

life together for the betterment of all of us. So I thank him very much.

It leads me right into the reason why I speak today, which is to highlight, as I said, the unreadiness of this Congress on a series of issues that I think are extremely important that we have not yet done.

I want us to move quickly in the 108th Congress to face down corporate irresponsibility and malfeasance. Yes, we have passed legislation dealing with the ability to audit the internal records of corporations, to fix the audit committees, to oversee accountants, but we have not done much reform on the bankruptcy laws that negatively impacted laid-off or terminated employees.

For example, in my congressional district, when Enron filed bankruptcy on Sunday, they laid off almost 5,000 employees on Monday. Those employees are still trying to recoup. They had nothing, and they lost everything. It is interesting that the corporation could go in and recover through the bankruptcy laws, but the employees had no standing.

I am looking to file legislation with my colleagues to reform the bankruptcy law to put unsecured, fired, or terminated employees of corporations who seek bankruptcy protection at the top of the line. That is most evident by what happened to the family in my community, a member of the Enron family who was out on leave with a catastrophic illness. He, along with others, were terminated in the midst of his catastrophic illness. Of course, he was left with nothing. He lost his house, and he lost his life, because there was no more medical care for him, and there were no more health benefits and no ability to secure his prescription drugs. We have to fix that, Mr. Speaker.

We also have to fix this homeland security bill. I bring to the Members' attention the autism case dealing, as my colleague spoke before, with a vaccine that was utilized to the bad results of this particular individual. Russell Rollins was a picture perfect baby. Then at 15 months, just like every other baby, he got his MMR shot. He had a physical reaction to those vaccines, including a high-pitched scream and days of high-pitched crying and listlessness. Ten years later, those problems continue. Russell is now autistic.

So a vaccine moratorium on this case would be horrific, and this could happen time after time with the kind of limited liability that we have in the homeland security bill. I think it is misdirected, Mr. Speaker, as it is misdirected for airport security and antiterrorism technology.

We have never been afraid of doing the right thing, of ensuring that we have an opportunity for redress of grievances in courts. We have never been overwhelmed with frivolous lawsuits to the extent of products that are defective. We only need to engage in saving life. If Americans understood

that under the auspices of homeland security we are blocking their opportunity into the courthouse, they would understand the problem.

Let me close by simply saying that we have many miles to travel; and, as we travel, we need to do it right. I close by simply saying that we did not do it right today, Mr. Speaker. We left 800,000 employees who were fired, terminated, and unemployed without unemployment insurance. We did not do it right, and I hope that we will get it right. I will fight on behalf of those individuals and on behalf of America until we get it right in this Congress.

THANKS AND APPRECIATION TO MEMBERS, STAFF, CONSTITUENTS, AND FAMILY FOR SUPPORT IN MEMBER'S SERVICE TO THE NATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE), for her lovely comments, and to say how much I have enjoyed working with her through the years. I wish her and her family all the best and the best to the gentlewoman in her future endeavors. She is a great asset to this institution and also to the country.

I also want to appreciate the kind words uttered by my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who will be the new Democratic whip. I wish him much success in his new responsibilities; and to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ARMEY), who also expressed some very kind words, I wish him all the best. It was wonderful over the years working with him and engaging in colloquies at the end of the week, looking forward to the following week. I wish him the best.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon just to say thank you. I wanted a chance before I left to thank the Members of this institution and my staff for the support of individuals who make this building and this government run so incredibly well.

I want to start by thanking my wife, Judy, who has been absolutely fabulous. I thank her for her love and support; for her loyalty to the issues of social and economic and racial justice; for her wise counsel over the years, keeping me out of trouble when I needed to be kept out of trouble. Most of us who serve here find a way into trouble too often.

She was wonderful in keeping me on the right path, but she also was very good about encouraging me to create controversy, trouble, if you will, when the times clearly needed it. I thank her for helping me lead a path to clarity among much of the confusion that sometimes engulfs our lives, our per-

sonal lives, as well as our professional lives, and also for stoking my outrage when outrage was needed, when the situation called for us to become indignant and to stand up and to express ourselves in the most forceful and emotional way, sometimes, that we could to get our points across.

□ 1300

She is a great asset to this institution herself, having served here for over 20 years; and we look forward to the rest of our lives together and continuing on issues that we care deeply about and supporting many of the people who have supported us, especially the young people who are making their way up politically in their lives.

I also thank my children, to Stephen and Julie and Andy, the three of them. They are grown adults now and out of school, fully employed and working in the Washington, D.C., area, for the most part. They have given much sacrifice over the years when their father was not there, when sometimes he should have been. They are great kids. They have worked in the campaign over the years. They have just been super lovely children and now wonderful adults, and I cannot thank them enough for their patience and for their encouragement and sometimes for their criticism when their father needed it. I wish them, of course, the best; and we will continue to love and support them.

I want to also mention some wonderful people on my staff. Seneca once said that loyalty is the holiest good in the human heart. While I am not so sure that that it is the holiest good in the human heart, I appreciate the sentiment. Loyalty is a very important part of work, whether it is government work or private work or family life. You have to have loyalty, and I have had the most loyal, wonderful staff that one could ever imagine.

I am going to start by talking about, just very briefly, four people who have been with me throughout basically my whole career. The way my office basically ran was we had four people, two in Michigan, two in Washington; and they worked as a group, as a board: Ed Bruley, Chris Koch, Sarah Dufendach, and Kathy Gille.

Now, they all were with me for virtually my whole career: Ed Bruley, 25 years; Chris Koch, 25 years; Sarah Dufendach, 25 years; and I think Kathy about 20 years, although she worked on my first campaign 26, 27 years ago. So we have known each other, we have supported each other, and we have marched together with each other. They have all left now over this last year, but they will always be in my heart, and I wish them the best. They are really special people.

Ed does such a great job with young people particularly, nourishing them and helping them grow, helping them to become involved.

Chris Koch was sort of the person in our office who managed things and who

was always there to lean on when you had a personal problem and who had a real common touch and a real decency.

And Sarah Dufendach, who ran the office with Kathy Gille here and the whip operation, Sarah has now gone on to work with the Vietnam Veterans Foundation and doing wonderful things. We grew up together in the same neighborhood, and I wish her and Alan all the best in the future. She is a wonderful person.

And Kathy Gille, who grew up on the east side, all of us, by the way, were east-siders in the Detroit area, and Kathy's fight for economic and social justice and racial justice has been steady and passionate. And now she is working on peace with respect to the situation in Iraq. I wish her and Doug Tannear, who runs the Faith in Politics Institute that the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) alluded to a little earlier, all the best in their endeavors in the future as well.

Then, of course, there are some of my old whip staff who are now with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI): Jerry Hartz, Howard Moon, Paula Short, Jon Stivers, people I have already talked about on this floor several months ago, and who are wonderful assets to this institution, and I wish them all the best.

If I could also address some other staff individuals who have performed tremendously for our office and the people of the 10th District of Michigan: Erich Pfuehler, who was my Washington staff AA. Erich's been with me, for, gee, I am reluctant to guess now, but I know it is in the teens, the number of years, and he is a fabulous young man, and still a young man, and I wish him and Sarah the best in their endeavors.

Maya Berry; Amy Furstenau, who left a while ago; Dana Hopings, who has just done excellent work on urban issues and legislative issues; Kevin Mauro, who has worked in our office in the Rayburn Building; Nicole Nice-Petersen, who left recently to go to law school; Charles Powell, who has spent many, many years working for me doing the mail, providing the humor, keeping the office on a level keel in the Rayburn Building. We will miss him. He is off to Louisiana to make a new home for himself and Sarah.

Paula Short, who I mentioned earlier, who did a fabulous job just keeping me in order for a number of years before she went over to the gentlewoman from California; Kim Kovach we brought over just out of school and in a short couple of years was doing the key work in our office on trade legislation and who is now working for the steelworkers. We wish her and her husband all the best.

Bridget Andrews, who has been with me now for about 2 years and came from Michigan and there, at the end, closing the offices, doing all the difficult work. So, Bridget, thank you for your patience and for your hard work.

I do not want to miss anybody. Brian Taylor, who worked in our whip office,

who is now with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BLAGOJEVICH). Brian, the best to you in your future. Allison Remsen, who has now left but worked as a press secretary in the whip's office; and Matt Gelman, who did a good job for us and worked on the floor here and many of you knew. He has two lovely babies now and a good job, and we wish him the best.

And Mary Doroshenk and Chris Davis. Mary and Chris actually were married; and that was one of many, many marriages that came out of our organization over 30 years, and we wish them the best.

And Adri Jayaratne, who would make a great legislative director for anybody in this institution, a fabulous young man. And, Adri, thank you for so much of what you have done.

And in Michigan, I would like to say a particular thanks to the following people: Tim Morse, who has run my Port Huron office for 17 years. He is really a wonderful man, and we wish Tim the best in his endeavors.

And Rania Emara and Mark Fisk, Bob Allison and Joy Flynn and Steve Gallop. Steve has been with me 26 years, the whole time. He is as steady as a rock and as knowledgeable as it comes on grants and aid and support, and he is and will always be a very close friend. His sister Ruth, who was with me for 17 years, 17 years, and who now is going over, on her first day, with Senator STABENOW today. So good for you, Ruth.

I mentioned Joy Flynn and Bob Allison, who did some press work, and Mark Fisk, really very capable people, good people.

And Bob Gibson, who is now working for the Service Employees International Union, very good person who deals with workers' issues and community issues.

Charlie Jackson and Cindy Janecke. Cindy, thank you so much for putting up with me through all that scheduling difficulty we had, particularly in the Governor's race. We will certainly miss you, but I know you will do very well in the future. Best to you and Rick.

And to Tyler Kitchel, who is one of my top research people. Tyler is going on to graduate school and who will be missed.

Fred Miller, fabulous guy. Anything you want. Fred worked in the whip office and went back to Michigan and did the politics and other constituency work. We are going to miss Fred, but he is a neighbor, so I will see him on a regular basis.

And Sally Torres, who was one of our caseworkers. Sally has a master's degree in social work from the University of Michigan and does exceptionally good work and is a very caring and decent person. We wish her the best.

And Paul Soderberg and Patrick Rorai and Rick Suhrheinrich. They are all wonderful people, young people who started with us, those three actually, in high school, and now are graduates out of college and have been working

with us. I am sure some of those people, Paul, Rick or Patrick, will eventually end up serving the public someday in public office; and I am looking forward to being there with them and helping them in that endeavor.

Darlene Kaltz, whose great humor and organizational skill and accounting skills have kept us on the straight and narrow. We wish Darlene the very best, and we will be seeing much of her as well.

I want to go back to Ed Bruley for a second, because Ed has sort of been the political guru of my staff. I met Ed at a campaign 30 years ago. I ran against him and beat him for State representative. But I knew from that race that I did not want him on the other side, so we formed a partnership. This was right after the McGovern defeat in 1972, and we formed a group called Locus Focus, basically to rebuild the party locally. And Ed was a big piece of that. We got to be good friends, and when I ran for Congress he was one of the key people who made the campaign work and then was hired, and he has been with me for 26 years and ran the gubernatorial campaign.

What Ed was so particularly good about was putting young people together. Over the years we did something called Student Summit, for 15 years, where we would bring high school kids from each of our 100 high schools together and for a weekend we would teach them basically how this institution worked. It was role playing. Each one would take the persona of a Member of Congress. We would take an issue, an environmental issue or an education issue or racial justice issue, and we would lay it on the table. They would elect their leaders, they would elect a speaker, and they would go about trying to get a piece of legislation passed and thereby learning how this institution and their government works.

I am proud to say that over those 15 or 16 years that we have done this a number of people have come out of that and done extremely well, actually been elected to school boards and city councils, and Ed puts that together. He brings people and school-to-work programs from Germany, from Ireland, from Canada into our congressional district, and we have a regular flow of people coming back and forth. That is one of the things that he excelled at, and I think he has given many opportunities to many people as a result of his interest in young folks. So, Ed, congratulations to you.

In fact, right now, he has taken about 20 people and taken them over to Germany. That is where they are at this very minute, some of them on my staff, some other young people, to expose them to government in Germany and the school-to-work program over there, among other things.

So we thank all of them. And I am sure I have left somebody out, and I deeply apologize if I have. It is not because I do not love you and respect you

and appreciate what you have done; it is because I am not as organized as I probably should be this afternoon. But we thank all of you for your kindnesses and your support and your help.

There are other people I want to thank. I saw Ellen Rayner was here a little earlier. She has worked in this institution for 30, gee, I think it is 32 years, and in interesting ways, with the Iran-Contra and a whole host of special committees and recently for the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and his committee. And she does a great job. She is going to retire after 32 or 34 years, and we are going to miss her.

But there are so many folks like that who have given their careers and their lives to this institution who need to be thanked and appreciated.

I want to also thank the staff, people who run the floor, the pages, the people in the cloakrooms, too numerous to mention. So many of you have made our lives easier. I know what it is like, being the former whip of my party, having to deal with over 200, at one time 260 Democrats on a daily basis, trying to keep them happy and informing them and bringing them together collegially. I know how difficult it is sometimes to please Members of Congress. But you do it every single day that we are here.

□ 1315

It is not easy sometimes, and I appreciate the patience of the staff and to their devotion.

To the parliamentarians, to the people who cook the food, to the waiters, to the elevator operators, to the janitorial service that keep this place looking really good so the public can enjoy it and appreciate its beauty and its specialness.

If I might also this afternoon, I would like to say a few words about my colleagues. It has been a great joy to serve here. They say over 10,000 people have served in the Congress. I do not know how many Members I have served with, but I suspect it is probably close to 1,000, probably that many over 26 years, and they are some of the finest people that a person would ever want to meet. They work long hours, they work hard, and are devoted to their constituents, to the issues they care about, and to their party for the most part. They do good work for this country, and it has been a joy to have created so many friendships over the years, and I hope to maintain those to the extent that I can in the coming years. To them, thank you for your kindnesses and courtesies.

And to my party, thank you for giving me the opportunity to serve in your leadership. I spent about half of my political career in the leadership here in the House, and it is a gift. It is a very special gift. I will always be grateful for that opportunity. I thank my colleagues for it.

Let me say this to my constituents from Macomb and St. Clair Counties,

and these are counties just northeast of the city of Detroit, I thank them for the incredible gift they gave me of allowing me to serve them and to represent them. I have not been the easiest guy to keep sending back. I understand that.

I kind of believe in the old adage if you are not living on the edge, you are taking up too much room; so I like to kind of push on things, and sometimes I know I have tried people's patience. But my constituents have given me the opportunity to do that, and I thank them from the bottom of my heart. Judy and I will retain our home in Mount Clemens, Michigan. We do not know what I am going to end up doing next, but hopefully it will involve a little bit of teaching and a little bit of community service along the way, and perhaps some other things as well.

There is an old saying in the Bible in Proverbs that where there is no vision, the people perish. And in order for an institution or a people to be successful, you have to know where you are going and how you are going to get there. At least one needs an initial plan.

Throughout our career, and I say "our" because I consider this not only my career, but the career of the people who work for me and my family, we have tried to have a vision where we wanted to take the district and the country, and that vision revolved around social, economic and racial justice.

These are very difficult times that we are living in today, changing times at an incredible rate, technologically changing, changing times with respect to our natural environment, with our political environment, and the challenges that await my colleagues in this next Congress are monumental. I was going to try to resist leaving a few last words of comments to them, but I cannot help but give a little bit of advice if I could before I leave today.

At the beginning of today's session, Father Coughlin said these words when he gave his prayer. He said, "Dear Lord, deliver us from fear, hatred and war." Of course, if you can deliver yourself from fear, you are a long ways from delivering yourself and your community from hatred because fear is an ingredient into hatred. If you can move away from hatred, you can move away from violence, and violence often manifests itself, in our business, in war.

I am very much concerned about the state of our planet from a variety of aspects, but I will say this in conclusion. I have never seen in my 30 years of public life the international community as brittle as it is. It is almost as if on a hair trigger. I wake up to public radio, and the conflicts are raw, bitter, more frequent, and they seem more intractable.

I am generally an optimist, but I have found myself over the last couple of years, particularly on the international scene, becoming more and more pessimistic. While I know these conflicts in the Middle East and even

here at home, and in Asia and South Asia in particular, and other places around the globe are not religious based, they do spring, to some extent, from misconceptions about other people's religions.

It is important for all of us to remember, it seems to me, that Christianity and Judaism and Islam all spring from the same fountain, they spring from Abraham. They are monotheistic in their teachings, and their values are incredibly similar. There is this disconnect out there in terms of what Christianity is about or what Islam is about.

I woke this morning to a story in Nigeria in which 100 people were killed over Christians and Muslims fighting, killing each other over a beauty contest. I am sure that it runs much deeper than that, but that was the issue that triggered the violence.

We have to be able to talk to each other better. We have to be able to reach out to each other more. I am so concerned about our inability to do that, the turning away Christian to Muslim, Jew to Muslim, Muslim to Christian. We need more coming together and understanding about each other's religion and who we are and the great traditions and histories of each other's religion. That is why talking to each other is very important.

I know there are Members in this institution who take great pride in the vote that they cast in 1991 regarding the Gulf War. And I stood at this very spot and gave the final speech in opposition to the Gulf War, and I did so because I felt that the Gulf War, while undoubtedly we would be successful militarily in the short run, would lead eventually to problems down the road in the future. I felt that we would be creating the atmosphere for another generation of people who felt just totally disillusioned and would be susceptible to moving into terrorist kinds of activities, suicide bombings, the kind of things that we have so painfully witnessed and suffered, not only here in our country, but abroad as well.

In 1982, about 20 years ago, I was in the Middle East and was on a trip. I went to seven countries, and ended up in Lebanon. At that time Members may recall, the Israelis were bombing Beirut in the summer of 1982. Arafat was confined in an underground bunker, which I was taken to to meet him, with a few other Members of Congress, and it looked like his time was just about up, and this was 20 years ago. This was a brutal civil war in Lebanon in which tens of thousands of people were lost, and much violence accrued to not only the Lebanese people, but other people in the region.

I remember one particular evening I was having dinner at the American ambassador's residence to Lebanon and the residence overlooked the city and I was eating outdoors with the Prime Minister of Lebanon, Bashir Gemayel. His father, Pierre, had been head of the clan, and also Amin Gemayel. The conversation became very tough and very

accusatory with respect to who was to blame for what was going on just below us in the city.

Some ugly words were spoken, and I said to myself that evening, this is never going to end. The depth of hate and anger is so large, so deep, this is going to go on and on and on, and it did go on for many years afterwards.

That evening after we were done with our dinner, we walked to the edge of the cliff that overlooked the city of Beirut, and we watched the Israelis dropping fluorescent lighting over the city so they could pinpoint activity in the city, and perhaps even bombing the city. The next morning there was a lull in the fighting, and I was walking through the city and I saw the cluster bombs that were made by the United States and dropped in these neighborhoods, and I walked to this one neighborhood and I saw this house smoldering, and as I was standing by this house, a car came up with a father and mother in the front seat, and three teenaged sons in the back seat. The father came over to where I was, and asked me who I was. And I told him I was a United States congressman, and I asked who he was. And he said, "This is my home. It was bombed last night, and I lost a child and my home." I commiserated with him and expressed my sorrow and sympathies.

He went back to his car and he told his family who I was. One of the teenaged sons in the back seat came out of the car ran towards me, and started to attack me. He was pulled off. I had a security person with me. He went back to the car with his father. I will always remember that because I am positive that young man went after me because he associated me, a United States congressman, with the destruction of his home and the loss of his sister.

I think about that a lot because I wonder where those three teenaged boys in the back of that car, where did they end up? Did they end up as guerrillas, as terrorists? What was their future going to be like?

Over the last 20 years, particularly the last couple of years, it has been so painful to know that some of our actions, and I do not want to stand here and blame the United States because we are a good country and do great things, but some of our actions have led to this kind of estrangement, this kind of hopelessness, this kind of terror-driven maniacal activity that is occurring around the globe today.

□ 1330

That is why I voted against the Gulf War resolution 10 years ago in this House of Representatives, or 11 years ago, because I felt that that effort was going to lead to another generation of people who are going to be disillusioned and who will strap something to themselves and walk into a building or a bus and blow themselves up. It has happened with much, much more frequency now. I do not know when it is going to abate or how it is going to

abate, but we have to start to talk to each other. Violence and war is not the only answer.

I do not stand here as a pacifist. I was supportive of our efforts during the last administration to stop the ethnic cleansing in the Balkans and worked very hard to get President Clinton involved in that situation. I have supported President Bush in his efforts in Afghanistan. But I want to say to you this afternoon that I am so very fearful that our engagement again in Iraq will lead to another generation. They may not be necessarily in Iraq. They may be in Nigeria. They may end up in Indonesia. Does the United States really want to take on a huge part of the world? We have got to be able to talk to each other. We could find ourselves fighting on seven or eight different fronts in a very, very short time.

So violence is not the answer. It is discussion. I would encourage my colleagues and the American public to be a little bit cautious about reading those individuals on war or listening to those individuals in our media on war who have themselves refused to serve their country in time of war. The Rush Limbaughs and the George Will's and the Cal Thomases, these are folks that have not seen a war that they have not liked in their careers. They believe in America using its power repeatedly, consistently, expressing itself through its military might on every possible occasion.

If you read their writings, you will find that. I choose them because they are three that stand out. We need to have a more balanced perspective. If you watch the nightly news or the cable news over particularly the last couple of years, there is this frenzy to outdo each other for ratings or for whatever it is, a hyping of the situation, the war situation, in this instance, in Iraq. There is very little said, if anything said, about the horrific implications of what our sanctions have done to create the atmosphere, if you will, for millions of people to distrust the United States.

I have said this before and I will say it again, and I am not talking about just the Bush administration, the Clinton administration as well, our policy in Iraq led to the premature deaths of 50,000 children. 50,000 children. 50,000 a year. Children who did not get the nutrition they needed, mothers who did not get the nutrition they needed and bore children with low birthweight. Those children died of respiratory problems or they died of diarrhea which is rampant because they cannot get decent clean water because partially of the war and the bombings that occurred and the inability to get equipment to fix the water treatment facilities and the sanitation facilities.

50,000 a year. Yes, that could be rectified through a couple of avenues. Saddam Hussein could deal with this problem and so could the United States, but no one has done it, and it has gotten worse and worse and worse. They know

this story in Afghanistan. They know this story in Tajikistan. They know this story in Syria. They know this story in Yemen. They know this story about 50,000 children dying prematurely in much of the world. We do not know this story here.

Yet we sat on a committee, the United States representative sat on what they call a 621 committee, if I am correct on the number. It does not matter. It is a committee of five people, members of the Security Council, and they have to vote on what medicine, what food, what equipment gets to be sent into Iraq. They have done this for 10 years. The United States has been the representative on that committee for the past 10 years that 98 percent of the time has said no to medicine, to food, to water pumps to fix their water systems. We have been the one who said no. They know this story. We do not even know our own story here. And it has led to such painful consequences for the innocent people of Iraq who do not want and do not care for Saddam Hussein and want him out of there. They are suffering. All we have done is strengthen him because it has shifted the focus to our inability to deal justly with their lives.

During the 1991 Gulf War, some of the armored equipment and projectiles, projectiles specifically that we deployed, were coated with something called uranium, depleted uranium. The reason they coat these projectiles is that uranium is hard, it can pierce through tanks, but what they did not tell us was that once this uranium projectile hits a tank or an armored vehicle, it atomizes, it gets in the atmosphere, it gets into people's lungs, and there has been a huge increase in leukemia and soft tissue sarcoma of children in Iraq, 100, 120 percent, since this war. They have the protocols to help these young people, they are mostly young people, I visited them in the hospitals when I was there, to help these people get through this difficult, life-threatening disease, but the United States has denied the medicine to treat these young children.

I tell you these stories not because I want to rag on the United States of America. This is a good country. We do lots of good things around the world in health care and education. But we cannot isolate ourselves the way we have in this part of the world or in South Asia or in other parts of the world and expect that the people are going to understand us and we them.

So I would just conclude by saying that I hope that we will look at our national security concerns from that perspective as well. And then to finally end up, I am sounding like a Baptist preacher, I am saying finally and I am closing 20 times here to the gentlewoman from Texas, but to finally say that our economic security is vitally important as well.

The gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) addressed this in her comments as did the gentleman from

Wisconsin (Mr. OBEY), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) and others earlier. We cannot ignore those workers in our country who have through no fault of their own been laid off or lost their jobs. We should have done the bill before we left today. This is a Republican bill, for heaven's sake. It was signed off by DON NICKLES in the United States Senate. It was passed unanimously over there. We are talking about a million people running out of unemployment compensation benefits during a very important time of year for most people. This is a stimulus package in itself, a small one albeit, but needed for those devastated economies in certain pockets of our country. We could have done this. There is no reason we could not have done this. But we did not. We did not do it. And so I hope the first order of business, Mr. Speaker, will be this bill when the new Congress resumes.

Finally, let me just say to you, Mr. Speaker, and to Speaker HASTERT and my dear friend DICK GEPHARDT, whom I have had the honor of working with, I thank you for your kindnesses over the years and your leadership. Both of your staffs have been exceptionally wonderful to me and to my staff. I thank you for all the kindnesses that you have shown me. I look forward to returning those kindnesses in the years and months ahead.

I yield to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I did not leave the floor because I knew that the gentleman was going to give to this Congress an oration or a message that we should not miss. I just want to conclude to the gentleman's remarks by again thanking him for his service to America. And though you did not announce it yourself, many of us alluded to it, it is important to restate that you are a veteran of wars. You did go to Vietnam. You did serve your country in the United States military.

And so as you speak in concluding, thanking your staff and those of us of your colleagues, you speak from what you know. What I would like to offer to you is again an enormous thank you for educating us about the admonition of delivering us from fear and hatred and war. We would do well in the next Congress to include you, encourage you, and listen to you for the travels that you have made, the insights that you have gathered. Might I make a commitment, and might I say that I have been very much instructed by your words, is that we will not give up on a vote and that is that a vote that has seemingly given authority to go to war against Iraq. I always say to my constituents, there was a vote, but likewise there were votes, plural, that expressed a different perspective.

I think it is important for those of us who view this war as both untimely and as well ill-directed, to follow in your line of reasoning and, that is, to

keep raising the issues and seeking to educate the American population.

Lastly, I would say the tone that you offered your message and your words today should be applauded by all. You were encouraging, embracing and nurturing. We thank you. What I would say to those who have debated this question of war, I would hope, and sometimes we are looked upon as being frivolous, that we might debate the question of peace, that there might be legislative initiatives that would talk about generating peace and understanding. I do not know if we have ever done that. I know there is a peace institute.

I would encourage and simply ask the minority whip, the former minority whip and the very helpful leader of this Congress and this Nation, to continue to stay in the fight with your words and wisdom on these issues, and maybe we will get there someday, understanding that peace has a greater price maybe, but a greater return than any war that we could engage in. I yield back to the gentleman with an enormous thanks.

Mr. BONIOR. I thank my colleague for her lovely words. I wish her success and happy Thanksgiving to you and your family and to the staff as well. Bless you.

RECALL DESIGNEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KERNS). Without objection, and pursuant to section 2 of Senate Concurrent Resolution 160, the Chair announces the Speaker's designation of Representative RICHARD K. ARMEY of Texas to act jointly with the majority leader of the Senate or his designee, in the event of the death or inability of the Speaker, to notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, of any reassembly under that concurrent resolution, and further, in the event of the death or inability of that designee, the alternate Members of the House listed in the letter bearing this date that the Speaker has placed with the Clerk are designated, in turn, for the same purpose.

There was no objection.

STATUS AND LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES OF GUAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2001, the gentleman from Guam (Mr. UNDERWOOD) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. UNDERWOOD. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I want to congratulate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) on an excellent career and express my profound admiration for him and for his work that he has done during the course of his career.

Perhaps one of the most unknown dimensions of his role as a leader in the House of Representatives is his willingness to take the time to take newer Members on and guide them through

the process, especially those people that are not full Members of the House like myself, as a delegate from the territory of Guam, take the time to shepherd us through the process and provide guidance and support whenever necessary.

There were a number of points along the way in which the assistance of the gentleman from Michigan was very critical. I want to just recount two stories along those lines. One obviously was in the beginning of the 103rd Congress when the delegates of this House were granted a vote on the floor of the House under the Committee of the Whole which was introduced as a rule in the 103rd Congress. He stood by us and he was very strong on that. There was a lot of internal debate within the Democratic Party caucus and, of course, it became a full blown national issue almost immediately, resulted in a lawsuit and everything else, and probably even contributed to the demise of the majority by the Democrats in the 104th Congress.

□ 1345

But, true to his word, the gentleman from Michigan stood by the delegates; and he stood by the fact that he felt, as many of us U.S. citizens feel, that full representation in the House is not dependent upon payment of taxes but is dependent upon citizenship. He stood in a very steadfast manner for all of us, and we very much appreciated it.

Then another part which is much less well-known, but I am willing to kind of talk about it a little bit now, was, in organizing the Democratic Caucus rules for the 104th Congress, some of the Members felt that the delegates had become albatrosses around the neck of the Democratic Caucus, so that one way they could perhaps, since the Democrat delegates did not contribute to the winning of the speakership and since they were part of the committee ratios, some Democratic Members felt that perhaps it would be a good idea to limit the delegates to one committee membership as opposed to two. The reasoning for that was that since the party ratios had shifted and the Democrats were now kind of in a tough situation trying to fight for seats on choice committees, that if the delegates who were not helpful in controlling the House in any ways, if they were limited to one committee assignment, perhaps it would be of greater assistance to the Democratic party. And again, of course, I was part of a group that spoke out vigorously against that idea and spoke to the meaning and the heart of what it meant to be a member of the Democratic party caucus; and again the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BONIOR) stood by those people who were basically without a voice in this House. So I congratulate him on a career well spent.

I am taking the time this afternoon in the last day of the 107th Congress for the House of Representatives to simply express my gratitude to the people of