

improved infrastructure have clearly played a big part of this recognition. Businesses are attracted to the skilled, smart and hardworking workforce of the Cedar Valley, ranked number 49 because of educational attainment.

It is clear to me that more and more people are catching on to what the Cedar Valley has to offer. I congratulate my neighbors in Waterloo and Cedar Falls.

HONORING HORACE LIVINGSTON AND WILLIAM DEMPSEY

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

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor two great community leaders from Decatur, Illinois.

Horace "Buck" Livingston is a local civil rights activist who sought higher-paying jobs and better education for African Americans. For over 40 years, he has published the African American Voice, the only African American newspaper within 150 miles of Decatur, Illinois. His tireless efforts continue to strengthen our community and give all of us hope for a better future.

William "Skip" Dempsey, my brother in the labor movement, sadly passed away on April 13. After teaching at Purdue University, Skip served for over 12 years as training coordinator for Plumbers and Steamfitters Local 65. He continued his leadership as a business agent, advancing education, economic growth, and the building trades in the Decatur area. Skip's valuable service will be sorely missed.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring the extraordinary and unselfish contributions of Buck Livingston and Skip Dempsey.

ARMING SUNNI GROUPS IS LUNACY

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

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in the wake of news that comes to us that the United States will now have as a policy in Iraq the arming of Sunni groups who have admittedly killed and maimed Americans. We have now reached the point of public-political lunacy.

Representative PAUL, myself, Representative JONES and others have entered a bill for consideration of the House that will cause us to have to reauthorize this war. Any conceivable reason for having allowed the President to enter into this war with the enabling resolution that we passed has now been accomplished; any "whereas," any "be it resolved" of that resolution is now moot.

In order for any of us to justify spending one more penny or commit-

ting one more soldier of the United States into this war, we have to have an up-or-down vote on whether it should be authorized.

Arming Sunni groups that have murdered U.S. service men and women as a policy, a strategy, is without merit and devoid of any political sensibility.

□ 1930

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SUTTON). 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.

STATUS REPORT ON CURRENT LEVELS OF ON-BUDGET SPENDING AND REVENUES FOR FISCAL YEARS 2007 AND 2008 AND THE 5-YEAR PERIOD FY 2008 THROUGH FY 2012

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

Mr. SPRATT. Madam Speaker, I am transmitting a status report on the current levels of on-budget spending and revenues for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and for the 5-year period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This report is necessary to facilitate the application of sections 302 and 311 of the Congressional Budget Act and sections 204, 206 and 207 of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008.

The term "current level" refers to the amounts of spending and revenues estimated for each fiscal year based on laws enacted or awaiting the President's signature. The first table in the report compares the current levels of total budget authority, outlays, and revenues with the aggregate levels set by S. Con. Res. 21. This comparison is needed to enforce section 311(a) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the budget resolution's aggregate levels.

The second table compares the current levels of discretionary appropriations for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 with the "section 302(b)" suballocations of discretionary budget authority and outlays among Appropriations subcommittees. The comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act because the point of order under that section applies to measures that would breach the applicable section 302(b) suballocation.

The third table compares the current levels of budget authority and outlays for each authorizing committee with the "section 302(a)" allocations made under S. Con. Res. 21 for fiscal years 2007 and 2008 and fiscal years 2008 through 2012. This comparison is needed to enforce section 302(f) of the Budget Act, which creates a point of order against measures that would breach the section 302(a) allocation of new budget authority for the committee that reported the measure.

The fourth table gives the current level for fiscal years 2009 and 2010 for accounts iden-

tified for advance appropriations under section 206 of S. Con. Res. 21. This list is needed to enforce section 206 of the budget resolution, which creates a point of order against appropriation bills that contain advance appropriations that: (i) Are not identified in the statement of managers; or (ii) would cause the aggregate amount of such appropriations to exceed the level specified in the resolution.

REPORT TO THE SPEAKER FROM THE COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET—STATUS OF THE FISCAL YEAR 2008 CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET ADOPTED IN SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 21

(Reflecting Action Completed as of June 8, 2007—On-budget amounts, in millions of dollars)

	Fiscal year— 2007	Fiscal year— 2008 ¹	Fiscal years— 2008–2012
Appropriate Level:			
Budget authority	2,255,558	2,350,261	²
Outlays	2,268,646	2,353,893	²
Revenues	1,900,340	2,015,841	11,137,671
Current Level:			
Budget authority	2,255,558	1,422,153	²
Outlays	2,268,646	1,767,190	²
Revenues	1,904,540	2,050,461	11,313,270
Current Level over (+) / under			
(–) Appropriate Level:			
Budget authority	0	–928,108	²
Outlays	0	–586,703	²
Revenues	4,200	34,620	175,599

¹ Pending action by the House Appropriations Committee on spending covered by section 207(d)(1)(E) (overseas deployments and related activities), resolution assumptions are not included in the appropriate level.

² = Not applicable because annual appropriations Acts for fiscal years 2009 through 2012 will not be considered until future sessions of Congress.

BUDGET AUTHORITY

Enactment of measures providing any new budget authority for FY 2007 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures providing new budget authority for FY 2008 in excess of \$928,108,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 budget authority to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

OUTLAYS

Enactment of measures providing any new outlays for FY 2007 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2007 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures providing new outlays for FY 2008 in excess of \$586,703,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause FY 2008 outlays to exceed the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

REVENUES

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2007 in excess of \$4,200,000,000 (if not already included in the current estimate) would cause FY 2007 revenue to fall below the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for FY 2008 in excess of \$34,620,000,000 (if not already included in the current estimate) would cause FY 2008 revenue to fall below the appropriate level set by S. Con. Res. 21.

Enactment of measures resulting in revenue reduction for the period of fiscal years 2008 through 2012 in excess of \$175,599,000,000 (if not already included in the current level estimate) would cause revenues to fall below the appropriate levels set by S. Con. Res. 21.

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2007—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE 302(b) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations Subcommittee	302(b) suballocations as of June 8, 2007 (H. Rpt. 110–182)		Current level reflecting action completed as of June 8, 2007		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	18,569	19,356	18,569	19,356	0	0
Commerce, Justice, Science	51,950	52,236	51,950	52,236	0	0
Defense	489,519	499,510	489,519	499,510	0	0
Energy and Water Development	30,296	29,882	30,296	29,882	0	0
Financial Services and General Government	19,488	20,360	19,488	20,360	0	0
Homeland Security	33,962	41,195	33,962	41,195	0	0
Interior, Environment	26,411	27,569	26,411	27,569	0	0
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	144,766	145,567	144,766	145,567	0	0
Legislative Branch	3,774	3,950	3,774	3,950	0	0
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs	49,752	46,889	49,752	46,889	0	0
State, Foreign Operations	31,358	35,186	31,358	35,186	0	0
Transportation, HUD	50,471	107,765	50,471	107,765	0	0
Unassigned (full committee allowance)	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	950,316	1,029,465	950,316	1,029,465	0	0

DISCRETIONARY APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH APPROPRIATIONS COMMITTEE 302(A) ALLOCATION AND APPROPRIATIONS
SUBCOMMITTEE 302(B) SUBALLOCATIONS

[In millions of dollars]

Appropriations Subcommittee	302(b) suballocations as of June 8, 2007 (H. Rpt. 110–183)		Current level reflecting action completed as of June 8, 2007		Current level minus suballocations	
	BA	OT	BA	OT	BA	OT
Agriculture, Rural Development, FDA	18,825	20,027	7	5,437	– 18,818	– 14,590
Commerce, Justice, Science	53,551	55,318	0	20,389	– 53,551	– 34,929
Defense	459,332	475,980	45	163,824	– 459,287	– 312,156
Energy and Water Development	31,603	32,774	0	13,178	– 31,603	– 19,596
Financial Services and General Government	21,028	21,650	80	4,323	– 20,948	– 17,327
Homeland Security	36,254	38,247	0	17,112	– 36,254	– 21,135
Interior, Environment	27,598	28,513	0	11,198	– 27,598	– 17,315
Labor, Health and Human Services, Education	151,112	148,433	19,151	100,179	– 131,961	– 48,254
Legislative Branch	4,024	4,036	0	606	– 4,024	– 3,430
Military Construction, Veterans Affairs	64,745	54,831	– 2,414	14,260	– 67,159	– 40,571
State, Foreign Operations	34,243	33,351	0	16,407	– 34,243	– 16,944
Transportation, HUD	50,738	114,869	4,193	71,015	– 46,545	– 43,854
Unassigned (full committee allowance)	0	369	0	0	0	– 369
Total (Section 302(a) Allocation)	953,053	1,028,398	21,062	437,928	– 931,991	– 590,470

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION
COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 8, 2007

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Agriculture:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Armed Services:						
Allocation	0	0	– 50	– 50	– 410	– 410
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	50	50	410	410
Education and Labor:						
Allocation	0	0	– 150	– 150	– 750	– 750
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	150	150	750	750
Energy and Commerce:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Financial Services:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Foreign Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Homeland Security:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
House Administration:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Judiciary:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Natural Resources:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Oversight and Government Reform:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Science and Technology:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Small Business:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0

DIRECT SPENDING LEGISLATION—COMPARISON OF CURRENT LEVEL WITH AUTHORIZING COMMITTEE 302(a) ALLOCATIONS FOR RESOLUTION CHANGES, REFLECTING ACTION
COMPLETED AS OF JUNE 8, 2007—Continued

[Fiscal years, in millions of dollars]

House Committee	2007		2008		2008–2012 Total	
	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays	BA	Outlays
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Transportation and Infrastructure:						
Allocation	0	0	125	0	1,525	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	–125	0	–1,525	0
Veterans' Affairs:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0
Ways and Means:						
Allocation	0	0	0	0	0	0
Current Level	0	0	0	0	0	0
Difference	0	0	0	0	0	0

**FY2009 AND 2010 ADVANCE APPROPRIATIONS UNDER
SECTION 206 OF S. CON. RES. 21**
[Budget Authority in Millions of Dollars]

	2009	2010
Appropriate Level:	25,558	25,558
Accounts Identified for Advances:		
Corporation for Public Broadcasting	400	0
Employment and Training Administration	0	0
Education for the Disadvantaged ...	0	0
School Improvement	0	0
Children and Family Services (Head Start)	0	0
Special Education	0	0
Vocational and Adult Education	0	0
Payment to Postal Service	0	0
Section 8 Renewals	0	0

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2007.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2007 budget and is current through June 8, 2007. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of section 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. As a result, the en-

closed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 of the report).

Since my last letter, dated January 4, the Congress has cleared and the President has signed the following acts that affect budget authority, outlays, or revenues for fiscal year 2007:

The Revised Continuing Appropriations Resolution, 2007 (Public Law 110–5); and

The U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28).

The effects of the U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 are identified separately in the enclosed report. The effect of the Continuing Resolution is included in the "previously enacted" section of the report, consistent with the budget resolution assumptions.

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG,
Director.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2007 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 8, 2007

[In millions of dollars]

	Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous session:			
Revenues	n.a.	n.a.	1,904,706
Permanents and other spending legislation	1,350,273	1,299,295	n.a.
Appropriation legislation	1,477,616	1,540,849	n.a.
Offsetting receipts	–571,507	–571,507	n.a.
Total enacted in previous session	2,256,382	2,268,637	1,904,704
Enacted this session:			
Appropriation Acts: U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28) ¹	–794	9	–166
Total, enacted this session	–794	9	–166
Entitlements and mandates: Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs	–30	0	0
Total Current Level ^{1 2}	2,255,558	2,268,646	1,904,540
Total Budget Resolution	2,380,535	2,300,572	1,900,340
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements ³	–124,789	–31,926	0
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(f) ⁴	–188	0	0
Adjusted Budget Resolution	2,255,558	2,268,646	1,900,340
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	4,200
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution	n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

¹ Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21 the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2007, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110–28)	120,803	31,116	n.a.
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² Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

³ S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$124,789 million in budget authority and \$31,926 million in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110–28 (see footnote 1 above), at the direction of the House Committee on the Budget, budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

⁴ Pursuant to section 207(f) of S. Con. Res. 21, the House Committee on the Budget adjusts the budget authority to reflect the difference between the amount assumed in the budget resolution for nonemergency supplemental appropriations in fiscal year 2007 and the amount actually appropriated for nonemergency purposes.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, June 11, 2007.

Hon. JOHN M. SPRATT, Jr.,
Chairman, Committee on the Budget,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The enclosed report shows the effects of Congressional action on the fiscal year 2008 budget and is current through June 8, 2007. This report is submitted under section 308(b) and in aid of sec-

tion 311 of the Congressional Budget Act, as amended.

The estimates of budget authority, outlays, and revenues are consistent with the technical and economic assumptions of S. Con. Res. 21, the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives.

Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of

the budget resolution. As a result, the enclosed current level report excludes these amounts (see footnote 1 of the report). This is my first report for fiscal year 2008.

Sincerely,

PETER R. ORSZAG.

Enclosure.

FISCAL YEAR 2008 HOUSE CURRENT LEVEL REPORT AS OF JUNE 8, 2007

		Budget authority	Outlays	Revenues
Enacted in previous session:				
Revenues		n.a.	n.a.	2,050,796
Permanents and other spending legislation		1,450,532	1,390,018	n.a.
Appropriation legislation		0	419,862	n.a.
Offsetting receipts		-575,635	-575,635	n.a.
Total, enacted in previous session		874,897	1,234,245	2,050,796
Enacted this session:				
Appropriation Acts: U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (P.L. 110-28) ¹		1	42	-335
Total, enacted this session		1	42	-335
Entitlements and mandates: Budget resolution estimates of appropriated entitlements and other mandatory programs		547,255	532,903	0
Total Current Level ^{1,2}		1,422,153	1,767,190	2,050,461
Total Budget Resolution		2,496,028	2,469,636	2,015,858
Adjustment to budget resolution for emergency requirements ³		-606	-49,990	n.a.
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(f) ⁴		1	1	-17
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(d)(1)(E) ⁵		-145,162	-65,754	n.a.
Adjusted Budget Resolution		2,350,261	2,353,893	2,015,841
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution		n.a.	n.a.	34,620
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution		928,108	586,703	n.a.
Memorandum:				
Revenues, 2008-2012:				
House Current Level		n.a.	n.a.	11,313,270
House Budget Resolution		n.a.	n.a.	11,137,725
Adjustment to the budget resolution pursuant to section 207(f) ⁴		n.a.	n.a.	-54
Adjusted Budget Resolution			n.a.	11,137,671
Current Level Over Adjusted Budget Resolution		n.a.	n.a.	175,599
Current Level Under Adjusted Budget Resolution		n.a.	n.a.	n.a.

Notes: n.a. = not applicable; P.L. = Public Law.

¹ Pursuant to section 204(b) of S. Con. Res. 21 the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2008, as approved by the Senate and the House of Representatives, provisions designated as emergency requirements are exempt from enforcement of the budget resolution. The amounts so designated for fiscal year 2008, which are not included in the current level totals, are as follows:

U.S. Troop Readiness, Veterans' Care, Katrina Recovery, and Iraq Accountability Appropriations Act, 2007 (p.L. 110-28)	605	48,639	n.a.
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² Excludes administrative expenses of the Social Security Administration, which are off-budget.

³ S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$606 million in budget authority and \$49,990 million in outlays from emergency supplemental appropriations. Such emergency amounts are exempt from the enforcement of the budget resolution. Since current level totals exclude the emergency requirements enacted in P.L. 110-28 (see footnote 1 above), at the direction of the House Committee on the Budget, budget authority and outlay totals specified in the budget resolution have also been reduced (by the amounts assumed for emergency supplemental appropriations) for purposes of comparison.

⁴ Pursuant to section 207(f) of S. Con. Res. 21, the House Committee on the Budget adjusts budget authority and outlays to reflect the difference between the amount assumed in the budget resolution for nonemergency supplemental appropriations in fiscal year 2007 and the amount actually appropriated for nonemergency purposes.

⁵ Section 207(d)(1)(E) of S. Con. Res. 21 assumed \$145,162 million in budget authority and \$65,754 million in outlays for overseas deployment and related activities. Pending action by the House Committee on Appropriations, the House Committee on the Budget has directed that these amounts be excluded from the budget resolution aggregates in the current level report.

Source: Congressional Budget Office.

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, the great giveaway of American land has not occurred. The Amnesty International plan to grant legal permanent residents to 12 to 20 million illegal people from all over the world did not succeed in the Senate, and rightfully so.

The bill that the Senate tried to push off on the American public was too massive, too complicated, too long. It was almost longer than the Bible and had less to say.

Madam Speaker, the American people get it. They understand that the first problem that has to be solved is the border. Border security is the number one issue. The Federal Government, our government, the most powerful superpower that has ever existed, cannot protect the borders. Or is it that they don't protect the borders or refuse to protect the borders?

The American public want our borders secure before we start talking about immigration, whether it's legal or illegal. And that's what our Federal Government should do, simply follow the law that's already existing.

We have enough laws now to protect the border, but for some reason, the law does not get enforced by the executive department. We hear all kinds of reasons why it doesn't occur, but the bottom line is our borders are porous, on the northern border and on the

southern border, and the first duty of government is to protect the people, and that means protect our borders and protect it first. When we solve that problem, then we can move on to the other issues.

And the second issue is not what to do with the people that are here illegally. We first close the gap, close the border, keep people from coming here illegally, but the next thing we have to deal with is the immigration service. It's in chaos, it's in turmoil, and this last week's example is a perfect example.

The passport service. Now, the law requires that all Americans traveling anywhere, including Mexico, Canada and the Caribbean islands, have passports. Congress passed that law 3 years ago. The Federal Government, the executive branch, had 3 years to get ready to make sure that Americans had those passports, and sure enough, 2007 came, Americans were following the law. They started applying for passports, and all of the sudden, there are lines all over the United States for people waiting for their passports. First it was 4 weeks; then it was 6 weeks. Now, it's 3 months to 5 months. The Federal Government cannot even process a simple passport for an American citizen, and it is a relatively simple process to deal with a passport.

And now, what has happened? The Federal Government says, well, since we can't follow the law, we'll suspend the law until we're able to get it together. Now, it's not the fault of those

workers in the passport office. They're working as long as they can, as hard as they can, but those people that run the passport office, the Federal bureaucrats, never were organized enough to make sure that Americans, in a streamlined process, could get passports.

So now the law's not going to be followed until the passport service gets it together, and that's very unfortunate because the problem is we're going to use this same department, the immigration service, to so-called legally legalize the 12 to 20 million people in the amnesty bill, the so-called Z visas which are very complicated to understand, something that will take a lot longer to process than a passport. So the Z visas for 12 to 20 million illegals will take forever to process if we ever go to that service.

What I'm saying, Madam Speaker, is we deal with the border first. Second, we fix and streamline the immigration service so it doesn't discriminate against people who are coming to the United States legally, that we make it efficient for Americans to travel abroad. And once we fix that problem, then down the road we deal with the third issue, the issue of what to do with people that are here illegally.

Until we take it in that order, until Congress addresses those three respective acts with three bills, we will never solve the problem. And a massive, so-called immigration reform bill, the American public is suspect and skeptical of that plan because, frankly, I