

mourn the victims of terrorism everywhere. We should note that the victims of terrorism in the Middle East are not simply those who were murdered, as terrible as that is, but it is an effort to achieve peace.

I continue to believe that Israel should make every reasonable effort to achieve peace. I don't think we can fairly say to the Israeli Government peace must be achieved, because that is not entirely in their control. I remain, unfortunately, skeptical that they have a true partner for peace on the Palestinian side, although I think they should continue to see if they do.

But no one who understands democracy, no one who has seen the way we have reacted, the way Spain has reacted, the way other democracies have reacted, should feel that you can put pressure on Israel without taking into account the context of repeated murder in which they are asked to operate.

OFFSHORING AND ITS IMPACT ON U.S. JOBS

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, I want to take just a few minutes to talk about the issue of offshoring, which is hotly debated and oft discussed as we focus on the question of jobs. It really comes down to two choices that we have here in the United States: We can try to isolate ourselves from the rest of the world or we can continue, as has been the case throughout recent history, to innovate and create better and better jobs for Americans right here in the United States.

After decades of American global economic leadership successfully competing in the worldwide marketplace and producing cutting-edge technologies and business practices, the economic isolationism option is clearly no option at all because of the success that we have enjoyed.

That leaves us with only one choice, Mr. Speaker, and that is to allow Americans to continue to innovate, grow, and create better jobs right here. In fact, innovation has always been the key to our global economic leadership. Our culture of creativity, independence and free thinking has created what the CEO of an Indian high-tech company recently called a, quote, "unique crucible for innovation."

He shared this anecdote in the New York Times recently talking about the very powerful force of innovation here in the United States. He said, "I was in Europe the other day and they were commiserating about the 400,000 European knowledge workers who have gone to live in the United States because of the innovative environment there. The whole process where people get an idea and put together a team, raise the capital, create a product and mainstream it, that can only be done in the United States of America," this Indian high-tech executive said.

Mr. Speaker, our longstanding position as the leading global innovator continues to be very strong. For example, the United States is by far the world's leader in producing new patents. In recent years, an average of 185,000 new patents have been granted here in the United States compared to 120,000 in Japan and only 45,000 in the entire European Union of all those countries combined.

Mr. Speaker, we also lead the world in research and development by a huge margin. The U.S. spends over a quarter of a trillion dollars on research and development every single year, while Britain spends about a tenth of that amount, Germany spends less than a fifth of the U.S. total, and France spent about an eighth.

Our growing investments in research and development have led to steady growth in the number of intervention disclosures and patent applications by academic and nonprofit research organizations as well. In 2002 these grew by 15 percent and they continue to increase.

These same institutions also are increasingly licensing their work in partnering with U.S. companies, primarily small- and medium-sized businesses, to apply their discoveries and innovations to our marketplace and to the global marketplace. This increased research and licensing lead has led to major breakthroughs in fields such as health care, including issues that are near and dear to virtually everyone here, cancer and Alzheimer's treatment, along with electronics with applications like improved cellular voice quality and computer monitors that create less stress on users' eyes, and even a new type of electric generator that can produce electricity with environmental-friendly hydrogen fuel at a fraction of the cost of current power plants.

Mr. Speaker, venture capital, by providing the resources necessary to turn ideas into new goods and services, is also a key component of our ability to innovate. Once again, the U.S. is the global leader. Business and individual investors provided over \$21 billion in venture capital in 2002 compared to just \$8 billion in European Union. That constitutes a 600 percent increase in U.S. venture capital over the past decade. This environment, Mr. Speaker, is the cornerstone of American prosperity.

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It gives individuals the freedom to develop new ideas and concepts and encourages creativity and risk-taking. It has unparalleled financial markets and a venture capital system that are constantly helping Americans turn their dreams into reality. It has given American companies and individuals the power to invest, grow and create new jobs in cutting-edge fields, and it is our best answer to those who see offshoring as a reason to retreat behind the walls of economic isolationism.

We should not be trying to isolate ourselves from the worldwide market which would actually stifle our innovative environment and cede our position as the global leader. Instead, we should continue to allow our spirit of innovation and entrepreneurship to empower Americans as we lead the world and create better and better jobs right here in the United States.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I ask that I may use my 5-minute time at this point.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Massachusetts?

There was no objection.

HUNGER AND POVERTY IN THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, over the past few months I have spoken on this floor on a weekly basis about the scourge of hunger around the world, especially among children. I have talked about the importance of adequately funding the McGovern-Dole Food For Education and Child Nutrition Program, which would provide children around the world with a nutritious school meal.

If we are going to make this world a safer and better place, I strongly believe that we must eradicate hunger. This is something we can do. There are some problems that we cannot solve, but hunger is not one of them.

It is important, however, in any discussion about hunger that we not ignore the problem of hunger that persists right here at home. In the face of world starvation, Americans tend to forget that millions of people in this country continue to go without food every day. Thankfully, we do not have the rampant starvation that affects places like the Horn of Africa, but that does not mean people are not going without food every day right here in the United States.

When we talk about hunger in America, we are really talking about food insecurity. According to the Food Research and Action Center, food insecurity refers to the lack of access to enough food to fully meet basic needs at all times due to lack of financial resources.

According to the United States Department of Agriculture, about 35 million people experienced food insecurity

in 2002. This is an increase of 3.9 million people in just 3 years. Of the 12.1 million households that were food insecure in 2002, 3.8 million suffered from such severe food insecurity that they are classified as hungry.

The root cause of most food insecurity and hunger in America is poverty. It is unconscionable that in 2004 there are people in this country who do not have enough money to buy food. Approximately 35 million Americans live in poverty, about the same number of people who were food insecure and hungry. The correlation is obvious. The poorest people in this country are going hungry. The sad reality is that every day there are parents who sacrifice their own food so that their kids can eat.

I recently read a speech by my friend, the late Senator Paul Wellstone, delivered at Iowa State University in 1998. In that speech, Senator Wellstone recalled how he traveled to the Mississippi Delta after reading the book "Let Them Eat Promises" by Nick Kotz, following in the footsteps of Robert Kennedy. Senator Wellstone was so moved by the story about how Robert Kennedy, when touring the country to see firsthand the poverty and hunger that ravaged parts of this Nation, tried to connect with a young boy in the Mississippi Delta. When the boy would not even respond because of his severe malnourishment, Bobby Kennedy just broke down and cried.

Unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, I am afraid that if we left this Capitol building right now and traveled to another part of Washington or another city and town in America, we would find a similar situation. On that July day at Iowa State University, Senator Wellstone asked his audience, "Can't we do better?" Well, Mr. Speaker, the answer is, yes, we can.

During the last several decades, Congress has passed landmark legislation providing nutritious meals for low-income children and families. While the programs created over the last century do not adequately address the problem of poverty in America, they help in part to alleviate the food insecurity caused by poverty. These programs are vitally important and have improved the quality of millions of lives since their adoption.

The school lunch program, the school breakfast program, WIC and food stamps are just a few of the landmark programs that make up the core of our antihunger safety net here in the United States. Many of these programs are up for reauthorization this year, and our colleagues on the Committee on Education and the Workforce, led by the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman BOEHNER) and the gentleman from California (Ranking Member GEORGE MILLER), have produced a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes and expands many of these programs.

While I am disappointed that this bill, as currently drafted, does not go farther than it does, it is a good bill

considering the circumstances under which it was drafted, and I am looking forward to its consideration in the near future.

Mr. Speaker, while these programs are important and need to be reauthorized and expanded, issues I will talk about at a later date, we cannot continue to ignore the fact that poverty is the root cause of food insecurity and hunger here in the United States.

We have a moral responsibility to end food insecurity and hunger. We have a moral responsibility to end and combat poverty. We can achieve these goals if we have the moral and political courage to do so.

The President recently challenged us to do what is necessary to put a man on Mars. That is a fine goal; but I would submit that a better, more urgent goal is combating hunger and ending poverty. We should begin a new war on poverty.

Let us utilize all that the government and the private sector can do to undertake this challenge. Only then will we end the scourge of food insecurity and hunger.

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

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the gentleman from New Hampshire's (Mr. BRADLEY) place at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

AUTHORITIES ARE CLOSE TO CAPTURING OSAMA BIN LADEN

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, today we have received tantalizing reports that Pakistani authorities may be close to arresting Osama bin Laden's deputy, Ayman al Zawahiri.

We do not know if this is true, but we do know that hundreds of American men and women in uniform are currently risking their lives as part of Operation Mountain Storm to arrest high-level terrorists in the critical border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan.

This border region was the safe haven for the world's most wanted man. Osama bin Laden lived there for many years since his first visit to the region during the Soviet occupation of Afghanistan.

This January, I conducted a mission to this region to review the operations of the State Department's terrorist rewards program. This program was highly successful in helping the arrest of key international criminals important to the United States. The program led to the arrest, capture, or death of two-thirds of U.N. war criminals in Bosnia. It led to the arrest, prosecution, and execution of Mir Aimal Kasi who killed many Americans outside the CIA gate in Virginia. By the way, Mr. Kasi was arrested in the very region of Pakistan receiving so much attention today. The program also led to the arrest and death of Uday and Qusay Hussein, the two Hussein brothers, sons of Saddam Hussein.

As a congressional staffer, I drafted the bill that lifted the rewards program from 5 to \$25 million and allowed its use against U.N. war criminals. Based on my January mission to Afghanistan and Pakistan, we found the need for more reforms. We asked to raise the award for Osama bin Laden's arrest to \$50 million and to make the payment of cash rewards more flexible so that in rural communities we could provide trucks or farm implements that could be a much more motivating factor with rural families.

In the frontier autonomous tribal region that we are focusing so heavily on today, we face a population largely illiterate, very poor and speaking the Wasari tribal language. In making these reforms, we need the State Department to do media surveys and use more radio and TV, which is much more appropriate to communicating with large, illiterate communities.

These ideas would all combine with one other idea: Osama bin Laden has slowly been changing his source of financing. He used to depend on Wahabi donations, his personal fortune and donations from Europe, but those sources of funding have largely dried up under a series of United Nations legal orders.

Today, Osama bin Laden stands as one of the world's number one sellers of heroin. Haji Bashir Noorzai of Canada provides him with 2,000 kilograms of heroin every 8 weeks, giving bin Laden from that source alone \$28 million a year. In mid-December, the United States Navy arrested three dhows in the Arabian Gulf that contained methamphetamine, hashish, and heroin worth \$10 million, an attempt by bin Laden to move from the Pakistani market where he gets \$2,000 per kilogram of heroin to the United Arab Emirates where he would get \$10,000 per kilogram.

Osama bin Laden has more money access to his fortune than ever before, and these ideas need to be incorporated into our new bill, H.R. 3782, the Counter-Terrorist and Narco-Terrorist Rewards Program Act. That act just passed the House of Representatives an hour ago by a vote of 414 to 0, a monument to bipartisan cooperation on a critical national security issue of the United States. The passage of this bill