

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the precedents and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

RANDOLPH HARRISON,
Chief of Staff.

INTERNET GAMBLING REGULATION AND TAX ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 2007

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I was raised in a fundamentalist Christian home that cast a dim view on gambling. I didn't care for it much then, and I don't care for it now.

While the Bible never directly uses the word "gambling," there are plenty of references to it in Scripture, and none of them are very kind.

Still, from lotteries to casinos, gambling is part of the American scene today. Across the country, governments derive revenue from gambling that flows into public coffers. Whether you call it a sin tax or self-imposed tax, it helps fund good social programs.

Today, gambling has migrated online where it is unregulated, off shore and exporting billions of U.S. dollars. Basically, we have a Wild West show with few protections for Americans against fraud, underage gambling and privacy.

My colleagues, BARNEY FRANK and PETER KING, have introduced legislation to establish some order and law online with licensing and regulation. I am introducing a companion bill today that establishes the process to collect some of the gambling revenue online just as we do in the communities.

If we decide as a Nation to enable gambling online, the billions of dollars flowing out of this country should remain here to help us fund schools and bridges and a host of social programs that need more than luck to succeed.

CONGRESSMEN CONVICTED OF FELONIES STILL COLLECT PENSION CHECKS IN JAIL

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, taxpayers should know that Members of Congress convicted of a felony still collect their pension checks in jail. Congress took no action to kill pensions for congressional felons in February, no action in March, April or May.

Now, Congressman JEFFERSON was indicted this week; and, if convicted, a nine-term Congressman would get \$50,000 payments each year from the U.S. taxpayer. That would be on top of \$125,000 payments to Representative Rostenkowski, \$86,000 payments to Senator Durenberger, \$64,000 payments to Representative Cunningham and \$40,000 payments to Representative

Traficant. In total, American taxpayers pay over \$480,000 each year to Congressmen convicted of a felony.

The time for reform has come.

NO CHILD LEFT BEHIND

(Mrs. CAPPS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. CAPPS. Mr. Speaker, in 2002, the House passed the No Child Left Behind Act, the biggest Federal overhaul of our public school system in decades. Now, 5 years later, the Congress has an opportunity to reevaluate the law and address what doesn't seem to be working.

During last week's Memorial Day district work period, I met with teachers, parents and school administrators to listen to their thoughts on NCLB. I wanted to hear from the people who are in our classrooms every day. They have seen firsthand the success and failures of the law over the last 5 years.

The most important thing I heard is that there isn't a single teacher, parent or administrator opposed to accountability, but they sure had a lot to say about how we measure it. I learned that, regardless of a school's status, everyone had similar concerns with the accountability measures and assessment of subgroups by the law.

Hearing firsthand about the implications of NCLB through my classrooms visits and meetings with parents, teachers and school administrators was a powerful and instructive experience. As we continue the process of reauthorizing NCLB, I encourage us all to visit schools, talk to teachers, see for ourselves how this law is affecting our public schools. A little more time in the classroom is good for us all.

NATIONAL KIDNEY FOUNDATION KIDNEY WALK

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

Mr. KUHL of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call attention to the National Kidney Foundation Kidney Walk.

Throughout the year, kidney walks will be held nationwide. Specifically, in my congressional district, a kidney walk will be held on June 9, this Saturday, at Eldridge park in Elmira, New York.

Chronic kidney disease affects approximately 20 million Americans; and, tragically, 80,000 people die each year from the disease. Additionally, in 2006, 17,000 kidney transplants were performed, yet more than 70,000 people are on the national waiting list for a kidney transplant.

The purpose of the kidney walk is to encourage Americans to educate themselves about early detection and prevention of kidney disease and to promote awareness of organ donation. The

walks are for a good and a very important cause, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting them.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. PERLMUTTER). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

□ 1800

WARTIME AND OUR SOLDIERS

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, a lot of political figures, myself included, have talked about the Iraq war. Tonight I want to share the words expressed by people in this and other wars. They come from a new book called "Voices in Wartime." It contains profoundly moving and often poetic thoughts from brave U.S. soldiers, loved ones and Iraqis.

This is from John Henry Parker, a Marine Corps veteran and Executive Director of Veterans and Families. "My son is a sergeant in the 10th Mountain Division. He was a squad leader, and his job was to go into the border towns and into the different mountain areas around the Pakistan border to seek out and find the enemy, the Taliban, al Qaeda, and whoever else might be hiding in the hills resisting.

"He had been witnessing a lot of really horrific things, and his main concern was, can I come back and just get past all of this and be a dad, a husband, and just a family guy? How do you do that?"

Dr. Enas Mohamed is an Iraqi doctor now living in Seattle, my congressional district. She lived in Baghdad during the First Gulf War and said this in the book: "The children were really scared and kept yelling. It was winter, and so, at 5 a.m., there wasn't much sunlight. It was dark, and the bombing continued. Everybody felt a deep fear in their bones.

"You can't imagine the amount of disease that has spread since the war. One of the largest issues is polluted water. It causes dysentery, cholera, typhoid, and there's a deficiency of water, so we don't have enough water to wash our hands every time they get dirty.

"Children play together all the time, and they don't take the precautions like adults do. Plus, they have weaker immune systems and malnutrition or not enough food to fill their needs as growing kids.

"With the low level of hygiene and the high level of malnutrition, any infection will start to grow and transmit very quickly.

"One of the victims was a very, very hard case for me. He was 10 or 11 years

old. I talked to his mom and learned his history. He left school to support his family, so he was on his way to sell some cigarettes near the street where a car bomb exploded. This little child got broken hands and broken legs.

"The doctor told me they might have to amputate one of his legs, and I can't imagine what it means for a 10-year-old boy to live with one limb. He didn't even get enough time to finish school or to play soccer or to do all the activities like little boys do.

"I think it's time to stop it and do something really positive for these innocent people. If we think about the new generation, starting with the boy I mentioned before, you can imagine a whole generation of disabled people. They have and been punished for doing nothing. They're innocent civilians who are just hoping to live like any other human being on earth."

Sheila Sebron is a disabled African American Air Force veteran. She wrote this. "PTSD is not to be taken lightly. It's a devastating illness that robs its victims of free will and imposes a slow death sentence that kills the human spirit.

"I get caught in these loops in my mind and get stuck thinking about part of a thought without being able to finish the thought. Thanks to finally getting the treatment I needed for my PTSD, I can now break the cycle of being trapped in my mind and can communicate verbally."

She also writes, "War harms everyone it touches: soldiers, civilians, refugees, family members and friends. No one escapes the trauma."

Personally, I was a medical doctor, a psychiatrist and a Navy veteran who treated combat soldiers returning from Vietnam. Sheila Sebron is right. No one escapes without trauma. But there is hope, and treatment is available for PTSD.

I've never met Sheila Sebron, but I'm very proud of her. She's a brave U.S. soldier who put her life on the line twice for her country, once in uniform, and now in print as she tries to tell others and save them by telling her story.

PTSD harmed many serving in Vietnam and in the First Gulf War. But as many as 50,000 soldiers serving in the Iraq war will come home with PTSD.

PTSD is a mental wound as real and as serious as a shrapnel wound from an IED. Soldiers need and deserve our help and support.

The book is called, *Voices in War-time*. I urge every American to pick up a copy and read it.

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

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

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, before I begin, I'd like to wish a happy birthday to my son, Michael, who was born on June 7, 1993. He's 14 years old today. What a wonderful boy he is. I'm so proud of him; great student, all around great person, great athlete as well. He takes after my father, Congressman Mike Bilirakis, who he was named after.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great frustration and disappointment that I rise today. It has been 3 years since the devastating 2004 hurricane season that ravaged my State, which forced homeowners insurance rates to skyrocket to unmanageable levels. And this body, unfortunately, has not acted.

Along with many of our gulf coast colleagues, I have pleaded with the Democrat leadership to act on legislation which might ease this financially crippling crisis. Of course, this body has not acted.

Countless of my constituents have implored me to help relieve this crisis so they do not have to leave the areas they love. They wish to raise their children and retire in the great State of Florida, but they fear that simply it will not happen because they can't afford it. We must act, Mr. Speaker.

The front page of today's Wall Street Journal forewarns of the impending economic emergency if we have another major hurricane here in the United States. The story correctly notes, and I quote, "If insurers of last resort face major storm losses, those costs could spread to a broad cross section of the public." This is just another warning given to this Congress that something must be done immediately. We must act.

Mr. Speaker, I will submit the entire article for the RECORD.

One of the areas most affected by this crisis is Pasco County in Florida, my district. Last month, the County Commissioners passed a resolution calling for Congress to take action.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the entire resolution for the RECORD.

Mr. Speaker, the following are excerpts from the Pasco resolution, and I quote.

"Whereas, the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, the Southern Governors Association, the Florida Legislature, as well as other State legislatures across the country," this is not just a Florida problem, as you know, Mr. Speaker, they "passed resolutions recognizing the importance of developing additional insurance capacity to ensure the viability of coverage for catastrophic natural perils by endorsing the concept of a national disaster plan; and

"Whereas, Hurricanes Katrina, Rita and Wilma caused over \$200 billion in total economic losses, including insured and uninsured losses; and

"Whereas, the United States Federal Government has provided and will continue to provide billions of dollars and resources to help our Nation recover from catastrophes, and

"Whereas, multiple proposals have been introduced in the United States Congress over the past decade to address catastrophic risk insurance, including the creation of a national catastrophic reinsurance fund,

"Therefore, be it resolved by the Board of County Commissioners of Pasco County, Florida, it supports the adoption of legislation by the United States Congress to create a reasonably priced national reinsurance program that will help Americans find private insurance protection from natural catastrophes for their homes while reducing the demand on governmental resources," that's key, "to assist victims after an event occurs."

This is a bipartisan issue, Mr. Speaker. I know you agree.

Mr. Speaker, along with cosponsoring legislation to establish a national catastrophic fund, I introduced legislation to provide tax incentives for Americans to strengthen their property. Enactment of my bill, H.R. 913, will reduce homeowners insurance rates and could help save lives.

I implore this body to act on these and other insurance-related bills to help Americans who are in need. I pray that it doesn't take another Katrina-type catastrophic event before the body heeds my request. Let's go to work.

The material previously referred to by Mr. BILIRAKIS is as follows:

[From the Wall Street Journal, June 7, 2007]

AS INSURERS FLEE COAST, STATES FACE NEW THREAT

(By Liam Plevin)

As hurricane season gets under way, a dramatic shift in the way homeowners insure against disasters could pose a big financial risk in several coastal states.

Private insurers have been fleeing the shoreline, wary of costly storms and often fed up with government regulations that prevent them from pushing rates higher. In more than a dozen states—from Texas along the Gulf of Mexico and up the East Coast to Massachusetts—an odd breed of carriers known as "insurers of last resort" is filling the void.

These last-resort insurers, which cover people the private sector won't, issued more than two million policies to homeowners and businesses in hurricane-prone states last year, about twice as many as in 2001. Over that same five-year period, their total liability for potential claims has increased roughly threefold, topping \$650 billion. Meanwhile, a separate federal flood-insurance program has seen its liability jump by two-thirds since 2001 to just over \$1 trillion.

The sum effect: Much of the risk associated with hurricane coverage is shifting to the broader public and away from private companies and coastal homeowners.

It's unusual for several reasons. At a time when financial markets are becoming increasingly adept at spreading risk, states and the federal government are concentrating it on a massive scale. The shift contrasts starkly with the federal government's