

medical clinics and hospitals have been reopened. An army and more effective police force have been rebuilt. A fair judicial system has been constituted. And an interim constitution has been signed—laying the foundation for democratic elections.

The ability to transfer authority to a new sovereign Iraq only 14 months after liberation efforts began is a major step forward for freedom. We should be proud of our young servicemen and women and civilian contractors in Iraq for their work in liberating 25 million Iraqis from the grip of Saddam Hussein's regime and rebuilding a country that was in disrepair for nearly two decades. America appreciates their sacrifice and commitment to the security of our Nation. Those who have made the ultimate sacrifice to protect our freedom and defend America will never be forgotten.

Mr. Speaker, July 1, 2004 will be the dawn of a new day for the men, women and children of Iraq. This day will not mean an end to terrorist violence, but it will be a radical departure from the decades of governmental and personal abuse that existed under Saddam's ruthless regime.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to oppose H. Res. 691. My position is consistent with my opposition to our invasion of Iraq and my belief that any congratulations we extend to the interim government are muted by the reality of ongoing death and mayhem that occur daily in Iraq.

Additionally, I want to express my condolences to all of the victims of our invasion into Iraq. My heart is heavy for the Iraqi families that have suffered permanent losses as a result of the war and continuing insurgency efforts. Furthermore, I mourn for the families of U.S. and foreign military personnel; valiant soldiers, men and women, who have sacrificed their lives to promote the reality of freedom for Iraqis.

However, Mr. Speaker, I disagree with many of the notions put forward in the resolution because I believe some of them are simplistic, naive and wrong. While it is true that Iraqis have participated in elections, widespread antagonisms persist and violent behavior continues to be directed at our forces. Our soldiers are imperiled because of how and why they entered Iraq, in addition to their continued presence in Iraq. Second, the notion that Iraq is more secure now than before is also wrong. While it is true that the government of Saddam Hussein was toppled, Iraq continues to be a besieged nation. Violence is prevalent, and the victims of the bombings and assassinations are largely innocent Iraqis.

I appreciate the spirit in which the Resolution was drafted, but I strongly disagree with the underlying premise that we are celebrating the Iraqi freedom. Iraqis will not be free until they are capable of installing a representative government devoid of foreign intervention. Iraqis will not be free until they overcome the challenges of enfranchising diverse segments of its diverse population of Kurds, Sunnis and Shiites into a form of democracy that suits their needs and not the designs of the United States.

Finally, while June 30, 2004 is a monumental date for the people of Iraq. We should not delude ourselves, nor mislead the people of Iraq that in the near term, democracy will bear the fruit of liberty and peace that they have been promised. As a mother and grandmother who worries about the future of our

Nation and the world, I am ruled by my conscience, and my conscience dictates that I cast a "no" vote on H. Res. 691.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, June 23, 2004, the resolution is considered read for amendment and the previous question is ordered.

The question is on the resolution. The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE WESTERN BALKANS—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 108-196)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, without objection, referred to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of The United States:*

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the FEDERAL REGISTER and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice, stating that the Western Balkans emergency is to continue in effect beyond June 26, 2004, to the *Federal Register* for publication. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on June 24, 2003, 68 Fed. Reg. 37389.

The crisis constituted by the actions of persons engaged in, or assisting, sponsoring, or supporting, (i) extremist violence in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, and elsewhere in the Western Balkans region, or (ii) acts obstructing implementation of the Dayton Accords in Bosnia or United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 of June 10, 1999, in Kosovo, that led to the declaration of a national emergency on June 26, 2001, has not been resolved. Subsequent to the declaration of the national emergency, acts obstructing implementation of the Ohrid Framework Agreement of 2001 in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, have also become a concern. All of these actions are hostile to U.S. interests and pose a continuing un-

usual and extraordinary threat to the national security and foreign policy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to the Western Balkans and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, June 24, 2004.

SPENDING CONTROL ACT OF 2004

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 692 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 4663.

The Chair designates the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) as Chairman of the Committee of the Whole, and requests the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) to assume the chair temporarily.

□ 1558

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 4663) to amend part C of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 to establish discretionary spending limits and a pay-as-you-go requirement for mandatory spending, with Mr. BOOZMAN (Chairman pro tempore) in the Chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE) and the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUSSLE).

Mr. NUSSLE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, the most important job of the House Committee on the Budget which I have the honor of being the Chair is really twofold. First is to put together and pass in the House a responsible, realistic blueprint to guide the spending and revenue decisions for the Federal Government. We did that. We completed a budget over a month ago when this Chamber adopted the conference report for the budget for fiscal year 2005. Getting a budget is difficult enough. Now comes the second part of the job and that is to ensure that you stick to it. Getting the budget means that you have been able to get a majority of Members to agree on the levels for spending, on the levels for revenues and to bring together those very different ideas because, trust me, there is no such thing as a perfect budget by any stretch of the imagination. My good friend from Florida reminds me of that every once in a while.

□ 1600

But we do get a document that tries to mold and shape the hopes and