

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, interestingly enough, as a member of the Committee on the Judiciary and also a Member of the other side of the aisle, I happen to agree with the gentleman from Arizona that the First Amendment protects freedom of religion and freedom of speech, and that the Pledge of Allegiance is protected sufficiently for us to be able to say "under God." I hope we will be able to move forward to give the sense and the obvious position that the Pledge of Allegiance is still a very legitimate expression of loyalty to this country.

Interestingly enough, those of us who have stood fast against the war in Iraq have been accused of being disloyal to the United States of America and unpatriotic. That is why it is important to come to the floor of the House and try to express the voice of millions and millions of Americans and millions and millions of the world family and to again say to the singular voice that is resounding out of Washington and into the airwaves that I thought a democracy represented practice over words; that we would practice the idea that when the people speak, or when the people question, the leaders of government should entertain their concerns, particularly since the people of the United States send their young men and young women to far away shores to defend us. And might I say to the troops that are stationed abroad, there is not one divide amongst us in support of those very loyal troops.

The Constitution clearly enunciates the principle that the Congress has the duty and responsibility to declare war. We well recognize that in the Constitution it also acknowledges that the President is the Commander in Chief, and if and when those troops are deployed, the United States of America will be unified. That is why the judgment of making that decision is so very important.

We have gotten ourselves in a foreign policy shambles. Many people blame it on the United Nations, partly because they do not understand that the United States has consented to be a part of the United Nations through the U.N. Charter 51. And we have lived in peace for almost 50 years because, as much as you malign the United Nations, it has kept a sense of world decorum and order. It means that one nation does not lift up arms against another. It means that the friendship and affection for the United States has been because it has been a leader for peace over war. It has been a defender as opposed to an offender.

Now we have thrown all of that to the winds. We have cast Syria against Iran, and Iran against Syria, and Turkey against Syria, and Turkey against Iraq. We have potentially created a destabilizing situation in that region.

We have not focused on solving our problems with Israel and the Palestinians, a strong effective peace, an abhorrence of suicide bombings, a recognition of the importance of that region

for us. We have totally overlooked North Korea, pointing missiles at Japan and South Korea.

I was in China a few weeks ago asking the President of China to engage. He said, you, the United States, needs to engage in bilaterals with North Korea.

What are the real ways we could engage in true, meaningful debate and respect of the United Nations? First of all, we have been not listening to them as they have argued vigorously for more vigorous U.N. inspections. It does not mean the United States is a wimp, that we cannot defend ourselves. What it means is that you understand the cost of war.

Over \$1 trillion is expected we would have to pay out in this war, now that we have a \$283 billion deficit, and the President is cutting \$470 billion in child care and special education and, most of all, what a horror, veterans benefits. A veterans hospital that I have in my district is closing the door to those veterans who are trying to enroll, those men and women who offered themselves, who wanted to, or if they had to would have sacrificed their lives. We cannot let them get in the hospitals because this administration is cutting \$470 billion on top of a \$600 billion tax cut and disrespecting the fact they have given us no monies and no dollars to account for how much we will have to spend for this war.

So I believe we need action. And what is the action I propose? First of all, I hope we will be debating soon a resolution that I have to ask the question whether this Congress has abdicated its duty to declare war.

Second, I want the U.N. Security Council to have a tribunal and to try Mr. Saddam Hussein as a war criminal. And I want humanitarian aid for Iraq, democracy for Iraq. And we should focus, Madam Speaker, on the Mideast peace solution and have troops, a small number, to ensure the investigation and inspection of the U.N. inspectors.

Madam Speaker, I say there is another way. War should be the last option, and our voices should be heard.

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

(Mr. FOLEY 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 Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

CONTROLLING AMERICA'S BORDERS

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

tleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Madam Speaker, as we rightfully address the issues that are confronting us overseas and the possibility of sending American troops into harm's way, I think it is also important for us to think about those people who are here in the United States, those citizens, who every day, as a matter of fact, face almost warlike conditions at places on our borders, a place on our southern border especially, that I think there is no other way to describe the activities down there, with the number of people coming through that border illegally. That it is a battle zone, and there are people there who daily deal with this particular problem. I am periodically going to bring several of these folks to the attention of the House.

Today I would like to identify Mr. Roger Barnett and his wife Barbara, who own a 22,000-acre ranch located only 2 miles from the U.S.-Mexico border near Douglas, Arizona. Mr. Barnett also owns and operates a towing and propane gas business with branches in Phoenix, Tucson, Wilcox and Sierra Vista.

Almost any evening after dark, Mr. Barnett can get in his truck, ride a short distance across his own land and personally witness groups of 20, 30, 40, 50, even 100 illegal aliens crossing the property. Sometimes, of course, they cross in daylight also.

□ 1615

Mr. Barnett, his brother, and his wife have personally been responsible over the course of the last year for detaining, calling the INS, and being able to actually take off of his property over 2,000, I say 2,000, people who are trespassing, who are coming across his property illegally and, in fact, coming into the United States illegally.

Now, of course, that in and of itself is a challenging experience for anybody who lives on that border, but along with it goes a whole lot of other problems that are created. Mr. Barnett and all of the other ranchers in the area find that their fences are cut. They are constantly, and I mean constantly, challenged with the responsibility of going out and repairing the fences that have been cut, trampled, gates left open, cattle disappearing, cattle being butchered and eaten right on the spot by the people who are coming through. The water on the property being damaged, the water wells being damaged; the amount of trash that accumulates on these properties is enormous, and it accumulates at something called lay-over sites and these are simply sites where a large number of illegal aliens will gather and they will prepare to be picked up by a truck, by some sort of vehicle in a road not too far away from the site. They discard all of their belongings because they want to pack as many into these vehicles as possible, so they will discard all of the trash that they have been carrying with them and