

brought to justice. They must not succeed.

I urge my colleagues to join me in condemning this senseless campaign of terror against the people of Israel and in sending our condolences to the families of the victims of these horrible attacks. America stands with you and will support you throughout your fight against terrorism and for peace.

□ 1600

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Fox of Pennsylvania). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. MCINTOSH] is recognized for 5 minutes.

[Mr. MCINTOSH addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.]

A TERRIBLY SAD DAY FOR HUMANITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Massachusetts [Mr. FRANK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I welcome the eloquent comments of my colleague from Texas who just spoke. This is for all who care about the best instincts of humanity, a terribly sad day.

The people of Israel, a democratic society represented by a democratically elected government, have been in the process for the past couple of years of taking risks for peace, of reaching out in ways that societies do not always do. The Israelis have shown a willingness to cede control of territory that was hard-earned in wartime and in a war forced on them by the intransigence and hostility of its enemies, and the effort by the Government of Israel to bring about this peace has tragically been responded to by a minority, but unfortunately a significant minority, within the Arab world, by a campaign of vicious murder.

No society, and certainly no democratic society where the people rule as they do in Israel, can tolerate this sort of assault on the citizenry. We should make very clear from the outset that the Government of the United States is fully supportive of the decisions that have been made and will be made by the government of Prime Minister Peres. No one has done more to show his dedication to true peace and by that very fact, as well as by the right of self-defense inherent in any state, and particularly for a democratic society, Prime Minister Peres and his colleagues have earned the right to take the steps that they need to in self-defense with our full support, and that will include sending Israeli security forces anywhere in the area where they are required to go, because you cannot sit back and let dozens and dozens of your people be slaughtered defenselessly. You have the absolute, not just right, but obligation to defend them, and the United States should make very clear that it will be supportive of this.

Arguments that somehow this is incompatible with the peace process cannot be given any weight, because what could be less compatible with the peace process than the systematic brutal murder of dozens of innocent people by the Hamas terrorists.

People should understand that, again, Israel being a democratic society, it cannot go forward with a peace process until and unless its security can be provided.

I thought the chance for genuine peace in the Middle East was one of the finest hours we have seen. I still hope that we will get the benefits of that. But people must understand that protecting the innocent citizens of Israel against this sort of butchery is an absolute precondition to any further progress in the peace process.

No democratically elected government would try, and it would not succeed if it did try, and it would not deserve to succeed if it did try, to go forward with a peace process without securing the defense of its citizens. And an especially important burden lies with the leadership of the Arab world, of Yasser Arafat, who has clearly done far too little, we now learn, to enforce the law and true peace. The Palestinian leadership cannot at the same time profit from the steps towards peace and then fail to use the authority they are getting to put an end to this murder.

If the Palestinian authority cannot put an end to this systematic, organized murder that comes from within their ranks, they will not have a moral claim and they will not have a legal claim and they will not have a claim anyone will recognize to control the territory.

But it is also important for us to talk to our Arab friends, the Saudi Arabians and others. It is not enough simply to dissociate themselves from these murderers, it is simply not enough to look the other way unless there is a sustained willingness on the part of the Arab leadership to cut off funds. These are not people who are earning a living by some honorable means. They cannot go forward with this terrorism without substantial subsidies in which governments are complicit.

The President of Syria, a great defender of terrorism, must be told any dream he has of regaining control of the Golan Heights totally evaporates now and for the foreseeable future until he begins a reversal and says, "We will crack down on terrorism."

I believe the peace process was one of the finest hours of mankind. I believe the Israeli government was distinguishing itself. I was hopeful there was within the Arab world the kind of responsible leadership that would reach out and meet that. Today that is in question. It is not enough to condemn and wink and look the other way. It is important that we get a full commitment from the Arab leadership to cooperate fully with the Israeli leadership in putting an end to these murderers' ability to murder. Otherwise,

one of the things they will have murdered will be the peace process.

SECRETARY OF COMMERCE AND SECRETARY OF ENERGY MUST ACCOUNT FOR WASTED MONEY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kansas [Mr. TIAHRT] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, this country and this legislative body and the administration have been struggling to achieve a balanced budget. The people really do not understand this problem, and, frankly, I do not either.

The working Americans balance their checking accounts monthly. I cannot think of a business in Kansas, where I am the Fourth District Congressman, or a nonprofit organization or an individual that has not balanced their budget over the last 26 years, nowhere except right here in the Federal Government.

This Congress has also been striving to be a House of the people, bringing common sense from the common people back to Government. But we have had many obstacles in achieving that.

The administration has submitted multiple budgets that did not balance. The President personally lobbied against the balanced budget amendment, which passed in the House and failed by only one vote in the U.S. Senate, and the President, in his last budget, which was scored as a balanced budget by the CBO, has 95 percent of the savings in the last 2 years, which would be after his administration, assuming that he would be successful next November.

Perhaps the most confusing, though, is how the President condones actions that are directly in opposition to achieving a balanced budget. I am speaking of the waste and the abuse and the potentially fraudulent activity that have been occurring in the Department of Commerce and the Department of Energy. The President's Secretary of Commerce, Secretary Ron Brown, has allowed the excessive issuance of Government credit cards; for example, half of the employees at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Agency, NOAA, as it is called, have been issued Government credit cards. Even nongovernment employees have been issued Government credit cards. Reportedly, there have been 600 instances where they have taken Government credit cards and used an automatic teller to receive cash, cash benefits, unaccountable for. I wonder how long do people like Tim Schwillig, who works at the Boeing Co. delivering parts, or Craig Faroh, who works for Sedgwick County, how long do they have to work to pay in tax to the Federal Government to just have it taken out in cash benefits, unaccounted for?

There is Mr. Clinton's Secretary of Energy, Secretary O'Leary, who has been known for her excessive travel. Some call her a congenital flyer, over

100 domestic trips, 16 overseas trips. The gentleman from Ohio [Mr. HOKE] and myself asked for a General Accounting Office audit of two overseas trips, South Africa and India, and the GAO found out Secretary O'Leary could not account for \$255,000 of taxpayers' money, a quarter of a million dollars. We have called for her resignation.

This Congress has wanted accountability from the administration, accountability to the people, because it is the people's money.

It is known that the President has opposed a balanced budget during his administration. You cannot balance the budget when the presidential appointees, like Secretary Brown and Secretary O'Leary, waste taxpayers' dollars and remain unaccountable for their actions.

I ask for the President to ask them to account for the money that has been wasted and resign from their office.

KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OPEN ACT OF 1996

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida [Mrs. MEEK] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as we all know, for 3 weeks part of the Federal Government was shut down. I do not want to dwell in the past and worry about who was to blame for this shutdown. I want to look to the future and try to prevent another shutdown.

On February 6 I introduced a bipartisan bill to prevent another shutdown if there should be another lapse in appropriations. H.R. 2963, the Keep the Government Open Act of 1996, amends the Anti-Deficiency Act to permit Federal employees to continue to work and to be paid during a lapse in appropriations, if the President determines that a sufficient appropriation is likely to be made before the end of the fiscal year.

The recent shutdown of the Federal Government wasted one billion taxpayer dollars. We ended up paying 285,000 Federal employees who were ordered not to work for 3 weeks. This shutdown also imposed a serious financial hardship on many of the 476,000 Federal workers who were not paid during this period even though they were ordered to work.

The shutdown of the Federal Government hurt many private firms, both those that normally sell to Federal employees and those that have Federal contracts. They were unable to recoup the business they lost during the shutdown.

The other cosponsors of this bipartisan bill are Mr. DAVIS, Mr. HOYER, Mrs. MORELLA, Mr. MORAN, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. WYNN.

I urge all my colleagues to support this insurance against another failure to enact funding bills.

SUPPORT ADEQUATE FUNDING LEVELS FOR EDUCATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Mr. SAWYER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SAWYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of maintaining adequate funding levels for education, because as we end, as we near the end of another continuing resolution, I think we all agree that the improvement of public education is one of the greatest challenges facing our entire Nation on every level of government and in every locality.

Investment in the learning capacity of this and future generations is crucial to both our long-term economic strength and our continued cultural growth. It is at the heart of what many families mean when they talk about personal economic security and the stability of their families themselves.

I think we all recognize that education has traditionally been, and should remain, a local function and a State responsibility, but Federal support for education as an overarching national concern can make a crucial difference, especially where local resources are strained or where a coordinated effort can help achieve national objectives; in short, where we can begin to unify our Nation in common purpose.

□ 1615

Poll after poll today shows education as the highest economic priority for voters, more than crime or the budget deficit, Medicare, moral issues, Federal taxes, and welfare reform. Education stands at the top of the list for 82 percent of the Americans who oppose cutting education.

To that end, Mr. Speaker, on February 1 of this year I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 144, a sense of Congress resolution that demonstrates support for education funding at this critical time. The bill calls for an appropriation for education programs by March 15 that is no less than the amount spent on those programs in 1995. I am pleased to tell you as of today 192 bipartisan colleagues of ours have joined me in cosponsoring this resolution, and I am confident that more will join.

I am hopeful this showing of unity, of purpose, will send a message to the people of this Nation and the leadership of this Congress that America is serious about protecting our children's education. School districts that do not receive notification by March 15 that they will have adequate funds for the upcoming school year will have to start planning which teachers to lay off, which programs to cut, which classes to eliminate. These kinds of choices will be grim reality in many school districts around the country.

But March 15 is only the deadline for the schools most immediate needs. A commitment to education funding in the future is necessary to satisfy

longer term needs, funding for things that include the basic tools of learning as well as technology adaptation, to professional development, and an elevated curriculum for all kids. All of this comes at a time when we really need to talk about investing in education.

In the fall of 1996 we will have more students enrolled in K through 12, elementary and secondary education, than at any other time in our Nation's history. This will surpass the previous record of the baby-boom years. It is going to come at a time that will necessitate the hiring of about 50,000 new teachers, at the very same time that the cuts proposed through the continuing resolution, if extended throughout the year, would cause the loss of between 40,000 and 50,000 teachers and teachers' aides throughout the United States.

This increase is not a 1-year anomaly. It is expected to continue. These demographic changes are no one's fault. This is not a matter of throwing bombs from one side of the aisle to another. They really come at a time when we all need to recognize that the force of demographic change is at the heart of what is driving policy imperatives throughout the Nation. We need to recognize that this investment is an investment in the security of all of us, and I would urge all Members to consider the consequences of our decisions over the next several weeks. They will undoubtedly reverberate through our population for decades to come.

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the time allocated for the gentleman from Texas [Ms. JACKSON-LEE].

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Connecticut?

There was no objection.

ALL NATIONS MUST JOIN IN QUEST FOR MIDDLE EAST PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Connecticut [Mr. GEJDENSON] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events in Israel in the last several days, the bombings by Hamas, are not simply actions taken by a handful of extremists. These extremists function because they have economic support that comes from countries and individuals around the globe.

It is time that the efforts to attain peace be broadened beyond the United States, Israel, and the PLO. It is time for our Western Allies to join the American effort to isolate forces in the world that support terrorism.

Our Western European Allies continue to do business as usual with the Government of Iran, that is probably the most central supporter of Hamas