

# RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, February 25, 2004.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I hereby resign as a Member of the Science Committee.

Sincerely,

JOE BARTON,  
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

# CERTIFICATION OF ACCOUNTING OF CAPTURED OR MISSING U.S. PERSONNEL UNDER PROTOCOLS TO NORTH ATLANTIC TREATY OF 1949—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-164)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Consistent with Condition (3) of the resolution of advice and consent to the ratification of the Protocols to the North Atlantic Treaty of 1949 on the Accession of Bulgaria, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Romania, Slovakia, and Slovenia, adopted by the United States Senate on May 8, 2003, and based on the recommendation of the Department of State, I hereby certify to the Congress that each of these governments is cooperating fully with United States efforts to obtain the fullest possible accounting of captured or missing United States personnel from past military conflicts or Cold War incidents, to include:

- (A) facilitating full access to relevant archival material; and
- (B) identifying individuals who may possess knowledge relative to captured or missing United States personnel, and encouraging such individuals to speak with United States Government officials.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 25, 2004.

# CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO CUBA—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-165)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee

on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

Pursuant to section 1 of title I of Public Law 65-24, ch. 30, 50 U.S.C. 191, and sections 201 and 301 of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1601 *et seq.*, I hereby report that I have exercised my statutory authority to continue the national emergency declared in Proclamation 6867 of March 1, 1996, in response to the Cuban government's destruction of two unarmed U.S.-registered civilian aircraft in international airspace north of Cuba. Additionally, I have exercised my authority to expand the scope of the national emergency as, over the last year, the Cuban government, which is a designated state-sponsor of terrorism, has taken a series of steps to destabilize relations with the United States, including threatening to abrogate the Migration Accords with the United States and to close the U.S. Interests Section. This conduct has caused a sudden and worsening disturbance of U.S. international relations.

In my proclamation (copy attached), I have authorized and directed the Secretary of Homeland Security to make and issue such rules and regulations that the Secretary may find appropriate to prevent unauthorized U.S. vessels from entering Cuban territorial waters.

I have authorized these rules and regulations as a result of the Cuban government's demonstrated willingness to use reckless force, including deadly force, in the ostensible enforcement of its sovereignty. I have also authorized these rules and regulations in an effort to deny resources to the repressive Cuban government that may be used by that government to support terrorist activities and carry out excessive use of force against innocent victims, including U.S. citizens and other persons residing in the United States, and threaten a disturbance of international relations. Accordingly, I have continued and expanded the national emergency in response to these threats.

GEORGE W. BUSH.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, February 26, 2004.

# ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to the resumption of legislative business.

# 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.

# FUTURE OBLIGATIONS OF SOCIAL SECURITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, today and every day, wage-earning, salary-earning Americans and small business owners across the country will pay 6.2 percent of every dollar they earn up to \$87,400 to Social Security, or twice that in the case of the self-employed. This is a heavy burden on the working, wage-earning, salary-earning people of America, particularly those of modest means. And again, it only falls on income below \$87,400 so those who earn \$3 million or \$5 million a year pay a tax at a fraction of the rate of someone who earns \$30,000 or \$40,000 a year.

The theory is that Social Security in collecting these funds will collect \$180 billion more than necessary to pay this year's benefits. That money is supposed to be set aside into a trust fund to meet the future obligations of Social Security. If all those moneys that have been set aside, and they are, unfortunately, just debt instruments, but if those debt instruments were honored, Social Security would have adequate funds to pay full benefits until the year 2042 under conservative assumptions, perhaps longer, and after that it would have a 23 percent shortfall. That is a problem, and we should deal with it.

But enter Mr. Greenspan, a gentleman who does not need Social Security, a gentleman who pays taxes at a fraction of the rate of average wage-earning Americans, a gentleman who does not know or socialize with anyone who needs Social Security. The fact is 20 percent of retired Americans are totally dependent on Social Security, and more than half would fall into poverty tomorrow if Social Security benefits were not there. Just 3 years ago the great Alan Greenspan said in supporting the President's reckless tax cuts which favor the wealthy, those who do not pay Social Security taxes in particular, those who invest for a living, he said that we could have it all; there was so much of a surplus, we could cut taxes on rich people, and we could still provide for Social Security benefits in the future.

Well, 3 years later, confronted with record deficits created by the Bush administration, Alan Greenspan, forever consistent, says the tax cuts should be made permanent, we should continue to borrow money, which we are doing, to finance tax cuts, but we can no longer afford Social Security, is what Mr. Greenspan says. So we are going to borrow money. In fact, this year we are going to borrow \$180 billion that is being paid in by working, wage-earning Americans as a surplus into Social Security, which will be immediately borrowed and spent. Some will be spent on things that are good that the government does; some will be spent to give tax cuts to wealthy people.

Mr. Speaker, it is a new kind of transfer tax. We tax wage-earning, salary-earning Americans on every penny of their income. We then overtax them,

supposedly to provide their future benefits, borrow that money, and then transfer it to wealthy investors who do not pay a penny in Social Security taxes.

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This is Mr. Alan Greenspan's world. He hears the pain of those people at the top, those who need further tax cuts, those who have done so well over the last decade. He is willing to say that we should borrow money to finance their tax cuts. He is willing to say we should borrow money from the Social Security trust fund to finance those tax cuts for wealthy people. But now, astoundingly, he says there is not enough money in Social Security to pay benefits. So he just recommends a couple of little things. First, we cut cost-of-living adjustments for seniors. Well, Social Security is already under-adjusted for the cost of living of seniors. They have huge increases, in pharmaceutical, medical costs and other things, and the 2.1 percent they get does not reflect their real cost of living and many saw their Medicare or their insurance go up more than their puny increase in Social Security. But Mr. Greenspan does not know any of those people. He has never talked to them. He is not aware of them. They do not belong to the same clubs that he does.

But he also said in his let-them-eat-cake mode that we should just increase the retirement age a little bit more. We are already phasing it up to 67. If Mr. Greenspan had to work for a living, work hard like a logger or a mill worker or many other professions in this country or was in a profession where he could not work forever, unfortunately he can as long as George Bush reappoints him, he would realize that it is a problem if you increase the retirement age further beyond 67. Many Americans cannot physically work that long to collect their benefits and many others will not have the opportunity to work that long. But Mr. Greenspan is not concerned about those people. It is more important to borrow the money from the Social Security trust fund, to bankrupt the system in the future to finance tax cuts for the wealthy, and that is George Bush's priority, too.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BISHOP of Utah). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. SOUDER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

#### MOURNING THE LOSS OF MACEDONIAN PRESIDENT BORIS TRAJKOVSKI

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

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with sadness in my heart as we mourn the loss of Macedonian President Boris Trajkovski. He was a moderate leader who helped unite his ethnically divided country. He was killed on Thursday when his plane crashed in bad weather conditions in mountainous southern Bosnia.

President Trajkovski was a great friend of the United States. He led the efforts to establish relations with the United States and attended the National Prayer Breakfast here in Washington a number of times where he became friends with many Members of Congress and many individuals in the administration. He was a man of great faith. His great faith drove him to be a man who led reconciliation throughout his region of the world.

President Trajkovski was inaugurated as the second President of the Republic of Macedonia on December 15, 1999. Prior to that, Mr. Speaker, he served as deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Republic of Macedonia and as chief of the cabinet of the mayor of the Kisela Voda municipality in Skopje from 1997 to 1998.

Since taking office in 1999, President Trajkovski was active on the international level, giving numerous speeches at international forums, such as the World Economic Summit in Davos, the Council of Europe, the United Nations and the South East European Cooperation Process, and addressed the parliaments of several countries. He was dedicated to greater cooperation between states on behalf of the Republic of Macedonia.

President Trajkovski participated in numerous international conferences on conflict resolution, religious tolerance, religious freedom, and served as president of youth work in the United Methodist Church in the former Yugoslavia for over 12 years.

President Trajkovski was widely respected in Macedonia for his neutral stance in the former Yugoslav Republic, where tensions persist between Macedonians and the country's ethnic Albanian minorities after a 2001 war. He had called for greater inclusion of ethnic Albanians in state bodies and institutions.

He has many friends, Mr. Speaker, throughout Europe and the entire world. Macedonia is a good friend and partner to the United States and plays an important role in its support of U.S. and NATO operations in Kosovo.

This loss will certainly be felt throughout the international community. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Trajkovski family and the Macedonian people. The United States has lost a great friend.

#### GREENSPAN WEIGHS IN ON ECONOMIC POLICY

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, it is always a pleasure to succeed the gentleman from Virginia who has a strong commitment to human rights. His talk today underscored that commitment to human rights in our country and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I would just like to start with a couple of facts. Under the Bush tax plan, a millionaire in this country got a \$93,000 tax cut, for someone on the average making \$1 million in this country. Alan Greenspan, the President's guy on the Federal Reserve, yesterday said in order to pay for our budget deficits, we are going to have to cut Social Security and cut Medicare. Of course that is what he thinks, an investment banker, a Wall Street banker, someone who has enjoyed, and whose friends have enjoyed, these huge tax cuts and wants to continue enjoying these huge tax cuts, who does not much rely himself on Medicare or Social Security now or in the future.

But, again, the fact a millionaire gets a \$93,000 tax cut and because so many millionaires have gotten such huge tax cuts under the Bush plan over the last 3 years, Alan Greenspan is right, I suppose, if that is the way you think of this, that in order to pay for those millionaires' tax cuts, we are going to have to cut Social Security and Medicare. This Congress and this President have made a series of choices. They have chosen to give tax cuts to people in our society who need them the least, people making \$1 million, \$10 million, \$20 million, \$50 million, \$100 million, people who are billionaires. We have made a choice. They have given tax cuts to that group of people, the people who need it the least, the most privileged in our society, the 1 percent wealthiest people in our country; and because they have gotten tax cuts, according to Alan Greenspan, Congress will need to cut Social Security, cut Medicare, cut spending on education, cut spending on environmental enforcement, cut spending on assisting local and State governments, cut Medicaid, all the things that happen as a result of that.

This is all, Mr. Speaker, in the context of what this President and Alan Greenspan have done with our economy. We saw in the 1990s the creation of more than 20 million jobs, well, well, well over 100,000 jobs a month. In fact, close to 200,000 jobs a month were created during the 1990s. Since President Bush took office, we have seen the loss of 3 million jobs. In my State of Ohio, one out of six manufacturing jobs has simply disappeared, likely never to return. So the Bush answer to this, not much different from his father's answer to the kind of economy that caused him to be voted out of office, the President's answer to this is twofold. It is more tax cuts for the wealthiest people in our society and so-called trickle-down economics. Hoping that those tax cuts will encourage them to invest and maybe they will provide some jobs does not seem to be working.