

ATTACHMENT 1.—EXAMPLE STRATEGIC AND CRITICAL MILITARY MATERIALS AND FOREIGN IMPORT RELIANCE—Continued

Material metal	Uses	Import (percent)
Yttrium	Laser rods, superalloys	100
Zinc	Batteries, galvanizing, paints, metalorganics, pharmaceuticals	63

¹ National Research Council, Managing Material for a 21st Century Military and Minerals, Table 4-3.

On page 1 we're referring to two recent National Research Council, NRC, reports. And one quote is, "We are entering a challenging time for our Nation which is only now beginning to become clear. China and India are consuming huge amounts of energy and minerals which they are willing to secure from parts around the globe and with which they are fueling unprecedented economic growth. At current rates of relative economic growth, one or both of them will surpass the United States in economic output within 2 decades. We are in a race. Now is not the time to rest. We must examine closely the consequences, intended and unintended, of our actions. We owe nothing less to our children's future."

In light of this worry by the National Research Council, yesterday I had an amendment which would have simply required that if we ever are passed by any country and become the second largest economy in the world, that the implications of this bill simply be done away with; that is, that we would begin to do the things that would heal our economy.

I accept the fact that we could be overestimating the impacts of this bill that is coming to the floor, the mining legislation. But what I will not accept is that we have consequences in our economy without having some way to reverse those impacts.

The Chinese economy doubled gross domestic product in 5 short years. The combined economies of China and India have tripled in size over the last decade, and some predict that, at the current rate, the U.S. could very well become the second largest economy in the world. That's what I mentioned when we very first started, that the consequences of too hasty an action here could place our children into a position where they no longer have the standard of living to where we, as Americans, begin in a steep decline economically, so that we do not have the hope and the opportunity for the future which we currently have.

The National Research Council pointed out three ways in which they are very concerned about the potential ruinous effects. They're concerned about how much of the minerals that we are going to import. And again, I would show a chart to my left, that all of these elements in this picture get minerals that are currently mined in the U.S. Some are strategic, some are not, but our daily life revolves around minerals that we get from deep inside the ground. When we acknowledge that and when we understand where these minerals come from, we might have a different opinion than just trying to regulate the companies out of existence.

We're going to use these elements whether or not they come from U.S. mines or not.

My recommendation is that we continue to mine these minerals inside the United States. Don't transport our jobs. Don't transport our national security to firms outside. Don't make us subject to another country to get the minerals which are required for national security considerations. Please, let's take time before we pass this legislation. Let's send it back to committee. Let's contemplate the effects of it.

And I would yield back to the gentleman and thank him greatly.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. I appreciate the gentleman from New Mexico coming and talking about these issues, and I think people can realize we feel very strong and deeply about these particular issues. This is what happens in our States. We live with this issue all together.

You've heard today about the nature of our forests and what we must do to have healthy forests in the future. You heard about the impact it has on school children in those forest counties. But there is a proposal; it needs to come to the floor that we can debate about that as well.

You've heard about the significance of payment in lieu of taxes and what it means to Western States, about oil shale development, natural gas development, mining development, all of these which have an impact.

Now, I said earlier on, but once again I'm just an old school teacher. And it does have impacts beyond what we naturally think about. And I'm thinking specifically about my kids, about my salary, my retirement as a school teacher and what we do in the future in our Western States.

We noticed before, this is the chart, the amount of blue is how many, how much land is owned by the Federal Government in each State. I'd like you to contrast that, if you would, with this chart. The States in red are the States that have the most difficult time increasing the amount of money and paying for their education. The States that are red have the growth in education but they also have the most difficult time in adjusting for that growth. And if you look at that and then compare it once again with the public land States, you'll find an amazing correlation. The public land States are having the most difficult time funding their education, and I think there is a relationship to it which we have yet to fully investigate, and we ought to. It's a subject for a future time, but it's also one of those things that are important because there are

collateral impacts that are extremely important on how we actually follow the advice of Daniel Webster up there, which told us to develop our resources so that we can move this Nation forward. And this is the time we have to do it. And there are right ways of doing it and there are probably imprudent ways of doing it. It's important that we do it the right ways, and we in the West clearly understand the significance of that.

With that, Mr. Speaker, I appreciate your patience.

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 110-69)

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 Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability and was addressed by the United Nations Security Council in Resolution 1596 of April 18, 2005, Resolution 1649 of December 21, 2005, and Resolution 1698 of July 31, 2006, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. For this reason, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict.

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the Federal Register for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the related measures blocking the property of certain persons contributing to the conflict in

that country, must continue in effect beyond October 27, 2007.

GEORGE W. BUSH,
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 24, 2007.

CONSTITUTIONAL CHECKS AND BALANCES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MCNERNEY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. WALZ) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. WALZ of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, it is a pleasure to be here with my colleagues, the members of the class of 2006, and I'm going to defer to my colleague from Kentucky who brought an initiative forward and one that we are excited about talking about. It's something that the American people should be excited about talking about. It's a refresher course and, I guess, to bring to the forefront again the most important document in this country, the Constitution.

□ 1730

With that, I yield to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. YARMUTH).

Mr. YARMUTH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Minnesota, the distinguished president of our class, for yielding and thank him for the superb job he has done in leading us through this wonderful year that we are spending as new Members of Congress.

I want to start this segment by actually reading the first few words of the Constitution of the United States because too often I find that, as I go around the country and go around my district, the people have lost sight and I think many Members of Congress have lost sight of exactly what the Founding Fathers did 220 years ago. I think we are all familiar with the preamble of the Constitution, and it starts with those wonderful words "We the people," those incredible words that actually go to the heart of what we are about as a democracy:

"We the people of the United States, in order to form a more perfect union, establish justice, ensure domestic tranquility, provide for the common defense, promote the general welfare, and secure the blessings of liberty to ourselves and our posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America."

Now, following those words, following that brief preamble, it says in article I, section 1: "All legislative Powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives."

I think it's amazing to think back to what was going on in those formative years of our Republic in 1787. The country had just rebelled against a monarch in England, and when they were establishing a government that would reflect the hopes and dreams of the people who had gone through that incredible war of revolution against England, they decided to create a government in

which the ultimate power would rest in the people. That's why they said at beginning of the preamble, "We the people." They created in article I the representative body of government that we sit in today. They did that because they didn't want one person being the decider of everything that affected their lives. They wanted to vest the power to govern in themselves through their representatives in Congress.

And so we sit here as successors to that incredible legacy. And it is not only our power to do that vested by the Constitution in article I; it is our responsibility. We have an obligation to govern on behalf of our citizens, "we the people," as reflected in our representation here.

I think those of us who were elected for the first time last November know that, yes, we were elected partially because of the war in Iraq, but we were also elected because the people of the country decided that they really wanted to make sure their voice was heard in Washington. They thought their voice was being ignored. They said this is our government. We are going to change it by sending people there who will listen to us and will put our desires into action through the legislative process.

So I thought it would be wonderful to call attention to the fact that article I does impose, again, not just these powers, but it also imposes responsibilities. And that's what we came here to do, and we recognize that. We want everyone in Congress, both parties, to share in this acknowledgment of what our responsibilities are under the Constitution. I am so proud to have with me tonight and so proud to serve with wonderful people who are committed to the same ideals.

I would like to recognize BETTY SUTTON from Ohio, one of our wonderful new Members, to elaborate on article I and what we are doing to realize and to fulfill our responsibilities under article I.

Ms. SUTTON. I thank the gentleman for his introduction here and I thank you for your leadership. The gentleman from Kentucky is taking us, hopefully, on what will be a bipartisan effort to restore the responsibilities of this Congress has under article I and just sort of bring that back to the forefront because checks and balances are very important in this government. I also want to commend the leadership of our president, TIM WALZ, the gentleman from Minnesota, who is an outspoken advocate for the people that he represents, and, frankly, that's what article I is all about.

As you point out, when we were elected to Congress, we were elected to represent the people of our districts. Not lobbyists on K Street and not operatives at the White House or even the President himself. Our responsibility and our loyalty are to the Americans, the people, first and foremost, who sent us here. That means we have to do the job that they asked us to do.

And that job is important, and we know exactly what that job is because article I in some ways is a job description. As you point out, it's not about really just authority; it's about responsibilities. Nowhere in that job description in article I does it say we have to protect egos or political interests of the executive branch. Nowhere does it say that we have to do only things that the President tells us to do. And nowhere in that job description does it say that Congress answers to anyone but the American people.

There has sort of been a slope here where past Congresses have ceded legislative power to the executive branch, and, frankly, I believe that when that happens, Congress is falling down on their job. I am really glad that we are here tonight to reinvigorate and rededicate ourselves to make sure that we are fulfilling our obligations and our function under article I because it is vitally important to so many issues, from the war in Iraq to all these judiciary issues.

Mr. YARMUTH. I thank my colleague. She has expressed it very well, and that is exactly what I know she has done in our 10 months here.

It also gives me great pleasure to recognize our colleague, another new Member from the great State of Florida, Congressman KLEIN, and I know he has some thoughts on this issue as well.

Mr. KLEIN of Florida. I would like to thank the gentleman from Kentucky and all of my colleagues here in our freshman class. We all ran in these difficult elections almost a year ago, but I think the very strong message that came out of all of us coming to Washington was a very strong message from back home, and that is the responsibilities, as was suggested by our colleagues, that we all know, from our civics classes back in high school and elementary school, that the beauty and the strength of the United States and our democracy is all about checks and balances. It's what makes our system a democracy. We can look at other models in Europe and Asia and around the world and dictatorships and things like that, but the strength of what works in this country is checks and balances.

What we believe is going on and the reason this emphasis on article I is so important and for our public and the people in this country to jump on this and work with us and recognize this and talk about it is because there has been a falling down of one side. We're out of balance. There are three legs to the stool. Each one has a specific set of authority. The judges, the judiciary, interpret. The legislature, that is, the Congress, has the authority to make the laws. And the executive has certain authority into executing and following and, through the agencies, doing certain things. But when one branch gets out of whack, it means the power is coming from another branch. This isn't about personal power. This is about the strength of our democracy. That is the exciting piece here.