Abraham on their 100th anniversary. And as they often say in the opening prayer of a Jewish mass, ''Ma Tovu Ohalecha, Mishknotecha'' or ''How goodly are thy tents, thy dwelling places.''

APPOINTMENT OF CONFEREES ON H.R. 2, JOBS AND GROWTH RECONCILIATION TAX ACT OF 2003

SPEECH OF

HON. SUE W. KELLY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, May 22, 2003

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, as chair of the House Financial Services Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I would like to spend a moment discussing the Economic Growth Package and the work that was done by Chairman THOMAS, other members of the Ways and Means Committee, the Republican Leadership and, of course, the White House. The subcommittee I chair was very interested in several aspects of the legislation and we conducted a hearing earlier this year to determine the extent of the impact of the dividend exclusion. The final product that has passed the House of Representatives will go a long way towards giving sectors of our economy the shot in the arm so necessary.

Numerous business groups have been part of the process and I want to acknowledge the testimony of the National Association of Home Builders before my subcommittee on the president's package and their contribution in supporting the overall effort. I am also aware and want to acknowledge the effort of the home builders in working with the administration in the same manner, particularly the Department of Treasury. I very much appreciate their expertise, economic research and analysis to ensure that no part of the legislation had any unintended consequences for low income housing. As a result, we are now able to pursue an economic stimulus plan that is good for all segments of the housing industry and all segments of the economy of these United States.

For the past two years, home building has been a leader in moving America's economy forward. Where many sectors of the economy have faltered, housing has remained a source of strength. Enactment of the economic stimulus package that is about to emerge from this Congress will ensure that housing continues to create the jobs and stimulate the economic growth that are needed to restore full prosperity for our nation's families and businesses.

CONDEMNING NEPAL'S FORCED EXPULSION OF TIBETANS TO CHINA

HON. JAMES A. LEACH

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. LEACH. Mr. Speaker, on May 31st in Kathmandu the Government of Nepal turned over to senior diplomatic representatives of the People's Republic of China 18 Tibetan asylum seekers, including several minors, to be forcibly repatriated to China. In so doing, the Nepalese authorities flouted both international law and repeated strong representations by the United States and other concerned parties. This action also reversed longstanding Nepalese tolerance toward Tibetan asylum seekers, which in the past has allowed access to ''persons of concern'' by local officials of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

According to the Department of State, our Embassy in Kathmandu has informed the Nepalese Government at the highest levels about this specific incident. The status of Tibetan refugees in Nepal is a long-standing issue of concern to both the Executive Branch and Congress, and is often raised by American officials in Kathmandu. In addition, senior U.S. officials recently met with Nepalese and Chinese officials to raise our strong concerns about this issue.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has stated that the forcible return of the 18 Tibetans to China without a status determination constituted refoulement (forced return), which is in fundamental contravention of well-accepted international norms. Congress joins with the Executive Branch in condemning the behavior of the Government of Nepal and senior Chinese diplomats for their role in forcibly returning the asylum seekers to China. In the strongest terms, we urge Nepal to cease this inhumane conduct and return to its previous long-term practice of allowing Tibetans to seek protection in Nepal for onward resettlement.

IN MEMORY OF LANCE CORPORAL MATTHEW SMITH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, it is with equal amounts of profound pride and sympathy that I come to the floor this morning. I rise to honor a noble American . . . Lance Corporal Matthew R. Smith, a Marine Corps reservist from Anderson IN, who was killed Saturday, May 10, while serving his country in Kuwait. Lance Corporal Smith lost his life in a vehicle collision while running supply missions between Iraq and Kuwait. Lance Cpl. Smith was just 20 years old. He is survived by his father David, his mother Patricia, and by his brother Mason.

Lance Corporal Smith was assigned to Detachment 1, Communications Company, Headquarters and Service Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group based in Peru, IN, an outfit he had served selflessly and courageously since enlisting in June of 2001.

Lance Corporal Smith's father David said that his son had an intense love for the Corps, and his fellow Marines. Mr. Smith told the Indianapolis Star, ''How many people on this Earth die doing the job they know they were put here to do.'' His Aunt Vicki added, ''He died doing what he believed in.''

Lance Corporal Smith was a student of history—he was enrolled at Indiana University before he was called to active duty—an interest he vigorously embraced in his free time, in the classroom, and as a member of the Social Studies Academic Team. His school teachers recall a young man often expressing blunt, straight-forward and in-your-face viewpoints which they always found to be well researched and sophisticated for his age. He was also an accomplished athlete; he spent time during high school playing rugby and was active in other outdoor activities.

Mr. Speaker, Lance Corporal Smith joins the 137 other proud and distinguished Americans who have made the ultimate sacrifice—these wonderful men and women gave their lives in defense of freedom, a freedom we all too often take for granted.

May God bless the family of Lance Corporal Smith during this difficult time, and may they experience the prayers and thanks of a grateful nation. May they rest upon the promise of Jeremiah 31:13, ''I will turn their mourning into gladness. I will give them comfort and joy instead of sorrow.''

PAUL WOLFOWITZ SHOULD LEARN FROM THE TURKISH MILITARY ABOUT DEMOCRACY

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, before we went on recess, I came to the floor of the House to express my deep dismay at the disregard for fundamental democratic principles shown by Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz. In an interview he gave on May 2 aimed for broadcast in Turkey, Secretary Wolfowitz repeatedly criticized the Turkish military for not having intervened in parliamentary deliberations with sufficient strength when the question of Turkish participation in the war in Iraq came up. I believed then and now that this appalling call on the Turkish military to violate fundamental democratic norms was particularly disturbing because there are few things more important to the stability of the world than the effort now going on in Turkey to show that people who are religious Muslims can preside over a fully democratic regime. While many of us would like to hope that this could be taken for granted, the recent history of the Middle East argues to the contrary and that is why supporting the Turkish government in its effort to implement democracy is so important.

Secretary Wolfowitz in his interview criticized the Turkish military for not speaking out to influence the Parliament, and when the interviewer pointed out to him that the Turkish military had in fact done that, he repeated his criticism by saying that they had not done it with enough strength. Telling a military in a democratic government that it should more strongly be expressing its views to elected officials demonstrates a misunderstanding of democracy in general, and a particular insensitivity to the implications of such statements in a country—Turkey—where there had been a history of military coup that many are trying to overcome.

Subsequent to my comments, I learned of a statement made by General Hilmi Ozkok, Chief of the Turkish General Staff, in which he responded to those who had been critical of the military. While his comments pre-date the interview given by Mr. Wolfowitz, this reads as if he were in part responding to the Deputy Secretary, and in fact he may have been doing so because it would not surprise me if Mr. Wolfowitz had made these criticisms directly to the Turkish military before going public with them.

The contrast between the interview with Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz—the relevant portions of which I am going to re-print here—and the statement by General Ozkok is striking, and I am sad to see the head of the Turkish General Staff showing a far better understanding of the role the military should play in a democracy than the Deputy Secretary of Defense of the United States. As General Ozkok points out, ''the military did not think it would be beneficial to share its views on such a critical issue with the press and public. It expressed all its views clearly and openly, however, at the state summit, the National Security Council, and in all of the meetings; which were chaired by our Prime Minister, government members and pertinent organizations and institutions.''

General Ozkok goes on to say ''the Iraqi issue is a vital and multifaceted issue. The military is concerned with the security dimension of this issue and expresses its views and puts forward suggestions on this aspect only. As all of you will appreciate, a decision on such an issue calls for political, economic, social and judiciary dimensions as well. We as the military do not think we know best. Consequently we could have paved the path to misinterpretations if we had issued statements to the public on the security aspects only.''

Most crucially, referring to the MGK—the National Security Council of Turkey which consists of five military and nine civilian members—General Ozkok says ''as you know, the MGK issues recommendations to the government according to the Constitution, not to the TBMM (the Parliament) . . . if the MGK had issued a recommendation at the time the motion was being taken up at the TBMM (the Parliament) and before a decision was made, it would have meant putting the pressure on the TBMM to pass the motion. This would not have been democratic and not in line with the Constitution.''

Mr. Speaker, I wish Paul Wolfowitz understood this fundamental aspect of democracy as well as the head of the Turkish General Staff. I ask that the sadly contrasting views of the role of the military in a democracy expressed by Deputy Secretary Wolfowitz and General Ozkok be printed here.

CNN TURK. Which traditional alliance are you talking about?

WOLFOWITZ. Well I think you know which ones I mean but I think particularly the military. I think for whatever reason they did not play the strong leadership role on that issue that we would have expected. But I think the bigger disappointment has to do with the general failure of the Turkish public reflected also in the government, about what the stakes were in Iraq and that here you have a neighbor with an overwhelmingly Muslim population where the people were suffering under one of the worst dictators in the world. And one would have thought that Muslim solidarity would have led people to say lets help the Americans liberate these people and that isn't what happened.

Okay, that's past. We are now in the present and future. The present and future is there's a spectacular opportunity in Iraq to help these newly liberated people achieve their real potential and I think that's what we need to work on together, Turkey and United States and I think what Turkey needs to do is look into its democratic soul and say, yes we believe in democracy, we believe in democracy for Muslims and Arabs. There's an opportunity now, whatever happened in the last few months, there's an opportunity now to work with the Americans to build that in Iraq. Let's seize that opportunity and do everything we can as Turks to support it.

CNN TURK. But if you make a prognosis of what went wrong earlier, since you mentioned for example the military the traditional institution which had strong connections to the United States did not play a leadership role, so for the future to repair the relationship and bring it back to its original level that means that you have to need a leadership role to be played by those who haven't played it. What kind of a role the military might have because after all the military is not working in Turkey's parliament political parties [inaudible]? And they have been criticized by getting involved in politics.

WOLFOWITZ. I'm not suggesting you get involved in politics at all. I mean, I think, all I'm saying is that when you had an issue of Turkey's national interest and national strategy I think it's perfectly appropriate, especially in your system, for the military to say it was in Turkey's interest to support the United States in that effort.

CNN TURK. Didn't they say that?

WOLFOWITZ. I don't know. My impression is they didn't say it with the kind of strength that would have made a difference. But look lets not dwell too much on the past.

STATEMENT BY GENERAL HILMI OZKOK, CHIEF OF THE TURKISH GENERAL STAFF, IN ANKARA

The first question I will answer to is why the military is silent. I am asked this question very frequently. I would like say openly that the military is not silent; however, the military did not think it would be beneficial to share its views on such a critical issue with the press and public. It expressed all its views clearly and openly, however, at the state summit, the National Security Council [MGK], and at all the other meetings; which were chaired by our prime minister, government members, and pertinent organizations and institutions. In addition, the views of the Turkish Armed Forces [TSK] were expressed clearly to all the heads of state, who visited me or called me on the phone.

It goes without saying that we had our reasons for not issuing statements to the press and public. The Iraqi issue is a vital and multifaceted issue. The military is concerned with the security dimension of this issue and expresses its views and puts forward suggestions on this aspect only. As all of you will appreciate, a decision on such an issue calls for political, economic, social, and judiciary dimensions as well. We, as the military, do not think we know best. Consequently, we could have paved the path to misinterpretations if we had issued statements to the public on the security aspect only. This is the reason for our silence.

I suppose that people are curious as to the stand of the TSK. I have to say openly that the view of the TSK is the same as the government and as reflected in the motion submitted to the Turkish Grand National Assembly [TBMM]. Everything in this process evolved in line with a democratic process and as should be in a modern country. We should get used to this.

Another issue concerns the reason why an advisory decision was not adopted at the last MGK meeting. I did not hear that such a wish was submitted to the MGK. The MGK consists of five military and nine civilian members. The MGK meeting was being held at the time the government motion was taken up at the TBMM and a decision was not made yet. As you know, the MGK issues recommendations to the government according to the Constitution, not to the TBMM. At the MGK meeting on January, the MGK made a clear suggestion as noted in the press statement released on that meeting. If the MGK had issued a recommendation at the time the motion was being taken up at the TBMM and before a decision was made, it would have meant putting the pressure on the TBMM to pass the motion. This would not have been democratic and not in line with the Constitution.

In reply to another issue on the agenda that concerns whether the military feels uneasy about the motion, I say: No. We did not feel uneasy about the motion. This question was raised after a newspaper headline said that the military is uneasy. This report belongs to the journalist and his source, if there is any. As you know, the General Staff denied this report the same day.

When I became the chief of the General Staff, I issued a statement saying clearly that only I can issue statements on behalf of the TSK, and under my orders the deputy chief of the General Staff and the secretary general. It would have been better if this report was not reflected as the view of the TSK.

I have to say openly that the TSK has a single coordinated, thoroughly studied, rational, and collective view.

Another issue concerns turning the Iraqi issue into an issue of yes or no to war. I would like to express my views on this issue. There are reports that 94 percent of the population said no to war. This is wrong, 100 percent of the population said no to war and is against war. The military, in turn, is the one who is the most against the war because it knows the extent of the violence in a war.

It is obvious that we will sustain great damages if a war begins, regardless of Turkey's stand. We will sustain political, economic, and social damages in addition to the damage to our security.

[Second and final part of statement by General Hilmi Ozkok, chief of the Turkish General Staff, in Ankara—recorded on 5 March]

The current reality is that Turkey does not have the possibility or the capability to prevent the war single-handedly. In actual fact, this is the duty of the entire world and not of Turkey alone. The entire world is exerting efforts to prevent this war. We are obliged to continue our efforts in that direction. My wish is that a war will be prevented. We, however, could base our calculations on a supposition, the supposition that a war would not break out. We had to calculate what had to be done in the event of a war. On this issue, our choice was, unfortunately, not between what is good and what is bad, but rather what is bad and worse. We will either remain totally outside the war, or we will assist those waging the war, thus participating in the process. These two modes of action have, for months, been systematically studied in coordination with all the establishment and institutions. Let us reduce the issue to a simple level. If we do not participate at all, we shall still sustain the same damages to be caused by a war. It will, however, be impossible to be compensated for these damages, and we shall not have a right of say in the aftermath of the war. If, however, we choose the second alternative and assist those waging the war, we believe that then part of the damage might be compensated, we shall be able to extend humanitarian aid to the refugees in north Iraq without participating in the war, the war will be shorter because a northern front will be opened, the pain and suffering will be less, we will not be faced with unexpected developments, and the number of dead will be less.

We were going to return after having fulfilled our duty without firing even a single bullet. Had we been forced to intervene in unexpected developments, then those waging

the war would not have opposed this intervention. All these factors and other issues were noted in a document and, to a certain extent, were guaranteed. The economic aid was requested not as the price for our cooperation, but as a partial compensation on the part of those waging the war for the damage we will be sustaining. We were not after a payment for the assistance we would be extending.

The Turkish Grand National Assembly [TBMM] has not endorsed the government motion which was in harmony with this reasoning. The TBMM is the representative of the nation. Sovereignty belongs unconditionally to the people. We only have respect for this decision. My wish is that this mode of action, which we chose in a bid to avoid war, will not force us to take certain actions with those waging the war as the opposition.

As for the question on what will happen now that the motion is not endorsed, may our lofty people be tranquil. The Turkish Republic is a great and strong state with rooted traditions. Every complicated problem has a simple solution. All the authorized organs and institutions are assessing the issue in line with the new situation. A solution that will best safeguard and implement our national interests will certainly be found.

Now I would like to address the leaders in north Iraq. We are the slaves of our geography. We have no other place to go, nor do we have other friends and neighbors to befriend. Our peoples are connected with family ties. We were next to them during their most troubled times. They are well aware of this fact. We never deceived them, we never lied to them. Together we accomplished work that was beneficial for both sides. Those who forget the past will become the bad architects of the future. What has happened now to cause this anti-Turkey atmosphere and all these bitter statements? The Turkish flag is being burned. We are a noble and honorable nation that did not burn the flags of the countries that occupied our country even when we defeated them. I remind them about our right for legitimate defense derived from our national interests, and I hope that they will be moderate and cooperative. Those who prefer to replace peace with clashes will also have to shoulder its outcome and its responsibility.

Esteemed media members, my last word is directed to you. Please make sure that in this critical period, your reports are correct, that your assessments are based on sufficient facts, and that you do not make errors that might damage our national interests. I extend my deepest respect to all of you. I thank you all.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SPECIES PROTECTION AND CONSERVATION OF THE ENVIRONMENT ACT

HON. NICK J. RAHALL II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, June 3, 2003

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, unbeknownst to many Americans lurks a drain on our economy estimated to be greater than $100 billion annually and growing, a drain that goes unchecked and relatively unpublicized because it is not glamorous. Yet, this drain is spreading, continually invading our natural spaces and crowding out our native flora and fauna—in West Virginia, across Appalachia and beyond.

This economic sinkhole is caused by harmful non-native species, also referred to as invasive or nuisance species; an issue which last year catapulted into the public eye with the larger-than-life Northern Snakehead fish in a Maryland pond. But it took a predatory fish that can walk on land, with enough charisma to make it onto David Letterman's late night Top Ten List, to get the American public to finally sit up and take notice.

As Aldo Leopold said: ''A thing is right when it tends to preserve the integrity, stability, and beauty of the biotic community. It is wrong when it tends otherwise.'' This then sums up the silent warfare that is being perpetrated against our economy, our fish and wildlife and our native species of plants—threats by invasive species.

For instance, my home State of West Virginia is relatively small in terms of land mass, but vast in the opportunities it affords anyone who seeks to enjoy wildlife-based outdoor recreation. Yet, this traditional and important sector of my State's economy is under siege by harmful non-native space invaders. According to a report focusing on West Virginia that was just released by the Union of Concerned Scientists:

State and Federal agencies have spent more than $18 million since 1983 to control the European Gypsy Moth in West Virginia, a voracious forest pest that kills trees and dramatically hurts the timber industry;

The balsam fir tree, on the state list of rare plants, is being infected by a small insect, the balsam wooly adelgid, which sucks the tree's sap, thereby killing it. This tree is a unique species for my State, and unless drastic measures are taken, it will be completely wiped out by this insect; and

In a continuation of the plight of the Great Lakes, the zebra mussel has found its way to West Virginia. So far, the zebra mussel is responsible for the Federal listing of five species of mussel in the Ohio River, not to mention economic and public health impacts from its clogging of municipal and industrial water intake pipes and outfalls.

These are only select examples that illustrate the kinds of problems West Virginia faces as the result of invasive species. Unfortunately, there are over 1,000 non-native species in West Virginia, over 300 of which are known to cause environmental and economic damage. In my view, we have an obligation to our natural heritage to protect, conserve and restore native species from these ''space invaders.''

While there are a number of initiatives already in place aimed at combating invasive species, there is a void in existing statutes. No current law is directly designed to protect and conserve our native species from harmful non-native species at the Federal or any other level. There are laws addressing harmful non-native species, but mainly through prevention, including the National Invasive Species Act, the Alien Species Prevention and Enforcement Act, the Federal Plant Pest Act, the Plant Protection Act, and the Federal Noxious Weed Act. Most Federal funding presently goes to protect production agriculture with little allocated to assist States and local communities directly.

For these reasons, today I, along with like-minded Members who are similarly concerned about invasive species, are reintroducing legislation to protect, conserve and restore our native fish, wildlife and their habitats by addressing the threat of harmful invasive species where it matters most—at the local level.

The Species Protection and Conservation of the Environment Act, or SPACE Act, would provide the missing link in existing efforts to combat the destructive invasion of some of our most valuable natural areas by harmful non-native species. Save for a couple of refinements, this bill is identical to legislation reported by the Resources Committee last year. Specifically our legislation would:

Provide grants to States to write State-wide assessments to identify exactly where their native species are being threatened by harmful nonnative species and where cooperative control efforts should be focused;

Encourage the formation of voluntary, locally-based partnerships among Federal land management agencies and non-Federal land and water owners and managers through the competitive Aldo Leopold grant program and encourage the use of innovative technology to control invasive species;

Create a legislative authority for the National Invasive Species Council;

Authorize a Federal-level rapid response capability for an incipient threat; and

Provide funds for long term monitoring of control project sites so that we can learn by experience what strategies and techniques are most effective at controlling harmful non-native species.

The bill I introduce today augments last year's legislation in that it would provide a statutory authorization for the National Invasive Species Council, established in 1999 by Executive Order 13112. In codifying the Council, this legislation seeks to strengthen and make permanent the Federal interagency cooperation necessary for the management of invasive species. The Council is responsible for coordinating the implementation of the National Management Plan—''Meeting the Invasive Species Challenge.''

In the development of this legislation, I have worked with a number of environmental and science organizations including the newly formed National Environmental Coalition on Invasive Species, which includes the American Lands Alliance, the Center for International Environmental Law, Defenders of Wildlife, Environmental Defense, Environmental Law Institute, Great Lakes United, the International Center for Technology Assessment, National Wildlife Federation, National Wildlife Refuge Association, The Nature Conservancy, and the Union of Concerned Scientists. These organizations, along with Audubon, the Aldo Leopold Foundation and American Fisheries Society, are also offering their strong support for my legislation.

I look forward to working with all interested parties as well as the members of the Resources Committee to facilitate the enactment of this important legislation.