

storm of the century. There is \$30 million requested in that supplemental to assist them.

The health, housing, small business and community development needs of the gulf are also finally heard and responded to in this measure, with a provision for community disaster loan forgiveness to assist local governments in meeting the needs of their displaced and devastated people.

There is also \$4.3 billion of FEMA disaster recovery grants and a social services block grant extension; \$25 million for small business disaster loans, and \$80 billion for HUD tenant-based rental assistance.

In the area of health care, two great needs are addressed in this bill with \$1 billion to purchase vaccines, emergency vaccines, that would be needed to protect this country in the case of a global flu pandemic; and another \$750 million to make sure that the children's health insurance programs, which cover millions of children in 14 States and some of the territories, will continue uninterrupted.

These are just some of the important areas funded in this bill, and it's why it must go forward. If we don't do it in this supplemental, a measure that is reserved for critical issues like these, it will be difficult, if not impossible, to get them done at all.

The American people are looking at us and wondering if their priorities are our priorities. This legislation demonstrates that we not only know what the priorities are, but that we are ready to stand with them and act on the issues they have told us are important to them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### A BREAK IN THE PURSUIT OF PEACE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, today the Associated Press reported that in the middle of the Iraq civil war, their parliament will be taking a 2-month break starting in July. While our troops are dying, while they are being wounded, while they are trying to provide security to the Iraqi people, the Iraqi leadership is planning to take 2 months off.

I hope that this does not mean that the Iraqis are giving up on providing a peaceful resolution to this conflict. If anything, the parliament should be rededicating themselves to providing security and hope to the Iraqi people, not taking a break, not letting any hope

for a peaceful resolution slip through their fingers.

Our best hope for peace in the region, actually, will have to come through hard work, through negotiations, through constant attention. Every day we turn a blind eye to the real situation on the ground in Iraq, more people die, more American troops, more Iraqi civilians die. I don't know about anyone else, but this is simply unacceptable to me.

The American people have said again, and they have said again, that they want our troops out of Iraq. This administration must demand that the Iraqi leaders stay in town, stay at the table, and not go on vacation.

After all, how can we stand down if the Iraqis aren't there to stand up?

This is a very serious problem, Mr. Speaker. How can we have a partnership with the Iraqi people, as our administration has promised, a partnership that they say is working to bring peace in Iraq, if half of that partnership goes on vacation?

My position has remained the same from the very beginning: We need to fully fund the withdrawal from Iraq. We need to bring our troops and military contractors home. We need to provide real and reliable health care to our returning troops. We need to work with the international community to provide for a dependable and safe future for the Iraqi people.

The way to bring peace to Iraq is not through building walls around neighborhoods, creating walled-in villages, breaking up lives and breaking up families. The way to bring peace to Iraq is to give sovereignty to the Iraqi people and to have a surge of peaceful negotiations. The only way to bring about peace is to bring our troops home, to empower the Iraqi people to build a future based on hope and equality.

And I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if not now, when?

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#### THE PRESIDENT CUT FUNDING FROM THE TROOPS

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

Mr. ELLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my disappointment and outrage at President Bush's veto of the Iraq War supplemental bill. By vetoing this bill, the President has vetoed the will of the American people, and it is the President who is denying funding for our troops.

The President has vetoed a responsible funding bill for the troops that would have provided more funding for our troops and military readiness than the President requested. The President rejected a bill that reflects the will of the American people to wind down this war. The American people sent this message very strongly last November.

By vetoing this bill, Mr. Speaker, President Bush vetoed: One, fully funding our troops, and providing \$4 billion more than the President requested; honoring our veterans by providing \$1.8 billion more for veterans health care. Is \$900 million for treating traumatic brain injury pork? Is \$20 million to repair facilities at Walter Reed pork?

By vetoing this bill, the President has vetoed accountability for the Iraqi Government, and he has vetoed his own benchmarks that he laid out January 10 in his speech to the Nation. Let me quote from that speech.

"A successful strategy for Iraq goes beyond military operations. Ordinary Iraqi citizens must see that military operations are accompanied by visible improvements in their neighborhoods and communities. So America will hold the Iraqi Government to the benchmarks it has announced.

"To establish its authority, the Iraqi Government plans to take responsibility for security over Iraq's provinces by November. To give every Iraqi citizen a stake in the country's economy, Iraq will pass legislation to share oil revenues.

"To empower local leaders, Iraqis plan to hold provincial elections next year and allow more Iraqis to re-enter their nation's political light, the government will reform de-Baathification laws and establish a fair process for considering amendments to Iraq's Constitution. America will change our approach to help the Iraqi government as it works to meet these benchmarks."

Mr. Speaker, the supplemental contained these benchmarks directly quoted from the President's speech. So was the President's call for benchmarks a sincere request or what?

Providing the President with a clean supplemental bill simply provides him a blank check for the same failed policies in Iraq he has rejected and vetoed, his own benchmarks, as I simply quoted his speech.

New evidence keeps emerging that clearly points to a new direction in Iraq. Despite the President's constant claims of "progress," the facts are otherwise. The U.S. death toll in Iraq reached 104 in April, making it the deadliest month of the year and one of the deadliest of the entire war.

Republican Senator CHUCK HAGEL recently returned from Iraq and paints a bleak picture. "This is coming undone quickly, and Prime Minister Maliki's government is weaker by the day. The police are corrupt, top to bottom. The oil problem is a huge problem. They still can't get anything through parliament." That is a quote from someone who just went there, Senator CHUCK HAGEL.

Over the weekend, the Special Inspector General for Iraq Reconstruction released his quarterly report and paints a dispiriting picture of our \$20 billion rebuilding efforts. For example, an audit of the facilities in Iraq discovered serious maintenance and operational problems, with seven out of

eight facilities audited. The report concludes that "The U.S. project to rebuild Iraq remains far short of its targets, leaving the country plagued by power outages, inadequate oil production, and shortages of clean water and health care."

Mr. Speaker, it is time to hold the Iraqi Government accountable. This bill's timetable and benchmarks finally hold the Iraqis and the President accountable. As Major General Paul Eaton stated, "This bill gives General Petraeus leverage for moving the Iraqi Government down a more disciplined path laid out by the Iraq Study Group. The real audience for the time-line language is Prime Minister al-Maliki."

Even Defense Secretary Robert Gates has noted that the timetable is helpful and sends a message that "The clock is ticking." Gates said, "The strong feelings expressed by Congress about a timetable probably have had a positive impact in terms of communicating to the Iraqis that this is not an open-ended commitment." That is Secretary Gates.

This bill represents the views of the American people. The latest CBS News/New York Times poll from April 26: 64 percent of Americans favor a timetable that provides a withdrawal of the U.S. troops from Iraq in 2008.

Mr. Speaker, it is time for accountability. The veto was wrong, and we must stand firm.

#### THE TERRORIST WE CAUGHT BUT WON'T PROSECUTE

**THE SPEAKER** pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, next week Luis Carriles is scheduled to stand trial for allegedly lying to immigration authorities when he entered the United States 2 years ago.

Most Americans have probably never heard of Carriles, but everyone should know the real case against him because it shows the double standard of the Bush administration and its so-called commitment to fight terrorism.

Carriles is being prosecuted for an immigration violation in America, but he has been convicted in other nations for acts of terrorism, including the downing of a commercial Cuban airliner over 30 years ago that killed 33 innocent people. He is a wanted international fugitive. The Bush administration knows this, but instead of turning Carriles over to the sovereign Governments of Cuba or Venezuela, as they have asked, we are going to get him on an immigration violation.

Why is the Bush administration handling Carriles in this way? Three letters say it all: CIA.

Carriles was a CIA agent. He was part of the Bay of Pigs debacle, and his fierce opposition to Cuban President Fidel Castro has been reported by the media.

Officially, Carriles left the CIA in the middle of 1976. That is the year that Luis Carriles was convicted in Venezuela of masterminding the downing of the Cuban airplane.

The administration won't reveal what role Carriles played as a CIA agent or what his assignments were. His shadowy connections to the United States Government almost certainly continued after he and the agency parted ways. The media has reported that Carriles helped funnel U.S. supplies to the Contra rebels attempting to overthrow the Sandinista government in Nicaragua in the 1980s.

Carriles himself has personally boasted of a role in the deadly bombings of hotels in Havana, Cuba, in the 1990s. And Carriles was also convicted in Panama in the year 2000 for a plot to assassinate Fidel Castro. He was sentenced to prison, but he was later pardoned and set free.

You would think that capturing a man like this would have the administration calling a news conference to declare their success in the war on terror with a long-sought terrorist in custody. Not so. Instead, the administration is busy trying to get a court to bar him from testifying about what he did for the CIA. Carriles' lawyers have said his client will talk about that, and the assignments during and after his official employment. One of the CIA directors during the time of Carriles' connection to the agency was former President George H. W. Bush, the President's father.

The American people have a right to know what really happened in the 1970s and what role, if any, the United States played in the deadly games of Carriles. Was he a rogue agent or was he acting on CIA orders?

The Cuban Government wants him, but we are not talking to Havana as long as Castro is alive and in power. Venezuela, which has an 80-year-old extradition treaty with the United States, has repeatedly asked for Carriles. But the President isn't talking to Venezuela, either, so those requests have been denied.

The U.S. Customs and Immigration Service says Carriles poses a significant danger to our Nation, but the U.S. Justice Department just hasn't acted.

In a recent editorial that I submit for printing in the RECORD, the Los Angeles Times described Luis Posada Carriles as "the Zacarias Moussaoui of Havana and Caracas." The Times points out that Moussaoui is serving a life sentence without parole for his role in the 9/11 attacks, but Carriles was released on bail and is living at home in Miami, with his family, awaiting trial next week. The U.S. is holding a person convicted of major terrorist acts in other countries, but he is going to be prosecuted for an immigration infraction. That is like bringing Osama bin Laden in and trying him for a traffic ticket.

The moral compass of the Bush administration is just spinning round and

round over the treatment of Posada Carriles. Next week it is going to stop on a new direction: H, for hypocrisy.

[From the LA Times, Apr. 20, 2007]

**A TERRORIST WALKS: LUIS POSADA CARRILES HAS BOASTED OF BOMBING HAVANA HOTELS, YET AMERICAN JUSTICE LETS HIM GO FREE**

With a misguided decision upholding bail for Cuban-born terrorist Luis Posada Carriles, the U.S. 5th Circuit Court of Appeals in New Orleans has done more than free a frail old man facing unremarkable immigration charges. It has exposed Washington to legitimate charges of hypocrisy in the war on terror.

By allowing Posada to go free before his May 11 trial, the court has released a known flight risk who previously escaped from a Venezuelan prison, a man who has boasted of helping set off deadly bombs in Havana hotels 10 years ago and the alleged mastermind of a 1976 bombing of a Cuban airplane that killed 73 people. Posada's employees confessed to the attack, and declassified FBI and CIA documents have shown that he attended planning sessions.

In other words, Posada is the Zacarias Moussaoui of Havana and Caracas. Moussaoui is serving a life sentence without parole in a federal prison in Colorado for conspiracy in the 9/11 attacks; Posada is free to live in Miami.

Posada, a 79-year-old Bay of Pigs veteran who served time in Panama for plotting to kill Fidel Castro, has never been charged with crimes of terrorism in U.S. courts. Instead, Immigrations and Customs Enforcement nabbed him for lying to immigration authorities after he sneaked in the country in March 2005 and held a news conference announcing his triumphant return. Both Customs and the Justice Department lobbied to keep Posada behind bars, but U.S. law enforcement has never shown a strong interest in trying him for more serious crimes. In turn, Posada's lawyer has preemptively warned that if charged, his client would likely reveal extensive collaboration with the CIA.

The United States keeps 385 suspected terrorists imprisoned in Guantanamo Bay, many in isolation and all without U.S. norms of due process. Yet Posada, a confessed terrorist, is sent home with an ankle bracelet.

The United States has not been able to persuade any of seven allied nations to accept Posada. A federal judge has ruled that he can't be extradited to Cuba or Venezuela because he might be tortured. The best solution would have been for the court to refuse bail until trial while the State Department keeps searching for a third-party country that would agree to try him on terrorism charges.

Instead, Castro receives a propaganda victory gift, the White House has its moral authority undermined and the victims of Carriles' alleged crimes see justice delayed once more.

The U.S. government has done many odd things in 46 years of a largely failed Cuba policy, but letting a notorious terrorist walk stands among the most perverse yet.

**THE SPEAKER** pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. WYNN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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