

2. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report the provision of the Senate amendment (not included in the House amendment) that provides families of military personnel serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, and other combat zones a child credit based on the earnings of the individuals serving in the combat zone.

3. The House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report all of the other provisions of the Senate amendment and shall not report back a conference report that includes additional tax benefits not offset by other provisions.

4. To the maximum extent possible within the scope of conference, the House conferees shall be instructed to include in the conference report other tax benefits for military personnel and the families of the astronauts who died in the Columbia disaster.

5. The House conferees shall, as soon as practicable after the adoption of this motion, meet in open session with the Senate conferees and the House conferees shall file a conference report consistent with the preceding provisions of this instruction, not later than the second legislative day after adoption of this motion.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT OF INTENTION TO OFFER MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 6, ENERGY POLICY ACT OF 2003

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule XXII, I hereby give notice of my intention to offer a motion to instruct conferees on H.R. 6, the Energy Policy Act of 2003.

The form of the motion is as follows:

Mr. INSLEE moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the Senate amendment to the bill H.R. 6 be instructed to confine themselves to the matters committed to conference in accordance with clause 9 of rule XXII of the Rules of House of Representatives with regard to "high-level radioactive waste" as defined in the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1982 and other provisions of Federal law.

#### IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to draw my colleagues to a singular uniting factor, and that is that we all support United States troops that now are facing danger in Operation Iraqi Freedom. With that in mind, I am quite willing to support the expenditures requested by the administration solely to support our troops and the necessities that they require in order to protect their lives. But the American people deserve an answer, Mr. Speaker, and we should not vote in totality for the \$87 billion. It is a sham if we do so without explaining to the American people, one, an exit strategy, two, what is the United Nations resolution that will require us to coalesce around the concept of allies helping us in the democratization and reconstruction of Iraq? How many troops will we get from our allies? How much money will they expend?

And, Mr. Speaker, we need a full accounting by the administration on what they have spent the money for. I will be filing legislation to separate out the vote, voting for the moneys for our troops without question, but demanding an explanation from this administration before we vote any moneys for reconstruction.

What are the oil revenues going for, Mr. Speaker? And I would say this, that we spent only \$7.5 billion in the Gulf War. Why? Because we had a legitimate and solid alliance with our allies across the world. This is a mistake in the way we are doing this. We should not vote for the \$87 billion in totality. We must separate out the vote, and I ask my colleagues to vote for this legislation.

#### IRAQ SUPPLEMENTAL

(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, I wanted to speak on the subject of the supplemental budget. Eighty-seven billion dollars is indeed a lot of money. Yet, building democracy in the Middle East, building an ally in the Middle East, another ally, would be very, very helpful to United States interests and to the big picture of world peace.

I hear from a lot of my Democrat friends that, well, I'm going to support the troops and cleverly just support that portion of the budget which goes directly to the troops, which would be about two-thirds of it, some 60-plus billion dollars. How can you support the troops and then not let them complete their task by trying to rebuild the country and the infrastructure? It does not make sense. If you are going to support the troops, you have to support their mission.

I would love any of my colleagues who have such doubts about the importance of what we are doing to come down to the Third Infantry Division in Hinesville-Fort Stewart, Georgia, and talk to some of the troops who have been there, who have spent 6 to 8 months of their lives there in the last year and look them in the eye and say, you know what, I do not like what you are doing. And you know what, I am going to support your expense, your room and board, but I am not going to help you rebuild this nation that you lost your friends over.

I just want to say, that is an open invitation to any Democrat or Republican if you want to come down and talk to people who have been on the ground.

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

#### THE CLEAR ACT OF 2003

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise on the floor of the House today to share, sadly, yet another tragic story of another instance where senseless criminal acts, acts that could have been prevented and should have never happened, were allowed to take place because of our badly broken immigration system.

Mr. Speaker, for the last year, South Florida has been terrorized by a serial rapist. Beginning in September of last year, seven females in the Miami area, ranging between the ages of 11 and 79, have been victimized by a vicious, brutal criminal. Needless to say, the year-long attacks have left most women who live in the Miami area fearing for their safety and on guard for these past 12 months.

Thankfully, the local law enforcement authorities in the area believe they now have their man. Earlier this month, Miami police arrested Reynaldo Rapalo. A citizen of Honduras, he is accused of raping the seven women I mentioned earlier, and trying to attack and rape four others during that same time.

The Miami police indicate that they have Mr. Rapalo's fingerprints, his DNA that links him to these dastardly crimes, and finally his confession. Tragically, Mr. Speaker, they also had Mr. Rapalo himself back in October of last year, before six of the rapes had been allowed to occur. He was arrested on molestation charges, and at the time Mr. Rapalo's C-1 visa had expired. He was living here then illegally.

Mr. Speaker, had the CLEAR Act been on the books last October, Reynaldo Rapalo would have been detained and deportation proceedings would have begun and, more importantly, the women who were subsequently brutally attacked would have never fallen victim.

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The sad fact is cases like this one are far too common, and our government has turned a blind eye to the criminal alien crisis in America for far too long.

Today within our borders, there are 400,000 illegal aliens with standing deportation orders that we cannot find. Among these are 80,000 criminal aliens like Mr. Rapalo, murderers, rapists, pedophiles and the like. These individuals were in the hands of law enforcement at one time but turned loose because of an immigration system that is unresponsive, unaccountable, and just plain broken.

Mr. Speaker, while our men and women wearing the badge continue to arrest and rearrest the same criminal aliens that our failed immigration system continues to put back on the streets, our Federal Government sends just 2,000 Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement agents, BICE, in

the field to enforce these immigration laws, telling those officers, the victims of crimes like those witnessed in south Florida over the last year, and the 80,000 criminal aliens this government cannot find, one simple thing: we are simply not serious about this crisis. This Congress is not serious about this crisis.

Earlier this summer, along with the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BOYD) and the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. DEAL), I introduced a bipartisan bill that would get serious about our Nation's growing criminal alien crisis. The bill, entitled the CLEAR Act, is a measure that would make clear that our Nation's 600,000 local and State law enforcement officers have the authority to enforce our Nation's immigration laws, and we would give them the training, access to data, and the resources that they need to get the job done. Finally, it would give some much-needed help to the 2,000 out-manned Federal agents we have enforcing immigration law today.

Mr. Speaker, today's broken and failed immigration system is simply unworkable and for this government and this Congress to stay on the sidelines and let 80,000 criminal aliens create more horror stories like those perpetuated by Mr. Rapalo is simply unacceptable behavior. I urge my colleague to get off the sidelines and support the CLEAR Act, get involved in this game, and let us get serious about America's criminal alien crisis.

#### THE BUSH ADMINISTRATION'S ECONOMIC POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HINCHEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. HINCHEY. Madam Speaker, last February the President's Council of Economic Advisors forecast that, as a result of the economic policies of the Bush Administration, there would be 510,000 new jobs generated this year. Here we are on the advent of October; and in order for that prediction of last February to succeed, 947,000 jobs would have to be created between now and December 31, in other words, within the next 14 weeks. I wish the President's Council of Economic Advisors luck because this administration, aided and abetted by this Congress, has lost 437,000 jobs so far this year. We have had record job losses under this administration and that includes the 93,000 jobs that were lost in August alone. We do not yet have the figures of course for September, but it is likely that we will be seeing some similar amount of job loss.

This administration and this Congress have given us the worst economic performance in more than 70 years; 2.7 seven million jobs have been lost since the neoconservative Republicans have controlled both the White House and

the Congress. They have also done other things which are huge in their consequences. They have given us the largest budget deficit in history, and they have also provided the Nation with a record national debt.

Just recently we learned from the Census Bureau that America is now poorer than it was last year, just as it was poorer last year than it was the year before. Median income of the average American family has dropped by more than \$1,000 within the last year. America and its families are poorer today than they were this time last year. Poverty is up.

These are the statistics, bare statistics. They only begin to tell the difficult story that has fallen on American families all across this country. We need a reversal in these policies, and we need it quickly.

#### WASHINGTON WASTE WATCHERS

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

Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, the Washington Waste Watchers have been hard at work locating a vast range of government waste, fraud, and abuse. Unfortunately, these examples have not been hard to find, Madam Speaker. For some, however, examples of wasted taxpayers' money does not slow down their efforts to raise taxes. We have got a spending problem here in Washington; and waste, fraud, and abuse is a huge part of why we have that problem. For example, \$366 million, \$366 million in Pell grant awards was improperly disbursed because applicants understated their income on their applications last year. That resulted in over 84,000 Pell grants lost to waste, fraud, and abuse. And the Democrats want to raise taxes to pay for more of this?

The Veterans Affairs Inspector General, Madam Speaker, estimates that roughly 14,000 incarcerated veterans have been paid about \$100 million nationwide because the Department has no method of identifying prisoners, never has, \$100 million in wasted benefits that missed going to the needy, truly needy veterans in order to line the pockets of Washington's bureaucracy. And the Democrats, Madam Speaker, want to raise taxes to pay for more of this?

Over the last 4 years, the Department of Agriculture spent a total of \$5.13 billion in food stamp overpayments. That is \$5.13 billion wasted instead of helping low-income families who are unable to put food on their table. And again Democrats insist on wanting to raise the taxes of the hard-working American people to do more of this?

We do not need to raise taxes to improve government benefit programs; but Madam Speaker, we have to be willing to reach into the pockets of the bureaucracy and stop that system from

spending the checks of our taxpayers' money.

Accounting schemes that send people to jail in the private sector do not even impact a normal promotion schedule for the bureaucracy in the Federal Government. It is not an issue here. See, it is time to hold those people responsible for wasting taxpayers' money; but we have got to be committed to fixing the broken systems, not just pouring more and more tax money from the hard-working people to keep the same programs going exactly the same and wasting the same amount of money as the Democrats would suggest.

The American taxpayers are not fooled, Madam Speaker. They know that their hard-earned tax dollars have paid for \$106 billion in Medicare improper payments since 1996. Their dollars have paid for \$233 million in improper payments within the Veterans Compensation and Benefit program. Their tax dollars have even bought a pet dog for a member of the bureaucracy with a government charge card. Billions of dollars are lost every single year to waste, fraud, and abuse. Taxpayers are sending their money here to Washington only to find that it is being wasted; and the Democrats again still want to raise their taxes, saying there is not enough money up here.

There is a clear path, Madam Speaker, to eliminate waste, fraud, and abuse throughout this Federal Government. We must find savings and not tolerate, I repeat, not tolerate, any level of wasted taxpayer dollars. Democrats have chosen to oppose those efforts time and time again and fight to raise taxes in order to pay for more of this business as usual.

Every week, Madam Speaker, the Washington Waste Watchers will keep reminding every person, every person in this Chamber of the impact of government waste, fraud, and abuse, not only to the taxpayers, Madam Speaker, but also to the beneficiaries who do not receive the benefits that they do deserve. Again, we will also remind our friends on the other side of the aisle that their constant attempts to raise taxes will only result in billions of additional dollars being lost to waste, fraud, and abuse at the expense of the hard-working American taxpayer.

#### ORDER OF BUSINESS

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Texas?

There was no objection.

#### LACK OF A GOOD HEALTH CARE SYSTEM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.