

God in his loving arms to hold the families who have given a child dying for freedom in Afghanistan and Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I ask God to bless the House and Senate, that we will do what is right in the eyes of God for His people. And I ask God to please give strength, wisdom, and courage to President Obama, that he will always do what is right in the eyes of God for his people. And Mr. Speaker, I will ask three times, God, please, God, please, God, please continue to bless America.

THE INTELLIGENCE BUREAUCRACY: THINKING BIG INSTEAD OF THINKING SMART

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, I imagine many of my colleagues have read The Washington Post report on "Top Secret America," and I hope they are reacting as I am, with horror and outrage at the sprawling national security and intelligence bureaucracy that has grown like a weed in recent years. This series of articles should shock us into action, at the very least leading us to question the conventional wisdom about how best to keep America safe.

According to the Post, the counterterrorism and homeland security apparatus has ballooned to some 1,271 government organizations working in roughly 10,000 locations around the country. There are now so many agencies analyzing so much information and issuing so many reports that the whole thing has become redundant, unmanageable, and ineffective.

Actually, we can't measure its precise effectiveness because so much of it is shrouded in secrecy. Much of the information about these agencies is classified and therefore not subject to the scrutiny it so badly needs.

If this system, which is so big that the Post refers to it as a fourth branch of government, were a domestic social program, my friends on the other side of the aisle would call it out-of-control spending.

□ 1640

Yet somehow, when the antigovernment rhetoric starts flying, it is never the wasteful defense and intelligence programs that come in for the harshest criticism. I'd be curious to hear, for example, why we can afford this behemoth, but we can't afford to pass a comprehensive jobs package. The organizational chart for this system looks like an octopus family on steroids, Mr. Speaker, and there are so many tentacles that it makes the proper information sharing and dot connecting nearly impossible.

I couldn't help but note the irony. If memory serves me, 9/11 exposed the inability of our intelligence agencies to coordinate and communicate properly with one another. So what have we done in response to 9/11?

We've grown our intelligence infrastructure in a way that makes it even harder to coordinate and communicate.

Of course, we would tolerate a little bit of bloat if the evidence were clear that the system were working; but according to the Post's analysis, both the Fort Hood shooting and the Christmas Day bomber could have been intercepted early on if this bureaucracy hadn't been so unwieldy, so inefficient and unresponsive. The intelligence was there, but it never got into the right hands or it was lost in an avalanche of other data.

Mr. Speaker, when it comes to protecting America, we are thinking big instead of thinking smart. There has to be a better way. We can have the intelligence capabilities we need at a fraction of the current cost, and we can use much of the savings on initiatives that attack terrorism at its roots—in places where despair and hopelessness lead people to turn to terrorism in the first place. We need to dramatically increase our investment in everything from agriculture to education to democracy-building to conflict resolution in the trouble spots of the world.

Maybe if we increased our global humanitarian outreach, if we empowered nations instead of invading and occupying them, then top secret America wouldn't even be necessary.

A TRIBUTE TO SENATOR PAUL COVERDELL

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

Mr. GRAVES of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a man who was a champion from my home State of Georgia.

It has been 10 years this week since the passing of Senator Paul D. Coverdell, and I am proud to honor the life, the work, and the spirit of such an influential man today.

Described by his colleagues as a "soft-spoken workhorse," his strong passion for his country was shown throughout his distinguished public service in the United States Army, the Georgia State Senate, the United States Senate, and as Director of the Peace Corps.

Senator Coverdell was a devoted hard worker who was a pioneer for the conservative movement in Georgia. Some might say he was a "pillar of the community," but that is an understatement. He was the foundation upon which the pillars were built.

As a key figure in the establishment of a strong Republican Party in Georgia, he was the first Republican since Reconstruction to be reelected to the United States Senate. He was notorious for his ability to work on both sides of the aisle. He saw ways through the bitter partisanship, and he was one who was well-liked and respected by all of his colleagues.

Apart from being a brilliant man in his work, he was also a humble and

kind man, characteristics that helped in the advancement of the cause that he fought for. As a testament to his humble and gentle nature, I will share with you a story about Senator Coverdell and a special friendship that he developed that would change his life.

While vacationing in Maine in 1978, Senator Coverdell decided he would look up the former chairman of the Republican National Committee, George H. W. Bush. He simply found his address in a phone book. He went to his home. He knocked on his door and he introduced himself. He introduced himself to the man who would later become the President of the United States. The pair became the closest of friends over the next 14 years, and they helped each other in many different ways. When George H. W. Bush was elected President, Senator Coverdell sent him a letter that read, "If I can help, I'd like to help."

It was at this time that the 41st President then appointed Senator Coverdell as Director of the Peace Corps.

Five years after his death, at the dedication of the Paul D. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences at the University of Georgia, President Bush said of Paul Coverdell, "In the Washington world of bitter partisanship, Paul was, indeed, a voice of reason, always reaching out, always putting the good of the country first, always finding solutions where others may try to find blame or an issue to use as a political weapon. He was successful in bringing together people across the political aisle. I've heard it said that, to the end, Paul Coverdell was the great unifier, and so he was."

Senator Coverdell's legacy is particularly important to me as I am the first graduate of the Coverdell Leadership Institute to be elected to the United States Congress.

Senator Coverdell founded the Coverdell Leadership Institute to support the Republican Party in Georgia through the building of the farm team through the Republican Party. At the time, Georgia was not far removed from being a single-party State. No Republican had served as Governor since Reconstruction. Senator Coverdell began working with current and future Republican leaders, training them in the practical aspects of politics and government service to ensure that, going forward, there would be a bipartisan presence among Georgia elected officials.

Today, I am especially grateful to Senator Coverdell for starting this forward-looking program that continues to be relevant and impactful today, 10 years after the Senator's death. That is certainly a life to be proud of.

From the Paul D. Coverdell Center for Biomedical and Health Sciences at my alma mater, the University of Georgia, to the Paul D. Coverdell Peace Corps headquarters building here in Washington, D.C., to the Coverdell Leadership Institute, itself, and many

other honors in between, Senator Coverdell's great legacy lives on. I ask that his life be remembered today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COUNCILMAN WILLIE COOK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. WOOLSEY). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BRIGHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BRIGHT. Madam Speaker, on July 8, the city of Montgomery lost a great public servant. Councilman Willie Cook unexpectedly passed away after suffering a massive heart attack. He was only 53 years old.

Willie was not just a colleague; he was a trusted friend. Willie and I were first elected to office in the same year, 1999, and it was an honor to work in partnership with him to move our great city forward over the 9 years that we served together in the city government of our capital city of Montgomery, Alabama.

Willie was known to be a tireless advocate for those he represented in Council District 6. As the Montgomery Advertiser noted following his death, "Cook provided a strong public voice for his constituents and was an aggressive advocate for what he perceived as their best interests." I couldn't agree more.

Last Thursday, Willie was laid to rest at the Montgomery Memorial Cemetery after a memorial service at the convention center. Hundreds of friends, family, and admirers were in attendance to honor the life of a great city leader. It was a fitting way to pay tribute to someone as accomplished as Willie Cook.

My thoughts and prayers continue to be with his wife, Lorna; with his children Vaneka, Benito, and Christopher; with his five grandchildren; and with his parents, Willie Cook, Jr., and Daisy, as they continue to mourn the loss of their son, their husband, and their father.

Willie will surely be missed at our State capital, Montgomery, Alabama. He truly was a friend that I served with, and he made a big difference in our State capital. So I thank you for allowing me to honor his life today.

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

FAIRNESS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MALONEY. Madam Speaker, the Joint Economic Committee, which

I chair, has just issued the latest edition of our series of State-by-State snapshots of the economy. It notes that, in June, private sector employment grew in 32 States and the District of Columbia while the unemployment rate declined in 39 States and the District of Columbia. Yet the report also makes clear that our economic recovery is at a crossroads and still faces major challenges, in large part because of the staggering job losses caused by the policies of the prior administration.

You can see on this chart how a steady descent into a red valley of severe job loss began in December 2007. The red is the prior administration. The last month that the former President was in office, this country lost 790,000 jobs. The journey back up, under the Obama administration, began in early 2009 and coincided with the passage of the Recovery Act. As you can see, we have been trending in the right direction and gaining jobs these past few months.

□ 1650

It's not victory, but it certainly is movement in the right direction.

But as our report notes, even if the private sector was currently creating jobs at the rate of 217,000 jobs per month, as occurred during the Clinton administration, the highest sustained rate of job creation in our Nation's history, it will still take over 3 years to recreate the 8.5 million private sector jobs lost during the Great Recession.

The lingering high unemployment rates, particularly the long-term unemployment rate, suggest that targeted actions such as our recent extension of unemployment insurance benefits are sorely needed to support growth and provide a safety net for the millions of families hurt by the recession.

But there is still much more that Congress can and should do, particularly to help small businesses recover.

As Chairman Bernanke pointed out today, we need to find ways to provide small, credit-worthy businesses with additional lending, something that I have supported and the Democrats have supported from day one.

Small businesses and establishments, these small businesses are the backbone of the U.S. labor market. Seventy-five percent of working Americans are employed at businesses with fewer than 250 employees.

But a study earlier this year by the Joint Economic Committee found that, in the wake of the financial crisis, limited access to capital and credit continues; and it has a serious impact on small business hiring.

The tough credit standards that banks are now imposing, even on credit-worthy small businesses, have hamstrung their ability to expand and create jobs.

You can see the results of that in this chart, which the Joint Economic Committee prepared. And this chart looks

at the business hiring by mid- and large businesses, and compares it with the small business hiring, which is still in decline.

In most recoveries, it is small businesses that are the first to hire. But in this recovery, we see that it is the mid-sized and the large businesses that are hiring, and that small businesses are not hiring, so they do need more support and more help in this economy.

One additional thing we should do is ensure that small businesses are able to compete fairly for the Federal contracts for which they are qualified. And the Federal Government contracts out roughly \$435 billion every year. And under current law, Federal agencies are required to establish contracting goals with at least 23 percent of all government buying targeted to smaller firms, because they are the backbone; they hire the majority of Americans.

But according to an analysis prepared by the American Small Business League of Federal data, some of the "small businesses" that have been awarded Federal contracts under the provision for small business contracts include some of the largest companies in America. Boeing, Northrop Grumman, General Dynamics, Hewlett-Packard, AT&T and Rolls Royce. These are all extremely fine companies, but by no stretch of the imagination are these small companies.

That's why I urge my colleagues today to join me in supporting the Fairness and Transparency in Contracting Act of 2009, sponsored by my good friend and colleague, Congressman HENRY JOHNSON. H.R. 2568 would modify the definition of small businesses in the Small Business Act to include the requirement that no publicly traded company can qualify as a small business.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BRIGHT). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, may I request additional time?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy the Chair is constrained, not to entertain, such a request. The gentlelady's time has expired.

Mrs. MALONEY. Well, it would require the publication of a report; and, in short, it would require that small should actually mean small, and require fairness and transparency. So I urge my colleagues to join me in co-sponsoring this important bill.

REPORT ON H.R. 5822, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS BILL, 2011

Mr. EDWARDS of Texas, from the Committee on Appropriations, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 111-559) on the bill (H.R. 5822) making appropriations for military construction, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2011, and for