

High-level executives who have defrauded investors, misled employees, and mismanaged company pension funds must be held accountable.

I support legislation that requires honest accounting, independent investment advice, sensible regulation, and criminal penalties for those guilty of wrongdoing. We cannot have economic growth without eliminating corporate crime.

#### HIV/AIDS FUNDING

(Mr. KIRK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, the HIV epidemic is making headlines in the international AIDS conference in Barcelona. New projections concerning the disease show there is little good news.

Secretary Thompson leads the U.S. delegation, and I thank him for his recent commitment to work with China to fight HIV. The United States will sponsor collaboration with China using a \$14 million CDC grant for research on HIV prevention and treatment. China currently has over a million cases of HIV, estimated to rise to over 10 million by 2010. HIV has no cure, and prevention is our only means to fight it.

Since the President set a precedent for funding CDC work in China, he should also fund the U.N. population fund. UNFPA provides family planning services in 140 countries, including Mexico, and supports HIV awareness campaigns in 78 countries. The \$34 million approved by Congress for UNFPA is being held because UNFPA works in China, but we are now funding CDC work in China, so it is hard to see the distinction.

Mr. Speaker, we need every tool to fight this lethal disease. Our contribution to UNFPA will help reduce the immigration pressure on the United States, reduce the damage of overpopulation, and slow the spread of HIV. I urge the President to fund both CDC and UNFPA.

#### CORPORATE ACCOUNTABILITY

(Mr. PASCRELL asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, the other evening the President provided a policy speech on corporate accountability. In response to the President's speech, business experts such as John Bogle, founder of Vanguard Group, stated that in terms of real substance of what will solve the problems, it does not get nearly as far as I would have hoped. I agree with Mr. Bogle, Mr. Speaker.

While the President discusses transparency and required disclosures by corporate executives, his own Vice President refuses to disclose which energy moguls sat in the White House and put together our energy policy.

None of us on either side of the aisle should be cavalier about these problems. These are systemic, serious problems. We are not talking about a few bad apples.

When regulators refuse to do their job, the result is that the American people are injured. Just look at the situation with Enron and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Members know Enron was manipulating the system. Lawmakers have been urging FERC to investigate market manipulation long before the Enron scandal broke.

When FERC's chairman, Pat Wood, who was handpicked by Enron's Ken Lay, joined FERC last June, he said it was FERC's job to act like a vigilant market cop walking the beat.

I would say the fox is guarding the hen house. These regulators ought to resign.

#### CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. KINGSTON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, when I was selling football programs at the University of Georgia back when I was in junior high, I was robbed once. Two older kids beat me up and took about \$100. I felt humiliated and violated. Victims of crime, and I have talked to many victims of crime, it is a very personal thing.

But yet when somebody steals a worker's pension plan, their retirement money, or cooks the books and devalues the stock, there is no difference. In fact, I would say the criminals who come out of the closet and beat their victims up and take their money are, if anything, more noble than corporate CEOs who do this behind the books of accounting procedures and fancy talk, and certainly do not follow the general accounting principles.

That is why this House on April 24 passed corporate accountability. There is no difference between ethics and business ethics. Businesses have to operate with honesty and integrity. We need that in society. Too many widows and orphans are counting on their stock to be the value they claim it is worth. That is why people buy it in their retirement account.

I am glad that the Senate is moving on this legislation. We passed it out of the House 3 months ago, but let us get it to the conference committee so we can address corporate accountability. America needs it. Business integrity is important for the prosperity of our country.

#### CORPORATE RESPONSIBILITY

(Mr. EHLERS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, some corporate executives have been lying and

cheating. They have betrayed their companies, their stockholders, their employees, and the public. I am angry about it. They are as bad as the previous speaker said, as bad as a street punk who mugs someone. It is totally unacceptable behavior.

At the same time, we have to recognize this is just a small fraction of the corporate executives in the country, just as the aberrant priests in the Catholic Church are a very small fraction of that church. Or the number of Members in this body who are accused and convicted of breaking the law are a small number of this body. Nevertheless, their behavior is totally unacceptable, and we have to take action.

It is not simply a matter of changing the law or strengthening the law, although that may be part of it. What we need is enforcement of the law. I am pleased President Bush went to Wall Street yesterday and spoke to them about the need for enforcing the law and enforcing regulations. We must do that. It is not just a matter of punishment, but we also should seek retribution from these highly paid executives who have cheated employees out of their 401(k) accounts, who betrayed stockholders and reduced the value of the company; and not only that, have scared the American public from participating in the stock market.

Mr. Speaker, it is high time that our Nation take action against these individuals, both through regulation and enforcement of the law. I hope it happens soon. The American people are angry at this betrayal of the free enterprise system. I am angry about it, and we have to see that something is done about it.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2486, INLAND FLOOD FORECASTING AND WARNING SYSTEM ACT OF 2002

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 473 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 473

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2486) to authorize the National Weather Service to conduct research and development, training, and outreach activities relating to tropical cyclone inland forecasting improvement, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the

bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommend with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

(Mr. DIAZ-BALART asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 473 is an open rule providing for the consideration of H.R. 2486, the Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act of 2002. The rule provides 1 hour of general debate evenly divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science.

This is a fair and balanced rule that will afford Members every opportunity to debate the important issue before us.

The underlying legislation will help to improve the capability to forecast accurately inland flooding associated with tropical cyclones. Florida knows the fury of hurricanes all too well, but the damage goes much deeper than that which occurs on our battered coasts.

As storms move inland, they begin to slow and often come to a stop over a particular area. The residents of my district in western Miami-Dade County have seen firsthand the damage that inland flooding can cause. Hurricanes and other tropical disturbances cause homes to flood and streets to become impassable. The danger associated with this type of flooding is a major issue that many Americans are simply not aware of.

This legislation instructs the National Weather Service to develop, test, and deploy an inland flood warning system for use by public and emergency management officials. With passage of the legislation, we will also provide increased training to improve

forecasting and risk-management techniques for inland flooding.

Mr. Speaker, this is a good bill. It will help protect Americans across the Nation. I urge, accordingly, my colleagues to support this open rule and the underlying legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DIAZ-BALART) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes. This is a fair and open rule for a non-controversial bill. H.R. 2486 will direct the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, through the U.S. Weather Research Program, to improve the ability to accurately forecast inland flooding. Additionally, this bill will direct NOAA to develop, test, and install a new flood warning index so that weather service personnel and local meteorologists will be able to explain the dangers of weather emergencies to the public.

Currently, the National Weather Service does not have the ability to accurately forecast coastal inland flooding caused by either tropical cyclones or excessive heavy rains. This legislation gives the National Weather Service the technology to better forecast these natural disasters.

Simply put, the information that will be provided by the National Weather Service to the American public is a vital step towards limiting fatalities and property damage.

As many remember, Hurricane Floyd killed 48 people and caused almost \$3 billion in property damage to inland locations in 1999. One year later, Tropical Storm Allison left areas of Texas with over 35 inches of rain, and then continued its course through the southwest, ultimately leading to the deaths of more than 50 people.

Over the past week, eight people have died and two more are missing as a result of over 30 inches of rain in Texas. According to the Red Cross, at least 48,000 houses have been affected by this rainfall and flash flooding.

□ 1045

The Governor of Texas estimates this damage will cost over \$1 billion. These examples of fatalities and property damage were a direct result of inland flooding.

The New England region also suffers from severe storms that result in devastating inland flooding. In 2000, a Nor'easter hit the coast of Massachusetts, and FEMA and other Federal agencies are still working with families and businesses in central Massachusetts on recovery programs. Based on information gathered as a result of this legislation, families and communities will be better able to plan for these storms. Hopefully this will lead to saving lives and property across the country.

Mr. Speaker, this bill was unanimously referred to the House by the

Committee on Science. It authorizes approximately \$1 million annually for FY 2003 through FY 2007. Of that, \$250,000 can be used for merit review grants to colleges and universities like the Worcester Polytechnic Institute and the University of Massachusetts-Dartmouth, which are in my congressional district, for improving coastal and inland flooding forecasting.

In order to avoid a recurrence of the devastating results of previous inland flooding, NOAA needs this funding to develop research that will help solve these problems. The bill before us today is an important step in that direction.

Mr. Speaker, I commend the members of the Committee on Science for their bipartisan work on this bill. I especially want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), for his leadership on this issue. I ask Members to support this open rule and to support the Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act. I hope this Congress will not just authorize these important programs, but make sure the funds are made available to carry them out.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), the distinguished chairman of the Subcommittee on Environment, Technology, and Standards of the Committee on Science.

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

Mr. Speaker, most Americans do not understand the power of floods until they encounter them. Floods cause an immense amount of damage to this Nation and also cause an average of approximately 100 deaths per year throughout America. Most Americans are not aware of how dangerous they are and do not realize that we lose almost as many people to floods as we do to tornadoes within this country.

Flooding affects every Congressional District in this country. The force of only 6 inches of swiftly moving water can easily knock people off their feet and carry them away into a nearby stream. The force of 2 feet of moving water can sweep cars away.

I am sure all of us have seen night after night on the evening news pictures of cars being trapped in water and we say, how could that happen? How could these people not know the danger? But it fools us. We think it is a small amount of water, but there is so much force that it can easily stall a car or sweep it away and carry it down the river.

The public needs more useful information about flooding, about the nature of floods, the damage from floods, and, most importantly, they need more and better information about when floods are likely to occur.

The bill that is before us, H.R. 2486, the Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act, which came out

of our subcommittee, provides that the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, better known as NOAA, will have a \$6 million authorization for a 5-year period to, first of all, develop a new flood warning index that will give the public, the media, and emergency management officials more useful information about the risks and dangers posed by expected floods.

We have done very well in this country in terms of tornado warnings, we have done very well in terms of hurricane warnings, and we have saved not just hundreds, but thousands, of lives over the past few decades with these new warning systems that have been in place. But we have ignored the need to warn people about floods; and not just about the general nature of a flood, but we have to outline roughly the boundaries of the expected flood so people know when to evacuate before the water hits them. So this bill will help develop the new flood warning index that will be understandable by the public, can be easily broadcast by the media, so that we can give warnings out so people will know precisely what to do before the flood hits.

The second aspect of the bill is that it will conduct research and develop, new flooding models, to improve the capability to more accurately forecast inland flooding due to tropical storms. Most people are not aware of the fact that deaths from hurricanes are not from these strong winds that come in from offshore. Most of the deaths are due to floods which occur when the hurricane moves inland and drops huge amounts of rain with resulting flood waters occurring.

It is an excellent bill. I was very pleased to work with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE) on this bill. We have perfected it in every way possible. It will serve the people of our Nation well. I urge that we pass this rule and then pass the bill.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. BRADY).

Mr. BRADY of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the leadership of the Committee on Rules and appreciate the leadership of the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), on this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for the Inland Flood Forecasting and Warning System Act and urge all Members to vote for this important, truly lifesaving, measure.

Mr. Speaker, when flood water starts to pour through your front door, it does not care if you are a Republican or Democrat, and for this reason I am pleased to be an original cosponsor in working on this common-sense bill with my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. ETHERIDGE), and fellow Texan, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HALL).

When it comes to hurricanes and tropical storms, the gulf coast of Texas

where I am from is pretty experienced. The hurricane season is something we prepare for, we monitor daily and we have grown to live with.

However, we were hit especially hard by Tropical Storm Allison, and it was extremely difficult to see lives lost and people left homeless in its aftermath. Tropical Storm Allison was the costliest tropical storm in U.S. history, both in terms of life and in property damage. That means homes, things people have worked their lives for. More than 50 people died. The storm caused more than \$5 billion in damage throughout the Southeast United States, but especially in our Houston area, where 35 inches of rain fell in just a few days.

The amount of flooding and the unprecedented damage caused by Allison surprised even the most experienced among us. It has caused our communities to wonder whether we are doing all we can to prepare for and prevent this level of damage in the future.

This legislation is a big step forward in the right direction. It would help prepare residents for future natural events like Allison by finding ways to improve the weather system modeling and early forecasting. It would allow NOAA, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, to develop an inland early warning index so we would understand how severe these storms could be, and then to train our emergency management personnel in improving these methods.

Here is the key point: Research that leads to earlier, more accurate forecasting is a sound investment, an awfully sound investment. So is finding new ways to alert communities to inland flooding. Flooding affects all of us in the United States, as the gentleman from Michigan (Chairman EHLERS) told us.

In conclusion, I will tell you, no one can control the weather, but we can certainly control our preparation for it. This bill will help provide inland residents with the warning system that raises the awareness of the destructiveness of such storms so we can protect ourselves, our families and our property, as well as ultimately lowering tax costs to the United States taxpayers.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this very important bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I will just simply close by reminding my colleagues that this is a fair and open rule for a good bill, and I would urge my colleagues to support the rule and support the bill.

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

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also would urge all of my colleagues to support the rule as well as the underlying legislation, for which the debate will now begin shortly.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, I yield back the bal-

ance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2733, ENTERPRISE INTEGRATION ACT OF 2002

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 474 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 474

*Resolved*, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2733) to authorize the National Institute of Standards and Technology to work with major manufacturing industries on an initiative of standards development and implementation for electronic enterprise integration. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. Each section of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. During consideration of the bill for amendment, the Chairman of the Committee of the Whole may accord priority in recognition on the basis of whether the Member offering an amendment has caused it to be printed in the portion of the Congressional Record designated for that purpose in clause 8 of rule XVIII. Amendments so printed shall be considered as read. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. QUINN). The gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend, the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. SLAUGHTER), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution before us is an open rule that provides for consideration of H.R. 2733, the Enterprise Integration Act of 2002. The rule allows