

Again, we thank you for your commitment to the issues surrounding the people in our country who rely on programs like Food Stamps and TEFAP. We strongly urge the conference report to include permanent funding at no less than the House-passed levels for the food stamp and TEFAP programs. We look forward to working with you to maintain all of the critical improvements in these programs in the final Farm Bill.

Sincerely,

McGovern, James; DeLauro, Rosa; Woolsey, Lynn; Lee, Barbara; Solis, Hilda; Kilpatrick, Carolyn Cheeks; Moore, Dennis; Green, Al; Lewis, John; Filner, Bob; Moore, Gwen; Crowley, Joe; Neal, Richard; Grijalva, Raul; Maloney, Carolyn; Kildee, Dale; Nadler, Jerry; Jackson-Lee, Sheila; Kennedy, Patrick; Markey, Ed; Ellison, Keith; Capps, Lois; Towns, Ed; McDermott, Jim; Watt, Mel; Johnson, Hank; Becerra, Xavier; Hare, Phil; Shea-Porter, Carol; Arcuri, Mike; Tauscher, Ellen; Jefferson, William; Wu, David; Sutton, Betty; Frank, Barney.

Davis, Danny; Allen, Tom; Cuellar, Henry; Gonzalez, Charles; Carnahan, Russ; Christensen, Donna; Waters, Maxine; Guitierrez, Luis; Clarke, Yvette; Hinchey, Maurice; Serrano, Jose; DeFazio, Peter; Hirono, Mazie; Ryan, Tim; Clay, William Lacy; Schakowsky, Jan; McNulty, Mike; Weiner, Anthony; Brown, Corrine; Berman, Howard; Jones, Stephanie Tubbs; Doyle, Mike; Butterfield, G.K.; Olver, John; Michaud, Michael; Courtney, Joe; Davis, Susan; Levin, Sander; Matsui, Doris; Yarmuth, John; Murphy, Chris; Fattah, Chaka; Jackson, Jesse; Slaughter, Louise; Doggett, Lloyd; Schiff, Adam; Stark, Pete; Loeb sack, Dave; Lynch, Stephen; Langevin, Jim; Oberstar, James; Rush, Bobby; Meek, Kendrick.

Rothman, Steven; Berkley, Shelly; Miller, Brad; Wynn, Al; Kaptur, Mary; Lowey, Nita; Welch, Peter; Thompson, Bennie; Farr, Sam; Hinojosa, Ruben; Sestak, Joe; Udall, Tom; Engel, Elliot; McCollum, Betty; Norton, Eleanor Holmes; Cummings, Elijah; Wilson, Charles; Pastor, Ed; Ortiz, Solomon; Murphy, Patrick; Miller, George; Delahunt, William; Sanchez, Linda; Sires, Albio; Larson, John; Baldwin, Tammy; Reyes, Silvestre; Wexler, Robert; Watson, Diane; Hodes, Paul; Honda, Michael; Velazquez, Nydia; Braley, Bruce; Price, David; Cardoza, Dennis; Napolitano, Grace; Larsen, Rick; Inslee, Jay; Pallone, Frank; Dingell, John; McNerny, Jerry; Tsongas, Niki; Scott, Bobby.

Cohen, Steve; Gillibrand, Kirsten; Van Hollen, Chris; Murtha, John; Andrews, Rob; Cleaver, Emanuel; Brady, Robert; Conyers, John; Sanchez, Loretta; Sherman, Brad; Roybal-Allard, Lucille; Costello, Jerry; Lofgren, Zoe; Walz, Tim; Sarbanes, John; Hooley, Darlene; Bishop, Sanford; DeGette, Diana; Hall, John; Holt, Rush; Bishop, Tim Payne; Donald Pascarell, Bill Eshoo, Anna Higgins, Brian McCarthy, Carolyn; Davis, Artur; Schwartz, Allyson; Shuler, Heath; Costa, Jim; Castor, Kathy; Waxman, Henry.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 18, 2007, and under a previous order of the House, the following Mem-

bers will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.)

REJECT ANOTHER SHORT-TERM EXTENSION TO THE PROTECT AMERICA ACT

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I hadn't planned on coming down here tonight, but this is a sad and distressing day for this House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, I suspect you know, some may not, but there are companies in America that are patriotic and they want to help our Nation fight against those who would do us harm. But amazingly, Mr. Speaker, they feel that they can't. And why? They believe that if they do, they will be sued. That is right, Mr. Speaker. Companies in America believe, and have been given counsel by their attorneys, that if they help the United States Government assist in making our Nation safer, they will be sued. The threat of trial lawyers are preventing our Nation from protecting itself.

Outrageous you say? So do I. So do I.

If Congress doesn't act this week, this week, critical tools that allow our intelligence officers to monitor terrorist communications overseas will expire. Yesterday, the Senate approved a bipartisan bill, a bipartisan bill by a vote of 68-29, to close the terrorist loophole in our intelligence law. The Senate bill represents a remarkable compromise between Congress and the administration.

It rightly restores the original intent of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, FISA, by ensuring that intelligence officials can conduct surveillance on foreign targets without a court order while still protecting the civil liberties of the American people.

It also grants liability protection to telecommunication companies that helped our government after September 11. Allowing these companies to be subject to frivolous lawsuits threatens their cooperation in the future and would cripple America's counterterrorism efforts. This, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, appears to be what the House Democrat majority desires.

Every American will become exposed to greater threats. Every American: moms, dads, sons, daughters. Every single American is exposed to greater threats because this majority refuses to consider a long-term solution to the problems facing our intelligence community.

I haven't read, Mr. Speaker, that terrorists have placed an expiration date on their plots to destroy our way of life. Congress shouldn't put an expiration date on our intelligence community's ability to protect our Nation.

This bill expires this week. We must act. Mr. Speaker, elections have consequences, and it appears that the Democrat left majority now in charge is beholden to trial lawyers. I just didn't think that they would put those trial lawyers ahead of national security.

Mr. Speaker, this is a sad day. I can only hope that the American people are paying attention.

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

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

□ 1830

IRAQ NUMBER 250

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, this is a moment that I had hoped would never come. I am rising for the 250th time to oppose the occupation of Iraq. It's a sad task, because 250 times means that the occupation has dragged on and on nearly 5 years.

I had hoped that my first speech would be my last, or my 50th or even my 100th, but the administration continued to follow its blind and destructive path year after year. As the saying goes, "All that is necessary for evil to triumph is that good people do nothing."

So, to be sure, I have raised my voice time and time again on this floor to protest the administration's folly and hold it accountable for its reckless actions and its reckless policies.

The American people have raised their voices, also, Mr. Speaker. They have said that they want an end to this occupation and a responsible redeployment of our troops. But our leaders in the White House, who first turned a deaf ear to the people of the world when they invaded Iraq, continue to turn a deaf ear to their very own people in the United States of America.

What makes this occasion even sadder for me is that I will have to rise many more times before the occupation ends because the administration has made it absolutely clear that it will continue its occupation right to the bitter end of its term in office.

And I fear that the occupation may go on long after that. A leading Republican Presidential candidate said that he has no problem with the occupation lasting 100 years. No problem. And this same candidate said the other day, and

I quote, "There's going to be other wars." This is exactly the kind of "shoot-first, ask-questions-later" thinking that got us into trouble in Iraq in the first place.

Fortunately, the Democratic Presidential candidates have a different mindset, a mindset that uses diplomacy and international cooperation to solve problems, not war. But the current administration is working hard to tie the hands of the very next President. It's negotiating to establish permanent bases in Iraq. And it is planning to keep troop levels absolutely as high as possible.

Remember all the sweet talk, Mr. Speaker, last September about possible troop cuts? It was an absolute sham. And what are we getting for the tragedy of Iraq? Are we any safer? Absolutely not. In fact, the director of National Intelligence has warned that al Qaeda is getting stronger in its cozy safe haven in Pakistan, and that they are busy training more and more operatives.

A whole new generation is growing up in occupied Iraq. Their memories begin after U.S. forces rolled in. Since electricity and water and basic services have been on the fritz. Since whole neighborhoods have become wandering refugees. Many have never known the cultural gems of their own country. This cannot bode well for the region.

Secretary of State Rice has admitted that the Taliban is resurgent in Afghanistan. And the report of the Congressional Commission on the National Guard and Reserves found that there is an "appalling gap" in our ability to defend the homeland because of Guard and Reserve redeployments to Iraq.

Meanwhile, we are squandering \$12 billion per month on the occupation while our economy slides into recession and the American people face the loss of their jobs, their health care, and their homes. Let's be clear, Mr. Speaker, the main reason we are in this recession is because of the senseless and unending occupation of Iraq.

And our brave men and women in uniform, what about them? They're paying a very high price for this occupation. Every day, five U.S. soldiers try to commit suicide because the frequency of deployment has put tremendous stress on them and their families. This is simply unacceptable and a national disgrace if we do not act to reverse this trend.

Mr. Speaker, I will be back on this floor talking about this some more, but this is my 250th time, and I want you to know, it's time that this occupation be over.

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

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

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF ROSEMARY MUCKLOW

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the achievements of a friend of mine, Rosemary Mucklow. Rosemary is the long-standing executive director of the National Meat Association and has been somewhat of a legend in the meat and food business. Her dedication to the industry is evident by her business achievements, there are so many of them.

Rosemary was born in Scotland and went to work at the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries for the British Government before being hired as a secretary at the Pacific Coast Meat Association, which was later named the Western States Meat Association, and then renamed the National Meat Association.

In 1996, Rosemary received the E. Floyd Forbes award from the Meat Association for her outstanding service. She was honored again in 2002 by the American Meat Science Association for her "commonsense leadership." She served on the National Advisory Committee on Meat and Poultry Inspection and was the vice president of the International HACCP Alliance. Throughout her career, she has highlighted the importance of information and education of the meat industry to improve standards, efficiency, and quality.

Rosemary will be retiring very soon, but if I know Rosemary, retirement for her won't mean just quietly fading into the sunset. She is going to be active, probably still in the association, and in the industries.

I had the opportunity to get to know Rosemary about 10 or 12 years ago when we, in the House Ag subcommittee of appropriations were passing the HACCP law. At that time we were moving from visual carcass-to-carcass inspection of meat and poultry to microbial testing, taking this to the modern technology. Rosemary knew so many people in the industry, and there was a lot of controversy, but she was able to get the people together to come up with the right compromises and the right push at the right time to get the thing from floundering.

She also was very active at a time when there was some Salmonella and E. coli issues that had threatened to close down the industry and push through, I think, very aggressive mandatory recall authority for the Secretary of Agriculture. Rosemary brokered some "peace in the valley," you might say.

She's got the kind of enthusiasm that can only be called "contagious." I met her through a man who is a sausage manufacturer in San Francisco named Al Piccetti, and the Piccetti family has also become friends of mine. And it seems like birds of a feather flock together. Rosemary's friends are good people. They have invited Libby

and me to go visit them out in San Francisco, and we had a very nice time dealing with them. All the hospitality I would say that they have given us over the years and the friendship, those kind of relationships that in this business are rare to find. I will say this, I have no idea what Ms. Mucklow's politics are, if she's Democrat or Republican. In fact, the last time she was in Washington, she really prefers, for some reason, the west coast, but the last time she was here she said, Jack, I don't need to see you, I'm going to go see Chairwoman ROSA DELAURIO because that's where the action is now. And she said that with a twinkle and a smile, and then she went up to go see ROSA. But she has that kind of good will that she can deal with both sides of the aisle and get the argument off politics into what is best for the American food consumer. What's best for the industry and the consumer has always been her goal.

I will say I don't even know what kind of activities she does on a personal level, but I know this, that whatever she is doing right now, she's doing it with a smile and a lot of fun and involving a lot of people.

She's the kind of lobbyist or industry advocate that keeps a good reputation for the industry that she represents because she doesn't cut corners, she doesn't do political things, she doesn't think in terms of backroom deals or power moves or anything like that, she wants to do what's fair and what's just for the American people, and has a broad picture far beyond her job or her industry or her association.

We're going to miss her kind of leadership, but I do hope that in her retirement she does not become a stranger. With that, I want to say thank you, Rosemary Mucklow, for your many years of advocacy for the American food consumer and for the industry.

ROSEMARY MUCKLOW, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, NATIONAL MEAT ASSOCIATION, OAKLAND, CA

Rosemary Mucklow is Director Emeritus of National Meat Association, (formerly Western States Meat Association) an Oakland-based trade association representing packers, processors, wholesalers, sausage makers, and other related firms in the U.S. meat and poultry industry.

Until 2007 she was the NMA Executive Director and held this position since 1982 when the Western States Meat Packers Association and the Pacific Coast Meat Association merged to form the stronger, broad-based organization it is today. Rosemary has been associated with the meat industry for over 40 years.

As Executive Director, Rosemary's responsibility's included the administration of the affairs of the National Meat Association. She continues to oversee the activities of NMA as Director Emeritus, and as part of her daily activities she maintains working contacts with NMA's members so that she remains fully informed about the effects on their businesses of government and market activities.

Almost daily, Rosemary advises members on the intricacies of the federal meat and poultry inspection laws, and other laws administered by the Department of Agriculture.