment Program (RIN: 3206-AH82) received October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12127. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Temporary and Term Employment (RIN: 3206-AH47) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12128. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Federal Employees Health Benefits Program: Disenrollment (RIN: 3206-AH61) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12129. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Reduction in Force Offers of Vacant Positions (RIN: 3206-AH95) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12130. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Prevailing Rate Systems; Redefinition of Philadelphia, PA, and New York, NY, Appropriated Fund Wage Areas (RIN: 3206-AI30) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12131. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Authorization of Solicitations During the Combined Federal Campaign (RIN: 3206-AI53) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12132. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Firefighter Pay (RIN: 3206-AI50) received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12133. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Student Educational Employment Program (RIN: 3206-AH82) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12134. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Federal Employees Health Benefits Program Improving Carrier Performance; Conforming Changes Parts 1609, 1632, and 1652 (RIN: 3206-AI16) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12135. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Cost-of-Living Allowances (Nonforeign Areas); Honolulu, HI (RIN: 3206-AI38) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12136. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Cost-of-Living Allowances (Nonforeign Areas); Kauai, HI; U.S. Virgin Islands (RIN: 3206-AH07) received October 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12137. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's final rule—Employment in the Senior Executive Service Promotion and Internal Placement (RIN: 3206-AH92) received November 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12138. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, Overseas Private Investment Corporation, transmitting the Annual Report on Audit and Investigative Activities, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12139. A letter from the Chairman, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting an audit of the Commission's Imprest Fund which was conducted in Fiscal Year 1998 by The Center for Applied Financial Management, Financial Management Service, of the Department of the Treasury, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12140. A letter from the Chief Administrative Officer, Postal Rate Commission, transmitting a report of activities under the Freedom of Information Act from October 1, 1997 to September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C.

552(d); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12141. A letter from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12142. A letter from the Chairman, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the management response of the Securities and Exchange Commission, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12143. A letter from the Acting Director, The Woodrow Wilson Center, transmitting a consolidated report on audit and investigative coverage required by the Inspector General Act of 1978, as amended, and the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12144. A letter from the Special Counsel, U.S. Office of Special Counsel, transmitting the 1998 annual report on audits and investigations in compliance with the Inspector General Act Amendments of 1988, pursuant to Public Law 100-504, section 104(a) (102 Stat. 2525); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12145. A letter from the Director, United States Information Agency, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 1998, through September 30, 1998, also the Management Report for the same period, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12146. A letter from the Chairman, United States International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Semiannual Report for the period April 1, 1998 through September 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

12147. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Migratory Bird Hunting; Late Seasons and Bag and Possession Limits for Certain Migratory Game Birds (RIN: 1018-AE93) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12148. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Land and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Helium Contracts [WO-130-1820-00-24 1A] (RIN: 1004-AD24) received December 1, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12149. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Determination of Threatened Status for Virginia sneezeweed (*Helenium virginicum*), a Plant From the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia (RIN: 1018-AE37) received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12150. A letter from the Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and threatened wildlife and plants; Endangered status for three aquatic snails, and threatened status for

three aquatic snails in the Mobile River Basin of Alabama (RIN: 1018-AE36) received October 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12151. A letter from the Acting Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Final Rule to list the Arkansas River Basin population of the Arkansas River Shiner (*Notropis girardi*) as threatened (RIN 1018-AC62) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12152. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific cod in the Western Regulatory area in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 97128297-8054-02; I.D. 10298E] received October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12153. A letter from the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna General Category [I.D. 100798C] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12154. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Tuna Fisheries; Archival Tag Recovery [Docket No. 971231320-7320-01; I.D. 121697B] (RIN: 0648-AK63) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12155. A letter from the Acting Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Vessel Monitoring System Power Down Exemption [Docket No. 980715175-8254-02; I.D. 070198B] (RIN: 0648-AL35) received October 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12156. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Department's final rule—Atlantic Sea Scallop Fishery; Extension of Interim Final Rule Implementing Area Closures [Docket No. 980318065-8241-02; I.D. 030698B] (RIN: 0648-AK68) received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12157. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West coast states and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; End of the Primary Season and Resumption of Trip Limits for the Shore-based Whiting Sector [Docket No. 9712229312-7312-01; I.D. 093098B] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12158. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Trawl Gear in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02, I.D. 100998A] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12159. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National

Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 620 of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 100998C] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12160. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in the Gulf of Alaska Statistical Area 620 [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 102798A] received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12161. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 100998B] received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12162. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 100898C] received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12163. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Western Pacific Precious Coral Fisheries; Amendment 3 [Docket No. 980714174-8250-02; I.D. 061898B] (RIN: 0648-AK60) received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12164. A letter from the Director, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; One-year Finding for a Petition to List the Atlantic Sturgeon (*Acipenser oxyrinchus oxyrinchus*) in the United States as Endangered or Threatened [Docket No. 980806212-8212-01; I.D. 073098C] received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12165. A letter from the Director, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Financial Assistance for Research and Development Projects in the Gulf of Mexico and Off the U.S. South Atlantic Coastal States; Marine Fisheries Initiative (MARFIN) (National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration) [Docket No. 980909232-8232-01 I.D. 092595C] (RIN: 0648-ZA48) received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12166. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Caribbean, Gulf of Mexico, and South Atlantic; Reef Fish Fishery of the Gulf of Mexico; Closure of the Commercial Red Snapper Component [I.D.

102698A) received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12167. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Atlantic Billfishes; Atlantic Blue Marlin and Atlantic White Marlin Minimum Size; Billfish Tournament Notification Requirements; Atlantic Marlin Bag Limit [Docket No. 980305056-8245-02; I.D. 020398B] (RIN: 0648-AK88) received October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12168. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for New Jersey [Docket No. 971015246-7293-02; I.D. 111698E] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12169. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fraser River Sockeye and Pink Salmon Fisheries; Inseason Orders [I.D. 110498A] received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12170. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Atka Mackerel in the Western Aleutian District of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 971208298-8055-02; I.D. 110598A] received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12171. A letter from the Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Summer Flounder Fishery; Commercial Quota Harvested for Maryland [Docket No. 971015246-7293-02; I.D. 110998G] received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12172. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Pacific Coast Groundfish Fishery; Trip Limit Revisions [Docket No. 971229312-7312-01; I.D. 111398A] received December 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12173. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock in Statistical Area 630 in the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 092598A] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12174. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Re-

allocation of Pacific Cod [Docket No. 971208298-8055-02; I.D. 082798B] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12175. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Marine Fisheries Service, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 971208297-8054-02; I.D. 100898B] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12176. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pollock by Vessels Catching Pollock for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Bering Sea Subarea of the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 971208298-8055-02; I.D. 101698A] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12177. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Texas Abandoned Mine Land Reclamation Plan [SPATS No. TX-039-FOR] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12178. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Alabama Regulatory Program [SPATS No. AL-068-FOR] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12179. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining Reclamation and Enforcement, transmitting the Office's final rule—Ohio Regulatory Program [OH-243-FOR, #76] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

12180. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of Commerce and Deputy Commissioner of Patents and Trademarks, Department of Commerce, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Patent Fees for Fiscal Year 1999 [Docket No. 98-0713170-8289-03] (RIN: 0651-AA96) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

12181. A letter from the Acting Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report concerning grants made under the DNA Identification Act of 1994; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

12182. A letter from the Commissioner, Immigration and Naturalization Service, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule—Immigration and Naturalization Service [INS No. 1608-93] (RIN: 1115-AC30) received November 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

12183. A letter from the Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—National Instant Criminal Background Check System Regulation [AG Order No. 2186-98] (RIN: 1105-AA51) received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

12184. A letter from the Director, Federal Bureau of Prisons, transmitting the Bureau's final rule—Designation of Offenses Subject to Sex Offender Release Notification [BOP-1090-I] (RIN: 1120-AA85) received December 3,

1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

12185. A letter from the Clerk, United States Court of Appeals, District of Columbia Circuit, transmitting an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit (No. 97-7234-Inmates of D.C. Jail v. Delbert C. Jackson); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

12186. A letter from the Assistant Secretary (Civil Works), Department of the Army, transmitting recommendations for modification of the flood damage reduction project at Wood River, Grand Island, Nebraska; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12187. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations, International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, and International Civil Aviation Organizations' Technical Instructions [Docket No. RSPA-98-4185(HM-215C)] (RIN: 2137-AD15) received October 27, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12188. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Technical Amendments to the Track Safety Standards (Federal Railroad Administration) [Docket No. RST-90-1, Notice No. 9] (RIN: 2130-AA75) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12189. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Technical Amendments to the Track Safety Standards (Federal Railroad Administration) [Docket No. RST-90-1, Notice No. 10] (RIN: 2130-AA75) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12190. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Vessel Inspection User Fees (Coast Guard) [CGD 96-067] (RIN: 2115-AF40) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12191. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone: Building Owners and Managers Fireworks, Hudson River, Manhattan, New York (Coast Guard) [CGD01-98-157] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12192. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Regulations; Atlantic Intracoastal Waterway, Florida (Coast Guard) [CGD07-97-020] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12193. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation of Class D and Class E Airspace, Crows Landing, CA; Correction (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-AWP-12] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12194. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision to

Class E Airspace; Reno, NV (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-AWP-23] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12195. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company 180 and 185 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-138-AD; Amendment 39-10865; AD 98-23-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12196. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Metropolitan Oakland International Airport, CA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-AWP-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received November 6, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12197. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Federal Pilotage for Vessels in Foreign Trade (Coast Guard) [USCG-1998-3323] (RIN: 2115-AF57) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12198. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operating Regulation; Gulf Intracoastal Waterway, Algiers Alternate Route, Louisiana (Coast Guard) [CGD08-98-061] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12199. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Review of Existing Rules (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 28910] (RIN: 2120-ZZ13) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12200. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Lake Charles, LA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASW-41] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12201. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revocation of Class D Airspace, Tustin MCAS, CA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-AWP-19] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12202. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Research and Special Programs Administration [Docket No. PS-121; Notice-5] (RIN: 2137-AD05) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12203. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-23-235, PA-23-250, and PA-E23-250 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 82-CE-36-AD; Amdt. 39-10852; AD

83-22-01 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12204. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operating Regulation; Mississippi River, Iowa and Illinois [CCGD08-98-068] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12205. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB SF340A and SAAB 340B Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-188-AD; Amdt. 39-10849; AD 98-22-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12206. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Saab Model SAAB 2000 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-191-AD; Amdt. 39-10848; AD 98-22-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12207. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Construcciones Aeronauticas, S.A. (CASA) Model C-212 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-185-AD; Amdt. 39-10850; AD 98-22-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12208. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Industrie Aeronautiche e Meccaniche Model Piaggio P-180 Airplanes [Docket No. 98-CE-45-AD; Amendment 39-10881; AD 98-23-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12209. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A320 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-29-AD; Amdt. 39-10851; AD 98-22-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12210. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Forest City, IA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-30] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12211. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Kearney, NE (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-34] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12212. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness

Directives; Airbus Model A300 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-234-AD; Amendment 39-10885; AD 98-23-17] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12213. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Beatrice, NE (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-32] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12214. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Spencer, IA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-31] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12215. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D Airspace; Albermarle, NC (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASO-14] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12216. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Chester, SC (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASO-15] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12217. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Parker Hannifan Airborne Dry Air Pumps, Conversion Kits, and Coupling Kits [Docket No. 98-CE-108-AD; Amendment 39-10882; AD 98-23-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12218. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace (Jetstream) Model 4101 Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-141-AD; Amendment 39-10888; AD 98-24-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12219. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class D Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Klamath Falls, OR [Airspace Docket No. 98-ANM-04] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12220. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace, San Diego, North Island NAS, CA [Airspace Docket No. 98-AWP-20] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12221. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace, North Island NAS, CA [Airspace Docket No. 98-AWP-20] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A);

to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12222. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Valparaiso, IN [Airspace Docket No. 98-AGL-53] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12223. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Duluth St. Mary's Hospital Heliport, MN [Airspace Docket No. 98-AGL-52] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12224. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Crosby, ND Correction [Airspace Docket No. 98-AGL-42] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12225. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Transportation Equity Act For the 21st century; Implementation information for innovative bridge research and construction program funds—received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12226. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Risk-Based Alternative to Pressure Testing Older Hazardous Liquid and Carbon Dioxide Pipelines Rule [Docket No. PS-144; Amendment 195-65] (RIN: 2137-AC 78) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12227. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Slingsby Aviation Limited Models Dart T.51, Dart T.51/17, and Dart T.51/17R Sailplanes [Docket No. 98-CE-67-AD; Amendment 39-10863; AD 98-22-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12228. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Rolladen Schneider Flugzeugbau GmbH Modles LS 3-A, LS 4, and LS 4a Sailplanes [Docket No. 98-CE-49-AD; Amendment 39-10861; AD 98-22-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12229. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-101-AD; Amendment 39-10847; AD 98-22-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12230. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment of Class E Airspace; Riverton, WY [Airspace Docket No. 98-ANM-15] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12231. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting

the Department's final rule—Modification of the Phoenix Class B Airspace Area; AZ [Airspace Docket No. 94-AWA-1] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12232. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. Models PA-28-140, PA-28-150, PA-28-160, and PA-28-180 Airplanes [Docket No. 95-CE-51-AD; Amendment 39-10862; AD 96-10-01 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12233. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No. 29371; Amdt. No. 412] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12234. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; The New Piper Aircraft, Inc. PA-24, PA-28R, PA-30, PA-32R, PA-34, PA-39 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 96-CE-09-AD; Amendment 39-10864; AD 97-01-01 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12235. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Prevention of Prohibited Drug Use In Transit Operations; Prevention of Alcohol Misuse in Transit Operations [Docket No. FTA-97-2925] (RIN: 2132-AA56) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12236. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Operation of Motor Vehicles by Intoxicated Persons [Docket No. NHTSA-98-4394] (RIN: 2127-AH39) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12237. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Open Container Laws [Docket No. NHTSA-98-4493] (RIN: 2127-AH41) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12238. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Series Airplanes Equipped with Certain COLLINS LRA-900 Radio Altimeters [Docket No. 98-NM-334-AD; Amendment 39-10929; AD 98-24-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12239. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class D Airspace; McKinney, TX [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASW-32] received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12240. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Cessna Aircraft Company Models 340A and 414A Airplanes [Docket No. 98-CE-111-AD; Amendment 39-10923; AD 98-24-14]

(RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12241. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model SA 330F, G, and J Helicopters [Docket No. 97-SW-38-AD; Amendment 39-10875; AD 98-23-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12242. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter France Model AS-350B, B1,B2,BA,C,D,D1, and AS 355E, F, F1, F2, and N Helicopters [Docket No. 98-SW-41-AD; Amendment 39-10921; AD 98-24-35] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12243. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH Model EC 135 Helicopters [Docket No. 98-SW-35-AD; Amendment 39-10866; AD 98-15-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12244. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations; BellSouth Winterfest Boat Parade, Broward County, Fort Lauderdale, Florida [CGD07 98-075] (RIN: 2115-AE46) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12245. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Billy's Creek, Florida [CGD07-98-009] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12246. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company (RHC) Model R44 Helicopters [Docket No. 98-SW-56-AD; Amendment 39-10874; AD 98-22-16] received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12247. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Concordia, KS [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-46] received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12248. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Goodland, KS [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-35] received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12249. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Muscatine, IA [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-25] received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12250. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Fairbury, NE [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-28] received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12251. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Burkhart GROB Luft-und Raumfahrt GmbH Model G 109B Gliders [Docket No. 98-CE-72-AD; Amendment 39-10876; AD 98-23-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12252. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-9-31 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-99-AD; Amendment 39-10877; AD 98-23-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12253. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; de Havilland Model DHC-7 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-143-AD; Amendment 39-10879; AD 98-23-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12254. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; British Aerospace Model Viscount 744, 745, 745D, and 810 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-217-AD; Amendment 39-10880; AD 98-23-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12255. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model MD-11 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-304-AD; Amendment 39-10889; AD 98-24-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12256. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Bell Helicopter Textron, Inc. Model 214B, 214B-1, and 214ST Helicopters [Docket No. 98-SW-12-AD; Amendment 39-10886; AD 98-23-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12257. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines (IAE) V2500-A1 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 98-ANE-67-AD; Amendment 39-10871; AD 98-20-18] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12258. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Dornier Model 328-100 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-88-AD; Amendment 39-10884; AD 98-23-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12259. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model Hawker 800XP Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-195-AD; Amendment 39-10883; AD 98-23-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12260. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT9D Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 98-ANE-21-AD; Amendment 39-10873; AD 98-23-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12261. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney PW4000 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 97-ANE-53-AD; Amendment 39-10873; AD 98-23-08] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12262. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757-200 Series Airplanes Equipped With Rolls Royce Model RB211-535E4/E4B Engines [Docket No. 98-NM-294-AD; Amendment 39-10887; AD 98-04-11 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12263. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model BAe.125, DH.125, BH.125, and HS.125 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 97-NM-305-AD; Amendment 39-10878; AD 89-18-07 R1] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received November 16, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12264. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Capital Leases [Docket No. FTA-98-4407] (RIN: 2132-AA65) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12265. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Fort Point Channel, MA [CGD01-98-039] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12266. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Safety Zone; Explosive Load, Bath Iron Works, Bath, ME [CGD1-98-171] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12267. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Special Local Regulations for Marine Events; Patapsco River, Baltimore, Maryland [CGD 05-98-100] (RIN: 2115-AE46) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12268. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Drawbridge Operation Regulations; Anacostia River, Wash-

ington D.C. [CGD05-98-017] (RIN: 2115-AE47) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12269. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-100, -200, -300, -400, 747SP, and 747SR Series Airplanes [Docket No. 96-NM-260-AD; Amendment 39-10837; AD 98-21-29] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12270. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A310 and A300-600 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 96-NM-172-AD; Amendment 39-10544; AD 98-11-19] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12271. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class D Airspace and Class E Airspace; Rome, NY [Airspace Docket No. 98-AEA-37] received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12272. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Fishers Island, NY [Airspace Docket No. 98-AEA-38] received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12273. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Rome, NY [Airspace Docket No. 98-AEA-36] received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12274. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Helicopter Systems Model 369D, 369E, 369FF, 500N, AH-6, and MH-6 Helicopters [Docket No. 97-SW-47-AD; Amendment 39-10802; AD 98-21-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12275. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG (IAE) V2500-A1 Series Turbofan Engines [Docket No. 98-ANE-63-AD; Amendment 39-10809; AD 98-21-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12276. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Aircraft Belts, Inc. Model CS, CT, FM, FN, GK, GL, JD, JE, JT, JU, MD, ME, MM, MN, NB, PM, PN, RG, and RH Seat Restraint Systems [Docket No. 98-SW-33-AD; Amendment 39-10936; AD 98-25-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12277. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727 Series Airplanes [Docket No. 98-NM-319-AD; Amendment 39-10932; AD 98-23-51] (RIN: 2120-AA64)

received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12278. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D and E Airspace, Amendment to Class D and E Airspace; Montgomery, AL [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASO-12] received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12279. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class D Airspace; Concord, NC (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASO-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12280. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Revision of Class E Airspace; Hugo, OK (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASW-46] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12281. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Establishment of Class E Airspace; Oak Grove, LA (Federal Aviation Administration) [Airspace Docket No. 98-ASW-45] received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12282. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Aircraft Company Models A200CT, B200, B200C, B200CT, 200T/B200T, 300, B300, and B300C Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-CE-148-AD; Amdt. 39-10843; AD 98-21-35] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12283. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Fokker Model F.28 Mark 0070 and 0100 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-278-AD; Amdt. 39-10841; AD 98-21-33] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12284. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-NM-341-AD; Amdt. 39-10842; AD 98-21-34] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12285. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-288-AD; Amdt. 39-10839; AD 98-21-31] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12286. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A310, and

A300-600 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-187-AD; Amdt. 39-10840; AD 98-21-32] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12287. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Model A300, A310, and A300-600 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-74-AD; Amdt. 39-10838; AD 98-21-30] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12288. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT8D Series Turbofan Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-ANE-45-AD; Amdt. 39-10832; AD 98-21-24] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12289. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. CFM56-7B Series Turbofan Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-ANE-65-AD; Amdt. 39-10831; AD 98-21-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12290. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pilatus Aircraft Ltd. Models PC-12 and PC-12/45 Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-CE-69-AD; Amdt. 39-10835; AD 98-21-27] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12291. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney JT9D Series Turbofan Engines (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 95-ANE-69; Amdt. 39-10830; AD 98-21-22] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12292. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Robinson Helicopter Company Model R44 Helicopters (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 97-SW-01-AD; Amdt. 39-10845; AD 98-21-36] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12293. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-10-10, -15, -30, and -40 Series Airplanes (Federal Aviation Administration) [Docket No. 98-NM-73-AD; Amdt. 39-10846; AD 98-21-37] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12294. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Airworthiness Directives; Eurocopter Deutschland GmbH (ECDC) (Eurocopter) Model MBB-BK117 A-1, A-3, A-4, B-1, B-2, and C-1 Helicopters, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12295. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Modification of Class E Airspace; Owatonna, MN [Airspace Docket No. 98-AGL-54] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12296. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Grinnell, IA [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-47] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12297. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Burlington, KS [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-45] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12298. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Great Bend, KS [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-39] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12299. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Pittsburg, KS [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-40] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12300. A letter from the General Counsel, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule—Amendment to Class E Airspace; Ulysses, KS [Airspace Docket No. 98-ACE-41] received November 23, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12301. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulatory Management and Information, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule—Revised Allotment Formulas for State and Interstate Monies Appropriated Under Section 106 of the Clean Water Act [FRL-6184-9] received November 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

12302. A letter from the Acting Associate Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Reportable Item Definition—received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

12303. A letter from the Director, Office of Regulations Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Minimum Income Annuity and Gratuitous Annuity (RIN: 2900-AJ17) received November 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

12304. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Revenue Procedure 98-59] received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12305. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Cafeteria Plans Election Changes [Announcement 98-105] received November 25, 1998, pursuant to 5

U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12306. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Definition of Reasonable Basis [TD 8790] (RIN: 1545-AU38) received December 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12307. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Determination of Interest Rate [Revenue Ruling 98-61] received December 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12308. A letter from the Chief Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Alternative Identifying Numbers for Income Tax Return Preparers [Notice 98-63] received December 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12309. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Administrative, Procedural, and Miscellaneous [Revenue Procedure 98-60] received December 10, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12310. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Definition of Real Estate Investment Trust [Revenue Ruling 98-60] received December 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12311. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Interim Guidance for Equitable Relief from Joint and Several Liability [Notice 98-61] received December 7, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12312. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Guidance Regarding Charitable Remainder Trusts and Special Valuation Rules for Transfers of Interests in Trusts [TD 8791] (RIN: 1545-AU25) received December 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12313. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Qualified Long-Term Care Insurance Contracts [TD 8792] (RIN: 1545-AV56) received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12314. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Small Business Taxpayer Advance Pricing Agreements [Notice 98-65] received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12315. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Special Rules for Certain Transactions Where Stated Principal Amount Does Not Exceed \$2,800,000 [Revenue Ruling 98-58] received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12316. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Treatment of Loans with Below-Market Interest Rates [Revenue Ruling 98-59] received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12317. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting

the Service's final rule—Last-in, first-out inventories [Revenue Ruling 98-62] received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12318. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Items of General Interest [Notice 98-62] received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12319. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Payment by Credit Card and Debit Card [TD 8793] (RIN: 1545-AW38) received December 14, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12320. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Earned income credit for taxable years beginning after December 31, 1978 [Revenue Ruling 98-56] received November 12, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12321. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rules and regulations [Revenue and Procedure 98-57] received November 13, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12322. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—1999 Limitations Adjusted As Provided in Section 415(d), Etc. [Notice 98-53] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12323. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Permitted disparity with respect to employer-provided contributions or benefits [Revenue Ruling 98-53] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12324. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Returns Relating to Higher Education Tuition and Related Expenses [Notice 98-59] received November 18, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12325. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Clark D. and Janis L. Pulliam v. Commissioner [Docket No. 12923-95] received November 20, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12326. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Cash or Deferred Arrangements; Nondiscrimination [Notice 98-52] received October 29, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12327. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Last-in, first-out inventories [Rev. Rul. 98-54] received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12328. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Returns Relating to Interest on Education Loans [Notice 98-54] received October 28, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12329. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting

the Service's final rule—Basis Reduction Due to Discharge of Indebtedness [TD 8787] (RIN: 1545-AU71) received October 22, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12330. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Test of Mediation Procedure for Appeals [Announcement 98-99] received October 30, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12331. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Rulings and determination letters [Rev. Proc. 98-56] received November 2, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12332. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Awards of Costs and Certain Fees in Tax Litigation [Notice 98-55] received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12333. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule—Examination of returns and claims for refund, credit or abatement; determination of correct tax liability [Rev. Proc. 98-55] received November 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12334. A letter from the Chairman, International Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Amendments to Rules of Practice and Procedure [19 CFR Parts 201 and 207] received November 9, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12335. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule—Medicare Program; Part A Premium for 1999 for the Uninsured Aged and for Certain Disabled Individuals Who Have Exhausted Other Entitlements [HCFA-8000-N] (RIN: 0938-AJ03) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12336. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Listening-In to or Recording Telephone Conversations (RIN: 0960-AE66) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12337. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Application of State Law in Determining Child Relationship (RIN 0960-AE30) received December 3, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

12338. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Service's final rule—Medicare Program; Revisions to Payment Policies and Adjustments to the Relative Value Units Under the Physician Fee Schedule for Calendar Year 1999 [HCFA-1006-FC] (RIN: 0938-AI52) received November 4, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Commerce and Ways and Means.

12339. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Presidential Determination No. 99-5, waiving certain restrictions on the maintenance of a Palestine Liberation Organization Office and on PLO funds for an additional six month period through May 25, 1999, pursuant to Public Law 105-277; jointly to the Committees on International Relations and Appropriations.

12340. A letter from the Secretary of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's "Major" final rule—Medicare Program; Monthly Actuarial Rates and Monthly Supplementary Medical Insurance Premium Rate Beginning January 1, 1999 [HCFA-8003-N] (RIN: 0938-A198) received October 26, 1998, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce.

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:

[The following action occurred on December 15, 1998]

Mr. HYDE: Committee on the Judiciary. House Resolution 611. Resolution impeaching William Jefferson Clinton, President of the United States, for high crimes and misdemeanors (Rept. 105-830). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 5 of rule X and clause 4 of rule XXII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. HOUGHTON (for himself and Mr. KING of New York):

H.J. Res. 139. A joint resolution expressing the sense of Congress with respect to the censure of William Jefferson Clinton; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCHALE:

H.J. Res. 140. A joint resolution condemning and censuring William Jefferson Clinton; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPENCE:

H. Res. 612. A resolution expressing unequivocal support for the men and women of our Armed Forces who are currently carrying out missions in and around the Persian Gulf region; considered and agreed to.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII,

407. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the General Assembly of the State of California, relative to Assembly Joint Resolution 77 memorializing the President and the Congress of the United States to enact the "Forest Tax Relief Act," which would repeal legislation authorizing the United States Forest Service to implement a pilot program charging visitors of the Angles, Cleveland, Los Padres, and San Bernardino national forests specified daily and yearly fees to park on national forest lands; to the Committee on Agriculture.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 4 of rule XXII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 2708: Mrs. CLAYTON.
H.R. 4402: Mr. HEFLEY.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 1 of rule XXII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

85. The SPEAKER presented a petition of The Legislature of Rockland County, relative to Resolution 494 petitioning the Congress of the United States to amend the existing statutes to insert adequate safeguards against the abuses of mergers of banking institutions; to the Committee on Banking and Financial Services.

86. Also, a petition of the Campaign of Spirit of America, relative to Numerous petitions, demanding Congress end funding for the National Endowment of the Arts effective immediately; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

87. Also, a petition of The Campaign of Spirit of America, relative to numerous petitions, demanding that Congress end funding for the National Endowment of the Arts effective immediately; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

88. Also, a petition of Spirit of America, relative to Numerous polls from U.S. Citizens about the U.N. Criminal Court; to the Committee on International Relations.

89. Also, a petition of the Campaign of Spirit of America, relative to numerous petitions demanding that Congress end the funding of U.N. pensions effective immediately; to the Committee on International Relations.

90. Also, a petition of The City Council of Detroit, relative to a City Council Resolution Petitioning the Congress to support the Clinton Administration's appeal of a ruling last month barring the use of statistical sampling in the U.S. Census for the Year 2000; to the Committee on Government Reform and Oversight.

91. Also, a petition of The Senate of Puerto Rico, relative to Senate Resolution No. 1840 petitioning the Congress to Express to the Honorable William J. Clinton, President of the United States, its recognition for the agile, prompt and efficient manner in which he responded to the petition for federal aid made by the Government of Puerto Rico as the result of the emergency caused by Hurricane "Georges," that hit the Island on September 21 and 22, 1998 and for the rapid declaration and mobilization of Federal Government resources and officials to attend to the damages caused by the Hurricane in Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.