

the greatness of our Nation. In only a few years, he has become a leader in our Nation's religious life, and he has met twice with President Bush.

I am proud that he is here today and was able to give this body a moving start to our day.

Imam, you have been most welcome here today and we are honored that you are with us.

SUPPORTING BAN ON PARTIAL-BIRTH ABORTION

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, partial-birth abortion is a horrific and heinous procedure which attacks the very dignity of women at the most fundamental level. As a mother and as an ardent human rights activist, I have fought tirelessly to ensure that all are guaranteed the most basic of human rights, the right to life. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the fundamental international document on human rights, states that "Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person."

Some of my colleagues who support partial-birth abortion are the first ones to rightly advocate the prohibition of cruelty against others or even against helpless animals. But how can some cringe in horror when an animal is tortured, yet they do not think twice about the unspeakable suffering of an innocent baby being killed through this so-called medical procedure?

I urge my colleagues to finally pass the bill outlawing this act and send it to the President for his signature.

WELCOMING IMAM HASSAN QAZWINI

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

Mr. CONYERS. To my colleagues this morning, I am very delighted to entertain Imam Hassan Qazwini and seven other members from the Muslim community in Detroit and Dearborn, Michigan. He and I are very good friends and I am honored that the Islamic Center of America is located in my congressional district. I am also proud of the fact that they are building what might likely be the largest religious center for Muslims in the United States, which will be in Dearborn, Michigan, which my colleague and the dean of the House, Mr. DINGELL, and I both represent.

The important point I would leave with you in extending my welcome is that Imam Qazwini has worked tirelessly with those of us Christians, Muslims and Jews to continue a dialogue that has taken place more than a dozen times in Detroit and in the District of Columbia with the help of my former staffer, Ms. Alexia Smokler, and my

current general counsel of the Committee on the Judiciary, Burt Wides. We have worked together with Congressman DINGELL to continue the discussion that is so necessary for us to come together, understand each other's cultures and also be amazed at the similarities of concerns that we raise.

It is in that spirit that I too join in the welcome to the House of Representatives on this day to Imam Qazwini.

GOOD FISCAL NEWS

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, good news on the fiscal front from Pennsylvania. Pennsylvania Secretary of Revenue Greg Fajt said this week that State revenues for September were up 6.4 percent, higher than expected. In fact, every revenue source has reported an increase for the fiscal year. Sales tax, corporate income tax, personal income tax and even the realty transfer tax and the inheritance tax have produced unexpected dollars for the State treasury. For the entire year, the cash has come in at 2.9 percent or \$134.9 million over the estimate.

In addition, the Small Business Survival Committee has ranked Pennsylvania's tax code 17th in the Nation for its friendliness to small business. That ranking was based on being last in corporate income taxes, 10th in personal income, 21st in property taxes and 2nd lowest in bureaucrats per 100 residents.

I hope what is happening in Pennsylvania is symptomatic of what is happening in other States in our country as we seek to make Pennsylvania and America a better place to provide jobs and raise our families.

TIME FOR U.S. TO GET OUT OF IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. It is time for the United States to get out of Iraq. It is time to get the U.N. in and the U.S. out, to bring our troops home and to end this sorry exercise in preemption and unilateralism.

America can ill afford to spend \$87 billion on top of \$179 billion in support of a war which has no end, no exit, no logic and no sense. It is time to come up with a plan to get the U.N. in and the U.S. out. We must work with the world community on this.

Today the administration will tell Congress that it was deceived by Saddam Hussein into thinking that Iraq had weapons of mass destruction. Let this Congress not be deceived by an administration that took this Nation into a war we did not have to fight. Bring our troops home.

Vote against the \$87 billion; U.N. in and U.S. out of Iraq.

SUPPORTING THE PRESIDENT'S WAR ON TERRORISM SUPPLEMENTAL REQUEST

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of President George W. Bush's supplemental request of \$87 billion for the war on terror. This will support our troops who were historically successful in combat and helped develop Iraq so that we can win the peace.

After World War II, America led the effort in the Marshall Plan to rebuild Germany. We prevented Germany from becoming a breeding ground for Communists and we defeated communism. Today we can redevelop Iraq and prevent it from becoming a breeding ground for terrorists and we will defeat terrorism. This funding is mutually beneficial for the people of America and Iraq.

We cannot abandon the newly freed people of Iraq and allow the terrorists to regain strength. We can either fight the terrorists overseas or on the streets of America.

I believe that every dollar of this supplemental is a weapon which will help save American lives. I encourage Members to stand firm in our promise to win the fight in the war on terror.

In conclusion, God bless our troops.

IMMIGRANT WORKERS FREEDOM RIDE

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

Ms. SOLIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call attention to the hundreds, if not thousands, of workers that will be converging on Washington, D.C. today as part of the Immigrant Workers Freedom Ride. The Freedom Riders are construction workers, cooks, farmworkers, landscapers, nurses, janitors, and even nannies. They work hard and they pay taxes. Like the Freedom Riders of 1961, today's Freedom Riders are advocating an end to unfair policies and unjust treatment. These policies deny millions a clear road to citizenship and make them vulnerable to abuses in the workplace.

We should enact laws that reflect the reality of our economy's labor needs and that recognize the important contribution of immigrants. That is why I have introduced a resolution today supporting Freedom Ride and urging President Bush and the Congress to reform our broken immigration system.

Over 2 years ago, President Bush pledged his support for an earned adjustment program for undocumented immigrants but has yet to deliver. Millions of immigrants and their families continue to live in the shadows, wanting to participate fully in American society.

I urge my colleagues to support my resolution and call on the President and Congress to support the policies that ensure that all workers are treated with dignity and respect.

NEWS WE DO NOT HEAR ABOUT FROM IRAQ

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I just returned from Iraq with 15 bipartisan colleagues, and I learned that 90 percent of Western reporters have left Iraq. Those who remain can only get their stories out if they report injuries to Americans. We are not allowed to learn what else is happening in Iraq.

The press does not like to report on other press, but that is a story here. Iraq had only one newspaper, Uday Hussein's newspaper. Now it has over 100, like Azzaman, Ashiraa, Ibn Al-Balad, Al-Nahdhah, Al Mutamar, and an English-language newspaper, Iraq Today. But today is also the first day of school in Iraq, and we have now bookbags given to children in Iraq. This is a bookbag filled with school supplies, notes, calculators, rulers, pens, papers, that went to 1.5 million Iraqi children for the start of school. These are also things that are happening in Iraq, but we are not allowed to hear about them from our newspapers.

THE NATIONAL DEBT

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

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I want to draw attention to the issue of national debt. It has been 874 days since this administration came into office. During that time, the national debt has increased by \$1,142,246,097,598, and according to the Web site for the Bureau of the Public Debt at the U.S. Department of Treasury, yesterday at 4:30 p.m. eastern daylight time, the Nation's total outstanding debt was \$6,782,571,483,957. Furthermore, in the current fiscal year we are in, 2003, which actually ended yesterday, interest on our national debt or what I call the "debt tax" is \$304,978,878,641.

It is time for Congress to pay attention to this disturbing trend.

A SALUTE TO THE 495TH TRANSPORTATION COMPANY

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

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to welcome home the more than 100 men and women of the Florida National Guard's 495th Transportation Company from Lakeland, Florida as they arrive back in the United States

and return to their families. I want to thank them for their courage, their service, their bravery, and I want to thank their families for their patience through this long ordeal. The 495th took small arms fire during its tenure in the desert, luckily without casualties.

Floridians should be proud of the service and tremendous accomplishments of the 495th Transportation Company. These men and women risked their lives and made sacrifices to keep our country safe and secure and secure those same blessings for the Iraqi people.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of the 495th Transportation Unit have each played an invaluable role in their own communities for years. They are now home again to retake their place in businesses, schools, fire stations and farms. And I believe Staff Sergeant Stephanie Miller said it best: "I'm just glad to be home. Glad we made it back safe."

God bless Stephanie. God bless all her colleagues, and may God continue to shower his blessings upon this great land.

URGING CONGRESS TO VOTE AGAINST PAYMENT FOR RECONSTRUCTION IN IRAQ

(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, let me associate myself with the words of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. SOLIS) to welcome the Immigrant Freedom Riders who will be coming to the United States Government to petition for equality and justice similar to the movement and rise made by those who fought hard in the Civil Rights movement.

As I think about civil rights and civil justice and liberty, I cannot help but be so very proud of the young men and women who stand on the front lines in Operation Iraqi Freedom. I say to the parents and friends and family members who have lost those who gave the ultimate sacrifice, we will never forget. I also want to make mention, Mr. Speaker, of those who lay wounded in our hospitals without eyes, without limbs, and that is why I rise today to point out to the American people and to this Congress that it would be unpardonable, it would be atrocious for us to randomly vote for \$87 billion that is being asked by this administration without first bifurcating the vote, voting for the troops and the resources that they need, the armor that they need, but yet looking to distinguish between the reckless dollars that they are spending in this so-called reconstruction without allies.

I am glad the children of Iraq have bookbags. The children in Houston, Texas do not have any bookbags. It is time for this Congress to take up its responsibility and not vote for the \$20

billion for reconstruction and support our troops.

UNFUNDED LIABILITIES AND THE DEFICIT

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

Mr. SMITH of Michigan. Mr. Speaker, the good news is that there are indications that we are having an economic recovery. In both the third and fourth quarter, we are looking at economic expansion much greater than what was earlier predicted. But this still leaves a great obligation for this Chamber and the Senate and the White House to look at the reality of the situation where we are spending more money than what is coming into government. The Congressional Budget Office estimates that the last fiscal year of 03 we will have a deficit of \$562 billion. This fiscal year for 2004, we are going to have a deficit, which means spending over and above revenue of \$640 billion. That does not include the \$87 billion for Iraq.

We need to start looking not only at the debt burden that we are leaving our kids and our grandkids, but the unfunded liabilities. These are promises that we have made in programs such as Social Security where we do not have enough money to pay promised benefits. We need to consider all of these unfunded liabilities and the deficit along with the mounting cost of servicing this debt. And I hope my colleagues will join me in sponsoring my Social Security bill, H.R. 3055.

THE FOX INSPECTING THE HENHOUSE

(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, I am pleased to announce that the theater of the absurd is opening a new farce. The plots of the old one, the fox, Mr. Ashcroft, is inspecting the henhouse, looking for someone who broke the law by revealing an alleged CIA employee to the press.

Does anyone believe that they are going to use all the power of the Patriot Act, that they are going to go through the library records, the medical records, the visa records of everybody in the White House to find out who committed this crime? How can this Congress sit here with a straight face and allow that to be the way this issue is revealed? There ought to be an independent counsel. There is no way you can convince the American people that John Ashcroft, whose campaign manager was Karl Rove in the last election he lost, is going to do a real investigation of who broke the law in the White House.

This Congress cannot let that go by because no intelligence agent is going