

and Courier reported this marked “a milestone on the road to democracy for the world’s most populous Muslim nation.” Both competing candidates were pro-American in the global war on terror.

This historic election is another nail in the coffin of the lie that Muslim nations cannot become democracies. India, the world’s largest democracy, has over 200 million Muslims. In Afghanistan, 10 million have registered to vote, despite threats from remnants of the Taliban and al Qaeda. The same will happen in Iraq.

As Iraqi Prime Minister Ayad Allawi said to the defeatists last week in this room, “Above all, they risk underestimating the courage, determination of the Iraqi people to embrace democracy, peace and freedom, for the dreams of our families are the same as the families here in America and around the world.”

Freedom and democracy are on the march throughout the Muslim world, and they are the greatest threat to the dark plans of terrorists who want to destroy American families.

In conclusion, may God bless our troops. We will never forget September 11.

PROVIDE ADEQUATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO THE CARIBBEAN

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

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to this devastating hurricane season’s effect on the Caribbean. I urge Members of this body to cosponsor H. Con. Res. 496, a bipartisan effort supporting adequate humanitarian assistance to our neighbors in the Caribbean.

Americans, especially Florida and Californians, know firsthand the suffering caused by natural disasters, hurricanes, fires, tornadoes and earthquakes. Four hurricanes in 5 weeks, over 1,700 dead, 441,000 individuals displaced. More than 15 Caribbean countries are devastated.

In Grenada, the schools will not open until 2005. The land is barren and countless homes are destroyed. Many other Caribbean countries are so focused on assisting their neighbors that they have not even had the time and opportunity to assess their own damage.

Economies are overwhelmed. The tourism industry just barely recovered from 9/11, and now more harsh blows. Primary crops, bananas, nutmeg and sugar, destroyed.

Mr. Speaker, we really do need to step up and lend a helping hand. We cannot sit back and wait as people suffer in Florida and in the Caribbean.

Please support H. Con. Res. 496. Again, this is a bipartisan effort to support humanitarian assistance to our neighbors in the Caribbean.

MARKING 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF FOUNDING OF REPUBLICAN PARTY

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

Mr. COX. Mr. Speaker, this year is the 150th anniversary of the founding of the Republican Party. Over a century and a half, from the abolition of slavery, to the enactment of women’s suffrage, to the liberation of millions of people in the Soviet Union, Afghanistan and Iraq, the Republican Party has been the most effective political organization in the history of the world in advancing the cause of freedom.

So that all of us can learn more about the achievements of this fundamentally American institution in its 105th anniversary year, the Republican Policy Committee has produced this 2005 Republican Freedom Calendar, each day recording a milestone Republican achievement in advancing the civil rights of every American.

This past Sunday, 144 years ago, Republicans honored suffragist leaders Elizabeth Cady Stanton and Susan B. Anthony for their work in electing Republican candidates. Over Democratic opposition, Republicans in Congress enacted the women’s suffrage amendment to the Constitution, giving women the right to vote. And even before voting for women was legalized, Susan B. Anthony cast a ballot, and when she was arrested for voting illegally, she bragged to the press, “I voted the Republican ticket straight.”

Mr. Speaker, the 2005 Republican Freedom Calendar is available on the Internet at policy.house.gov.

AMERICA’S PRIORITIES IN SUSPENDED ANIMATION

(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 see the Republicans have planned a very busy week. The House passed nearly three dozen bills last night, all without debate. That has to sound impressive. The House unanimously passed legislation on everything from naming a post office to snake control. It is known as the suspension calendar. It means its Republicans have placed the House in suspended animation until after the election.

Does a post office need a name? Sure. But America needs affordable health care first, and is not getting it; America needs consumer confidence, and the Republicans are not providing that; and America needs a plan to deal with the chaos in Iraq. But forget that under this administration. That is why they are changing the story of why we went to Iraq in the first place.

America’s priorities have been in suspended animation for 4 years. But the wake-up call is coming on the 2nd of November.

OPPOSITION TO RELAXING GUN CONTROL LAWS IN THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

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

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I have one question for those who want to strip D.C.’s elected Mayor and City Council of any ability to regulate firearms in our Nation’s Capital: Are you insane?

It is unbelievable that the House Republican leadership would push this kind of a bill. We are spending billions of dollars trying to protect our Nation’s Capital from terrorists because we have the highest concentration of potential terrorist targets in our Nation’s Capital, and you want to arm every D.C. resident with every firearm imaginable, from handguns to Uzis to AK-47s, and enable them to walk around our streets to go into churches, theaters, schools and public buildings?

This is unbelievably irresponsible. I cannot believe that the Republican leadership would promote this kind of a bill, just to give the NRA the kind of vote that asserts its dominance over this House.

Last year, the District of Columbia confiscated 1,982 firearms from criminals. This year, so far 1,400 have been taken from criminals because it is illegal to carry a gun here. Virtually all of them would be able to carry around those firearms without any regulation if this bill was passed.

This is not the Wild West of the 19th Century. This is our Nation’s Capital in the 21st Century. Please do the decent thing and defeat this radical affront to the citizens of our Nation’s Capital.

ADMINISTRATION UNHINGED FROM REALITY

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

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, today we see an administration in denial, a denial of problems here at home and abroad.

Today’s Washington Post says an increasing number of career professionals within our own national security agencies believe that the situation in Iraq is much worse than is being expressed in public by top administration officials. It says, “The rebellion is deeper and more widespread than is being publicly acknowledged.”

These are not the words of “pesimists and naysayers,” as the President’s spokesperson so glibly put it. These are not, as President Bush said last week, “guesses.” These are the findings of those fighting the Iraqi insurgency and studying at CIA, the State Department, and within the Army officer corps.

Yet the administration insists that, “Freedom is on the march in Iraq.”

This comes on the heels of a New York Times piece that found 120,000 hours of terrorism-related recordings that have not even been translated by the FBI, this after this administration and the majority have repeatedly refused to appropriate the funds to hire the necessary translators.

We are seeing an administration unhinged from reality, with incompetence at the highest levels, incapable of prosecuting this war successfully. Their mistakes have put the lives of our valiant soldiers already serving in harm's way at even greater risk.

AMERICA NOT BEING MADE SAFER

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the administration says time and time again, as if that would make it so, that Americans are safer today. After all, they are spending \$10 billion to deploy a defective Star Wars system that has not been tested and could not hit missiles that will not be launched against us, and that makes us safer.

Yet our ports are wide open. Three percent of the containers coming into America will be inspected this year. That is the most likely route of a weapon of mass destruction to the United States, and we are only inspecting 3 percent of them, and 2 percent of the trucks coming across the Mexican border?

No one is going to shoot a missile at us, but they darn well might smuggle it in a truck or container and bring it in and detonate it in a city in the United States. And they are doing nothing about it.

They are doing nothing about plastic explosives being carried on to airplanes, even after the incidents in Russia. We have been warning them for 2 years that they are likely to take planes down. They are still doing nothing to detect plastic explosives at passenger checkpoints or keep people who clean the planes from secreting bombs on to the plane.

America is safer today? Maybe it is safer in an undisclosed location where DICK CHENEY is hiding out, but if it is not safer for average Americans.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 107, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 802 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 802

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) making continuing appropriations for the

fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 802 is a closed rule that provides for the consideration of H.J. Res. 107, a continuing resolution that will ensure ongoing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 until November 20, 2004, except for the Defense Department appropriations bill, which has already been enacted into law.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the last day of fiscal year 2004. At this point in time, there are a total of 12 regular appropriations bills that have not been enacted into law. Approving this CR will allow the Federal Government to continue its activities and operations for an additional 7 weeks.

To its credit, the House has passed 12 of the 13 regular appropriations bills. Unfortunately, the other body has passed only 5 regular appropriations bills and we need to pass a continuing resolution to allow the Federal Government to remain open while the House and Senate leadership, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and the respective bodies work through the process of resolving their differences on the remaining 12 regular appropriations bills.

The underlying resolution, H.J. Res. 107, is designed to allow the many different Federal departments and agencies covered by those 12 outstanding bills to continue operating under the terms and conditions of their fiscal year 2004 appropriations bills, while generally not allowing for the initiation of new programs, activities or projects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House on both sides to join me in supporting this rule and the underlying CR.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as my Republican friend and former colleague on the Committee on Rules, Porter Goss of Florida, once said about a continuing resolution, "Congress is failing to fulfill its obligation in a timely and responsible way, choosing to fall back on one CR after another instead of putting in the time to do our job." Or as he said on another occasion, "A continuing resolution erodes the credibility of the Congress."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how much credibility this Republican Congress will have after we pass this continuing resolution and scurry off to our districts until November.

□ 1030

This Congress is unable to finish even its most basic duties, which is amazing, considering that the Republicans control both Chambers and the White House. Let us take a look at what we are leaving behind.

We have yet to pass a transportation bill to reduce congestion on our roads, reduce pollution in our air, or create new, good-paying jobs in our communities.

We have yet to pass legislation implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, to strengthen America's intelligence community, strengthen America's homeland security, and effectively fight terrorism around the globe.

We have yet to pass a higher education reauthorization bill to help students across America pursue a higher education.

And we have yet to pass the majority of our mandatory spending bills to fund the government for the next year. In fact, we have only passed one out of 13 appropriation bills through the entire Congress.

By refusing to stay in Washington and do our work our constituents sent us here to do, we are harming our economy, leaving our young students behind, and endangering the safety and security of this Nation.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the House spent the entire day debating and passing 38 suspension bills, including passing a bill to rename a river basin in Colorado and a number of bills to name several post offices around the country; and it has been that way for months. We spend more time naming post offices than doing the people's business and doing the work they sent us here to do. Our constituents expect us to fund this Nation's government, they expect us to pass a higher education bill to give our students the opportunity to pursue a college degree, a transportation bill to keep our highways being developed, and they certainly expect us to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission so that we can continue to wage the war on terror and keep our country safe.

But instead, Mr. Speaker, this Congress is taking the easy way out, leaving the hard work until after the election. I wonder, will this Congress be