

immediate and long-term investment in securing our seaports. According to the United States Coast Guard, implementing these regulations that directly address our Seaport security needs will cost \$1.1 billion in the first year and \$5.5 billion over 10 years.

To date, security funding to our seaports has been woefully underfunded. Last year, the administration requested \$46 million for Port Security funding. We can and we must do better, Mr. Speaker.

Given our Nation's economic dependence on our seaports and our ongoing national security concerns, seaport security funding and the need for Federal support for our Nation's security should be ongoing.

Given the enormity of these seaport capital infrastructure projects, my legislation seeks to do the following: Establish a multi-year seaport grant program that resembles the Letter of Intent measures established in the aviation security program; call for multi-year grants and \$800 million per year for Port Security Grant Funding. The program would be authorized for 5 years.

This legislation is much needed. We should recognize the continuing security and economic needs that face our Nation and our seaports, and implementing the U.S. Seaport Multiyear Security Enhancement Act is an important step in doing so. I ask my colleagues to support this important legislation.

ELECTION DAY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, 2 days ago, amidst intimidation and threats and actual violence, the people of Iraq spoke out against the past oppression of Saddam Hussein and his dynasty of tyrants and spoke loudly for democracy. And I was there, privileged to be there, to witness this birth of a new era in this Nation of Iraq. I saw how the Iraqi people boldly, with the courage of a free people, said no to the outlaw desperadoes that plague their land almost daily, with the terror of abuse, ambush, and assassination. A people yearning to be free cannot be deterred by the acts of cowardly villains who harm the innocent and the unarmed.

Even on this day, January 30, Iraq's Election Day, a day of promise, there were still 212 reported acts of violence against these people, 44 of whom died, one being an 8-year-old mentally challenged boy. Yet 60 percent of these proud Iraqis walked to 30,000 polling stations with watchful Iraqi security police on rooftops of schools armed with M-16 rifles.

Yet they ventured out with their families. They stood in lines, received historic ballots with 111 selections from which to choose. They entered a cardboard voting booth, and they made

their free choice. They all cast a vote for Iraq.

I talked to these people, the young and the elderly, who were all defiant of the violence and proud to be voters in this first free and fair election that carries the hope of democracy. I even saw husbands taking photographs of their wives while their wives were voting.

The atmosphere of democracy unfolding was almost carnival in nature. After voting, each Iraqi dipped their right forefinger in an inkwell to record the fact that they voted. Some even left the polling place singing as they held their finger up high, a symbol that has come to be termed a badge of courage. They wanted all to know they had participated in this day. One young girl told me that she got there very early that morning so she could be the first person in her community to vote.

This election was planned and conducted by Iraqis. The security force of 100,000 officers were all Iraqis. The votes will be counted by Iraqis, and the 275 members of this new parliament will all be Iraqis.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the United States made a sound decision in helping start this democracy. Similar to the events following World War II when America launched democracies in the nations of our enemies, Japan and Germany, the skeptics and critics said it could not be done, and those skeptics and critics are still around today. But today Japan and Germany are not only thriving democracies but they are also world economic powers and they are our allies.

So this, too, will be our hope and desire for Iraq and for Afghanistan. These two nations will become democracies in spite of the hardships and detractors here at home and abroad. Those people who utter words of gloom, doom, and despair, history will prove those people wrong. History corroborates that freedom can grow in the desert of oppression.

Our efforts have not gone without appreciation by the Iraqi people. The individuals I spoke to on that Sunday morning and afternoon said they love Americans, especially our military. They are truly grateful.

As Election Day drew to a close on Sunday afternoon, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SHAYS) and I spoke with the president of Iraq. And in an almost emotional tone, he told us that the Iraqi people recognize that America has sacrificed their young men and women for Iraq, for this day to come.

We should be happy for the Iraqi people and proud that we have sown the seed of freedom in this land far, far away. And we must remember the words 40 years ago of a young man from Massachusetts, President John Kennedy, when he stated our commitment then and our commitment today. He said, "Let every nation know, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend,

oppose any foe, to assure the survival and success of liberty."

We are doing that in Iraq, Mr. Speaker.

REQUESTING AN INVESTIGATION CONCERNING MYRON KUROPAS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, today I sent a letter to the Secretary of State requesting an investigation into how an individual, a professor at Northern Illinois University who is known for anti-Jewish comments, was selected to participate in an official U.S. delegation to the inaugural ceremonies of Ukrainian president, Viktor Yushchenko.

For those who might not be aware of this story, last week the Chicago Tribune and the Chicago Sun Times reported that Myron Kuropas, an adjunct professor at Northern Illinois University, accompanied former Secretary of State Colin Powell on a presidential delegation to the Ukrainian inauguration.

At first glance, the professor's selection as a member of the delegation seems perfectly normal. He is of Ukrainian decent and a well-known expert in the region. Furthermore, the professor is a former Ford administration official and had served on the staff of a Senator. Yet Professor Kuropas also has a disturbing history of anti-Jewish remarks.

In 1998, he said, "Let the Jews go on the defensive for a change. The crimes of their people cannot be explained away easily."

In 2000, he said, "Big money drives the Holocaust industry. To survive, the Holocaust industry is always searching for its next mark. Ukraine's turn is just around the corner."

He also accused the Jewish people of being "instrumental in the rise of Soviet Communism and the horrors of Stalinism," which is an interesting take for a professor of history.

It is pretty clear where Professor Kuropas stands. He is entitled to his views, but it is disturbing that an individual whose views are not only inconsistent with those of most Americans but also dangerous would be selected to represent the United States on a presidential delegation to the Ukrainian inauguration.

Inexplicably, when asked whether or not he renounced his previous statements, the professor stood by his previous comments. What is more, it is unclear to this date who selected the professor to go on the delegation, which was the basis of the letter I sent to the Secretary of State.

The State Department, when asked, said, "I think that's really a White House question. It was a White House delegation."

When the White House was asked, they said that they had no idea how he was selected.

He comes from Northern Illinois University, in the Speaker's district. The Speaker said he had no involvement in this, which I believe to be true.

But the question is, how does a known anti-Semite walk on the plane of the United States Government with the Secretary of State as a representative of a presidential delegation, representing the American people, who constantly and consistently has published and speaks out in a vile way, in my view, against the Jewish people and yet nobody from the State Department to the White House or anybody else involved can tell us how he got there or who recommended him? And yet he represented the United States, and I would assume some would say our values of democracy, while in the Ukraine as a part of that delegation and yet consistently refuses to back away from comments that, in my view, are just one individual's take, are neither pro to the Jewish people or to those who border, in my view, on anti-Semitism.

□ 1945

It is ironic that the professor who has done the best job of summing up the issue, because he wrote criticisms of Jews, and I am quoting him, "All of a sudden I do not have a right to be a part of the American delegation?" I could not have said it better myself. The United States should not and does not condone anti-Semitism or discrimination of any kind.

Allowing a known anti-Semite to represent America, which I find ironic on the same week that we celebrate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, is an embarrassment and a contradiction of all of our values regardless of party.

Mr. Speaker, the issue before us is how did the professor get on the plane and who recommended him to represent the United States of America? We deserve an answer. And in the letter I ask the Secretary of State to provide that answer and to look into this. And I look forward to that answer so we can clear up the question of how a professor who does not hide his views when it comes to the Jewish people was selected to represent the United States with the Secretary of State on an official plane in an official delegation, whose views are abhorrent to our values of decency and respect for people of diverse ethnicity.

AMERICAN MEDIA SHOWS PESSIMISM REGARDING IRAQI ELECTIONS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, you know, when Ronald Reagan was President, he told a story of the difference between an optimist and a pessimist. And he used the example of two little boys who were put into a room

full of horse manure. And the one little boy started crying very viciously, very seriously, because there were not any toys in the room. And the other little boy was digging around happy as a lark.

And they asked him, why are you so happy? And he said, with all of this horse manure in here, there has got to be a pony here somewhere.

The reason Reagan told that story was because he wanted people to realize that optimism is something that everybody should try to acquire in their lives and look at the positive things. And during his administration, he was so optimistic that he changed the whole attitude of the American people and made the 8 years of his administration a real success.

I would like to contrast that, if you will, with what we have seen in the last couple of days. Sixty percent of the people of Iraq went to the polls to vote knowing that some of them might be killed. A lot of people wonder if that would happen here in America.

In America we have what, 30, 40, 50 percent of the people vote if we are very lucky, and we do not have any guns pointed at anybody. And yet in Iraq these people knew their lives were in jeopardy, and they still put their finger in that ink and held it up for the people to see in the cameras so they could take pictures, because they were proud that they had a chance to show their freedom.

They were optimistic, very optimistic like Ronald Reagan talked about, for the future of Iraq. And yet last night when I watched the news, I watched several of the major news networks, and I will not go into their names tonight, but it is the same people that you hear all the time.

They were once again pointing out all of the things that went wrong in Iraq during the elections, and all of the problems that lay ahead of us, and how this is just a first step in a long series of steps that have to be taken; and they were not celebrating at all this tremendous step toward democracy and freedom that took place in one of the toughest spots in the whole wide world.

And I would just like to say to my friends in the media, that was a great thing that happened. Sixty percent of the people who lived under a tyrannical leader for years and years, who suffered torture and heartache for decades, finally had a chance to vote; and even though they were doing it with guns being pointed in their direction, people being blown up, and people being beheaded, they took the chance and went and voted, 60 percent of them. They are optimists. And I just wish the national media would realize it and become optimistic themselves.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from California (Mr. FILNER).

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

There was no objection.

CLOSING OF IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY HIGH SCHOOL

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the announcement was made last week that a high school in my congressional district, Immaculate Heart of Mary (IHM) in Westchester, Illinois, would be closing its doors at the end of this school year. This closure indicates the end of an era in the Chicago western suburbs and for single-sex education due to a record low enrollment in 2004, and a significant drop in the number of people sitting for the entrance exam in January of 2005.

The school administration made the difficult decision to close this spring.

Since 1961, Immaculate Heart of Mary has offered a rigorous, single-sex, college preparatory education for young women throughout Chicago and the western suburbs. Over 6,000 women have benefited from the education offered by IHM since its inception. Teachers and staff have dedicated themselves to fostering a diverse community aimed towards achieving academic excellence and building a Christian community made up of empowered young women.

IHM has been successful both academically and in its extracurricular activities. Athletic successes include a State championship in basketball in 1987. The students of IHM have been involved in many other extracurricular activities such as Model United Nations and Students Against Drunk Driving. In 1996, IHM received the United States Department of Education Blue Ribbon Schools Award in recognition of their academic superiority. IHM is the only all-women school in the State of Illinois to receive this award.

The school's president, Karen Ristau, has led a dedicated staff of approximately 30 teachers and administrators in fulfilling IHM's motto: "Every student has the need to become what she has the ability to become." I would like to offer my heartfelt thanks to both Ms. Ristau and the entire staff of IHM for their years of dedication to the education of young women in Illinois. The community, current students, and past graduates are grateful for the commitment of the administration and staff.

By deciding to open its doors to women next fall, St. Joseph High