

for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to hearing the President address the Nation this evening on our plan to be certain that America's Gulf Coast States continue to receive the assistance they need to rebuild.

I want him to know that Tennessee is doing our part to help those that are affected by Katrina. The past few days I have talked about some of the good work our west and middle Tennessee organizations have done to assist the recovery effort.

Today I want to thank our Clarksville and Montgomery County, Tennessee, volunteers and organizations, especially those providing food, like Urban Ministries, Loaves & Fishes, and the Department of Human Resources. The Hilldale Church of Christ and the Cumberland Baptists Association are providing shelter. The Salvation Army Thrift Store and First Call For Help have provided clothing.

□ 1745

We have seen Gateway Health System and our County Health Department assist with medical care.

Austin Peay State University has opened their doors, and they are receiving displaced students.

Mr. Speaker, in the aftermath of the hurricane, we have seen ordinary Americans do extraordinary things. I want to thank our Tennessee communities for pitching in.

GAZA PULLOUT

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

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon has shown bold leadership. Prime Minister Sharon took a significant risk to both his political future and personal safety to organize the Israeli pullout of Gaza.

Thousands of Israelis were moved from their homes in Gaza to give peace a chance. With no guarantees from the Palestinians, the Israelis moved all that was important to them, moved their home, their goods, including the remains of their families and friends.

Mahmoud Abbas and the Palestinian Authority must show leadership and root out radical terrorist groups like Hamas. Israel took the first step in the hope of developing a lasting peace with the Palestinians. Abbas must confront violence against Israelis, eliminate the terrorist infrastructure, disarm and arrest those involved in terrorist plots and institute democratic reforms in all Palestinian-controlled areas.

Mr. Speaker, Prime Minister Sharon showed bold leadership and courage. Now the Palestinians must act.

AIRLINE EMPLOYEES

(Mr. PRICE of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, two cornerstones of the airline industry filed for bankruptcy. The headlines this morning talk about Delta and Northwest and the customers, but what should be on the front page are headlines about the employees. The employees are the ones who will be impacted the most. Delta and Northwest combined have over 90,000 employees, and that number does not include the retirees who will also have to deal with this issue.

People who have worked a lifetime to retire comfortably are now in jeopardy of having their promised benefits cut by 75 percent. Can you imagine that, 75 percent?

Delta and Northwest Airlines are the latest casualties in a competitive airline industry, and these recent Chapter 11 filings are a symptom of a greater problem and must serve as a wake-up call for all of us. Employees must have the flexibility to choose how they wish to secure their retirements if legacy carriers are to remain in the industry. This means IRAs and 401(k)s, the power to secure your retirement should be in your own hands.

Mr. Speaker, the news today affects all of us, and I ask my colleagues to support comprehensive airline pension reform so these employees retain a more secure future.

IN MEMORY OF JUDGE MARC WESTBROOK

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, South Carolina has lost a judicial statesman with the death of Judge Marc Westbrook. In dedicating the Lexington County Courthouse main courtroom in his honor, Marc was fondly recognized as a loving father, devoted husband, dedicated son, conscientious legislator and brilliant judge. These accolades are truer today than ever before.

Judge Westbrook is a role model and mentor of integrity and competence for young lawyers who served as clerks, such as my son Alan and my Chief of Staff Eric Dell. In addition to his passing, we give tribute to his law clerk Randall Davis, Junior, who also sadly was killed in yesterday's traffic accident.

The Wilson family, especially our oldest son Alan, who considered the judge an uncle, extends its deepest sympathies to his wife, Linda; his sons, Thad and Richard; his father, Herb; his sister, Dottie; his beloved granddaughter, Abby; and his additional family members. We also express our deepest sympathies to the Davis family and his father Randy and sister Julie.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH SEPTEMBER 20, 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky) laid before the House the following Communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
September 15, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through September 20, 2005.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will proceed to recognize Members for Special Order speeches without prejudice to possible further legislative business.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

THE COMING CATEGORY 5 FINANCIAL HURRICANE

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

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the tragic events of abject poverty in New Orleans revealed on national TV by Katrina's destruction were real eye-openers for many. These scenes prompted two emotional reactions. One side claimed Katrina proved there was not enough government welfare and its distribution was based on race. The other side claims we need to pump billions of new dollars into the very agency that failed, FEMA, while giving it extraordinary new police powers. Both sides support more authoritarianism, more centralization, and even the imposition of martial law in times of natural disasters.

There is no hint that we will resort to reason now that the failed welfare policies of the past 60 years have been laid bare. Certainly no one has connected the tragedy of poverty in New Orleans to the flawed monetary system that has significantly contributed to the impoverishment of a huge segment of American society.

Congress reacted to Katrina in the expected irresponsible manner. It immediately appropriated over \$60 billion with little planning or debate. Taxes

will not be raised to pay the bill, fortunately. There will be no offsets or spending reductions to pay the bill. Welfare and entitlement spending is sacrosanct, spending for the war in Iraq and the military industrial complex is sacrosanct, but there is no guarantee that gracious foreign lenders will step forward, especially without raising interest rates. This means the Federal Reserve and the Treasury will print the money needed to pay the bills.

The sad truth is that monetary debasement hurts the poor people the most, the very people we saw on TV after Katrina. Inflating our currency hurts the poor and destroys the middle class, while transferring wealth to the ruling class. This occurs in spite of the good intentions and the misplaced compassion.

We face a coming financial crisis. Our current account deficit is more than \$600 billion annually. Our foreign debt is now more than \$3 trillion. Foreigners now own over \$1.4 trillion of our Treasury and mortgage debt. We must borrow \$3 billion from foreigners every business day to maintain our extravagant spending. Our national debt is now increasing over \$600 billion per year; and, guess what, we print over \$600 billion per year to keep the charade going. The national debt is approaching \$8 trillion, but there is a limit, and I am fearful we are fast approaching it.

Runaway inflation is a well-known phenomenon. It leads to political and economic chaos of the kind we witnessed in New Orleans. Hopefully, we will come to our senses and not allow that to happen, but we are vulnerable, and we have only ourselves to blame.

The flawed paper money system in existence only since 1971 has allowed for the irresponsible spending of the past 30 years. Without a linkage to gold, the Washington politicians and the Federal reserve have no restraints placed on their power to devalue our money by merely printing more to pay the bills run up by the welfare-warfare State.

This system of money is a big contributing factor in the exporting of American jobs, especially in the manufacturing industries.

Since the last link to gold was severed in 1971, the dollar has lost 92 percent of its value relative to gold, with gold going from \$35 an ounce to \$450 per ounce.

A major adjustment of the dollar and the current account deficit can come anytime, and the longer the delay the greater the distortions will be in terms of a correction. In the meantime, we give leverage to our economic competitors and our political adversaries, especially China.

The current system is held together by a false confidence in the U.S. dollar that is vulnerable to sudden changes in the economy and political events.

This is my suggestion to my colleagues. Any new expenditures must

have offsets greater in amount than the new programs. Foreign military and foreign aid expenditures must be the first target. The Federal Reserve must stop inflating the currency merely for the purpose of artificially lowering interest rates to perpetuate a financial bubble.

This policy allows government and consumer debt to grow beyond sustainable levels, while undermining incentives to save. This, in turn, undermines capital investment, while exaggerating consumption. If this policy does not change, the dollar must fall, and the current account deficit will play havoc until the house of cards collapse.

Our spending habits, in combination with our flawed monetary system, if not changed will bring us a financial whirlwind that will make Katrina look like a minor storm. Loss of competence in the dollar and the international financial system is a frightening possibility, but it need not happen if Congress can curb its appetite for buying the people's support through unrestrained spending.

If Congress does not show some sense of financial restraint soon, we can expect the poor to become poorer; the middle class to become smaller; and the government to get bigger and more authoritarian—while the liberty of the people is diminished. The illusion that deficits, printing money, and expanding the welfare and warfare states serve the people must come to an end.

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

RECOGNIZING THE ARMENIAN GENOCIDE

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

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, today, in the Committee on International Relations a remarkable thing happened. Not one but two resolutions recognizing the facts of the Armenian genocide passed out of the committee with strong bipartisan support, indeed with the support of both the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), the chairman, and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), the ranking member.

One of those resolutions I introduced to recognize the first genocide of the 20th century, the genocide which claimed the lives of 1.5 million Armenian men, women and children. The facts of that genocide are clear. The facts of genocide are incontrovertible. They are borne out in thousands of pages of documents in our own archives. They are borne out in the words and the transmitted telegrams of our Ambassador, Henry Morgenthau, at the time.

The only obstacle that the Congress has faced, and it has been a formidable one, in recognizing the Armenian genocide is the resistance of the Republic of Turkey, the well-documented efforts of its powerful lobbyist, and the feeling of some that, by recognizing what all historians have recognized, that we will somehow jeopardize our relations with an ally.

□ 1800

I have never taken issue with the fact that Turkey is an ally to the United States. It is an ally. It is at a strategic crossroads. It is an important member of NATO. At the same time, we cannot equivocate about the murder of 1.5 million people; and the differences that we have had with Turkey, and they have been considerable, over a whole host of issues have not ruptured our relationship.

During the run-up to the Iraq war, many of my colleagues will remember, we sought the permission of Turkey to allow American and Coalition ground forces to enter Iraq through Turkey. The Turkish Parliament voted on that, and they voted against it. That was of enormous significance to this country.

As a result of that, we could not open that second northern front; as a result of that, many melted away to the Iraqi population, many of the insurgents that we now fight with so bitterly. That had enormous consequences, but it did not end the relationship with the United States, and recognition of the historic facts of the genocide will not end the relationship with Ankara, either. There are strong mutual interests at stake which will transcend the recognition of the historic facts.

In the past, American leaders have recognized the genocide. Ronald Reagan spoke eloquently of the facts of the genocide. Winston Churchill in his memoirs documents the murder of hundreds of thousands of Armenians in a crime at the time that was unequalled. Yet here we are, fresh from recognizing, as indeed we should and as indeed we must, the genocide going on in Darfur, but unwilling to recognize the murder of 1.5 million Armenians.

What does that say about American policy? Can our policy be that we will recognize genocide when it is committed by the politically impotent, as in the case of Sudan, but not in the case of the politically powerful as in the case of the Ottoman Empire and its Turkish successors? This certainly cannot be the policy of the United States. We must recognize unequivocally that, beginning in 1915, 1.5 million people were murdered merely because of who they were as a people, the very definition of genocide.

With the passage of these resolutions, with the support of the chair and the ranking member, with the overwhelming support on both sides of the aisle in committee, I hope that we can get a vote on the House floor, something we have not had in more than a decade, so that we can once again reestablish the moral authority and clarity