

and to the destruction and defeat of international terrorism.

Mr. Speaker, Mr. Ahmadinejad needs to mind his words, because words mean something, and he should mind his manners and use some common sense in what he does. That is just the way it is.

#### 40TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. LOUIS' ARCH

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

Mr. CARNAHAN. Mr. Speaker, today in St. Louis people gather on the banks of the mighty Mississippi to commemorate the 40th anniversary of completing the Gateway Arch. It is our Nation's tallest monument at 630 feet, and St. Louis' greatest attraction with 3.5 million visitors each year.

After the Great Depression and after public urging, a nationwide public competition was held to determine a design for a memorial that would honor President Thomas Jefferson's bold vision for westward expansion for America.

It is our distinct symbol among the cities of the world, and stands as a testament to the inspired design of architect Eero Saarinen, to the amazing engineers and ironworkers who built her, and to the spirit of the citizens of St. Louis and across America.

Upon its dedication President Johnson noted, For a century, we labored to settle and subdue a continent. For half a century, we called upon unbounded invention and untiring industry to create an order of plenty for all of our people. The challenge for the next half century is whether we have the wisdom to use that wealth to enrich and elevate our national life, and to advance the quality of our American civilization.

Mr. Speaker, the challenge continues today as we wish happy birthday to St. Louis' arch.

#### TRIUMPHS OF OUR TROOPS

(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, why do the evil acts of terrorists receive more attention in the media than the victories of American soldiers? Our men and women in uniform are skillfully tracking down and killing terrorists throughout Iraq, but we rarely read about their accomplishments in the media or hear about their successes on the nightly news.

As U.S. troops risk their lives daily to protect American families, their victories deserve our attention.

Earlier this week coalition forces killed Abu Zaid and Abu Hassan, two al Qaeda terrorists who personally assisted in beheadings and were responsible for attacking Iraqi and coalition

security forces. Fortunately, these murderers have met the fate of leading al Qaeda terrorists in Algeria and Saudi Arabia.

By eliminating these monsters, coalition forces have saved the lives of countless Iraqis and Americans. The American people deserve to know about the triumphs of our troops and their efforts to protect American families.

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

#### REPUBLICAN SPIN MACHINE IN HIGH GEAR

(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, Chief of Staff Scooter Libby, the chief architect of the lies and deceptions about weapons of mass destruction in the rush to an unnecessary war to Vice President DICK CHENEY, is indicted for obstruction of justice and perjury in an attempt to cover up the plot to lie about weapons of mass destruction and smear those who told the truth.

The Republican spin machine is in high gear. It is not a big deal: Obstruction of justice, perjury, deceiving the Nation into an unnecessary war, not a big deal, not like a President lying about sex with an intern.

#### HONORING ROSA PARKS

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

Mr. WELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and this Nation in honoring the passing of American civil rights hero Rosa Parks.

Looking back from our modern vantage point, it is difficult to imagine that an individual could exhibit so much courage and inspire thousands to rise up in protest merely through an act so simple as refusing to give up her seat on a bus.

In many ways this entire country is fortunate that a white man looking for a place to sit on that bus on that particular day set his sights on Mrs. Parks and not someone else. A middle-aged African American woman, clearly tired after a long day's work, how could anyone have known that she would have the strength of spirit to look up that fateful day in 1965 and essentially say enough is enough? For if the exhausted and fed-up seamstress had not been among the African Americans asked to move, if someone else had asked and complied, there may not have been that seminal event which would crystallize an entire movement.

One might say that Mrs. Parks' simple act of bravery preceded and, in fact, set in motion the many acts of courage of another civil rights hero, Dr. Martin Luther King.

When a conference of black Baptist ministers met to discuss how to react

to Mrs. Parks' arrest, they elected a young Dr. King as their president. When they decided that the strong and sympathetic figure of Mrs. Parks had given them the impetus they needed to act, the modern civil rights movement was born.

Thus came the very successful 380-day boycott of Montgomery buses and the famous lunch counter sit-ins. And ultimately, thus came the Supreme Court's decision which struck down the remaining segregation laws once and for all. It took Rosa Parks to help accomplish the goals of Abraham Lincoln to bring equality for all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, it is just and right that schoolchildren in America have long been taught the name of Rosa Parks as that of one of America's foremost heroes. Even now that she has passed on, I have little doubt that she will continue to be properly recognized for all of her contributions to our Nation.

#### ENERGY CRISIS

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, while American families and businesses struggle with sky-high energy prices, oil and gas companies are facing an entirely different crisis: What to do with all their money.

Yesterday, Exxon Mobil reported that its profits increased 75 percent in the third quarter, \$9 billion. American families are struggling while energy companies are reaping huge profits, but the oil companies are unapologetic.

In fact, Henry Hubble, Exxon Mobil's vice president for investor relations, defended the profits and said, "You have got to let the marketplace work."

Mr. Speaker, I could not agree more. The oil companies should take their historic profits and use it to execute their business plans, and that is also why oil companies should give back the \$16.5 billion in taxpayer subsidies that the Republican Congress has given to the energy companies in the past 4 months.

Mr. Speaker, right now Americans are paying twice: Once at the pumps and then again on April 15 when they file their taxes. That is not the free market, it is corporate welfare. What Congress subsidizes big oil to the tune of \$16.5 billion, yet cuts home heating assistance to the elderly? A Republican Congress. Exxon said let the free market work. Let us get rid of corporate welfare for the big oil companies.

#### STRENGTHEN SANCTIONS AGAINST IRAN

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

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, Iranian President Ahmadinejad called for the United States' greatest

ally, Israel, to be wiped off the map. Unfortunately, these vile words are not new, nor were they his own. He was quoting Iran's self-proclaimed enemy of the United States and Israel, Ayatollah Khomeini. But perhaps even more disturbing is a place you can find those words written, on their Shahab-3 ballistic missile. These missiles have a range of 1,250 miles and could easily strike Israel.

Our Nation is blessed with a vibrant Jewish constituency, and I value my interaction with Jews in my district and during the many trips I have made to Israel. We can learn from the Jewish people that when your enemy says he is going to kill you, you better pay attention.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to urge this body to issue a sharp rebuke of the Iranian President's words. Further, we should immediately consider proposals to strengthen sanctions under the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 and authorize the President to provide financial and political assistance to pro-democracy groups within Iran.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed a concurrent resolution of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. Con. Res. 61. Concurrent resolution authorizing the remains of Rosa Parks to lie in honor in the rotunda of the Capitol.

□ 0915

#### WAIVING POINTS OF ORDER AGAINST CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2744, AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2006

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 520 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

#### H. RES. 520

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider the conference report to accompany the bill (H.R. 2744) making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006, and for other purposes. All points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). The gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), 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. PUTNAM asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PUTNAM. Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 520 is a rule providing for consideration of the conference report on H.R. 2744, making appropriations for Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2006.

According to the rule, all points of order against the conference report and against its consideration are waived. The conference report shall be considered as read.

Mr. Speaker, today I am proud to present for consideration the rule for the conference report for agriculture appropriations for fiscal year 2006. I would like to commend Chairman BONILLA, Chairman LEWIS, and the entire Appropriations Committee for their hard work this year. The congressional budget is an important tool of Congress, allowing us to establish our priorities for the coming fiscal year.

The agriculture appropriations subcommittee has reported out a bill that provides important resources to ensure that our Nation's farmers and ranchers remain competitive in the 21st century. The legislation enhances our ability to safeguard our food supply and addresses the nutritional needs of children and the most disadvantaged in our country. The bill also works to maintain and build fiscal discipline.

In total, the bill provides \$17.1 billion in discretionary resources. This level represents an increase of \$258 million, only 1½ percent over the fiscal year 2005-enacted level.

The bill continues our commitment to protecting human health and safety. In an effort to combat harmful pests and disease that threaten American agriculture, the Food Safety and Inspection Service is increased by \$20 million over last year for a total of \$838 million, an increase of \$127 million above the President's request. And APHIS, the Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, activities are funded at \$7 million above last year for a total of \$820 million.

I am pleased that the conference report fulfills our commitments to important food and nutrition programs. Child nutrition programs are funded at \$12.7 billion, \$879 million above last year and \$245 million above the President's request. To provide quality nutrition for Women, Infants, and Children, the WIC program is funded at \$5.3 billion, \$22 million more than last year.

In addition, the conference report supports American farmers, ranchers, and rural areas. The Farm Service Agency salaries and expenses are funded at the President's request of \$1 billion, allowing the continued delivery of farm and disaster programs. To unlock much-needed advances in agricultural research and allow American farmers to have the tools necessary to continue to produce a safe and wholesome, affordable food supply, the Agricultural

Research Service is funded at \$1.266 billion.

USDA's Conservation Observations are increased by \$72 million over the President's request, bringing 2006 funding to \$840 million, an increase over last year. This will allow farmers and ranchers to achieve important conservation and environment goals, recognizing that farmers and ranchers are the original environmentalists.

This appropriations bill is an example of how Congress can attain fiscal discipline and still fund our necessary programs. The conference report on H.R. 2744 funds programs over the President's budget request, increasing funding in strategic areas, while maintaining fiscal discipline. I am impressed with the work of the conferees, and I am certain the appropriations process this year will serve as a model of how we can achieve responsible and responsive funding simultaneously.

Mr. Speaker, I represent a congressional district in Florida that is among the top in the Nation in production of certain agricultural goods. And I want to personally thank Chairman BONILLA and Chairman LEWIS and the agriculture appropriations subcommittee staff for their ongoing commitment to the needs of Florida's agriculture, which has been ravaged now by a number of hurricanes over the past 2 years and a number of invasive plants, pests, and diseases.

I particularly thank Chairman BONILLA for his understanding and diligence in fighting the spread of citrus canker in the groves of my State. I know that the people of Florida deeply appreciate the subcommittee's tireless efforts to assist our State's agriculture economy.

I urge Members to support the rule and the underlying conference report.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Florida (Mr. PUTNAM) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me begin by commending committee Chairman LEWIS and subcommittee Chairman Bonilla as well as committee Ranking Member OBEY and subcommittee Ranking Member DELAURO for bringing a freestanding fiscal year 2006 agriculture appropriations conference report to the floor today.

For the first time in several years, the agriculture appropriations conference report has not been folded into an omnibus bill and is allowed to be voted on up or down on its own merits. Until this year, that has been a rare accomplishment, and I believe our distinguished colleagues deserve to be commended for their efforts.

Mr. Speaker, while I will support the conference report, I do have some concerns with the final conference report