

Stated for:

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 20, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

AUTHORIZING ISSUANCE OF PROCLAMATION COMMEMORATING 200TH ANNIVERSARY OF BIRTH OF CONSTANTINO BRUMIDI

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 264.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MICA) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 264, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 404, nays 0, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 21]

YEAS—404

Abercrombie	Chabot	Gibbons
Ackerman	Chocola	Gilchrest
Aderholt	Clyburn	Gillmor
Akin	Coble	Gingrey
Alexander	Cole	Gonzalez
Allen	Collins	Goode
Baca	Conyers	Goodlatte
Bachus	Cooper	Gordon
Baird	Costello	Goss
Baker	Cox	Granger
Baldwin	Cramer	Graves
Ballance	Crane	Green (TX)
Barrett (SC)	Crenshaw	Green (WI)
Bartlett (MD)	Crowley	Greenwood
Barton (TX)	Cubin	Grijalva
Bass	Culberson	Gutierrez
Beauprez	Cummings	Gutknecht
Becerra	Cunningham	Hall
Bell	Davis (AL)	Harman
Bereuter	Davis (CA)	Harris
Berkley	Davis (FL)	Hart
Berman	Davis (IL)	Hastings (FL)
Berry	Davis (TN)	Hastings (WA)
Biggert	Davis, Jo Ann	Hayes
Bilirakis	Davis, Tom	Hayworth
Bishop (GA)	Deal (GA)	Hefley
Bishop (NY)	DeFazio	Hensarling
Bishop (UT)	Delahunt	Herger
Blackburn	DeLauro	Hill
Blumenauer	DeLay	Hinchey
Blunt	Deutsch	Hinojosa
Boehlert	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hobson
Boehner	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hoefel
Bonilla	Dicks	Hoekstra
Bonner	Dingell	Holden
Bono	Dooley (CA)	Holt
Boozman	Doolittle	Hooley (OR)
Boswell	Dreier	Hostettler
Boucher	Duncan	Houghton
Bradley (NH)	Dunn	Hoyer
Brady (TX)	Ehlers	Hulshof
Brown (OH)	Emanuel	Hunter
Brown (SC)	Engel	Hyde
Brown, Corrine	English	Inslee
Brown-Waite,	Eshoo	Isakson
Ginny	Etheridge	Israel
Burgess	Evans	Issa
Burns	Everett	Istook
Burr	Farr	Jackson (IL)
Burton (IN)	Feeney	Jackson-Lee
Buyer	Ferguson	(TX)
Calvert	Filner	Jefferson
Camp	Flake	Jenkins
Cannon	Foley	John
Cantor	Forbes	Johnson (CT)
Capito	Ford	Johnson (IL)
Capps	Fossella	Johnson, E. B.
Capuano	Frank (MA)	Johnson, Sam
Cardoza	Franks (AZ)	Jones (NC)
Carson (IN)	Frelinghuysen	Jones (OH)
Carson (OK)	Frost	Kanjorski
Carter	Gallely	Kaptur
Case	Garrett (NJ)	Keller
Castle	Gerlach	Kelly

Kennedy (MN)	Myrick	Schrock
Kennedy (RI)	Nadler	Scott (GA)
Kildee	Napolitano	Scott (VA)
Kilpatrick	Neal (MA)	Sensenbrenner
Kind	Nethercutt	Serrano
King (NY)	Neugebauer	Sessions
Kingston	Ney	Shadegg
Kirk	Northup	Shaw
Klecicka	Norwood	Shays
Kline	Nunes	Sherman
Knollenberg	Nussle	Sherwood
Kolbe	Oberstar	Shimkus
LaHood	Obey	Shuster
Lampson	Olver	Simmons
Langevin	Osborne	Simpson
Lantos	Ose	Skelton
Larsen (WA)	Otter	Smith (MI)
Larson (CT)	Owens	Smith (NJ)
Latham	Oxley	Smith (TX)
LaTourette	Pallone	Smith (WA)
Leach	Pascrell	Snyder
Lee	Pastor	Solis
Levin	Paul	Souder
Lewis (CA)	Payne	Spratt
Lewis (GA)	Pearce	Stearns
Lewis (KY)	Pelosi	Stenholm
Linder	Pence	Strickland
Lipinski	Peterson (MN)	Stupak
LoBiondo	Peterson (PA)	Sullivan
Lofgren	Petri	Sweeney
Lowey	Pickering	Tancredo
Lucas (KY)	Pitts	Tanner
Lucas (OK)	Platts	Tauscher
Lynch	Pombo	Taylor (MS)
Majette	Pomeroy	Taylor (NC)
Maloney	Porter	Terry
Manzullo	Portman	Thomas
Markey	Price (NC)	Thompson (CA)
Marshall	Pryce (OH)	Thompson (MS)
Matheson	Putnam	Thornberry
Matsui	Quinn	Tiahrt
McCarthy (MO)	Ramstad	Tiberi
McCarthy (NY)	Rangel	Tierney
McCollum	Regula	Toomey
McCotter	Rehberg	Towns
McCrery	Renzi	Turner (OH)
McDermott	Reyes	Turner (TX)
McGovern	Reynolds	Udall (CO)
McHugh	Rodriguez	Udall (NM)
McInnis	Rogers (AL)	Upton
McIntyre	Rogers (KY)	Van Hollen
McKeon	Rogers (MI)	Velázquez
McNulty	Rohrabacher	Visclosky
Meehan	Ros-Lehtinen	Vitter
Meek (FL)	Ross	Walden (OR)
Meeks (NY)	Rothman	Walsh
Menendez	Roybal-Allard	Waters
Mica	Royce	Watt
Michaud	Ruppersberger	Waxman
Millender	Rush	Weiner
McDonald	Ryan (OH)	Weldon (FL)
Miller (FL)	Ryan (WI)	Weller
Miller (MI)	Ryun (KS)	Wexler
Miller (NC)	Sabo	Whitfield
Miller, Gary	Sánchez, Linda	Wicker
Miller, George	T.	Wilson (NM)
Moore	Sánchez, Loretta	Wilson (SC)
Moran (KS)	Sanders	Wolf
Moran (VA)	Sandlin	Woolsey
Murphy	Saxton	Wu
Murtha	Schakowsky	Wynn
Musgrave	Schiff	Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—28

Andrews	Edwards	Rahall
Ballenger	Emerson	Slaughter
Boyd	Fattah	Stark
Brady (PA)	Gephardt	Tauzin
Cardin	Honda	Wamp
Clay	King (IA)	Watson
DeGette	Kucinich	Weldon (PA)
DeMint	Mollohan	Young (FL)
Doggett	Ortiz	
Doyle	Radanovich	

□ 1918

So (two thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. DEMINT. Mr. Speaker, I was absent during rollcall votes 19, 20, and 21. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each of those votes.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). 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.

A CALL FOR INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, it is becoming increasingly obvious to people across the country that this House of Representatives is failing in its responsibility with regard to its oversight of the executive branch. I am referring here, of course, specifically to the assertions that have been made by various people in the administration, Secretary of Defense, the Vice President, others, even the President himself, with regard to the necessity to go to war in Iraq.

This Congress was told and the American people were told that we needed to go to war in Iraq because of the association that existed between Saddam Hussein and al Qaeda and also because the regime of Saddam Hussein possessed so-called weapons of mass destruction. Time and time again people in the administration raised the specter of the mushroom cloud to create the impression that the government of Iraq was in the process of creating nuclear weapons that could be used either directly or indirectly against the United States and therefore that the government of Saddam Hussein constituted a direct and immediate threat to the people of our country.

Here, for example, are some of the words of President Bush himself. On September 12 of 2002 he said: "The history, the logic, and the facts lead to one conclusion. Saddam Hussein's regime is a grave and gathering danger. To assume this regime's good faith is to bet the lives of millions and the peace of the world in a reckless gamble, and this is a risk we must not take."

We know that he was wrong, and we have every reason to suspect that he knew he was wrong when he said that. But what has happened, more than 500 American lives have been lost, more than 530 to be exact. Tens of thousands of Americans have been wounded and taken out of Iraq as a result of those wounds. Hundreds of thousands of others have been killed and wounded all on the basis of what now increasingly seems clear to be fraudulent information presented to this Congress and to the American people.

This House of Representatives has a responsibility. It has a responsibility to ensure that the executive branch is acting within the confines of the Constitution. It has a responsibility to make sure that the laws of this country are being obeyed, and it has a responsibility to make sure that the administration is not acting in ways that put American citizens in danger unnecessarily.

It is increasingly clear that the war in Iraq was not a war of necessity but rather it was a war of choice, and that choice was made by high-ranking people in the Bush administration.

So what is our obligation? Our obligation is clear. This Congress should at this moment be preparing to conduct a comprehensive and complete investigation into the allegations made by members of the administration. Supposedly those allegations were based upon intelligence that was supplied to the administration from the Central Intelligence Agency and other intelligence agencies within the Federal Government. But evidence that we have now suggests that the intelligence supplied to the administration was manipulated by people within the administration, perhaps even falsified, in order to justify our war in Iraq.

If that is the case, and it increasingly seems obvious that it is, this Congress has a responsibility to engage in an investigation to get at the truth. To what extent have our intelligence agencies been compromised by this administration? To what extent are our intelligence agencies now less reliable than they were before? And if they have been compromised, as it seems they have, and if they are less reliable, as it seems they are, as a result of the administration's activities, then this Congress has a responsibility to engage in that investigation.

The President just recently has said that he is going to establish a commission to look at some of the intelligence; but we know already, based upon the language coming out of the administration, some of the names of the people who have been suggested as members of that commission, and the limited direction and responsibility of the commission, we know that that commission is not going to conduct the kind of investigation that needs to be conducted if the American people can have some sense of security in the sanity and proper conduct of their intelligence agencies and the way that that information is used by the administration. This Congress needs to begin that investigation, and it needs to begin it immediately.

TEA-21 REAUTHORIZATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss the reauthorization of highway funding, the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century.

Our transportation system in this country has a direct and significant impact on the daily lives of all Americans. While the United States has benefited greatly from having a strong transportation network, we are indeed approaching a crossroads.

My area, north Texas, has experienced an increase in traffic over the past 3 decades, and this is a result of unprecedented population and employment growth and the underinvestment of Federal funds in my area. In many ways this is a silent crisis, rarely recognized by residents until they find themselves in an unbearable commute to work or unable to make the necessary connections between home, work, and the countless other activities our daily lives demand.

In Texas, our identified transportation needs outstrip available funding three to one. Texas has several specific transportation needs: supporting the international trade transportation, more efficient environmental processes, and expanding innovative financing techniques. Congress and the administration continue to discuss the need for increased funding in the transportation reauthorization bill. But we need to ensure the current Federal transportation dollars are being spent wisely. Our charge as congressional representatives is to protect dollars taken from the taxpayer by streamlining and improving the activities of our Federal Government. There are many important Federal programs such as our transportation programs that are being hurt and neglected with expenditures that could be handled with greater care.

As a member of the committee, I wanted to be certain that the Department of Transportation was ensuring the most efficient business practices within the agency. Last year, just a few months after being sworn in, I met with the Department of Transportation Inspector General, Kenneth Mead, to discuss the business practices of the agency and how Congress can better facilitate the decrease of inappropriate expenditures related to transportation spending. Inspector General Mead and I discussed the need for greater stewardship and oversight of all of the functions of the Department of Transportation.

To date, the Department has not changed the way the agency distributes transportation funding to State and local entities since President Eisenhower was in office. The Inspector General recommended that if 1 percent of the \$500 billion spent over the last 10 years on transportation, if that 1 percent was saved, that would generate an additional \$5 billion; and, in fact, this \$5 billion could equate to the amount of funding needed for four of the 11 major transportation projects going on in this country right now. I believe this practice could better assist the Department of Transportation in spending of taxpayers' dollars more wisely.

There are several successful transportation projects that can be used as

examples for government efficiency. For example, Highway 15 in Utah was rehabilitated ahead of schedule and under budget. In north Texas, the Dallas Area Rapid Transit system worked within their budget last year and actually returned over \$20 million in transit funding to the government. Sadly, there are bad examples of transportation projects that are over budget and behind schedule. The Springfield interchange in Virginia and the Central Artery Project in Boston come to mind. We need to address the misuse of Federal transportation expenditures as soon as possible.

Furthermore, the General Accounting Office has estimated that from fiscal years 1998 to 2001 the highway trust fund lost over \$6 billion because of the ethanol tax exemption. And using the Department of Treasury's projections of the tax receipts based on current law, it is estimated that the highway account will not collect \$13 billion because of the tax exemption from fiscal years 2002 to 2012 and almost \$7 billion from the General Fund transfer between the same years.

Prior to the Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century, the highway trust fund earned interest on its balance. If the highway trust fund had continued to earn interest on its balance, the Department of Treasury estimates that the highway trust fund would have earned about \$4 billion from 1999 to 2002.

Between modifying the Department's practices with State and local governments and reevaluating the true purposes of the highway trust fund, we can work together to ensure our government is more effective and more efficient for the taxpayer.

I believe we need to have policies included in the TEA-21 reauthorization bill to allow States flexibility to complete large projects in less time and save money. I believe streamlining the design-build process will achieve this goal, and I have asked for its inclusion in the final reauthorization legislation. More funding and modifications of current transportation programs will equate to better roads, bridges and transit facilities, ultimately less congestion, and ultimately a safer environment for our constituents.

I remain committed to working with Federal, State, and local officials during the reauthorization this year to address the long-term needs while ensuring that our Federal Government wisely spends the taxpayers' dollars on infrastructure.

Mr. Speaker, finally, it is important to me because constituents in my district spend so much time in traffic jams, and my goal is to make certain that they have just as much time at the dinner table for family discussions as they spend waiting patiently in traffic.