

So I think the only thing we can do is do what we are doing tonight. Ask the tough questions. With the extension of this Halliburton contract today, I do not think we can wait any longer to see how this company is spending the taxpayers' money.

I naively thought that the contract was going to end today and it would not be extended; and when I read that it was going to be extended, I just could not believe it. The process continues. And I think we just have to be here every night or as often as we can to point out how outrageous this is and what the administration is doing.

□ 2310

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK).

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, just really when we think about it, we are making millionaires basically. We are making millionaires out of Iraq, not only out of the supplemental but out of the Iraq appropriations as it relates to private contracting. That is what is happening.

So we hear speeches from the administration how we want to empower Iraqis and how we want them to take control of their own government and their own economy, and the reality is it is not happening. I do not care if an individual is an Independent, a Republican, a Democrat. I am talking about an American voter. That is very simple. Individuals who have set up shop, not only here in the Beltway with higher connections in the administration, to be able to say I will give you the edge, I do not think there is a lobbying firm set up to help Iraqis get the edge.

So I cannot help but question that, and I think that as we continue to talk about this and as the media continues to reveal what we are talking about here tonight, once again, I just want to clarify. These are not just proud, card-carrying Democrats who say, hey, let us take a shot at the Republicans. We are not talking about that. We are talking about facts, not fiction. We are talking about kids and our grandchildren having to pay for what we are doing here today.

This Congress did not even have the gumption to say, okay, if we believe that we have to send an additional \$87 billion in a supplemental of borrowed money, that we will find a way to be able to pay for today, that it will not be on the backs of our grandchildren and our children. That did not happen, and right now, the House and the other body will come together in some sort of conference committee, and I am not a betting person, but I can pretty much guess that we are going to end up giving Iraq the money, and we are going to have shortfalls.

Every Member of this body will end up having fewer dollars to be able to take back to their Districts to be able to build our economy, to build an economy that will create jobs, not an economy that individuals will just say,

okay, I need to tuck this away and put it away, but individuals will actually be hired, that jobs will be looking for people and people will not have to look for jobs.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I just hope that somehow our bringing this to light will make a difference. I know it will not in that \$87 billion supplemental because they are going to bring that back tomorrow or the next day, and all these no-bid contracts and the other things we are talking about are going to continue, but I think if we continue to bring it to light, ultimately there will be some changes.

So I want to thank the gentleman again and all my colleagues for being here tonight.

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. CASE (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 5:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of official business in the Middle East with a congressional delegation.

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today after 4:00 p.m. on account of official business.

Mr. AKIN (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 5:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of leading a congressional delegation to Iraq.

Mr. MCCOTTER (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today after 5:00 p.m. and the balance of the week on account of traveling with an official delegation to inspect reconstruction efforts in Iraq.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. PALLONE) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. NORTON, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. ROSS, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mrs. MALONEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. TERRY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. PENCE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. BURTON of Indiana, for 5 minutes, November 5.

Mr. TERRY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SHUSTER, for 5 minutes, today.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 11 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, October 30, 2003, at 10 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4973. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Additional Registration and Other Regulatory Relief for Commodity Pool Operators and Commodity Trading Advisors; Past Performance Issues (RIN: 3038-AB97) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4974. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Denomination of Customer Funds and Location of Depositories (RIN: 3038-AB31) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4975. A letter from the Under Secretary, Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Food Stamp Program: Non-Discretionary Quality Control Provisions of Title IV of Public Law 107-171 (RIN: 0584-AD31) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4976. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas [Docket No. 02-037-2] received October 7, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4977. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Irish Potatoes Grown in Certain Designated Counties in Idaho, and Malheur County, Oregon; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV03-945-1 FR] received October 20, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4978. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Office of Financial Assistance, Small Business Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Business Loans and Development Company Loans (RIN: 3245-AE68) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

4979. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sudan that was declared in Executive Order 13067 of November 3, 1997, as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003; to the Committee on International Relations.

4980. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State,

transmitting notification concerning the Department of the Army's Proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance (LOA) to Egypt for defense articles and services (Transmittal No. 03-39), pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(b); to the Committee on International Relations.

4981. A letter from the Director, Office of Human Resources Management, Department of Energy, transmitting a report pursuant to the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Government Reform.

4982. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Exclusions from Income and Net Worth Computations (RIN: 2900-AJ52) received October 27, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

4983. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Co-payments for Inpatient Hospital Care Provided to Veterans Enrolled in Priority Category 7 (RIN: 2900-AL35) received October 27, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

4984. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Veterans Education: Independent Study Approved for Certificate Programs and Other Miscellaneous Issues (RIN: 2900-AL34) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

4985. A letter from the Director, Regulations Management, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule—Disease Associated with Exposure to Certain Herbicide Agents: Chronic Lymphocytic Leukemia (RIN: 2900-AL55) received October 16, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska: Committee of Conference. Conference report on H.R. 2115. A bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-334). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 421. Resolution waiving a requirement of clause 6(a) of rule XIII with respect to consideration of certain resolutions reported from the Committee on Rules (Rept. 108-335). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 422. Resolution waiving points of order against the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2115) to amend title 49, United States Code, to reauthorize programs for the Federal Aviation Administration, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-336). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. CRENSHAW):

H.R. 3385. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prevent sex offenders subject to involuntary civil commitments from receiving Federal student financial aid; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. WYNN, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 3386. A bill to provide assistance to combat infectious diseases in Haiti and to establish a comprehensive health infrastructure in Haiti, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mr. RODRIGUEZ):

H.R. 3387. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve health care programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs and to extend certain expiring authorities; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TANCREDO (for himself, Mr. MOORE, and Mr. MORAN of Virginia):

H.R. 3388. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of a military service medal to each member of the Armed Forces who served honorably during the Cold War, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MILLER of North Carolina (for himself and Ms. HART):

H.R. 3389. A bill to amend the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 to permit Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Awards to be made to nonprofit organizations; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. SCHROCK (for himself, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. SIMMONS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, and Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico):

H.R. 3390. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, relating to prescription drug benefits for Medicare-eligible enrollees under defense health care plans; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. CANNON (for himself, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. MATHESON):

H.R. 3391. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain lands and facilities of the Provo River Project; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 3392. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements in the procedures for adjudication of claims for benefits under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BALLENGER:

H.R. 3393. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to add Catawba and Cleveland Counties, North Carolina to the Appalachian region; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. BOEHLERT (for himself, Mr. HOUGHTON, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. BLUNT, Mrs. KELLY, and Mr. SWEENEY):

H.R. 3394. A bill to clarify the lands over which Indian tribes shall have jurisdiction or exercise governmental power; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HERGER (for himself and Mr. MATSUI):

H.R. 3395. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to clarify the definition of

contribution in aid of construction; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KING of Iowa:

H.R. 3396. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish a process under which a provider of services or other health care provider under the Medicare Program may petition the Secretary for an adjustment of the rate of payment made to that provider under the Medicare Program based on a significant inequity between the rate of payment applicable to that provider, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MCCRERY:

H.R. 3397. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for contributions to individual investment accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 3398. A bill to amend title 23, United States Code, to establish a goods movement program to improve the productivity, security, and safety of freight transportation gateways; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. MURTHA:

H.R. 3399. A bill to suspend temporarily the duty on electron guns for certain cathode ray tubes, liquid crystal display panel assemblies for use in liquid crystal display projection type televisions, and plasma display panel assemblies for use in plasma flat panel screen televisions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. OTTER (for himself, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. NUNES, Mr. OSE, and Mr. PEARCE):

H.R. 3400. A bill to amend the reclamation laws to clarify that certain man-made facilities that receive water from a Bureau of Reclamation Project are not navigable waters; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. PALLONE:

H.R. 3401. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish therapeutic equivalence requirements for generic drugs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. JANKLOW, and Mr. MCINTYRE):

H.R. 3402. A bill to establish permanent authority for the Secretary of Agriculture to quickly assist agricultural producers who incur crop losses as a result of damaging weather or related condition in federally declared disaster areas, to provide emergency disaster assistance to agricultural producers for qualifying crop losses for the 2001, 2002, or 2003 crops, to continue the livestock assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. RADANOVICH (for himself, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CARDOZA, Mrs. BONO, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. OSE, Mr. OTTER, Mr. POMBO, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. UPTON, and Mr. WHITFIELD):

H.R. 3403. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to modify certain provisions regarding methyl bromide, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. REGULA:

H.R. 3404. A bill to authorize the conveyance of the former Army Reserve Training Center in Wooster, Ohio; to the Committee on Armed Services.