

jobs, 357,000 more than previously reported; and yet this morning, President Bush announced his opposition to the unemployment extension that we attempted to get here today in the budget resolution, calling it "objectionable" in the statement of administration policy.

We are hearing lots of plans about aid to flow to the Iraqi people, including food and medicine. This is aid that must be provided. But while the United States Army also takes on the role of humanitarian assistance in a military zone, the Salvation Army here at home is facing a swelling need for services and a downturn in donations that have led to an unprecedented lack of food for people in our own economic war zone.

The Salvation Army in my own hometown has seen a 42 percent increase in requests for assistance just this year. At the start of the fiscal year last October, our Women, Infants and Children food program reported the highest level of participants ever; and nationally we have the highest number of participants in the last 5 years.

Just since January 2001, America has lost nearly 2 million more jobs. In Toledo, my hometown, military spouses are showing up at the Women, Infants and Children feeding offices because their husbands have been called up for active duty, cutting the income of families by drastic amounts.

□ 1830

The Cleveland Plain Dealer last month told us, at a pantry in Columbus's west side, a 67-year-old retiree gets groceries to help feed a daughter and a granddaughter who moved in with him last year. He remembers relatives telling of bread lines during the Great Depression. He never imagined he would see himself in one, let alone wait in one.

There is no doubt that the United States is the freest and most bountiful Nation on earth. That is why people want to come here. But do we not owe as much to hardworking Americans as we do to war-torn Iraqis? Do we not need to build our economic might here at home as much as our military might abroad? Do we not need to plan as much for our economic-torn economy as much as we do the Iraqi war-torn economy? Do we not need a coalition of allies with labor and management for job creation and economic improvement as much as we need a coalition of military forces in the Gulf? If we can provide money to airlines who are claiming they are being hurt by the war, should we not also provide an additional 26 weeks of unemployment benefits to airline workers who are the real victims of the slowdown?

Military war, of necessity, is receiving most of our attention of late, but how about the enemy within? The economic war here at home? It seems to me that the weapons of war may be more visible when they are used, but the damage of an economic war is just as real for individuals and families and

communities that are suffering here at home. Our State is over \$4 billion in debt. Our mayor, he is broke. It just seems to me that our news ought to talk a little bit about what is happening here at home.

Mr. Speaker, it is time the second war that we are in on our home soil gets equal attention in the media.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS FAILING IN ITS DUTIES TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES TO PROVIDE FUNDING FOR HOMELAND SECURITY

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

Mr. INSLEE. Mr. Speaker, the United States Government is still not doing its job on homeland security. It is failing in a very, very elementary manner. The way it is failing is that it is failing to give the tools that our local communities need to prepare an adequate homeland security plan and procedures in our towns and in our cities.

It is very sad to say that where the rubber meets the road on homeland security, and that is in our cities and towns, this administration and the majority party in this Congress are not giving our cities and towns the tools they need to do the job. The sad fact is, the Federal Government is not cutting the mustard when it comes to helping our cities and towns prepare their police departments for terrorism, prepare their fire departments for terrorism, prepare their emergency response plans for terrorism. The job is simply not getting done.

Now, we had a little bit of good news today out in the State of Washington. The city of Seattle will be receiving about \$11 million to help with some of their plans. But unfortunately, all of the cities and towns around Seattle are not getting help from the Federal Government, and they need it.

I will give an example. The town of Bothell, Washington has and will spend over \$200,000 this year on their homeland security plans to deal with terrorism, from buying gas masks to training for their personnel. Over \$200,000, Mr. Speaker, and no help from the Federal Government. The city of Monroe will spend over \$45,000. The city of Monroe is not the largest city in the whole country. They are not getting help from the Federal Government. Mountlake Terrace, a small town in my district, they are spending \$2,400 on gas masks, just one little tiny element for their expenditures, together with overtime for their officers, no help from the Federal Government. The city of Edmonds is spending \$145,000 for homeland security, a significant figure for overtime, for training of their personnel, and over \$30,000 of training of their fire department for hazardous materials training, no help from the Federal Government.

Mr. Speaker, where is the help of the Federal Government for Edmonds to deal with terrorism training, for Bothell to deal with gas masks, for Mountlake Terrace to deal with overtime, for Edmonds for their HAZMAT training? Where is the help for our cities that the Federal Government should be giving to these local communities? It is not getting done. The reason it is not getting done is that this Chamber and the other Chamber are not passing the appropriations that should be passed to help these local communities.

Now, on this floor last week, we in the minority party made an effort to increase the appropriation and supplemental budget to get help to Edmonds, to Mountlake Terrace, to Bothell so that they can prepare an adequate homeland security response. And we wanted to boost, by \$2.5 billion, help for our first responders, for our police and fire departments. But unfortunately, the majority party stymied that and would not support these increases in our plans to deal with homeland security.

I think it is important to point out the reason for that. The reason that this bill did not pass to help these local communities is that the majority party thought it was more important to give the folks at Enron tax breaks in their multibillion-dollar tax package than it was to give the city of Edmonds help for gas masks, the city of Bothell help for overtime for their police departments.

We believe in the Democratic Party it is more important to help these local communities deal with the threat of terrorism as a first job before giving these tax cuts, a predominant amount of which goes to the wealthiest Americans in the country. We believe that, because the city of Edmonds has a job to do for the people they represent, and that is to do an adequate job to get ready for potential terrorism. The city of Bothell has that responsibility. The city of Mountlake Terrace has that responsibility. We are going to continue working on this until we get this job done, because Americans are entitled to know their local communities have responded with as much vigor as we are seeing in Iraq from our very, very proud, honest, and effective military personnel today serving in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that folks will join us in this effort, because our local communities need the help of the Federal Government.

IMPORTANT TOPICS FOR DISCUSSION

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

HONORING OFFICER CHARLES CLARK, A DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, many times we come, sadly,

to the floor of the House to acknowledge a valiant citizen of our community. All of us have been giving our praise and our commitment to the valiant troops who are now representing us, and we wish them well, we wish them a safe return, we wish for them the resources that they need to finish the job and to return to their families. But in our own communities we have valiant individuals who offer their lives so that we might be safe.

Today in Houston, Texas we laid to rest Charles Clark, Officer Charles Clark, an individual who was selfless in his commitment to our community, a member of the Houston Police Department who lost his life tragically in a brutal robbery that also saw the loss of Alfreda Jones, the mother of two children.

Officer Clark was born and raised in the community which he served: South Park, Texas. Married for 24 years, with a lovely wife by the name of Hilda, and he was almost about to see 20 years of service with the Houston Police department. He was known as the consummate police officer. He loved his job. We are told that he wanted to serve in the South Park community, where he did not live, because he had been born and raised there. The tragedy of his death is that he was rushing to the scene to help this young mother, a young mother who was working to support her children at a cash-checking place, when three or more brutal individuals who could find nothing in their life to do but to kill two innocent human beings on that day.

Mr. Speaker, we ask the question: Can we do better as Americans?

I believe this valiant soul should be laid to rest with our respect and admiration, Mr. Speaker. So I come to the floor today to pay tribute to Officer Charles Clark, to tell him that may he rest in peace and may he be considered forever and ever in the annals of the history of the Houston Police Department, our dear friend. I thank him for his service. May he rest with the angels.

HELPING FELLOW AMERICANS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to another subject, and that is a cry that has been amongst us for a long time, and that is helping fellow Americans. Just recently we provided a bailout for our airlines. I am gratified that today we enthusiastically, although I wish it had been unanimous, voted to instruct the conferees to assist the airline employees. These are our neighbors, hard-working neighbors who have been laid off because of the tragedy of 9/11 and the war. I hope that the conferees will not ignore helping fellow Americans by providing them with the 26 weeks of extended pay. These are mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, some of them single parents who are supporting their children, some of them going to school and, frankly, they are suffering. We can bail out the airlines, we can cause them to pay off some of their

debt, but that does not deal with the human failure or the human need, and that is those who are not working because of where we find ourselves.

So to the appropriators who may be listening to the sound of our voices: We have been trying to do this since 9/11, and it has gotten worse. Let us do something that is gratifying in helping our fellow Americans.

THE AFTERMATH OF WAR

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Let me simply close by saying that as we wish well for our troops, we have something to deal with: the aftermath of war, Mr. Speaker. I intend to engage in a vigorous discussion so that we as Americans can pull together, so that the aftermath of this war can be one of reconciliation, working with our world allies.

I will be dropping legislation that deals with the putting back together of this Nation, but also putting back together the world feelings, relationships. I hope that we will work with NATO and the United Nations in a working group, if you will, scenario where we work together with the United States involved and all of those who are with us or against us, because, Mr. Speaker, that is the right thing to do. We must ensure that we reignite the war against terrorism where all of us were working together. We must re-insure that we work on the Mideast peace process, giving humanitarian aid, rebuilding families, helping schools and hospitals being built, as well as recognizing the needs in this Nation. We cannot do it unless we do it together.

I will be looking forward to dropping that legislation and having my colleagues go forward and not go backwards.

Mr. Speaker, also, we will be looking to give a briefing or to present a briefing with several of the caucuses in this Congress to deal with the aftermath of war, the plight of the children. We have not looked to the damage and the danger of children, not only of those in Iraq, but the children of our soldiers. What has been the damage? What can we do to assist or to help their lives be better?

So I hope this Congress will join together in a bipartisan manner, Mr. Speaker, to address the questions of the aftermath of war. Peace still is a possibility, that we may live in peace in this world.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 1036, PROTECTION OF LAWFUL COMMERCE IN ARMS ACT

Mr. SESSIONS, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-64) on the resolution (H. Res. 181) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 1036) to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages re-

sulting from the misuse of their products by others, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

HONORING STUDENT DEMONSTRATORS

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

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, democracy is the cornerstone of our government. True democracy allows room for dissent, discussion, and demonstration.

□ 1845

Last week, students from around the country arrived in our Nation's capital to demonstrate in support of affirmative action in higher education. They actively participated in a peaceful way in our democracy. And I am sure that the founders of this Nation must have been as proud of them as I am of the students who participated.

Students marched, sang songs, prayed, and urged the Supreme Court to allow schools like the University of Michigan to continue the practice of allowing diversity in higher education. The students realize that in spite of the progress made over the last 40 years, minorities, women and people with disabilities, still face major barriers in education, business, and employment. They also realize that the prerequisite for change is struggle, and that without struggle there is indeed no progress.

Many people dismiss students because they are generally perceived as not actively engaged in the political process. In addition, others suggest that they are unwilling to sacrifice and do the things necessary for group liberation. The enlightened students I encountered at the Supreme Court represented America at its best. They represented America and its great diversity.

Their message was clear, strong, and compelling. It was a message that affirmative action is a powerful, proven, and effective tool for removing the remnants of prejudice and bias. It was a message that affirmative action capitalizes on the strength of our diversity and opens the doors for opportunities. I am proud of the students who sacrificed their sleep, their classroom work, to brave the cold weather and proclaim that affirmative action is relevant and needed in higher education. They realized that education is the great equalizer. It is the ladder to success.

The thousands of students who demonstrated came by train, car, bus and many on foot. The impressive gathering of college and high school students was reminiscent of some of the activities done to achieve fairness and equalities throughout the 1960's. Of course, the challenge for all of us now is to keep the momentum and the pressure on.