

“Here comes the sun,” and I say, “It’s all right.”

#### BRINGING TECHNOLOGY TO THE CLASSROOM

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

Mr. FERGUSON. Mr. Speaker, preparing and educating our students for the global economy of the 21st century must be one of America’s top priorities.

As a father and a former teacher, I am increasingly concerned about the shortage of technology in our Nation’s schools. While there are some 8.2 million instructional computers in our elementary and secondary schools, the additional resources that are needed are startling. At least 5 million new computers are needed at this time, and the number will be higher tomorrow and next month and next year.

There is widespread concern about the academic performance of students in the United States relative to their counterparts in other nations. It is time that we have a clear and focused vision to bring educational technology to the classroom for the sake of our most precious resource, our children.

This week I introduced legislation, House Resolution 295, calling for a commission on technology and education that is comprised of educators, parents and tech industry leaders to help bring technology into the classroom. If we can do this effectively, students will learn the skills they need to prepare for a successful future in our high-tech world.

Let us pass this resolution and give our kids another chance for a brighter future tomorrow in our increasingly competitive world.

#### URGING ACTION ON ECONOMIC STIMULUS PACKAGE

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, another Friday has passed, another week is finished in Congress, and we still have no economic stimulus package. We need to urge the other Chamber to work with us to try and get something that will stimulate this economy.

Unemployment numbers are rising. GDP numbers released this morning were weak. We continue to see problems in the economy. Shopping and holiday shopping has dropped dramatically. Tourism in Florida is off 16 percent.

How much more information do you need in the other Chamber? I urge all parties, Democrats, Republicans and independents, on both sides of this Capitol to work together over this weekend and have an economic stimulus bill that will actually cause the economy to move forward. We hope on our side

that at least includes tax relief for hardworking families so they will have more money in their pockets to spend in their community. But there is no excuse for failing to act. I urge this body to move the legislation to the President’s desk so we can get the next quarter of the economy moving in a positive direction.

□ 1030

#### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. THORNBERRY). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 3, 2001, 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 gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. NORTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### AMERICA’S RECESSION

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, on September 11 our Nation was mercilessly attacked in New York and in the Pentagon, and we may well have been made subject to biological attacks through the mail since, even some of which arrived at my own congressional office.

The impact of these attacks on our country is incalculable. It has been emotional. It has resulted in spiritual renewal in our country. It has resulted in military activity overseas and activity by the Justice Department in criminal investigations of a historic scope here in America. And, yes, the consequences of September 11 have been economic as well.

The reality is that what we found out this week, Mr. Speaker, is that beginning in March of this year and manifested in newspapers around America on Tuesday, we are in fact in a recession. All people around America know is recession is defined as when there are two consecutive quarters of net negative growth in the GDP, and that sad news arrived on the door steps of Americans this week.

Well, the reality is that the events of September 11, Mr. Speaker, contributed to a weak economy spiraling even further into recession, the recession in which we find ourselves today. Now, these facts may seem obvious. They may not even seem worthy of taking the time of this august Chamber today; but they are not apparently obvious to our colleagues on the other side of the aisle, who we are told in newspapers around America today including the front page of USA Today that political

attack ads will be launched beginning this weekend in markets all across America deriding the George Bush recession.

Let me say again, labeling the economic downturn as the George Bush recession, a key Democrat announced plans Thursday for her party’s first political ad campaign since the attacks on America on September 11.

So I rise today to simply ask the question, Mr. Speaker, whose recession is this? Is it in fact the George Bush recession? Well, let us begin with the facts. As I mentioned earlier a recession is two consecutive quarters of net negative growth in the GDP. That means that the recession in which we find ourselves began on March 1.

I seem to remember that the Presidential campaign was quite divisive. That in fact George W. Bush was not able to form his government until into January and, therefore, he had been President of the United States for approximately 5 weeks, Mr. Speaker, when this recession arrived. Now that to me is an extraordinary judo throw for any human being or any administration. In 5 weeks we are to believe that George W. Bush was such a repellent on the American economy that he drove us into a recession. That is obviously absurd.

But some might be quick on my side of the aisle to say this is not a George Bush recession we are in. It is a Bill Clinton recession we are in and there is certainly evidence to suggest that.

Manufacturers in the automotive industry and the diesel industry in the east central Indiana district that I serve have said that their orders were off beginning in the fourth quarter of the year 2000. The National Association of Manufacturers estimated that without an energy policy in America, fuel prices soared in 1999 and 2000, costing the economy more than \$115 billion, dragging down manufacturers and sending us into a recession.

But I am not here today, Mr. Speaker, to exploit national tragedy for political gain. So I do not stand in this Chamber even to say this is a Bill Clinton recession.

So whose recession is it, Mr. Speaker? Is it George W. Bush’s? Is it Bill Clinton’s? Is it the terrorists’ who attacked our country on September 11? The truth of the matter is, Mr. Speaker, it is none of the above. It is simply America’s recession.

The people of the United States of America learned a powerful lesson on September 11, and that is we are all in this together, that united we stand. The American people have rightly had much less patience for small-minded partisan bickering and finger pointing since September 11, and I suspect that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who would seize this moment for political advantage, to lay this multi-year recession driven even farther down by the terrorist attacks may well pay a penalty at the ballot box for their exploitation.

Let us work together to pass an economic stimulus package in a bipartisan way. Let us get this economy moving together.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### WORLD AIDS DAY

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, since 1988 December 1 has been known as World AIDS Day. World AIDS Day emerged from the call by the World Summit of the Ministers of Health on Programmes for AIDS prevention in January of 1988 to open channels of communication, strengthen the exchange of information and experience, and forge a spirit of social tolerance. Since then World AIDS Day has received the support of the World Health Assembly, the United Nations system and governments, communities and individuals around the world. Each year, it is the only international day of coordinated action against AIDS.

Today in the Washington Post I have read Kofi Annan, who is the Secretary General of the United Nations, entered this editorial comment: "Every day more than 8,000 people die of AIDS. Every hour almost 600 people become infected. Every minute a child dies of the virus. Just as life and death goes on after September 11, so must we continue our fight against the HIV and AIDS epidemic. Before the terrorist attack two months ago, tremendous momentum had been achieved in that fight. To lose it now would be to compound one tragedy with another.

"New figures released in advance of World AIDS Day, December 1, show that more than 40 million people are now living with the virus. The vast majority of them are in sub-Saharan Africa, where the devastation is so acute that it has become one of the major obstacles to development. But parts of the Caribbean and Asia are not far behind and the pandemic is spreading at an alarming rate in Eastern Europe. For too long global progress and facing up to AIDS was painfully slow, and nowhere near commensurate with the challenge. But in the past year for much of the international community, the magnitude of this crisis has finally begun to sink in. Never in the 2 long decades that the world has faced this growing catastrophe have there been such a sense of common resolve and collective possibility.

"Public opinion has been mobilized by the media and nongovernmental or-

ganizations and activists, by doctors and economists and by people living with the disease. Pharmaceutical companies have made their AIDS drugs more affordable in poor countries, and a growing number of corporations have created programs to provide both prevention and treatment for employees in the wider community. Foundations are making increasingly imaginative and generous contributions, both financial and intellectual in prevention, in reducing mother-to-child transmission and the search for the vaccine.

"In a growing number of countries, an effective prevention campaign has been launched. There has been an increased recognition about donors in the most affected countries of the link between prevention and treatment."

This is General Kofi Annan's statement today in the Washington Post. Let me underscore how tragic it is: 7,000 people in sub-Saharan Africa die each day. Seven thousand people, almost double those killed in the World Trade Center. Seven thousand a day in sub-Saharan Africa.

It is an international issue that we must grapple with. I am proud to say President Bush has committed \$200 million to the global fund to fight HIV and AIDS. The global fund has right now pledges totalling \$1.5 billion and I am proud to see our President, George Bush, committed to this goal and providing financial response and support.

I am asking Congress for an additional \$1 billion for the fund, and I hope we are able to do that.

Today we should reflect on those lost and use their memories to fuel our efforts to eradicate this pandemic. This is one of the most serious health challenges we have faced and will face in my lifetime. I pledge as a Member of this body to continue to work with our leaders, the Speaker of the House and others, in order to effectuate a solid policy that helps care for those suffering from this dreaded disease. We can find a way to not only, we pray, create a vaccine, but eradicate this scourge among mankind. But we must particularly set our sights on sub-Saharan Africa and other places because of the poverty and because of the lack of knowledge and because a lack of medical care and treatment is ravaging and destroying the humanity that lives there.

I pledge my support and I know Congress joins us today as we salute World AIDS Day tomorrow morning in our global fight against this disease.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### FOR THE LONG HAUL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gen-

tleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, in the pre-dawn hours of April 12, 1861, Confederate General P.G.T. Beauregard gave the order to fire on Fort Sumter. After 34 hours of bombardment, a white flag ended the first battle of the Civil War.

The only casualty was a Confederate horse. Later a Northern Congressman predicted that we could, "wipe up with one handkerchief the blood that would be spilled in putting down the rebellion." He was wrong.

As the Northern Alliance supported by our bombers and Special Forces roll across Afghanistan, I fear the same overconfidence taking root here in Congress.

In the words of the poet, "We have miles to go before we sleep." So it is with the war on terrorism.

Many ask me what will come next. The answer is embedded in the question. We all know that there will be a next. It is important that those who advance terrorism not know when.

It is important that we understand that the coming phase probably will not be as painless in defeating the Taliban. Other countries do not offer ready-made freedom fighters like the Northern Alliance. We must also brace ourselves for potential news blackouts. I pray that any future deployments of our Special Forces into other countries will not be announced on CNBC. SEAL teams do their best work away from the glare of Klieg lights.

Our commander in chief has made it clear from the very beginning, this will be a long war involving many countries that harbor terrorism.

It began at a time of their choosing. It will end at a time and under the terms that we decide. We must not become overconfident. It will take many handkerchiefs. There will be casualties, both American and innocent civilians. But I have no doubt that we will prevail. And in the end, we will leave to future generations a much safer planet. To victory.

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

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

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

(Mrs. CLAYTON addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

#### LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Mr. GEPHARDT) for today on account of personal business.