

Schakowsky	Stenholm	Upton
Schiff	Strickland	Velazquez
Schrock	Stump	Visclosky
Scott	Stupak	Walden
Serrano	Sununu	Walsh
Shadegg	Sweeney	Wamp
Shaw	Tancredo	Watson (CA)
Shays	Tanner	Watt (NC)
Sherman	Tauscher	Watts (OK)
Sherwood	Taylor (MS)	Waxman
Shimkus	Taylor (NC)	Weiner
Shows	Terry	Weldon (PA)
Shuster	Thompson (CA)	Weller
Simmons	Thompson (MS)	Wexler
Simpson	Thornberry	Whitfield
Skeen	Thune	Wicker
Skelton	Tiahrt	Wilson (NM)
Smith (NJ)	Tiberi	Wilson (SC)
Smith (TX)	Tierney	Wolf
Smith (WA)	Toomey	Wynn
Snyder	Towns	Young (AK)
Souder	Turner	Young (FL)
Spratt	Udall (CO)	
Stark	Udall (NM)	

## NAYS—14

Coble	Jones (NC)	Schaffer
Goode	Kerns	Sensenbrenner
Goodlatte	Kingston	Smith (MI)
Herger	Paul	Stearns
Hostettler	Royce	

## NOT VOTING—65

Ballenger	Gutierrez	Ortiz
Barr	Hastert	Quinn
Barton	Hayes	Radanovich
Becerra	Hilleary	Reyes
Berman	Hinchey	Riley
Blagojevich	Hinojosa	Rohrabacher
Blumenauer	Hoolley	Roukema
Bonilla	Houghton	Roybal-Allard
Bonior	Hyde	Sessions
Bono	Inslee	Slaughter
Burton	John	Solis
Callahan	Jones (OH)	Tauzin
Cantor	Kilpatrick	Thomas
Davis, Tom	Kind (WI)	Thurman
DeGette	Largent	Trafficant
Dicks	Lewis (KY)	Vitter
Doyle	Luther	Waters
English	Manzullo	Watkins (OK)
Everett	Miller, Gary	Weldon (FL)
Ford	Mink	Woolsey
Gallegly	Myrick	Wu
Gibbons	Napolitano	

□ 1426

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, due to complications with my voting card I was recorded as not voting in rollcall No. 3 on January 23, 2002. I ask that the RECORD reflect that I would have voted "yea" in this vote.

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall vote No. 3 on January 23, 2002 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, due to official business in my congressional district, I missed rollcall votes No. 2 and No. 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. SLAUGHTER. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be present for rollcall vote No. 2 and No. 3. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote No. 2 and No. 3.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. RILEY. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 1, Call of the House Quorum. Had I been present I would have voted "present."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 2, H.R. 700, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2001 (Concur in Senate Amendment). Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

I was also unavoidably detained for rollcall No. 3, H.R. 2234, the Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act of 2001. Had I been present I would have voted "yea."

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, today, January 23, due to family considerations, I unfortunately was not able to vote on three rollcall votes.

Had I been present, I would have voted "present" on rollcall No. 1.

I also would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 2—reauthorizing a conservation program for Asian elephants and "yea" on rollcall No. 3—expanding the Tumacacori National Historic Park in Arizona.

## PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained for some of the legislative business scheduled for today, Wednesday, January 23. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 2, H.R. 700, the Asian Elephant Conservation Reauthorization Act and rollcall No. 3, H.R. 2234, the Tumacacori National Historical Park Boundary Revision Act.

## REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF S. 1762, ESTABLISHING FIXED INTEREST RATES FOR STUDENT AND PARENT BORROWERS

Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 107-354) on the resolution (H. Res. 334) providing for consideration of the bill (S. 1762) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish fixed interest rates for student and parent borrowers, to extend current law with respect to special allowances for lenders, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

## LETTER TO THE PRESIDENT

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks and include therein extraneous material.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, I wrote an open letter to the President which I would review at this time.

"I urge you to submit a budget in February that recognizes and addresses the rapid increases in deficit spending. The need to raise the debt ceiling within the next few weeks and the new CBO projections showing budget deficits in

2002 and 2003 underline the challenges we face.

"While the weak economy has played a substantial part, overspending is the primary cause of the current problem. When the last budget limitation agreement was reached in 1997, the Congressional Budget Office projected Federal revenues of \$1.408 trillion for 2002 for a balanced budget. The actual figure was \$1.893 trillion, or 41 percent more than was projected."

So revenues are higher than expected.

"Unfortunately, spending grew even more—to \$2.003 trillion—enormously beyond the 1998 projections.

"We need to take a more serious" role and I would insert the letter in the RECORD.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, January 22, 2002.

Hon. GEORGE W. BUSH,  
President of the United States, The White House, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I urge you to submit a budget in February that recognizes and addresses the rapid increase in deficit spending. The need to raise the debt ceiling within the next few weeks and new CBO projections showing budget deficits in FY 2002 and FY 2003 underline the challenges we face.

While the weak economy has played a substantial part, overspending is the primary cause of the current problem. When the last budget limitation agreement was reached in 1997, the Congressional Budget Office projected federal revenues of \$1.408 trillion for FY 2002 for a balanced budget. The actual figure was \$1.983 trillion, or 41% more than was projected. Unfortunately, spending grew even more—to \$2.003 trillion—enormously beyond our 1998 projections.

We need to take a more serious look at how we can prioritize spending in the FY 2003 budget, and make hard choices about which programs can be trimmed or eliminated. If we do not make decisions to restrain spending now, I am concerned that projected deficits will continue to grow to the great detriment of future generations of Americans.

I respectfully suggest that your leadership is necessary if we are to prioritize spending and thus limit deficit spending.

NICK SMITH,  
Member of Congress.

## 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.

## PROTECTING THE HEALTH OF OUR TROOPS IN AFGHANISTAN

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

Mr. MORAN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize our Nation's heroic men and women who are serving our country, our citizens, in the war on terrorism.

Following the unspeakable acts of terror on September 11 of last year, the President admonished our Nation to prepare for a long struggle, a military

and moral struggle, against terrorism. On Monday, I witnessed the departure of 25 young men and women reservists of the 388th U.S. Army Reserve unit in my hometown of Hays, Kansas. I watched the sacrifices of these families, of the young children who grabbed their dad's and mom's legs and the tears that are shed for moms and dads and friends and family and neighbors. These loved ones of our community have answered the call to duty, and America's war on terrorism has come home.

As we now look at the deployment of thousands of United States military forces in combat and in Afghanistan and elsewhere, we should remember and learn from those who have served us in the past. We have to do the right thing by these soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines, with proper preparation and readiness before they are deployed. I want to try to assure our families, those in Kansas and elsewhere, that we are doing the right thing to ensure the safe return and a healthy life for our servicemen and women.

Tomorrow morning, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs Subcommittee on Health will conduct a hearing to examine preventive procedures in place to protect health care of servicemen and women who have been deployed to Afghanistan. As chairman of this subcommittee, I will ask whether or not the lessons we learned and should have learned from our troop deployments in the Persian Gulf War have been integrated into current deployment procedures of the Departments of Defense and Veterans' Affairs.

Has sufficient priority been given to matters of health protection, prevention and monitoring of our troops?

Are our troops in Afghanistan deployed with the proper equipment, protective clothing, detection equipment, gas masks to fight a war in which chemical and biological weapons might be used?

Are our troops prepared to detect reliably the presence of chemical and biological weapons?

Are our troops trained to conduct effective military operations in an environment where chemicals or biological weapons may be used?

We will review and hear testimony from the current Department of VA and Defense, and we will hear how we have benefited from the knowledge and gained information from past mistakes.

□ 1430

The hearing will ask current and former officials of DOD and VA to review the roles they played in the Gulf War and how policy was formulated to deal with the known risks, as well as to discuss some of the problems later uncovered that were not anticipated in the immediacy of the deployment itself. We will be privileged to have two former United States Senators who conducted reviews and investigations on the Gulf War veterans. We will also

hear from advocates of veterans from the Gulf War, who will provide recommendations to ensure the health of today's troops.

As a subcommittee with jurisdiction over the VA health care system, and as a Member of Congress with a strong interest in and support of our military, we want this hearing to serve as a public record of our concerns about those being deployed in harm's way on foreign shores today. We must take steps necessary to ensure that these veterans have a healthy life when they return home.

I hope tomorrow's hearing will be informative for everyone and will lead us to better solutions for the concerns that arose after Desert Storm, Somalia, Kosovo, Bosnia, and other recent military operations.

The active duty and reservists, some 70,180 that have been called to serve in this war on terrorism, whether in Central Asia or elsewhere, will be veterans of the future. It is our responsibility as Members of Congress to help ensure that troop health is maintained and that our veterans return with the greatest possibility of leading a normal healthy life.

#### HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, I became aware of the threat that terrorism posed to American security and began to learn more about our Nation's preparedness. In the aftermath of September 11 last year, I gain not even the smallest amount of pleasure by saying "I told you so."

In late 1996, after several attacks on U.S. citizens and military personnel, I called government investigators into my office to request a study on America's ability to defend against terrorists. This was the start of what became a 5-year, 15-report series assessing our Nation's ability to combat terrorism. The first report by the General Accounting Office, or GAO, examined the Defense Department's ability to protect U.S. forces overseas and concluded that uniform security standards were needed to assure the safety of Americans around the world. Imagine my disappointment when a follow-up study dated this past July stated considerable risk remained and significant security and procedural problems persist.

In other reports issued during this period, GAO further cited additional shortcomings in our Nation's ability to combat terrorism. It called for better coordination and management, for better planning and training, for an increase in the number of real-world exercises, and for elimination of duplicative programs. GAO also repeatedly called for the implementation of a comprehensive threat-and-risk-assessment process to better quantify the

danger. Finally, and above all, it called for the President to design and implement a comprehensive national strategy to combat terrorism at home and abroad.

In response to these recommendations, I drafted legislative language to begin the regular disclosure of overall spending levels on combating terrorism programs. In March of last year, I introduced the Homeland Security Strategy Act of 2001 to address many of these concerns and warn of an impending threat. What I said then is still true today: we have no well-publicized, widely understood, comprehensive, government-wide strategy concerning the role of the United States Government in homeland security crisis and consequence management.

On a positive note, the President did take up my recommendation to designate a single person to be responsible for and to report on homeland security. A few other positive developments have occurred in recent months too. For example, Congress passed and the President has signed the USA PATRIOT Act to enhance the government's ability to collect intelligence about potential terrorist activities. Regrettably, these steps were taken only after the loss of life on September 11.

Meanwhile, our sons and daughters in uniform have achieved unprecedented success abroad in this struggle against terrorism. Through their sacrifice and selfless service we have destroyed al Qaeda's grip on Afghanistan, driven the Taliban from power, and disrupted al Qaeda's global operations.

Despite the existence of a most challenging foe, we have achieved success while putting less than 3,000 military personnel on the ground and in harm's way. We have achieved success by utilizing special tactics and sophisticated technology. B-2 bombers, for example, flying from Whiteman Air Force Base, Missouri have placed precision ordnance on target with pinpoint accuracy. Army Special Forces personnel have often guided carrier-launched F-14 and F-18 strike aircraft on bombing runs. And Marines have worked alongside Army personnel in an unparalleled manner, supporting one another while clearing caves and bunkers throughout the mountain areas of the Afghan countryside. We have every reason to be proud of these accomplishments.

Yet, success notwithstanding, much still needs to be done. For starters, Osama bin Laden, Mullah Mohammed Omar, and other Taliban leaders and their associates remain at large and may be on one of any of the continents of the globe.

Nevertheless, to completely realize a successful fight against terrorism at home and abroad, several important and necessary improvements must be pursued. First, we must upgrade our intelligence, law enforcement, first responder, and military capabilities to effectively match the present and future threat.