

this matter. Thank you for your assistance and cooperation. We look forward to working with you in the future.

Best regards,

BILL THOMAS,
Chairman.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGETT). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3991, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. RANGEL. Madam Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8, rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 3991, as amended.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

PLAN COLOMBIA SEMI-ANNUAL OBLIGATION REPORT—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 107-198)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Appropriations and the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Pursuant to section 3204(e), of Public Law 106-246, I am providing a report prepared by my Administration detailing the progress of spending by the executive branch during the last two quarters of Fiscal Year 2001 in support of Plan Colombia.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 9, 2002.

SCIENCE AND ENGINEERING INDICATORS 2002—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together

with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on Science:

To the Congress of the United States:

As required by 42 U.S.C. 1863(j)(1), I am pleased to submit to the Congress a report prepared by the National Science Board entitled, "Science and Engineering Indicators—2002." This report represents the fifteenth in the series examining key aspects of the status of science and engineering in the United States.

GEORGE W. BUSH.
THE WHITE HOUSE, April 9, 2002.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

UNIVERSITY OF MINNESOTA MEN'S HOCKEY TEAM MAKES AMERICA'S HOCKEY STATE VERY PROUD

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Madam Speaker, I rise to salute the University of Minnesota Golden Gophers men's hockey team on winning their fourth national championship Saturday night in St. Paul.

Minnesota has a long and proud hockey tradition. This weekend, as one of our newspapers put it, we experienced a "Return to Glory." On Saturday night, right in our State's capital city, the University of Minnesota, my proud alma mater, added an illustrious new chapter to our State's proud hockey heritage.

Madam Speaker, in one of the most thrilling NCAA championship games ever played, the University of Minnesota defeated the University of Maine 4-to-3 in an overtime edge-of-your-seat nail-biter, a game that meant the 2002 NCAA men's ice hockey championship for the University of Minnesota. And, believe me, this was no ordinary hockey game. Both teams were fueled by powerful motivating forces that produced one of the most entertaining, hard-fought and memorable games ever played.

Last season, the Gophers lost to Maine in an overtime game in the NCAA Tournament, and that memory united this year's Gophers team and provided the motivation to fight to the very end of the season's championship game.

Maine had plenty of motivation also. The Black Bears had lost their longtime coach of 17 years, Shawn Walsh, to cancer just before the season started, and the Black Bears put forth a tremendous effort in memory of Coach Walsh.

Madam Speaker, this champion season has been a long time coming, and it

sure feels great to every Minnesota hockey fan. All of Minnesota is extremely proud of this talented, never-say-die team, which rallied to tie the championship game with just 52 seconds left in regulation on a goal by Matt Koalska, a St. Paul native playing in his hometown. The Gophers and Black Bears then battled through an intense 17 minutes of overtime before realizing the dream of all Minnesota hockey fans when Grant Potulny scored that winning goal.

By tying the game in the final seconds of regulation and then winning in overtime, the University of Minnesota hockey team joins the list of legendary teams.

Madam Speaker, there have been so many stars this season for the champion Gophers. I hesitate to mention any at risk of leaving out others, but they were a true team in the real meaning of that word. They came together in pursuit of a common goal, winning a national championship. Each player, each trainer, each coach, each manager, played a pivotal role during the season, picking each other up at the crucial time.

Goalie Adam Hauser made 42 saves in the championship game. Hauser had 83 victories in his career, breaking the WCHA record. Adam also set league and school records for games played, shutouts and saves.

All-American senior Johnny Pohl of Red Wing, Minnesota, ended his college career by leading the entire Nation in scoring.

Madam Speaker, each and every one of these Gophers hockey players gave the record crowd of 19,324 great fans plenty to cheer about Saturday night, and in fact all season long. Jordan Leopold, a graduate of Armstrong High School in my district, was a big part of this season's greatness. Leopold won the Hobey Baker Award, which is college hockey's version of the Heisman Trophy, for his outstanding play. He is the fourth Gopher to win college hockey's highest honor.

Madam Speaker, I also want to commend Coach Don Lucia for an outstanding job of coaching. The history of Golden Gophers hockey is reflected by its legendary coaches, and Coach Lucia joins this respected group: John Mariucci, Glen Sonmor, Doug Woog, Herb Brooks, a guy who knows a thing or two about miracles on ice.

Madam Speaker, these hockey Gophers join the University of Minnesota's title winning teams of 1974, 1976 and 1979, and will forever be etched in the annals of the greatest Minnesota hockey teams.

This year's team played with amazing consistency. They never lost consecutive games, and finished with a record of 32 wins, 8 losses and 4 ties. The team's six seniors improved their record each and every year and provided solid senior leadership.

Madam Speaker, the 2001-2002 Gophers hockey team will be remembered forever by Minnesotans and hockey

fans throughout the world. All Minnesotans and Gophers hockey fans everywhere are very proud of this team, and we congratulate our national champions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FERGUSON). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

SUPPORTING THE ISRAELI OCCUPATION OF THE WEST BANK

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

Mr. WELDON of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak to the issue of the terrible violence that has been wracking the Middle East over the recent weeks, and I rise to speak in support of the Israeli occupation of the West Bank.

I believe very strongly that the primary purpose of government, above and beyond all other issues, is to protect the safety and the security of the people that they represent. This is very, very clear to us here in the United States, where following the attack on the World Trade Center, on the Twin Towers, our government has focused on the need to strengthen our national defenses, to strengthen our border security, to give the FBI and the CIA the tools they need to defend our Nation.

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It is irrelevant to talk about so many of these other important issues that we wrestle with, like education, like reducing taxes on the American families; it is irrelevant to talk about these things if our people are dying in the streets. But yet, this is exactly what has been going on in Israel in recent weeks.

During the holy week time period, Christianity was celebrating Easter and the Hebrew people were celebrating the Jewish holiday of Passover, and people all over the world were shocked to see over and over and over again, day after day, another suicide bomber blowing himself up, blowing herself up, and, in many cases, killing dozens of people around them; the most horrific acts of violence, killing innocent men, women, children, leaving those who survived these explosions frequently with grotesque and horrible injuries that will take years and maybe be impossible to fully recover from. This is the situation that the leadership in Israel, Prime Minister Sharon, the Knesset, the Government of Israel were wrestling with, and by occupying the West Bank, they have done the right thing. They have moved the conflict away from the Israeli people, away

from the citizenry, and into the Palestinian areas, which is where these suicide bombers were coming from.

I believe that it would be wrong for the Israeli Government, it would be wrong for Ariel Sharon to withdraw from the West Bank until, and only until, they can be certain that they can maintain the safety and the security of the Israeli people in this kind of environment.

I would like to just say in closing that the process, the peace process that has led ultimately to the creation of the beginnings of a Palestinian state in the West Bank was always predicated on the belief, at least on the part of the American people, that the PLO was striving, was working towards having peaceful coexistence with the Israeli people. But I must say, I do not believe that was ever the agenda. Indeed, I was shocked, I was amazed to recently read an interview that Yasar Arafat, the leader of the PLO, recently gave to the Arab television network, with Al-Jazeera. He is quoted as saying, "We defend not only Palestine, the Arab Nation, and not only the holy Islamic and Christian places, but also men of freedom and honor all over the world. This is our destiny. This is a divine decree. Let those far and near understand, none among the Palestinian people or Arab nation will be willing to bow and surrender, but we will ask Allah to grant martyrdom, to grant martyrdom." He repeated it twice.

He then went on to say, "To Jerusalem we march, martyrs by the millions. To Jerusalem we march, martyrs by the millions, to Jerusalem we march, martyrs by the millions," and he went on to say it again. Through the course of what was a 5, 10 minute interview on this Arabic television station, he went on to call for martyrs by the millions.

Now, this is not news to many people who have been following the career of Yasar Arafat. Indeed, he goes on radio every day in the Palestinian territories calling for the destruction of the Israeli state, calling on more people to come forward to martyr themselves for the cause of destroying the Israeli state, to push, as he likes to say, the Jewish people into the sea.

We will never have peace in the Middle East until Yasar Arafat, the Palestinian people, agree to give up the type of horrific, unspeakable violence that they have been inflicting upon the citizens of Israel. The Israeli defense forces need to continue this effort to root out the fundamentalist Islamic terrorists that are occupying the West Bank, and they should not withdraw.

GENERAL MUSHARRAF'S REFERENDUM

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I come to the House floor this evening to dis-

cuss Pakistan's self-proclaimed President, General Pervez Musharraf's plan to hold a referendum in Pakistan on April 30 to extend his presidency for 5 years. Mr. Speaker, I am very disappointed by the steps General Musharraf is taking to extend his military rule and to further bar democracy in Pakistan.

In October of 1999, General Musharraf came to power in Pakistan when he overthrew the elected government of former Prime Minister Sharif. In June of 2001, 20 months following his coup, Musharraf declared himself the President of Pakistan. At that time, Musharraf claimed that his presidential declaration was an initial step towards promoting democracy in traditionally dictatorial Pakistan. But, Mr. Speaker, I felt that based on his past actions, including the dissolving of the national assembly, or parliament, and four provincial assemblies, the reality was just the opposite.

We are faced with a similar situation today in that Musharraf is simply paying lip service to democratic rule by holding this referendum on April 30. Besides Musharraf's continued steps towards extending dictatorial rule in Pakistan, there are several other aspects of holding this referendum that I find problematic.

From what I understand, a referendum to extend Musharraf's rule by 5 years is illegal and unconstitutional under Pakistan's constitution. Their constitution mandates that both houses of parliament must elect the President. In addition, after the 1999 coup, Musharraf was bound by the constitution to restore democracy in Pakistan by October of 2002, this year. But clearly these propositions were false.

As a result of Musharraf's blatant disregard for constitutional law, there has been opposition to the referendum within Pakistan. The 15-party Alliance for the Restoration of Democracy, which includes the country's two main parties, has been vocal about Musharraf's unconstitutional means to remain President. In addition, there has been public backlash against the referendum plan from Pakistan's leading newspapers, major Islamic parties, and the 54-nation Commonwealth of Britain and its former colonies.

The leaders of the opposition party in Pakistan attempted to hold a rally against the referendum, which led to the arrest of dozens of their leaders by the police. The arrest of these leaders caused major concern because not only is Musharraf proceeding with an unlawful referendum, but he is also barring leaders of the opposition party to publicly protest. Although a ban on rallies has been in effect in Pakistan to quell Islamic extremist rallies, it is unacceptable that Musharraf is allowing the ban on rallies to apply to a rally in opposition to his presidential referendum.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to also discuss Pakistan's human rights record, which clearly exemplifies that stripping citizens of the right to protest