

I appreciate your willingness to support expediting floor consideration of this important legislation. I acknowledge that H.R. 1626 contains provisions under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and understand and agree that your willingness to waive further consideration of the bill is without prejudice to your Committee's jurisdictional interests in this or similar legislation in the future. In the event a House-Senate conference on this or similar legislation is convened, I would support your request for an appropriate number of conferees.

I will include a copy of your letter and this response in the Congressional Record in the debate on the bill. Thank you for your cooperation as we work towards enactment of this legislation.

Sincerely,

JOHN CONYERS, Jr.,
Chairman.

RECOGNIZING EARTH DAY AND REINTRODUCING NO CHILD LEFT INSIDE ACT

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

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Earth Day and to reintroduce the No Child Left Inside Act, which will strengthen environmental education in our Nation's schools. By enhancing environmental education, we can teach our youth how to be environmental stewards and grow the next generation of scientists and innovators to solve our energy and environment challenges.

This Earth is the only home we have. If we do not put ourselves on a more sustainable path, if we do not reach across party lines, if we do not reach out across culture, faith, class, and race to meet these challenges, our children and grandchildren will pay the price. They will inherit a planet in peril with increasingly diminished resources and even less time to act.

I rise today to call on all Americans to think locally about how they can have a positive impact on our environment, and I urge my colleagues to think globally when we consider a long-term responsible and sustainable energy strategy.

THE BOYCOTTING OF DURBAN II

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

Mr. ENGEL. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

Just the other day, the United Nations, shamefully, had a so-called "conference" on racism, dubbed Durban II, held in Geneva. The United States boycotted this charade, rightfully so, and I want to commend President Obama for making the decision to boycott because Durban I turned into a tirade of racism against Israel, of racism against the Jewish people, anti-Semitism, and we knew that so-called "Durban II" would be the same. Sure enough, it was.

When that lunatic, the President of Iran, Ahmadinejad, got up and made hateful speeches against Jews, against Israel, anti-Semitic speeches, it really made a mockery of this whole so-called "Durban II." This conference was supposed to attack racism, not deal and aid and abet racism. Ahmadinejad, shamefully, was the only President of any country to address this charade.

The United Nations, unfortunately, only discredits itself when it has conferences like this, and I'm glad. It was the right thing to do that the United States boycotted. As for the European nations, many walked out in disgust, and that was also good because that showed that racism, anti-Semitism and beating up on Israel was not going to be tolerated.

I commend the President, and I am glad the United States stood tall.

THE CLOSING OF GUANTANAMO BAY

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

Ms. JENKINS. Just days after taking the oath of office, President Obama signed an Executive order calling for the closure of the detention facility at Guantanamo Bay within 1 year. Since then, despite requests to the House Armed Services Committee, no congressional hearing has been held.

I'm concerned that President Obama is willing to request \$80 million in the fiscal year 2009 war supplemental to fund closing Guantanamo Bay but won't work with Congress on a strategy on where to transfer the detainees after closing it.

As a Representative of Fort Leavenworth, which has been discussed as a potential relocation site for the Guantanamo detainees, I am very troubled that \$50 million of the funds are earmarked for the relocation to an unknown site. Moving suspected terrorists to the United States will place an unnecessary risk on Americans. It's my priority to look out for the safety of the Leavenworth community, and I cannot in good conscience say to the people in and around Leavenworth that they would be secure with suspected terrorists nearby.

If the President is serious about closing Guantanamo, he should work directly with Congress on a comprehensive plan.

□ 1730

REJECT THE PLAN TO ELIMINATE PRIVATE LENDING

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

Mr. CARTER. Mr. Speaker, this past work period that I was home, I visited with some folks with Sallie Mae and Texas Guaranteed Loans. These are

two private programs that have been providing student loans for our students in Texas and for the rest of the country. Over 80 percent of the students chose a private lender as their choice to finance their school program. But now, the Democratic party is, by their action, forcing us into a government-only program. And I looked into a room that a year and a half ago was full of hundreds of people, it now stands empty, not because of a recession but because of the action of the Federal Government as led by the Democratic majority.

It is a shame not to give the choice to our students, and when they make that choice, they choose private industry to the tune of 80 percent. This is estimated to cost 30,000 jobs in the Nation this year. And I don't have a problem with jobs in my district unless the government takes those jobs away. This is a shame. I think they should apologize to those hardworking people, most of whom are spouses of fighting soldiers.

HONORING MITCH KING IN HIS RETIREMENT

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Mitch King, a government relations manager at the U.S. Postal Service, who, on May 1, is retiring after 36 years of work for the Postal Service, for Congress, and our Nation.

Mitch King began his postal career in 1973 as a letter carrier in Falls Church, Virginia, just a few miles from here, and then became supervisor of letter carriers before becoming an instructor in the delivery service branch of the Postal Management Academy in Pottomac, Maryland.

In the spring of 1982, he began working in the government relations department at Postal Service headquarters in Washington, D.C. In 1992, he was promoted to the position of government relations manager, a postal career executive position equivalent to the executive branch's senior executive service. During the latter part of his career, he managed postal service congressional liaison activities for the States of Maryland, Virginia, Pennsylvania, Ohio, West Virginia, Kentucky, Mississippi, Alabama, Florida, and the District of Columbia. He also served on the Election Mail Task Force.

Mitch has managed government relations activities with many Members of Congress, addressing an ever-expanding variety of postal-related issues. He has also served as the principal postal contact for the House Appropriations Committee and the Financial Services Subcommittee. When I chaired the Treasury Postal Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee, I dealt with Mitch on a regular basis.

Since that time, as whip and majority leader, I have continued to deal

with Mitch King and have found him very responsive, very knowledgeable, and very conscientious. He was, in short, a model of an employee that the citizens of this country would want to have.

For years, Mitch worked with me to help ensure my constituents the level of service they have rightfully come to expect from the Postal Service. Indeed, he's done that for all of our Members. He was a true and dedicated public servant. He did his work well and faithfully for decades with no expectations of great rewards or renown. For 36 years, Mitch King helped keep the mail going. He was part of a collective accomplishment that is no less impressive for the fact that it happens 6 days a week.

The United States Postal Service handles millions and millions of pieces of mail a day. Does it make some mistakes? Yes. But an extraordinarily small percentage. In fact, it's the most productive mail service in the world. And 40 percent, frankly, ahead of number two.

At the same time, Mitch's humor, intelligence and consummate skill help make him entirely unique in many ways. I know I speak for all of us when I say he will be missed from public service. I am sure that he will go on to continue to contribute to his community, to his family, to his State, and to his country.

Good job, Mitch King. Godspeed.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 2009, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members 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.)

THE CIA'S QUESTIONING WORKED

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, these pictures I have here are to remind my colleagues of what's happened to the United States in the past by terrorist attacks.

This first one is the Pentagon of the United States. Several hundred people were killed. There's a memorial over at the Pentagon that shows that these people gave their lives on the plane and in the Pentagon for this country, a terrorist attack on 9/11.

This here is the World Trade Center. More people were killed in this attack than any attack in the history of the United States by an enemy. Even the

attack on Pearl Harbor didn't even come close to this, although that was a terrible thing as well.

And this here, just to let you know that the worldwide threat of terrorism by al Qaeda is worldwide, this is what happened to a train where they set a bomb off in Spain by al Qaeda. That was in Madrid.

Now, the reason I bring this up is because the President of the United States, in just the last few days, said that the techniques that we have used to extract information from terrorists is something that we in the United States should not use. There are many of us in the body who believes that we should use any technique possible, as long as it is not completely inhumane, to extract information from these terrorists so that they don't do these things to American citizens.

Now, many of my colleagues, I understand they're humanitarians and they don't want to do things to people that shouldn't be done. But we're talking about killing Americans. Killing Americans. And these terrorists have no compunction whatsoever about killing Americans.

I have over here that I am not going to show tonight where they have cut the heads off of Americans and held them up, and where they've cut the heads off of Americans and hung them from an overpass so that everybody driving by could see them. And yet, the administration is saying, you know, that we shouldn't use tactics such as waterboarding in order to extract this information from terrorists.

Now, there is a man named Khalid Sheikh Mohammed who was the mastermind of the September 11 attack on the United States of America. He was waterboarded several times. And he said that he didn't think the United States of America—and others that were waterboarded, there were three of them that I recall—they didn't think the United States and the citizens of this country had the intestinal fortitude, the guts, necessary to do what was necessary to stop terrorist attacks. And so we used waterboarding on them. That's where they put a board on them and pour water over you to give you the sensation that feels like you're drowning, and you keep doing it until they give up the information that they want. He finally gave up the information.

The information that he gave up was there was going to be another attack in Los Angeles, and it was going to be similar to the attack on the World Trade Center, and it was going to be the Library Tower in Los Angeles. And the only reason he gave up that information was because he was waterboarded.

Now, you know, nobody wants to be waterboarded. We had a newsman that was waterboarded to show what it was like. He said it was terrible, it was horrible, but he survived, and he was showing what it was all about. And every time they did waterboarding,

they had a doctor right there to make sure the person would survive. It was done just to elicit information from them that would save American lives.

And the only time they did it, the only time they used these "enhanced techniques of interrogation" was when they thought it was going to be imminent that the United States was going to be attacked, and they only did it three times that I know of. And every time it was necessary, and every time it ended up with results that saved American lives.

And yet the President of the United States said, "We're not going to do that any more because it is not something that we in America approve of."

In my opinion, if we're going to save American lives, we ought to do whatever is necessary to save American lives. We went to war with Japan and Germany because Americans were being killed. And millions of people died in that war because of the attack on Pearl Harbor and because of what Nazi Germany did. And yet we can't use waterboarding, a technique to get information from terrorists, to stop things like this?

You know, I don't mind being good-hearted but not where the lives of good Americans are concerned.

And there are other times where they got information from the terrorist organizations here in the United States that were planning an attack.

Vice President Cheney—who is being vilified all the time anymore—he was on television the last two nights and he said that while they are stopping waterboarding and saying that anybody that used that technique is a horrible person, he said he had seen documents that showed that the waterboarding was effective in saving American lives and stopping attacks like the World Trade Center and the one that was going to take place in Los Angeles. He said he saw those documents. And yet the White House released documents that showed that there were these tactics used to get information but they didn't show—they didn't release the documents that showed that it was effective in stopping the attack in Los Angeles, California.

My time is up, folks. I'll be back tomorrow night.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 875

Ms. PINGREE of Maine. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to be removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 875.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Maine?

There was no objection.

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

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