

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, when the leader of the free world came to this Chamber in January to deliver his State of the Union address, he described the axis of evil governments. He mentioned them by name: Iran, Iraq and North Korea.

Since then, some people have criticized the speech. In fact, one of President Bush's predecessors said the speech was "over simplistic" and "counterproductive."

Mr. Speaker, the Government of Iran spends millions of dollars financing the murder of innocent civilians and violence in the Middle East. The Government of Iraq has used chemical weapons to kill its own citizens and has invaded its neighbors. North Korea is the only country I know of today that has concentration camps where people enter and never come home from. They literally starve their citizens.

If that is not evil, I do not know what is. Years ago another President referred to the Soviet Union as an evil empire, and some of us remember the Soviet refusenik Natan Sharansky. He was in a gulag when President Reagan gave that speech. Mr. Sharansky told me, when I met him, that news of that speech spread like wildfire through the Soviet gulags. Not until then did they realize that a leader in the West understood the nature of communism.

STOP CORPORATE EXPATRIATES

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

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, in the 6 months since the devastating attacks of September 11, we have seen some of the most heartwarming images of our American family pulling together to support one another. While Congress grapples with the tough decisions on how to pay for this war against terrorist and enhanced homeland security and other pressing national priorities, one member of the American family is losing its commitment. I quote, "Maybe patriotism needs to take a back seat to improve our earnings."

Mr. Speaker, these were the disturbing words of one aggressive accountant a mere 3 months ago urging her corporate clients to sneak out of the U.S. in the dark of night to avoid paying income tax. For a mere \$27,000 to rent a post office box offshore, one U.S. corporation has avoided \$40 million a year in corporate income taxes. If these were individuals doing this, the American taxpayers would be outraged.

Mr. Speaker, join me in shutting down this loophole exploited by corporate expatriates before one more American company decides to shelve the Stars and Stripes to save some money on the bottom line by avoiding corporate income tax.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO CATHY LAIRD

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in deep humility to join in the shock and the grief of the citizens of Shelby County, Indiana, to pay tribute to the passing of a leader, a wife, a mother, and a distinguished local citizen, Cathy Laird, who passed away at the age of 37 yesterday following the complications from an automobile accident. Cathy Laird was not only a distinguished public servant who would have, without term limits, been permitted to run for her third consecutive term as county clerk, she was also the devoted wife of Roger, the devoted mother of Mary, 9, and Emily, 5. Emily was in the car when the accident occurred; and characteristic of Cathy, she looked after Emily making sure Emily got to her appointment while she was taken to the hospital.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage Roger and all family and friends to not grieve like the rest of men who have no hope. Cathy had the hope that is now realized, and we will pray for her husband, her children, her family, her friends, and a grieving community who take comfort in the faith, hope and love of Cathy Laird.

SOCIAL SECURITY AND THE BUDGET

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

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Mr. Speaker, Social Security has been a successful program. It has helped millions of seniors out of poverty. Our seniors are facing a dilemma, one that threatens their security and their trust. We must fight to preserve our Social Security trust fund and honor the country's commitment.

The President's budget does not honor the commitment to our seniors, and in turn fails all Americans. Now is the time for us to focus on a long-term budget plan that will recover as the economy recovers, returning us to an era where we can fully protect and even strengthen our Social Security trust fund. We need to recommit to the idea of Social Security surplus dollars only for Social Security and paying down the national debt.

The President's new budget raids the Social Security surplus to pay for government programs, not just 1 year but 10 years. Our seniors deserve better than gimmicks and budget tricks. They need us to lead and fight for the preservation of a historic program and for the needs of seniors. We ask Congress to reconsider their budget, reconsider their tax cuts, and reassume the responsibility, and that is to pay down our debt and take care of our seniors.

ARMY NEEDS ADEQUATE RESOURCES

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

Mr. RYUN of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the enduring commitment the Army provides to our Nation. Throughout our history, we have relied on the Army to provide decisive force to defend America and her interests.

In the aftermath of September 11, the Army again answered the call by effectively leading efforts to support victims and secure our borders. They continue to coordinate efforts to protect our Nation throughout this country through homeland defense.

Last week General Shinseki testified about the need of the Army to increase its end strength. I believe we would do well to heed his advice.

Today America only boasts the ninth largest army in the world. Of the top eight, six are potential adversaries. We must work to increase the Army force structure. It should be obvious that we must maintain stability through strong ground forces.

Mr. Speaker, we rely on the Army to win wars and maintain the peace. Now more than ever, we must give these men and women adequate resources to meet these requirements.

□ 1015

INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTION

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise again today to talk about Ludwig Koons. Ludwig is still being held illegally by his mother in Italy.

He was born in New York City in 1992. When he was a year old, his mother, Ilona Staller, took him to Rome. After promising a quick return, Ilona delayed her return to the United States after Mr. Koons had purchased tickets for his family to return to New York. But in December of 1993 he learned that Ilona had left their son with unknown third parties and traveled to Ecuador to participate in an erotic pornographic show.

Mr. Koons quickly went to Rome to find his son. He found Ludwig confused, disoriented and abandoned by his mother, left in the care of a foreigner who spoke neither Italian nor English. Ludwig's housing environment was filled with pornography and was physically dangerous due to construction materials left strewn about. Neither the Italian nor the United States governments are helping to correct this situation.

Mr. Speaker, we would not want our own children in this kind of an environment. We should not want it for any American child. It is time to bring our children home.

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

(Mrs. CAPITO asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPITO. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to address a very serious and pressing problem in our communities and in our society, domestic violence. Around the world at least one woman in every three has been beaten, coerced into sex, or otherwise abused in her lifetime. Most often, the abuser is a member of her own family. Increasingly, gender-based violence is recognized as a major public health concern and a violation of human rights.

In my home State of West Virginia, domestic violence complaints to law enforcement agencies have increased by 400 percent since 1998. Last April, Attorney General John Ashcroft announced that West Virginia would be receiving \$1.1 million. I commend this effort.

We must keep in mind that battering behavior is prevalent across all lines of race, ethnicity, geography, education, social class, religion and sexual orientation and that battering has adverse, long-term psychological, emotional, physical and economic effects on women and children.

Mr. Speaker, this is Violence Against Women Week, and so I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for battered women everywhere.

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY

(Ms. SCHAKOWSKY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, this week I will be introducing a bipartisan resolution recognizing and supporting the goals of International Women's Day celebrated March 8 every year. We should commemorate this day by honoring the women around the globe who have contributed enormously to the struggle for gender equality and the advancement of women. That struggle continues today. While the right to vote has been won here in the United States, there still remain women in many countries fighting for their voices to be heard and for representation in their political process. Furthermore, women still earn less, own less property and have less access to education, employment and health care than men.

Our war against terrorism should include ending violence against women. The U.N. estimates that one out of every three women and girls has been beaten or sexually abused in her lifetime. Each year there are 1 million to 2 million women and children illegally trafficked across international borders, with 50,000 transported to the United States. It is estimated that 130 million girls and young women have been subjected to female genital mutilation, with at least 10,000 girls at risk of this

practice here in the United States. It is unacceptable.

I urge the Congress to pass this bipartisan resolution commemorating International Women's Day.

AGRICULTURE BILL IN CONFERENCE

(Mr. SMITH of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the conferees on the agricultural bill in both the House and the Senate are now meeting to come to an agreement on what should the agricultural policy be for the United States for the next 5 yrs. The Senate put in provisions in their bill that there should be payment limitations that limit how much money a farmer can get from price supports. The House, when we brought up my amendment, failed by 28 votes to pass such a payment limitation amendment.

I urge my colleagues to join us and call my office or the office of the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER) or the office of the gentleman from North Dakota (Mr. POMEROY), sending a letter to those conferees to encourage that we have some payment limitations. There are huge farm operations receiving 15, 20, 25, 30, \$35 million from 1998 until 2001. There is logic to having a farm policy that helps most of our farmers, the traditional family farms instead giving an extra \$2 to \$3 billion to the huge mega farms.

I would ask my colleagues to join in this effort to have a good farm policy bill with some payment limitations.

CALLING FOR AN EXTENSION OF UNEMPLOYMENT BENEFITS

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, it may be great comfort to the unemployed in this country to know that we have gathered here in the House of Representatives today to debate whether or not there should be a mourning dove hunting season.

The Speaker made us very comfortable back in September saying we would do something about the unemployed. We have not done anything since then about it that can get through both the House and the Senate. The Senate sent over a clean unemployment bill that should be brought to the floor and sent back to the Senate and become law.

Since September, 1.3 million Americans have exhausted their benefits. In January alone, 356,000 people exhausted their benefits, the single largest loss of benefits in almost 10 years.

Why is it that you have to bring a bill out here today with another poison pill tied to it? There are 222 press secretaries right now in those Republican offices with their thumb right over the

send button to send out the press release that we have done something about unemployment. You know it will die in the Senate because you designed it to die in the Senate. I do not think that is fair, and I think that we ought to bring the Senate bill out here and pass it with no problems.

THE WAR ON TERROR

(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, yesterday Valdosta, Georgia, and Savannah, Georgia, received the sad news that four of our service members in the First Ranger Battalion were among those who were killed in Afghanistan. We join their families and the entire Nation in mourning their loss and appreciating their patriotism and sacrifice.

But even as we do that, the criticism of the policy in Afghanistan by the Democrats continues. Jimmy Carter says that Bush's approach is too simplistic. Let us review time a minute. When the Soviets invaded Afghanistan, Jimmy Carter was President, and his very complicated reply was to boycott the Olympics. I guess that is not simplification, but what George Bush is in uniting a global front against terrorists, I guess that is simplistic. It is interesting that Mr. Carter only served one term.

Meanwhile, Democrats in Congress are saying that the war will not be won or complete until we get Osama bin Laden. I guess they better explain that to World War II veterans because, after all, we never found Hitler, and they must think that we lost that war as well.

I join Democrats, and I know it is not all the Democrats, there are a lot of good Democrats who are supporting this administration, but I invite the liberal extremist fringe in their party to support the President and to support our service members. This is a matter of freedom.

AMERICAN CORPORATIONS GO TO BERMUDA

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

Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, America goes to war against terrorism. America's fighting men and women are put in harm's way. American soldiers lose their lives. And American corporations go to Bermuda. At a time of national emergency, accountants are writing advice to their corporations saying that maybe patriotism will have to take a back seat in the opportunity to maximize their profits by avoiding American taxes on their corporation by taking up illegal residence on the island of Bermuda.

With the Republican tax cuts to the wealthy, the burden of paying for this