

by this Congress. It is the Congress who in effect has virtually instructed the sentencing commission to enhance sentences and to enhance sentences as much as possible and particularly for these drug offenses which are far from where the harm is being done.

The essential effect is to destroy the African American family. Young women, well educated, who are out in the world working in disproportionate numbers to the young men who are there; young men as boys siphoned off into the drug economy, the gun economy, the underground economy which is the economy left in the inner cities of our country; a huge disparity between marriageable young men and marriageable young women, all traces back to the criminal justice system.

These cases have a lot to teach our country. They are going to make their own changes. These cases are an instruction to us to look closely at the Federal sentencing guidelines so that we can do our part to get rid of this injustice in the criminal justice system.

INTRODUCTION OF CENTER FOR SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL ASSESSMENT ACT OF 2005

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

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Center For Scientific and Technical Assessment Act of 2005. I have introduced the creating legislation with the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON), the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MORAN), the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. OLVER), the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. GREENWOOD), the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN), the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), the gentleman from California (Mr. BERMAN), the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RUPPERSBERGER), and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS). The Center For Scientific and Technical Assessment would be a bicameral and bipartisan resource providing Congress with highly respected, impartial analysis and assessment of scientific and technical issues. The center would provide Congress with early warnings on technology's impacts both here and abroad. The center would assess the issues that impact current and future legislation encompassing medicine, telecommunications, computer sciences, agriculture, materials, transportation, defense, indeed every discipline and sector important to the United States and to our work here in Congress.

It would undertake controversial subjects, examining them objectively and comprehensively for the Nation's

benefit. The center would offer much needed sound principles to reap the benefits of technological change in industry, in the Federal Government, in the workplace, in our schools and look at the estimated economic and social impacts of rapid technological change. The center would enable Congress better to oversee Federal science and technology programs which now amount to over \$130 billion. Finally, the center would help Congress better to understand complex technological issues by tailoring reports for legislative users.

Today's legislative environment involves highly complex issues of science, engineering and technology. High-wage, advanced technology workforce growth is a prerequisite to a strong economy whose future is predicated on our continuing global dominance in science and technology.

□ 1600

If the United States is to maintain and continue its leading role into the 21st Century, then Congress needs to recognize that the future is being shaped by new science and technology discoveries arising from our past investments in basic and applied research and their deployment into present and new industrial sectors. A well-informed Congress with the foresight to pass the right legislation must understand the effects of that technology on all sectors of our society and must understand the scientific aspects of all the legislation under consideration.

Our Nation must exploit these new advances or prepare to be exploited ourselves by others. Given how technology underlies many aspects of our constituents' lives, concerns, and jobs, unbiased technical assessment is not a luxury but a necessity.

Today Congress is deluged with facts, figures, opinions, and arguments from thousands of interested citizens. Congress does not need more facts and data on these issues of science and technology; it needs balanced analysis and synthesis that conclude with a framing of issues and extraction of knowledge and insight, a process beyond most Members of Congress and our immediate staffs. The Congressional Science Fellows program is a help in some respects. For example, Dr. Marti Sokolowski in my own office provides some of this, and there are some Fellows scattered around other offices around Capitol Hill, but it is not enough.

For 2 decades, Congress could call upon the Office of Technology Assessment for nonpartisan scientific and technical advice. OTA published dozens of reports a year. Its work ran the gamut of subject matter. OTA brought science into the center of many congressional discussions. And at times OTA was a major factor in major pieces of legislation.

Unfortunately, OTA closed its doors in September, 1995. However, many of

its reports are still relevant and useful, but no more such reports are being produced. The loss of that technology assessment is great. Now we have no advice or sometimes haphazard review panels whose composition may tempt some to politicize science. Therefore, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HOUGHTON) and I have introduced a bill to establish the Center for Scientific and Technology Assessment.

We have done much research on the advantages and disadvantages of the former Office of Technology Assessment. We have looked at the recent successful technical assessment program prepared by the General Accounting Office. We have taken into the account the GAO's document and its recommendations. Finally, we have examined the study "Science and Technology Advice for Congress" and considered the lessons of that publication in constructing this bill.

Our country will move into the 21st Century whether we in Congress are prepared or not. Congress will have at least the possibility of charting the course for our Nation with understanding of the applications of science and technology if we enact this legislation.

HAPPY INDEPENDENCE DAY TO THE UNITED STATES MILITARY

(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, we have had a vigorous legislative week that included a resolution affirming and applauding the Iraqi transitional government. It was a vigorous debate because many of us were pained to go to the floor to acknowledge a war that we had such great concern and opposition to. I voted for that resolution, with qualifications as to some of the language, but no qualifications on the affirmation of the young men and women on the front line. To be able to recognize their service, to thank their families, and to pray for those families who have lost loved ones.

I could not leave this body this week without acknowledging, as this country celebrates its anniversary of independence, the importance of recognizing freedom and how much and how long we fought for it and the way that we should lead our foreign policy to reflect on the principles of that freedom.

I will spend time, Mr. Speaker, this week with returning veterans and their families and families of those who have lost loved ones in Iraq. But most of all, I think it is important that we take this somewhat holiday week to reflect on the freedom that we as Americans have in this country and to never stray away from the rights of freedom, protesting when we believe it is wrong, supporting when we believe it is right, but, most of all, embracing the Constitution that allows us the freedom of

expression, the freedom of speech, and the freedom to move and the freedom to debate and, most of all, a country that is grounded in the principles of democracy because if we are to show that to others, we must show it amongst ourselves.

Congratulations and happy Independence Day to the United States of America and to all of those serving in the United States military. I thank them for their service. And to our fallen heroes, again to their families and for their loss and the loss of their lives, we will protect the freedom of this Nation.

THE U.S. ECONOMY AND OUR WAR ON TERROR

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, several of my colleagues over the last few minutes have talked about the fact that we are about to mark Independence Day, and virtually all of our colleagues have left the Chamber and are en route to their homes, to their districts, for this work period.

But I think that it is very important for us to take a few minutes to talk about what is on the horizon. Of course, Independence Day will be a week from this coming Sunday, July 4. But there is a very important date that we will be marking next Wednesday, and that, of course, is the turnover in Iraq from the Coalition Provisional Authority, the CPA, to the IIG, the Iraqi Interim Government, and the leadership of the new president, Ghazi al-Yawar, and the prime minister, who has been facing recently threats on his life, but has stood up courageously talking about the importance of the role that the United States of America and the coalition forces have played in bringing this about. So Iyad Allawi, the new prime minister, is an individual who suffered tremendously, faced nearly the loss of his life at the hands of Saddam Hussein's forces when he was in London, and he has now emerged as one who will be in charge of leading the government there.

This clearly is an historic effort which is designed to bring about peace and stability to what is obviously a very troubled region. And we know, Mr. Speaker, that this is going to yield tremendous dividends to not only the region, but to the entire world and the security around the world and right here at home as well.

What I would like to do during my period of time here this afternoon, Mr. Speaker, is to talk about our economy, but I want to start talking about it as it relates to this global war on terrorism and, again, the handover that we are going to be facing next Wednesday, on June 30.

Clearly, the terrorists attacked us on September 11. When they did that, they

went after the three very important pillars of America's success. What is it that they went after, Mr. Speaker? They went after our national defense capability when they launched the attack and flew the plane into the Pentagon. We know that they were headed towards the government. The report of the 9-11 Commission clearly shows that the plane that was courageously taken into the ground by those passengers in Pennsylvania were headed right towards this building, the great symbol of freedom, the dome that is above us right here, Mr. Speaker, the U.S. Capitol. And we know that the first two targets were the center of the global economy, the World Trade Center Towers.

The months following September 11 were obviously very difficult for us because in attacking the World Trade Center Towers, what was it they were trying to do? They were trying to attack and undermine the strength and vibrance of the U.S. economy.

We all know that our Nation's economy was already in a downturn before September 11. In fact, it was the last two quarters of the year 2000 that we saw the economy begin to slow. And then in early 2001, just after President Bush took the oath of office, we saw two quarters of negative economic growth, which basically means we were in economic recession.

Thankfully, during that period of time, we had passed tax relief just before September 11, and the goal of the tax relief that we provided at that point, Mr. Speaker, was to get our economy going again. And The Washington Post actually, as they looked at what happened on September 11, described the tax relief as "fortuitously well timed," is the term that the Washington Post used to actually describe the timing of the tax relief that we put into place back in 2001.

Why, one would ask, do we believe that tax relief is important? And the fact is that we find that the federal tax coffers do not suffer when we bring about tax cuts. They suffer when our economy is not growing and revenues are not being created. I know that that is counterintuitive, that one believes that somehow if we bring about taxes that we lose revenue coming into the Federal Treasury when, in fact, the opposite is the case. We know that the combined tax relief of the 2001 and 2003 tax package, the two tax packages, had the desired effect of growing the economy and generating more revenue for our Federal Treasury. In fact, the Treasury Department data that we had proves that. Through May of this year, Mr. Speaker, federal tax receipts for this fiscal year are running 2.3 percent higher than for the same period in 2003.

Think about that for a minute. We cut taxes last year for millions of American workers and businesses, the job creators, and what is it? We have been actually getting more money to the Federal Treasury that had been anticipated.

In March of this year, the Congressional Budget Office projected that receipts would be up \$35 billion this year over the same period of time last year. Even further, the Congressional Budget Office noted in a recent report: "Recent trends suggest that the deficit in 2004 will be less than what the CBO had projected in March." Outlays to date are consistent with CBO's expectations, but revenues are running \$30 billion to \$40 billion higher than anticipated, meaning that as we move towards our goal of getting back to a balanced budget, having dealt with the economic recession of 2001, the September 11 attacks on our national security, on our government, and on our economy, as well as tragically killing thousands of Americans and others, and then the war in Iraq, our tax cuts have generated an unanticipated \$30 billion to \$40 billion in revenues to the Federal Treasury.

Right now our men and women in uniform are overseas fighting to protect us, our homeland, from another attack like the one that we saw on September 11, 2001. The good news, Mr. Speaker, is that our economy right here is working for them, our men and women in uniform, too. These increased revenues are what will be used to supply them with everything they need to complete their mission just as quickly and as safely as possible.

We need the funds to provide everything from ammunition to Humvees and, of course, food and water for our troops.

Our national security benefits from a strong, dynamic, growing economy right here in the United States and, of course, a strong, dynamic, growing economy here in the United States ensures to the benefit of other economies throughout the world, and that helps us. Tax relief creates a strong economy.

So let us take a more detailed look at exactly how our economy is doing.

□ 1615

I have been talking an awful lot in the recent months about the strength of our economy. One way of illustrating the nature of our 21st century economy is to look at it in the context of the past 20 years.

Certainly a great deal of change has taken place over the past 20 years, since 1984. The past two decades have transformed not just the business world, but our daily lives as well. But while the changes over the past 2 decades are striking, the parallels between 1984, the things that were said in 1984, and 2004, are perhaps even more remarkable, and they are not getting an awful lot of attention; and that is one of the reasons that I and my very distinguished colleagues, the gentlemen from both Indiana and New Mexico, are joining me here this afternoon.

Looking at 20 years of change, it becomes clear that the more things change, the more they stay the same.

What I would like to do is I would like at this moment to yield to my