

Instead, for the past 28 years, there has been a Turkish Cypriot leader presiding over a regime recognized only by Turkey and condemned as legally invalid by the U.N. Security Council. Cyprus has been divided by the Green Line, a 113-mile barbed wire fence that runs across the island. Greek-Cypriots are prohibited from visiting the towns and communities where their families have lived for generations.

With 35,000 Turkish troops illegally stationed on the island, it is one of the most militarized areas in the world. This situation has also meant the financial decline of the once-rich northern part of Cyprus to just one-quarter of its former earnings.

Perhaps the single most destructive element of Turkey's fiscal and foreign policy is its nearly 28-year occupation of Cyprus. We now have an atmosphere where there is no valid excuse for not resolving this long-standing problem. Cyprus is set for entrance into the European Union in 2004, and I am hopeful that this reality will act as a catalyst for a lasting solution of the Cyprus challenge. EU membership for Cyprus will clearly provide important economic, political, and social benefits for all Cypriots, both Greek and Turkish alike.

This is why both sides must continue to negotiate. There is also a new climate of cooperation between Turkey and Greece with many positive signs. More has been achieved in the past 2 years than in many years before.

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While the U.S., the EU, Greece and Cyprus have all acted to accommodate Turkish concerns, it is time for Turkey to complete the peace process in good faith. Make no mistake about it, if Turkey wants the Cyprus problem resolved, it will happen. Now is the time for a solution to the Cyprus problem. It will take diligent work by both sides, but with U.S. support and leadership, I am hopeful that we will reach a peaceful and fair solution soon. Twenty-eight years is too long to have a country divided, it is too long to be kept from your home, and it is too long to be separated from your family.

We have seen many tremendous changes around the world.

It is time for the Cypriots to live in peace and security, with full enjoyment of their human rights.

I am hopeful that their desire for freedom will one day be fulfilled.

In recognition of the spirit of the people of Cyprus, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the Cyprus Federation of America, and in solemnly commemorating the twenty-eighth anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus.

I hope that this anniversary will mark the advent of true freedom and peace for Cyprus.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend

their remarks on the subject of my special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JEFF MILLER of Florida). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

CYPRUS

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, as I have done every year and as the gentlewoman from New York just did, we usually do this together, I rise again today to reiterate my fierce objection to the illegal occupation of the island of Cyprus by Turkish troops and declare my grave concern for the future of the area. The island's 28 years of internal division make the status quo absolutely unacceptable.

In July 1974, Turkish troops captured the northern part of Cyprus, seizing over a third of the island. The Turkish troops expelled 200,000 Greek Cypriots from their homes and killed 5,000 citizens of the once peaceful island. Over a quarter of a century later, about 1,500 Greek Cypriots remain missing, including four Americans. The Turkish invasion was a conscious and deliberate attempt at ethnic cleansing. Turkey proceeded to install 35,000 military personnel. Today these troops, in conjunction with the United Nations peacekeeping forces, make the small island of Cyprus one of the most militarized areas in the world. Turkey is the only nation, Mr. Speaker, in the world which recognizes the Turkish Northern Republic of Cyprus.

Twenty-eight years later, the forced separation of these two communities still exists despite efforts by the United Nations and G-8 leadership to mend this rift between north and south. The U.N., with the explicit support of the United States, has sponsored several rounds of proximity talks between the President of the Republic of Cyprus, Mr. Glafcos Clerides, and Mr. Rauf Denktash, the self-proclaimed leader of the occupied northern part of the island.

In January 2002, direct negotiations between President Clerides and Mr. Denktash began. Thus far, these negotiations have not produced any breakthroughs. Regrettably, the progress on an agreement has been thwarted by the intransigent position taken by Mr. Denktash with the full backing of the Turkish government. However, it is encouraging that the two leaders are continuing their direct talks which maintains the possibility that a comprehensive settlement can still be reached.

The recent political events in Turkey and the decision to hold early elections in November of this year will have a direct effect on the outcome of the Cyprus negotiations. While we support the call for elections in Turkey and trust the democratic voice of the Turk-

ish people, we hope that the Cyprus negotiations will not be undermined by election year politics. We hope that all parties running for Parliament will declare their support for a resolution of the Cyprus problem before the end of the year so that a united Cyprus can enter the EU.

Despite the division of the island constantly taking center stage, the Republic of Cyprus has flourished and grown as an economy and society. It is a Europe-oriented nation that is of strategic, economic and political importance to the region and to the rest of the world. Sadly, the people living in the northern part of the island continue to be mired in poverty as a direct result of their leadership's and Turkey's separatist policies. Cyprus is one of the leading candidate nations to join the EU in the next round of enlargement. European Union membership has the potential to act as a catalyst for resolving the problem of Cyprus which has been poisoning the relations among the parties to the conflict and their NATO allies and the United States.

It would also be in the best interest of Turkey to cooperate with the U.N. on Cyprus in order to advance its own membership in the European Union. Northern Cyprus will perhaps be the greatest beneficiary of Cypriot membership and resolution of the entire affair. It is currently in a state of economic distress which is being exacerbated by Turkish intransigence. Turkey spends more than \$200 million annually to sustain northern Cyprus. With settlement on the matter of Cyprus, this huge financial obligation would be eliminated. By joining the rest of Cyprus, northern Cyprus would become part of an already progressive economy, eliminating its financial dependence on Turkey.

We are all standing at the threshold of an historic opportunity that will shape the futures of generations of Cypriots, Greeks and Turks. We have a responsibility to these ensuant generations to secure their futures by contributing to the efforts to create a peaceful world. It is precisely, Mr. Speaker, to express the above stated points that I have felt compelled to introduce House Concurrent Resolution 164, a bill which expresses the U.S.'s support for Cyprus' admission to the European Union according to the Helsinki Conclusions of 1999. These specifically state that while a solution to the political crisis in Cyprus is preferable prior to EU accession, it is not a precondition for entry.

Mr. Speaker, we have a moral and ethical obligation to use our influence as Americans, as defenders of democracy and as defenders of human rights to reunify Cyprus. There have been 28 years of illegitimate occupation, violence and strife. Let us not make it 29.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the Co-Chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, Representatives MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and CAROLYN MALONEY for organizing this special orders on Cyprus and for their leadership on this important issue.

Twenty-eight years ago, on July 20, 1974, Turkish troops advanced into the Republic of Cyprus and forcefully occupied the island. Today, Cyprus remains divided with heavily armed Turkish troops occupying approximately 37 percent of the island. Over the past twenty-eight years there have been signs of hope only to be shattered by statements or displays of aggression resulting in increased tensions and little progress toward resolving the conflict over Cyprus. In 1999, the U.N. Security Council passed resolution 1251 calling for "... all States to respect the sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of the Republic of Cyprus, and requesting them, along with the parties concerned, to refrain from any actions which might prejudice that sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity, as well as from any attempt at partition of the island or its unification with any other country."

The Republic of Cyprus has on many occasions offered an olive branch to end this conflict. The Republic of Cyprus has offered to demilitarize the entire island, and has canceled an order of a surface-to-air missile system. Turkey has rejected these overtures and in fact continues to upgrade its military presence on Cyprus.

Mr. Speaker, throughout its history the United States has stood firmly against the forces of oppression and aggression across the globe. We should continue to advocate and support a peaceful resolution to the problem in Cyprus. As a cosponsor of both H. Con. Res. 164 and 269, I urge the President to take steps to end the restrictions of freedoms on the enclaved people of Cyprus by the Turkish-Cypriots and to work with our allies to support Cyprus' efforts of accession to the European Union (EU).

It is my sincere hope that we will see significant progress toward a unified Cyprus obtained by peaceful means. This can only improve the economic and political stability of the region, which is undoubtedly in the national security and economic interests of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, let me close by thanking my colleagues in the Hellenic Caucus for their exceptional work. I look forward to working with all of them to ensure that some day soon, the unification, not the division of Cyprus, will be commemorated by this body.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, for too many years this Congress has been making its opinion known about the heinous reality that persists on the divided island of Cyprus. Twenty eight years ago this week, Cypriot citizens became refugees within their own country. Homeowners became homeless. Families were divided. Hundreds were killed or disappeared, as they ran for their lives. The divide that endures in Cyprus is one that becomes more evident with every anniversary of the Turkish occupation of the north.

Last night, in the Rayburn Building, I hosted a briefing and film viewing on Cyprus' reunification. That movie, *Beyond Division: Reunifying the Republic of Cyprus*, began with a very powerful quote which read, "My father says love your country. My country is divided into two. Which part should I love?" It is taken from a poem entitled *Love Your Country* by Neshe Yashin, a Turkish Cypriot who fled her birthplace in search of safety.

These words capture perfectly the history that plagued Cyprus. A fraternal, peaceful, and bi-communal society was divided and torn by

a violent and foreign invasion. The end result was the alienation and isolation of neighbor from neighbor, family member from family member.

Mr. Speaker, I applaud the persistent efforts of my colleagues, MICHAEL BILIRAKIS and CAROLYN MALONEY, for calling this special order and arduously maintaining the plight of the people of Cyprus, particularly those who endure under Turkish control, in the minds of their fellow Members of Congress.

It is shameful that, as we stand here today marking this 28th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus, Turkey has not only threatened to annex the north of the island, but has increased its military presence there. Last month's increase of 5,500 troops in the north bolsters the Turkish presence there to more than 40,000 soldiers—by some accounts the highest degree ever.

Twenty eight years ago, when Turkey invaded, 200,000 Greek Cypriots—victims of a policy of ethnic cleansing—were forced from their homes and became internally displaced people, essentially refugees in their own country. They were pushed out to accommodate over 80,000 settlers from mainland Turkey. The U.S. Committee for Refugees calls the internal displacement of people in Cyprus the "longest standing in the [European] region."

Furthermore, Turkish armed forces responsible for the disappearance of 1,463 Greek Cypriots, including four Cypriot-Americans, have remained protected by the impunity the Turkish government has afforded them, despite its obligations under the UN Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances.

In addition, just over a year ago the European Court of Human Rights rendered a decision, finding Turkey guilty of violating 14 articles of the European Convention on Human Rights, and of being an illegal and illegitimate occupying force in Cyprus.

As Cyprus continues on its ensured path towards EU accession, it boggles the mind that Turkey—a NATO member—continues to occupy one-third of Cyprus. If a settlement to Cyprus is not reached by the end of the year, when the island is expected to join Europe, Turkey will be occupying European territory and hampering its chances of attaining that same status during its volatile economic and political crisis.

Mr. Speaker, the government of Turkey and Denktash are to be held responsible for the continual separation of the country of Cyprus. Despite the progress that has been made in the settlement talks that began in December of last year, they have halted development keeping the whole of the Cypriot community from a life of peace and freedom. However, hold-ups with the talks, increased deployment of Turkish troops to northern occupied Cyprus, and threats of annexation have proven futile in eroding international support of Cyprus' EU accession, settlement, or Clerides' government.

We cannot let this body forget the terror and fear that Turkey struck in every Cypriot's heart when they invaded in 1974. As the fifth round of the latest settlement talks commenced this week, we remain watchful, as well as hopeful, that peace may finally reach Cyprus and join both sides.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, twenty-eight years ago this week, Turkey invaded Cyprus, violating international law and provoking an

international outcry. Since June 1974, Turkey has occupied the northern third of this beautiful Mediterranean island—although no other country recognizes the occupation as legitimate. Cypriot President Glafcos Clarides and Turkish Cypriot Leader Rauf Denktash have re-engaged in peace talks aimed at reconciling the two communities of Cyprus since January. A resolution is not yet in sight, however, despite the incentive of accession to the European Union for both Turkey and Cyprus. We must now hope that a compromise will be reached soon, to ensure that Cyprus achieves its potential as a prosperous, progressive nation.

I was fortunate enough to visit Cyprus last summer. It was an eye-opening experience to be on the Green Line in Nicosia and then to walk a few blocks into the heart of a successful European Capital. This dramatic contrast—where conflict and normalcy can co-exist within a few city blocks—reinforces the need to find a solution to this dispute that removes hatred and division from the heart of Cyprus.

Today, Cyprus faces many challenges. The island is split across the middle by a barbed wire fence over one hundred miles long. Thirty-five thousand Turkish troops illegally occupy a third of the island, in what some consider one of the world's most militarized zones. Two hundred thousand Greek Cypriot refugees want to return to their homes in the north of the island but cannot as a result of the Turkish occupation.

Behind these disturbing statistics, there is a fundamental disagreement on the ultimate objective. Greek Cypriots seek a bi-zonal bi-communal federation—a solution endorsed by the United States, the European Union and the United Nations. The Turkish Cypriot leadership, however, seeks a loose confederation of two independent Cypriot states. Turkey has, to date, rejected the UN Security Council's resolutions, which call for the withdrawal of both Turkish troops and the 115,000 Turkish settlers introduced to the north since 1974. It is clear that consensus will not be easily reached, but the leadership of both sides must work diligently to implement a solution, as ordinary Cypriots on both sides of the barbed wire continue to suffer.

Congress must remain committed to helping the two sides settle this twenty-eight year old dispute.

First and foremost, the island must be reunited as a bi-zonal, bi-communal federal Cyprus on the basis of UN Security Council resolutions.

It is also crucial that the north of the island be de-militarized and that the two hundred thousand Greek Cypriot refugees be allowed to return safely to their homes.

In addition, the Turkish Cypriot leadership must address the plight of Greek Cypriots living in northern enclaves. During my trip last year, I attempted to visit Cypriots trapped in such enclaves, but was prevented from doing so by the Turkish Cypriot Authorities. I have co-sponsored House Concurrent Resolution 269, which calls for an end to restrictions on Greek Cypriots living in the North, because I believe that the human rights of this community must be respected by the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

Furthermore, the Administration should continue its annual allocation of \$15 million to promote confidence-building measures aimed at

bringing the Greek and Turkish Cypriot communities together. This small investment in peace will prove to yield enormous dividends.

And finally, I urge the Administration and my colleagues in Congress to continue to support Cyprus' accession to the European Union. EU membership will provide access to new markets and permit the free movement of goods and people. The European Council has made it clear that reunification will not be a precondition for accession; indeed, membership may even prove to be a catalyst toward the resolution of the Cypriot dispute. It is clearly in the interest of the Turkish Cypriot community to move forward in peace talks so the entire island can benefit from EU membership.

On this important anniversary, I urge all Cypriots to consider the merits of reunification, and I urge Congress and the Administration to remain committed to resolving this issue. The United States must continue to work with Greek Cypriots and Turkish Cypriots as they strive for peace, after twenty-eight years of conflict.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Hellenic Caucus since its inception in 1995, I rise today to mark the 28th anniversary of Turkey's invasion, and subsequent occupation of, Cyprus.

In 1960, Cyprus gained its political independence from the British Empire. Fourteen short years later, however, this independence was shattered when 6,000 Turkish troops and 40 tanks invaded the north coast of Cyprus and proceeded to occupy nearly 40 percent of the island. The ensuing fighting killed thousands of Cypriots and forced hundreds of thousands from their homes. Today, there are 1,619 people still missing, five of whom are United States citizens.

Twenty-eight years after the invasion, we are gathering to remember those who died and to ensure that the world never forgets that Cyprus is a land divided. More than 35,000 Turkish troops continue to occupy Cyprus in violation of international law. A barbed wire fence cuts across the island, separating families from their property and splitting this once beautiful country in half.

Over the course of the 107th Congress, I have petitioned the Bush Administration to take positive steps to help end the occupation of Cyprus, requesting that both President Bush and Secretary of State Powell make the reunification of Cyprus a top priority.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to join with my colleagues in standing up against Turkish oppression in Cyprus. I would especially like to extend my sincere thanks to the dedicated co-chairs of the Hellenic Caucus, Rep. BILIRAKIS and Rep. MALONEY, for their tireless work to ensure that the people of Cyprus are not forgotten. Twenty-eight years is a long time to wait, but it is my sincere hope that our actions will help persuade Turkey to end its unlawful occupation of Cyprus.

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most egregious acts of the 20th century—the Turkish invasion of Cyprus. This Saturday, July 20, will mark the 28th anniversary of the invasion of Cyprus and the 28th year of Turkish occupation of northern Cyprus.

On July 20, 1974, 30,000 Turkish troops invaded northern Cyprus in flagrant violation of international law. More than 200,000 Greek Cypriots were forcibly expelled from their homes and nearly 5,000 were killed. The fates

of more than 1400 Greek Cypriots missing since the occupation remain uncertain. This tragedy is remembered by Greek Cypriots around the world as one of the blackest days in their people's history. I share the outrage of my Greek Cypriot friends and firmly believe Turkey must withdraw its troops from Cyprus and allow reunification to take place.

Unfortunately, Turkey has continued to pour salt on this deep wound. In 1983, again in flagrant violation of international law, Turkey unilaterally declared independence in the area of Cyprus under its military occupation. The UN Security Council, including the United States, condemned this declaration and called for Turkey's withdrawal. To date, Turkey is the only country in the world to recognize the so-called "Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus." Turkey has also attempted to change the demographic structure of occupied Cyprus by transferring 115,000 Turkish settlers to northern Cyprus and allowing them to live in the homes of expelled Greek Cypriots.

Despite the occupation, Cyprus has achieved remarkable economic growth. It's people enjoy one of the world's highest standards of living and Cyprus is now a leading candidate for membership in the European Union. It is also a thriving democracy that maintains the highest regard for the rule of law and human rights.

In recent months, Turkey has issued threats in response to Cyprus' prospective EU entry. Most worrisome is Turkey's threat to annex the occupied areas of Cyprus. The world must not sit still for such dangerous saber rattling. Fortunately, it has not. The EU has stated that it will not be held hostage to such threats and Cyprus' movement toward EU membership continues. The U.S. has also stated emphatically that it opposes Turkish annexation and believes such threats are destabilizing. Unfortunately, Turkey has not backed off its threats and continues to take positions that fly in the face of the world community's aspirations for peace.

The U.N. Security Council has proposed a peace agreement that would create a single state with two politically equal communities in a bi-zonal and bi-communal federation. The Turkish Cypriot side, backed by Ankara, has rejected this internationally supported proposal. Cyprus supports this proposal and, notwithstanding Turkish opposition, it continues to make overtures in an attempt to resolve this longstanding conflict. The U.S. has supported Cyprus' peace aims but we must do more to press Turkey to allow peace negotiations to move forward.

Cyprus has been a reliable U.S. ally since its independence from Britain in 1960. Our countries share deep commitments to democracy, human rights, free markets and equal justice under law. Following September 11, Cyprus President Glafcos Clerides immediately condemned the terrorist attacks and offered his country's assistance in our efforts to fight terrorism.

This Saturday, at 5:30 a.m., sirens will be sounded across Cyprus to remember the moment when Turkish troops invaded their homeland. I urge my colleagues to take a moment this weekend to recognize the enormous injustice that has persisted in Cyprus at the hands of our NATO ally Turkey. The U.S. must do all it can to end this conflict and restore the right to live in a unified Cyprus for all Greek Cypriots.

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I wish to thank the gentleman from Florida, (Mr. BILIRAKIS), and the gentlewoman from New York, (Mrs. MALONEY), for organizing this special order on Cyprus, and providing us with the opportunity to reflect on the 28th anniversary of the Turkish invasion of Cyprus.

The Cyprus conflict remains one of longest lasting issues of concern to the international community that remains unresolved to this day. For years, Cyprus has been divided by a 113-mile barbed wire fence, in effect sealing off the residents of Cyprus one side from the other.

The presence of 35,000 Turkish troops on the island is unacceptable, and has contributed to a militarized atmosphere that is far from conducive to a life of peace and cooperation for all of its inhabitants. Overall, this conflict has been very costly for both the Greek and the Turkish Cypriot communities, resulting in untold human and economic losses.

Our goal must be to seek the reunification of Cyprus within the framework of a bi-zonal, bi-communal federation, guaranteeing freedom, human rights, and political equality for all of its citizens regardless of their backgrounds. I am encouraged by the UN-brokered efforts earlier this year that represented the first time that the two sides agreed to hold indirect talks since the 1974 invasion.

I applaud the personal efforts of the UN Secretary General, Kofi Annan, to advance the negotiating process, although I am disappointed that despite his visit to the island in May, the two sides failed to meet the June target date for an agreement.

As Cyprus prepares its candidacy for accession to the European Union in advance of the EU's December summit in Copenhagen, it has become increasingly essential that the two sides once again engage in serious negotiations with the goal of a political settlement of their differences and the ultimate unification of the island.

As we continue to press for peace, the US and the international community must pay heed to the anxieties and legitimate concerns of both Greek and Turkish Cypriots. Indeed, a political settlement of the Cyprus issue in accordance with United Nations resolutions would benefit all parties involved, as well as strengthening relations between Greece and Turkey, two of our key NATO allies.

The US must make it clear to Turkey that they stand to benefit, alongside Turkish Cypriot authorities, in promoting the UN's vision for a negotiated settlement to the Cyprus dispute in the near future. A solution to the conflict in Cyprus would promote regional economic opportunities, and would increase the likelihood for Turkish accession to the European Union where it would join Cyprus and much of the rest of Europe as the new century unfolds.

I am one of the few Members of Congress who was serving in the House 28 years ago and I very much regret that on this, the final opportunity I will have to participate on the House floor in a commemoration of this anniversary, the ugly scar that divides Cyprus has not yet been erased.

And yet, Mr. Speaker, I hope that soon, perhaps before the year is out, a breakthrough may yet occur. That is my hope for peace for the people of Cyprus.

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.)

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to take just a few minutes and join my colleagues, and I wanted to talk about the issue of Social Security and what we are facing with changes. I know that one of my colleagues soon, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), will be talking specifically about this and thought it might be appropriate to remind people of what some of the benefits of this program are to certain individuals and when it is done right, the significant opportunities that it presents not only to the individuals but for the gain for our country.

We want to produce productive citizens. That opportunity came for me when I was but a young kid. When my father died at my age of 12 years old, he was 54, leaving six children and a wife who did not have an opportunity for employment because she had very little or no education earlier in her own life. Had it not been for the support that our community gave us, this family, with the six kids, with one of them being in a wheelchair because of an illness that left her paralyzed, this family would not have been able to stay together. But through the support of Social Security, as long as we were students, up until the age of 21 years old at that time, we could get that help. It gave us the opportunity to stay together as a family. It gave us the opportunity to be able to get an education because otherwise we would have split up and more than likely have been spending our time earning a living so that those of us who needed to would be able just to survive.

Today, one of us is a very good physician in a State in the South, in Louisiana, another is retired from a major position in a pharmaceutical company, but my point is that all six of my mother's children became successful because of the assistance that our community gave us. And more importantly than anything, we have to realize that as these benefits come to people throughout our country, the benefits of Social Security, we cannot forget, we cannot pull the ladder up behind us and say it is not good for someone else. It made a difference for me. It helped me become the productive citizen that I believe that I am. And if we protect this, this wonderful institution, make sure that it is there for our kids and our grandkids and their children and on down the line as the security blanket that it can be and has been and

hopefully will continue to be, then we can make a difference in the productivity of a lot of people in this country and give a great deal back to our Nation.

I look forward to listening to the remarks of other colleagues.

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

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

CLOCKING REPUBLICAN RAID ON SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to acknowledge the compelling story of this incredible Member of Congress from Texas, NICK LAMPSON, who placed on the RECORD the story of his family and what Social Security has meant not just to seniors but to the disability insurance program and the insurance program for widows caring for children or widowers and millions of people. We never really know if we will be the one out of five families struck in America with tragedy beyond our ability to control and whether we will have the insurance to weather bad times. And is it not a credit to his mother and their family that every one of those six children has matured into a productive and really priceless citizen for our country. We need more citizens like NICK LAMPSON in this Chamber. We would build a different and better country with that kind of sensitivity and understanding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to continue what has become my weekly tradition of clocking the Republican raid on the Social Security trust fund. Since early June, I have been coming down here showing how much money they are taking out of the Social Security trust fund and using for other purposes, such as huge tax cuts to the richest 1 percent of people in this country. When I started these remarks, they were borrowing, as of early June, \$208 billion. Every single week they have dipped into it more. It went up to \$212 billion, then \$218 billion, then \$223 billion. By July 9 they were at \$235 billion. Then at \$241 billion. The line of increase into the trust fund is every week growing at geometric proportions. That amounts to already \$858 being taken out of your pocket as an American citizen from your Social Security payments.

What is the Republican House leadership doing about this? Nothing. This House leadership has simply refused to address the ongoing raid in the Social Security trust fund. In January of 2001, our Nation had finally, after a 12-year

struggle, actually managed to balance the budget. And we had surpluses. People were saying that we would be able to pay off our accumulated debt by the year 2011. There was euphoria. Even on Wall Street they took down the debt clock. What I would like to say to all the Bush administration friends on Wall Street, you ought to put the debt clock back, because the party that represents your big business interests, they are just increasing the debt again. So why do you not put the debt clock up? I would actually go and put one of those hooks in the wall at Times Square myself if I could find out who had that old clock.

Not even 1½ years later, the Congressional Budget Office is projecting that under the Republican budget passed in March of this year, there will be a \$1.8 trillion on-budget deficit over the next 10 years. I have been asking myself, why does the Republican leadership of this House love this red ink so much? They are taking money out of the Social Security trust fund in order to give these big tax cuts. I thought, well, maybe they love to issue Federal debt securities because who sells those debt securities? Twenty big bond houses on Wall Street make all the fees. They do not sell savings bonds to average Americans. Try to buy a savings bond and have it sent to your house. It will not happen. You have to go fill out a special form, then they send it over to whoever you say should be the recipient a month later. They have actually taken away the right of individual citizens to buy savings bonds conveniently in this country. They prefer to sell debt securities through the 20 bond houses on Wall Street because they make all the fees, which we pay for out of our tax dollars.

So instead of paying off the debt by 2011, under the Republican budget our publicly held debt is scheduled to increase by \$2.8 trillion by fiscal year 2011 and they are covering it over right now by borrowing from what is left in the Social Security trust fund to cover the difference. The biggest reason for this radical reversal in our Nation's financial health is the Bush administration tax cut. How do you feel about \$858 being taken out of your pocket and then given to a corporation like Enron this year which is going to take over \$350 million in the form of a tax rebate because of the Bush administration tax bill?

Or how about this: Your money is going to the top 1 percent of the wealthiest people in this country who no longer have to pay an inheritance tax. They are taking your money. That is what is happening to the Social Security trust fund.

What is the effect on all of this? The Republicans said they voted. They voted seven times not to do this. It is true, they did vote. But they are not keeping their promise.