clearly evident that when useless immoral wars are pursued, money is wasted, weapons are consumed, and national security is endangered, opposite to everything that is supposed to be achieved through defense spending. A foolish policy of foreign interventionism, no matter how much money is spent on the military, can never substitute for a sensible, pro-American policy of friendship and trade with all those countries willing to engage.

Number five, the ill-gotten war has shown once again that air power alone, and especially when pursued without a declaration of war and a determination to win, serves no useful purpose. Although most military experts have stated this for years, it is now readily apparent to anyone willing to study the issue. Many more Americans now agree that war not fought for the defense of one's country and for the preservation of liberty is immoral and rarely brings about victory. If we remember that in the future, that would be good.

Number six, NATO's war against Yugoslovia has made it clearly apparent that world leaders place relative value on human life. This is valuable information that should be helped to restore U.S. national sovereignty. According to NATO's policy, the lives of the Kosovars are of greater value than the Serbs, Rwandans, Kurds, Tibetans, or East Timorans. Likewise, oil and European markets command more bloodshed in support of powerful financial interests than the suffering of millions in Asia and Africa. This knowledge of NATO's hypocrisy should some day lead to a fair and more peaceful world.

Number seven, the issue of whether or not a President can initiate and wage an unconstitutional war without declaration and in violation of the War Powers Resolution has prompted a positive and beneficial debate in the Congress and throughout the Nation. This is a necessary first step to get Congress to regain its prerogatives over the issue of war.

Number eight, interventionism in the affairs of other nations when our national security is not threatened serves no benefit and causes great harm. Our involvement with NATO and Yugoslovia has once again forcefully shown this. Although our Founders knew this and advised against it, and American Presidents for over 100 years acted accordingly, this rediscovery of a vital truth can serve us well in future years.

Number nine, NATO's arrogance has once again restated another truth worth remembering: Might does not make right.

Number ten, the 19 nations' military actions against a tiny state shows that alliances to promote aggression do not work. The moral high ground is not achieved because despite the pronouncements of concerns for the suffering of the innocent, when survival is not at stake and when the defense against an aggressor is not an issue, war by committee is doomed to fail. This is a lesson that needs restating.

Number 11: NATO's blundering policy ironically will leave a legacy that will allow rebuilding after the new world order disintegrates.

To the bewilderment of their own leaders NATO has forcefully supported the notion of autonomy and independence for ethnic states. Instead of huge governments demanding ethnic diversity, the goal of establishing Kosovo's independence provides the moral foundation for an independent Kashmir Kurdistan, Palestine, Tibet, East Timor, Quebec, and North Ireland and anyone else that believes their rights as citizens would be better protected by small local government. This is in contrast to huge nation states and international governments that care only about controlling wealth, while forgetting about the needs and desires of average citizens.

12. Another lesson that will be learned from this misadventure, but unfortunately not soon enough, is that empires self-destruct out of their own weighty arrogance and blindness to the truth. Inevitably powerful empires—and it is said we are the only super power left and have great world-wide responsibilities—pursue a march of folly, a course upon which we inextricably find ourselves.

If these lessons are remembered, we will have a much better chance of achieving peace and prosperity throughout the world.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Indiana (Ms. CARSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CARSON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

THE TRUE MEANING OF MEMORIAL DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. FOSSELLA) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, Congress has just returned from the Memorial Day recess, and it allowed, I think, every Member and all Americans to reflect upon what Memorial Day really was all about. In Staten Island and Brooklyn, which I represent, we had the great fortune of honoring our veterans, many of whom died to save us and save the world for freedom, and many of the things that came up in conversations, aside from, clearly, our support and commitment to those troops in harm's way right now, whether it be in Kosovo or Iraq, was to remind us all what it was all about. For example, those World War II veterans or veterans from Korea, Vietnam, essentially what they were fighting for was freedom, whether to bring freedom to others or to protect our own.

I think what too often we forget here in Washington is that ultimately the strengthening of personal freedom and individual liberty is really what we should be all about.

Right now, there are people back home that are paying the highest tax rates since World War II. That is just not right. There are people working two and three jobs just to put food on their table or pay for their child's education. That is not right.

What is right is that we reduce the tax burden on hard-working American people to promote economic growth and essentially allow them the freedom to spend, to save and to invest their hard-earned money as they see fit. Because there is an American spirit out there, whether it is in Staten Island or Brooklyn or anywhere across this country, that when given the right incentives, when given the right advice and guidance from the Federal Government, people will go out there and work hard, and they will produce wonders for the American economy, and they will produce wonders for businesses, both small and large.

And you know what? Congress does not have to intervene in every little decision-making. They do not need to look to raise taxes every chance they get. We should be pursuing a course of lowering the burden, really emphasizing limited government, truly articulating the need to remember what we all really should be supporting, and that is more freedom.

Frankly, the more we tax, whether it be at the Federal level, the State level or the local level, the more freedom we take away; and if we are committed to sending the right signal, not just to the people today but to future generations, that what the American spirit is all about, the notion of personal responsibility, of coming to our shores with hope and opportunity and hard work, when you do those things, the Federal Government will not penalize you or take away the fruits of your labor, that is when we will be sending a signal that America will remain strong and free forever; and the sacrifices of those veterans, too many of whom died to preserve freedom, too many of whom died to bring freedom to others, we will remind them that they did not die in vain.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

REPORT ON CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH ISSUES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I want to join my colleague, the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. CAPPS) and acknowledge that today we had a very momentous day. It was the first conference held by the White House on mental health and mental health issues.

I had the pleasure of cochairing the children's mental health segment, and I will tell you, Mr. Speaker, that we have opened a new day. I was very pleased to have with me Dr. Schnee from Harris County, Judge Eric Andell and Gerald Womack. Dr. Schnee and Gerald Womack were representing the MHMRA, Mental Health and Mental Retardation Agency for the County of Harris.

It is very interesting to note that crises bring about ideas and collaboration. I would hope that that was not the case, but I think the fact that we have been given the opportunity now to seize this moment, that we should begin to fight mental health issues in a way that we provide more resources, more insight and action.

In our session we found many interesting points that were made, and I would like to share some of those with you. One, we need to collaborate more, from the Department of Education, to Health and Human Resources, to the Department of Justice, but as well we need to collaborate with local and State government. All of us need to be concerned about providing more mental health services and more services to the American public.

We must fight against stigma. We must ensure in particular that our children who have been receiving special education do find that special education, albeit it is a very good program, it is not the only way out, that our children can have access to the needed mental health services that they may need to have.

We heard from Sue, an adoptive parent, who had 22 children. She asked us, do not leave out the parent. Provide the kind of holistic approach where parents can be included, so that children who are troubled with behavioral problems will be able to have a supportive home system.

We have found that 60 percent of the teenagers in juvenile detention have behavioral, mental or emotional problems. We are finding a large number of our teenagers have attempted suicide or committed suicide. This is particularly prevalent in all of our various racial and ethnic groups, and particularly in groups that, we were told, are immigrant groups, like the Pacific Asian population who are facing deportation. If, as a juvenile, they have committed some grievance and wind up being taken to a juvenile center, they have the potential now under the 1996 immigration law to be deported.

We are finding in youth who are gay and lesbian that they are being attacked as being different, and therefore have a high degree of suicide. No group should be left out, no group should be stigmatized.

We also determined that there are not enough child psychiatrists in our Nation. One community, one large county, had one half-time child psychiatrist. When they were referring children to get services, they went to the county and were told, ''We can only take care of children ages 5 to 9. We do not have any services for children under 5 years old.'' It is well-known in the study of the brain that there is a great impact on babies, 0 to 3, and in fact that the fact that we have an ability to diagnose mental illness now and to do so by determining the brain's illnesses, if you will, so that we should not leave anyone out.

We also have found out unfortunately that with HMOs we have had less care as it relates to mental illness. There has not been a continuum of care. If a pediatrician sees a child that is troubled and refers that child to a psychologist or psychiatrist for help, with the parents' consent, the HMO willy-nilly may decide to change and not allow the continuum of care, and therefore that child breaks the cycle of care with that psychiatrist, which tells me that it is now time to pass the Patients' Bill of Rights. It is now time to ensure that there is a continuum of care and to realize that HMOs must serve us and we not serve them.

A parent from Indiana said we must stop forcing parents to hit their heads against a brick wall, to provide services for them that they can reach out to, that they can get to. It is all right to say take your child over here across town and you cannot get a bus or train or cannot get the resources to get them to that.

Then we must realize that the resources that parents have, that people of all economic levels have, must be consistent, so that Medicaid goes only to the cardiocare. So if you are a parent and you are a cardholder and have Medicaid, you may not be able to provide the kind of care you need for your child, or vice versa.

□ 1930

It is important that we talk to HCFA and others so that the continuing of funding sources will be provided.

Mr. Speaker, let me say that this was an eye-opening day. I will be offering a piece of legislation, Give a Kid a Chance omnibus mental health legislation for our children of America.

It is time to get to work. It is time to pass good health care and good mental health care.

TIME TO PASS COMMONSENSE GUN SAFETY LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

THE WHITE HOUSE CONFERENCE ON MENTAL HEALTH

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, before we begin our commentary this evening, I want to congratulate my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and my colleague from California who spoke earlier about the White House Conference on Mental Health.

I had the honor to participate in that event as well today, and just very, very quickly, I think it is clear that we need to focus on the issue of mental health. It is so critical in our society.

One, we cannot divorce the head from the rest of the body. We need to have the recognition that mental illness is an illness like other physical illnesses that people have. We need to destigmatize it.

We need to provide, most essentially, insurance coverage in the same way that we provide insurance coverage for physical illnesses. There needs to be parity for mental illnesses. We should consider that good mental health is good public health, and we need to promote that effort. So I compliment my colleague on her comments.

Mr. Speaker, this evening I am pleased to join with other colleagues, because we recognize that this is an important week for this Congress. Two weeks ago the United States Senate did the right thing. It is now time for the House of Representatives to do the right thing. That is to pass gun safety legislation for children in our country.

Thirteen children every single day are killed by guns in America. By comparison, there was an interesting statistic, that we lose one police officer every other day. That means it is more dangerous to be a child in America than it is to be a law enforcement officer. That is wrong. We need to pass commonsense gun safety laws in order to protect the children in this country.

Democrats in this body are a minority. We need votes from Republicans, from the other side of the aisle, to pass any piece of legislation. I believe that 85 percent of the Democrats in this body will vote for commonsense gun safety legislation to protect our youngsters. We need 20 percent of our Republican colleagues in the House to say no to their leadership and to join us to try to do the right thing.

We can in fact pass strong bipartisan gun safety legislation for children in this body. That has been the historical past. In 1995 with the Brady Bill, with an assault weapons ban, these pieces of legislation happened because thoughtful, reflective people came together on both sides of the aisle to say that this makes sense for our country. We have the opportunity to do that again this week. I happen to believe that American families and American children are counting on us to do our jobs.

What we have seen in the last couple of weeks, there were a number of us who wanted to try to pass this legislation before we left for the Memorial Day break, but we were told that we needed to come back to have hearings, that there needed to be a more thoughtful approach to how we dealt with this.