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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DELAY).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 6, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable TOM DELAY to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Reverend L.H. Hardwick, Jr., Pastor, Christ Church, Nashville, TN, offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, whose law kindles human conscience and sustains human government, we acknowledge our Nation to be yet sustained by those precepts our Founders committed us to keep. Strengthen, we pray, the foundations of this land. Save us from any hardness of heart or from the cynical disregard for Your ways. Deliver us, O Lord, from petty dissension. Increase our civility. Cultivate in us all that is good, beautiful, and true.

Grant to our leaders a tender spirit toward the people whose trust they hold and whose futures they influence. Give them forbearance and grace one toward another, that they may faithfully discern the common good for our country.

We ask You now to hold these, the Members of the United States Congress, in Your holy and mighty hand. May they do justly, love mercy, and walk humbly with their God. We confidently ask these things in the name of our Lord, Jesus Christ. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. COOPER) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. COOPER led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

INTRODUCTION OF GUEST PASTOR, THE REVEREND L.H. HARDWICK, JR.

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

Mr. COOPER. Mr. Speaker, I am honored today to introduce as our guest chaplain my good friend Reverend L.H. Hardwick, Jr., the senior pastor of Christ Church in Nashville, TN.

Reverend Hardwick was born and raised in Nashville, and he attended the Freewill Baptist Bible College before he was called to the ministry at the remarkably young age of 18. Dr. Hardwick has held honorary doctoral degrees from the Moody Theological Seminary and Emmanuel Bible College. Reverend Hardwick is truly remarkable and has dedicated over 54 years of faithful service to his congregation as pastor of Christ Church.

The reverend has tirelessly led Christ Church through three moves due to growth, and now the church has over 3,500 members and is listed as one of the fastest growing congregations in America.

A dedicated community servant as well as pastor, Pastor Hardwick has been appointed by the Governor of Tennessee to serve 8 years on the Board of Trustees of the State Mental Health Association. He is a member of the Metro Pastors Association, 12 of Nashville's most distinguished ministers. He has been a key part of the board of Operation Andrew, which is the outreach board for Pastor Billy Graham and his ministry in uniting the body of Christ in Middle Tennessee. This year, Pastor Hardwick and his wife, Montelle, are celebrating their 55th year of marriage.

So, Mr. Speaker, it is again an honor and privilege to be able to welcome such a distinguished individual to the U.S. House of Representatives. Pastor L.H. Hardwick, Jr., is truly a fine man and did a wonderful job in delivering our opening prayer.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair desires to make an announcement.

After consultation among the Speaker, the majority and minority leaders, the Chair announces that during the joint meeting to hear an address by His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, only the doors immediately opposite the Speaker and those on his right and left will be open.

No one will be allowed on the floor of the House who does not have the privilege of the floor of the House.

Due to the large attendance that is anticipated, the Chair feels the rule regarding the privilege of the floor must be strictly adhered to.

Children of Members will not be permitted on the floor, and the cooperation of all Members is requested.

The practice of reserving seats prior to the joint meeting by placard will

not be allowed. Members may reserve their seat by physical presence only following the security sweep of the Chamber.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the House will stand in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 6 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

During the recess, beginning at about 10:45 a.m., the following proceedings were had:

□ 1045

JOINT MEETING OF THE HOUSE AND SENATE TO HEAR AN ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

The Speaker pro tempore (Mr. DELAY) presided.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms, Bill Sims, announced the Vice President and Members of the U.S. Senate who entered the Hall of the House of Representatives, the Vice President taking the chair at the right of the Speaker pro tempore, and the Members of the Senate the seats reserved for them.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair appoints as member of the committee on the part of the House to escort His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko into the Chamber:

The gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT);

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE);

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. KINGSTON);

The gentleman from California (Mr. DOOLITTLE);

The gentleman from California (Mr. GALLEGLY);

The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI);

The gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER);

The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ);

The gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS);

The gentlewoman from California (Ms. HARMAN); and

The gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

The VICE PRESIDENT. The President of the Senate, at the direction of that body, appoints the following Senators as a committee on the part of the Senate to escort His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko into the Chamber:

The Senator from Tennessee (Mr. FRIST);

The Senator from Kentucky (Mr. MCCONNELL);

The Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS);

The Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. SANTORUM);

The Senator from Texas (Mrs. HUTCHISON);

The Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL);

The Senator from North Carolina (Mrs. DOLE);

The Senator from Indiana (Mr. LUGAR);

The Senator from Nevada (Mr. REID);

The Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN);

The Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW); and

The Senator from New York (Mrs. CLINTON).

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps, the Honorable Jesse Bibiano Marehalau, Ambassador of Micronesia.

The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seat reserved for him.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the Cabinet of the President of the United States.

The Members of the Cabinet of the President of the United States entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and took the seats reserved for them in front of the Speaker's rostrum.

At 11 o'clock and 5 minutes a.m., the Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms announced the President of Ukraine, His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko.

The President of Ukraine, escorted by the committee of Senators and Representatives, entered the Hall of the House of Representatives and stood at the Clerk's desk.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members of the Congress, it is my great privilege and I deem it a high honor and a personal pleasure to present to you His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

[Applause, the Members rising.]

ADDRESS BY HIS EXCELLENCY VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO, PRESIDENT OF UKRAINE

(The following address was delivered in Ukrainian, with a simultaneous translation in English.)

President YUSHCHENKO. Mr. Speaker and Mr. President, honorable Senators and House Members, ladies and gentlemen, on the wall of this great building, there is the Latin phrase E Pluribus Unum, which means ''Out of many, one.'' This motto reminds the world about the American Revolution, the starting point of the modern world's history of liberty.

My road here went through the orange-colored Independence Square that became known as Maidan. Millions of people standing there continuously repeated it: ''Together we are many, we cannot be defeated.'' This motto of the Ukrainian Revolution is a reminder of the fact that freedom continues to win. Ukraine is opening a new page in the world's chronicle of liberty in the 21st century.

These two mottos have a lot in common. They speak to the strength of our peoples that comes from unity. They speak of the victories of our peoples in their struggles for freedom.

For me the invitation to speak before the Joint Session of Congress is an expression of respect for my Ukrainian nation. I am deeply honored to speak from the rostrum where before me stood so many great leaders: Winston Churchill, Lech Walesa, Nelson Mandela.

I am grateful for the unique opportunity to address this great forum of the American people. I perceive your eagerness to hear the new Ukraine as a token of partnership of the two nations united by shared democratic values.

On behalf of the Ukrainian people, I would like to thank the United States Congress; U.S. Presidents George Walker Bush, Bill Clinton, George Bush; and the entire American Nation for their invariable respect for Ukraine and their support for Ukraine's democracy. I would like to pay special tribute to President Ronald Reagan. He is well remembered in Ukraine for his deep commitment to freedom of Ukraine.

It is of special significance for me to express our gratitude right in this room. It is here that the Ukrainian nation enjoyed support in the hardest times of its history. It is here where the rights of enslaved nations were advocated. It is from this hall where the world came to know the truth about the Holodomor, the genocide famine masterminded to annihilate millions of Ukrainians. It is in this hall that freedom for Ukraine was voiced at a time when the nation was deprived of its own voice. Your words reached us and gave us hope. We heard them because at all times Ukrainians felt related to Americans in the space of freedom. In this space of freedom, no Iron Curtain could divide us.

In your city there is a monument to the Father of the Ukrainian nation, the great poet Taras Shevchenko, whose prophecy of the emergence in Ukraine of its own ''Washington with a new and righteous law'' is enshrined on its pedestal. These verses have a profound and special meaning for all Ukrainians. Shevchenko was inspired by the invincible power of the words: ''That God has bestowed each man on Earth with the right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.'' This shared conviction determines the unity of Americans and Ukrainians, and no distances can obstruct it.

The American example of freedom has always been alluring. All the regimes that have sought to suppress democracy in Ukraine would often endeavor to nurture anti-American phobias, but they would invariably fail. Efforts of our American friends, who in the past so generously shared their democratic experience with us, enhanced the partnership between our two nations. For me, gratitude for these efforts has a personal dimension. It was through one of these programs

that I met my wife, Kateryna Chumachenko Yushchenko, whose love and commitment gave me the strength to withstand the trials of the last months and years. I want to use this special opportunity to thank her for being beside me even at the most dangerous lethal threat I withstood.

Also I want to thank the United States for helping my wife, like millions of Ukrainians brought here by waves of emigration, to learn the values of freedom, and even still with Ukraine in her heart.

Many noble men and women on both sides of the Atlantic have always believed in Ukraine's democratic future. Our common belief came true in the days of the Orange Revolution. We highly appreciated the message sent by your country's leadership before the elections and during the Orange Revolution. It was clear and unambiguous. The U.S. condemned fraud and upheld Ukraine's right to freely elect their government.

This message enhanced our partnership and made it even stronger in the name of democracy. The Orange Revolution gave evidence that Ukraine is an advanced European nation, sharing the great values of the Euro-Atlantic civilization. A civil society has matured in Ukraine; its citizens stand ready to guard their rights and freedoms.

We Ukrainians are a diverse nation. We speak different languages, we practice different religions, and we have different political views. But we all recognize the right of each and every individual to determine his or her faith. This recognition underlines our unity and our strength.

In the days of Revolution, millions of people went out to the Maidan, and not a single act of violence, and I repeat, not a single act of violence was recorded there. Under orange banners, the people shared bread and warmth, not only with friends, but with their opponents as well. Armed with belief and convictions, the people overthrew a corrupt regime. The dirtiest election campaign in history ended with gracious victory and justice. Citizens of Ukraine bowed down to the authority of justice and have jointly assumed the responsibility for their own faith.

Ladies and gentlemen, today Ukraine is looking into the future with great hope and expectation. Free and fair elections have brought to state offices a new generation of politicians not encumbered with the mentality of the Soviet past. These are honest and professional patriots.

We are working as one team in pursuit of one goal, to lead our nation to success in the shortest time possible. We are shaping a new model of behavior of our government. It must safeguard the constitutional rights and freedoms of citizens. We want a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.

The new power will not permit any administrative pressure upon the next year's parliamentary elections. Their fairness and transparency will be secured. The people themselves will not allow it any other way.

The first indicator of change is the ever-growing independence of mass media. We have freed the press from pressures. There are no more secret instructions on what may and what may not be covered. The monopoly of media by two or three oligarchic clans will be halted. We are building a free society, committed to freedom of speech; and we stand ready to defend it.

For me, each case of a journalist's death is a challenge to democracy. We wish to discover the truth about all tragedies that have occurred in the past years. Important evidence in the investigation of Georgiy Gongadze's assassination case has already been obtained. Not only the perpetrators, but those who contracted this crime will be held responsible.

Everybody who was killing politicians and journalists will stand trial, everybody who led the country to the split-up. We have a political will to return Ukrainians faith and belief in justice.

Our top priority task is to secure independence of our judiciary. Our goal is to instill in Ukraine the rule of law. We are building a society where there will be no room for intolerance.

My father, Andre Yushchenko, was a prisoner of Auschwitz, Buchenwald and Dachau. As a child, I heard my father's stories about the hell of concentration camps.

I am a son of a nation that survived the most terrible tragedies of the 20th century, the Holodomor famine that took away 20 million lives of Ukrainians and the Holocaust. The 60th anniversary of the allied victory over Nazism once again calls upon us to fulfill our obligation to root out any expression of anti-Semitism and xenophobia, to secure minority rights and liberties.

I stand ready to fulfill this duty. All citizens of Ukraine, whether they be Ukrainians, Russians, Jewish or anybody else, will live in the society with open opportunities for everyone.

My oath is built on the reminiscences of the common prayer of hundreds of thousands of people in the Maidan. Christians, Jews, Muslims were praying in one prayer, everybody according to their rites, with everybody asking the Creator for one thing: freedom, fairness and blessing for Ukraine and for each of its citizens.

We are building an open economy that encourages innovation, rewards initiative, and assures high social standards. We are beginning an implacable war on corruption, promoting fair competition and forming transparent government-to-business relations. My goal is to place Ukraine in the forefront of prosperous democracies. My vision of the future is Ukraine in a United Europe.

We view accession to the European Union as an opportunity to realize the potential of our country. For us, a European future is a powerful incentive to attain high political, social, and economic standards. We have observed the openness of European doors adding to our neighbors' confidence. It would be unfair to deprive Ukrainians of these opportunities, Ukrainians who so graciously proved their European identity, of this chance.

Ukraine wishes to guarantee security to its citizens, to live in peace and accord with all of its neighbors, whether in the East or in the West. It is only logical that we target our efforts towards the integration to NATO, the alliance that plays an essential role in securing peace and stability across the European continent.

I am convinced that the European and Euro-Atlantic aspirations of Ukraine will not be viewed as an additional hindrance. Ukraine's integration is not a problem, but rather a great new opportunity opening before our civilization.

Ukraine's accession to the European Union will put an end to the division of Europe and provide a new impetus to our civilization. Ukraine's accession to the alliance means a new level of stability across a strategically vital region, stretching from Warsaw to Tbilisi and to Baku.

It is quite natural for me to dwell upon new opportunities while standing at this podium. The United States, like no other country, has always built its policies on the premises of freedom, instead of merely seeking to retain a balance of power and interests. Since the times of President Wilson, this great idealism inspired Europeans, lending them strength and courage for historic changes.

President Reagan advocated these ideals of freedom when, in front of the Berlin Wall, he challenged President Gorbachev, ''Tear down this wall, Mr. President.''

President Bush realized these ideals when he upheld the unification of Germany. President Clinton reminded us of these ideals when he supported the accession into NATO of East European and Baltic countries.

I deeply believe that America is again ready for such historic decisions. I have no doubts that we will receive support for our efforts and our aspirations. We do not want any more walls dividing Europe, and I am certain that neither do you.

Dear friends, the goal of my visit to the U.S. is to establish a new era in Ukraine-U.S. relations. We do not seek only thaws that alter chillings in our relations. We seek a new atmosphere of trust, frankness and partnership. A new Ukraine offers the U.S. a genuinely strategic partnership.

My discussions with President Bush have made it clear that Ukraine is being understood and supported. The time has come to make real steps towards each other. Step one, dear friends, we want to bury the Cold War relics of the Senators and House Members. I am calling upon you to waive the Jackson-Vanik Amendment. Please

make this step towards Ukraine. Please tear down this wall.

Step two, the new Ukrainian Government has on an unprecedented scale opened the Ukrainian market, dramatically reducing customs restrictions. In return, we expect the United States to cancel their restrictions that apply to Ukrainian goods within the U.S. market. I am calling upon you, ladies and gentlemen, please make this step.

Step three, the nonrecognition of a market-based economy status for Ukraine is an anachronism. Ukrainian producers are deprived of the rights enjoyed by their competitors. The time has come to restore fairness. Three days ago, Ukraine has officially requested the U.S. Government to grant market-based economy to Ukraine, and we are requesting that you make it happen by the fall.

Step four, by November of this year, Ukraine must become a WTO member. I would encourage you, in the nearest months, please support our WTO accession.

Step five, we invite the United States to during this year involve all political, financial, and technological resources to erect a new shelter over the destroyed reactor of Chernobyl power plant. I would ask the Congress to support virulent programs.

Step six, we want to see more Ukrainian students learning in U.S. universities over the next 5 years. I would encourage the Congress to finance such educational programs for Ukrainian students.

Step seven, Ukraine has agreed to waive visa regime for United States citizens. I would request the U.S. Government to, in the speediest possible manner, make a reciprocal step in relation to Ukrainian students, politicians, and business people.

Step eight, on behalf of Ukraine, I would ask you to include it in the list of participants of the Millennium Challenge program.

Following these priorities, we can make many others happen. For this, we have necessary possibilities in different areas. We welcome investments in the Ukraine's economy and are committed to creating a most favorable climate for the U.S. and all other international investors. It is in our own mutual interests to achieve as many success stories as possible of American enterprise in Ukraine.

The U.S. and Ukraine have common strategic interests, and we have unity in one thing. Everywhere possible we want to uphold freedom and democracy. We are committed to such a responsibility because we know if somebody is deprived of freedom, this freedom has been taken away from us.

Eleven years ago, my country voluntarily gave up the world's third largest nuclear arsenal. Ukraine made the world a safer place to live. Time has shown that this decision has not always met the kind of appreciation it deserved. Nevertheless, we remain committed to jointly counter the threats posed by the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, missile and nuclear technologies.

Ukraine will be a reliable partner to the U.S. in fighting terrorism. I am sure we will be able to overcome it and not only by power of force. It is our obligation to eradicate the sources of terrorism. We can defeat the ideology of hatred that nourishes it. I am fully convinced that the time will come when in the dictionary of world languages, the term ''terrorism'' will be followed by the footnote, ''archaic term.'' The same footnote, I am sure, will also accompany other shameful phenomena like racism, discrimination, and slavery.

We are witnessing the first successes of freedom in Iraq where Ukrainian soldiers are risking their lives shoulder to shoulder with their American counterparts. Ukraine is eager to continue its support to a democratically elected Iraqi Government in addressing its economic and security challenges.

The array of subjects for our dialogue is endless, but I would prefer to see the leading role played not by governmental, but by public diplomacy. Before my departure for the U.S., I received a letter from a group of respectable Ukrainian and American organizations proposing concrete and relevant subjects for expanding our dialogue. These initiatives I am sure are worthy of being supported.

Ladies and gentlemen, John Fitzgerald Kennedy took an oath before the whole world by saying, ''We shall pay any price, bear any burden, meet any hardship, support any friend, oppose any foe, to assure the survival and the success of liberty.'' I am subscribing to these words on behalf of Ukraine. This authority was given to me by my fellow countrymen who endured days and nights in bitter cold and snow on the Maidan. Ukraine is free and will always remain free. Citizens of Ukraine gained their freedom due to their courage and support of friends and proponents of democracy across the world.

In these days I want to recall one of them, Pope John Paul II, who said, ''Following the path of truth is sometimes difficult, but never impossible.''

We have embarked upon this road and will never step away from it. Together we are many, and together we are not defeated. God bless America. God protect Ukraine.

Thank you.

[Applause, Members rising.]

At 11 o'clock and 40 minutes a.m., His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, the President of Ukraine, accompanied by the committee of escort, retired from the Hall of the House of Representatives.

The Assistant to the Sergeant at Arms escorted the invited guests from the Chamber in the following order:

The Members of the President's Cabinet; The Acting Dean of the Diplomatic Corps.

JOINT MEETING DISSOLVED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The purpose of the joint meeting having been completed, the Chair declares the joint meeting of the two Houses now dissolved.

Accordingly, at 11 o'clock and 44 minutes a.m., the joint meeting of the two Houses was dissolved.

The Members of the Senate retired to their Chamber.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The House will continue in recess until approximately 12:15 p.m.

□ 1215

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN) at 12 o'clock and 15 minutes p.m.

PRINTING OF PROCEEDINGS HAD DURING RECESS

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the proceedings had during the recess be printed in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain ten 1-minute speeches per side.

DEERE-HITACHI CONSTRUCTION MACHINERY CORPORATION

(Ms. FOXX asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, recently I had the opportunity to visit Deere-Hitachi Construction Machinery Corporation in North Carolina's Fifth District. This plant manufactures hydraulic excavators which are used widely in the construction industry as earthmoving and utility-type tracked digging machines.

The company is a joint venture between John Deere and Hitachi Construction Machinery located in Tokyo, Japan. The company, formed in 1988, is a rare mix of American and Japanese cultures. This combination manifests itself in an extraordinary safety, quality, and delivery record.

As a result, Hitachi has grown significantly in the past 3 years. Production volumes of both John Deere and Hitachi-brand models have risen to over 6,000 units. This is remarkable given the machines are 12 to 33 tons in

operating weight. In addition, employment in the facility has doubled in size to over 750 direct employees.

A portion of this growth has been fueled by the localization of models that were formerly produced in Asia to Kernersville, North Carolina. This has had a positive impact on the local economy in North Carolina, as well as nationally. I am honored to have a facility such as Deere-Hitachi located in my district.

PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES IN SOCIAL SECURITY CONVERSATIONS

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President of the United States, in a speech at West Virginia University at Parkersburg, said with respect to Social Security, ''There is no trust fund, just IOUs.'' On February 16, 2005, at a meeting in Portsmouth, New Hampshire, the President again made the claim that there is not a Social Security trust.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the people of this country have a right to know that the money that is put into that Social Security trust fund is safe; and the President, with his remarks, has put that in question and in doubt.

Two weeks ago, the Social Security Administration issued a report saying that all of the money there is backed by the full faith and credit of the United States. Do we no longer have faith in our country's financial obligations?

This is the time for Congress to step forward and back H. Resolution 170 that demands the President transmit information to the House backing up his claim that there is no trust fund.

THE MAN WHO WOULD NOT DIE

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

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, as a member of the House Committee on International Relations, I rise to express a word of humble welcome to one of freedom's men in the former Soviet Union, President Viktor Yushchenko of Ukraine, who addressed a joint session of Congress just moments ago.

Like the democracy's Orange Revolution that he personifies, President Yushchenko is the man who would not die. He survived the toxic machinations of those who see freedom as a threat. And those wicked men were right: freedom in the Ukraine and their brave President are a threat to every form of tyranny against the minds of men and women in that ancient land.

It is all together fitting that the capital of democracy on planet Earth welcomed one of its first 21st century heroes to these hallowed halls.

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE UNC TAR HEELS

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

Mr. MCINTYRE. Mr. Speaker, 4 weeks ago this coming Friday, in this very well, there was a group of young men that came from the Old Well in Chapel Hill to tour these hallowed halls of Congress. On Monday night, those young men won the National Basketball Championship, the University of North Carolina Tar Heels.

They came here and spent time with us and looked at this wonderful place and performed like champions Monday night. As a double graduate of the University of North Carolina myself, but more importantly I was there in St. Louis with my two sons who are currently students at UNC and who know several of the players, we want to extend from the halls of Congress our congratulations to the University of North Carolina Tar Heels and wish them Godspeed.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. HENSARLING. Mr. Speaker, Social Security has been a vital program for America's retirees for many years. Unfortunately, it is a system that was designed in 1935, not 2005.

I have a personal stake in Social Security. My parents are in their 70s. They depend upon Social Security as part of their retirement. But I am also the father of two small children, and I owe them no less retirement security tomorrow than my parents enjoy today.

Unfortunately, fewer workers, more retirees, and longer life spans will bankrupt Social Security. We must work together to save the system, which can be done without changing benefits or raising taxes on current and near retirees. Instead, we can give younger workers the opportunity to voluntarily invest some of their payroll taxes in personal retirement accounts that they can own, which will grow over time and which Washington cannot take away.

By allowing them to do this and build their own nest eggs, and by protecting the Social Security surpluses from being raided in Washington, we can keep the promise of Social Security for the next generation of Americans.

RAIDING OF SOCIAL SECURITY TRUST FUND

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the President visited the Bureau of Public Debt and promptly announced ''There is no Social Security trust fund, just a bunch of IOUs stacked in an old filing cabinet.''

Well, that may be an old filing cabinet to you, Mr. President; but to middle-class Americans that is their lifetime retirement savings. It may be filled with just IOUs to you, but when you borrowed $700 billion from that trust fund, it was a very opportune filing cabinet because you stuck your hand in there and took $700 billion from the Social Security trust fund to use. It was not an old filing cabinet. It was not just a bunch of IOUs.

Those are the taxes that Americans put away; the resources they put away for their life savings, and that is how every President and every Congress has treated it. It is the obligation of this Congress to strengthen Social Security, not to weaken it.

For middle-class Americans and for everybody who is saving for their retirement, it is high time we begin to strengthen Social Security by paying back the $700 billion you have borrowed from it. And if you want to talk about IOUs, the IOUs we have run up, which is nearly $2 trillion in debt that now Communist China and Japan own and are our bankers, that would be a good place to see where the IOUs are.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to address their remarks to the Chair.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION

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

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, it is no wonder that during my recent town hall meetings Georgians made their feelings on illegal immigration crystal clear. Look at the statistics. The illegal alien population in this country has now reached close to 11 million, and that is only what the government will admit. Georgia ranks in the top 10, with nearly one quarter million illegal aliens living in our State. This is not a problem we can simply ignore.

It is time to strengthen our border security and to enforce the law. Illegal aliens cost our society greatly. Our public education system and our health care system are choking. The costs are spiraling upward, and American taxpayers are paying the bills.

Moreover, Mr. Speaker, allowing illegal aliens to stay here is a slap in the face to those who followed the law, waited in line, and entered this country legally. My constituents are right, and we must do more.

This year the House has passed the REAL ID Act, which is a great start, but it is only a start. I urge the Senate to adopt this act and all my colleagues

to join together to strengthen our immigration laws and their enforcement.

UNC NATIONAL CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, how fitting it is today that the skies are Carolina blue. We are still basking in the glory of the University of North Carolina's crowning as the 2004–2005 NCAA Division I Men's National Basketball Champions.

All season long, the Tar Heels were touted as the most talented players in the country, but some questioned whether the team could win it all. Monday night they proved any remaining doubters wrong. After playing 40 minutes of inspired basketball, the Tar Heels showed that they have the heart, the team spirit, and the determination of true champions.

North Carolina established itself long ago as one of the elite programs in college basketball history. But with their fourth national chairmanship win on Monday, the Tar Heels proved they are back among today's elite.

We hope and expect this year's run will be the first of many under native son Coach Roy Williams, who led the Tar Heels back to victory in just his second year back at his alma mater.

The victory was especially sweet for North Carolina's three seniors, who have helped lead an impressive comeback from their freshmen year challenges to the glory of their final game.

Three ACC schools, Mr. Speaker, are located entirely or partly in North Carolina's Fourth District, so I am no stranger to divided loyalties! But last night's victory is something all North Carolinians can feel proud of. That include this proud alumnus, and my staffers, who are still radiating Carolina blue, thanks to an inspirational team who has made us all proud. Go Heels!

ANSWERING CONSTITUENTS' CALLS TO STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, throughout the Second District of South Carolina, people are eager to discuss how to improve our Social Security System. After conducting over 20 town hall meetings with constituents of all ages about this issue, I am more convinced than ever we need to strengthen Social Security.

At the University of South Carolina and Claflin University, college students who are already paying into the system said they want the option of personal retirement accounts, which they can currently calculate at www.heritage.org.

While senior citizens on Hilton Head Island understand that their benefits are secure, they are concerned their children and grandchildren will not receive the money they contribute. And baby boomers of Bluffton wish they had been offered the opportunity to participate in personal retirement accounts years ago.

Their opinions and suggestions reemphasize the urgent need for Congress to strengthen Social Security now, protecting persons over 55 in the system and providing retirement accounts for younger workers.

In conclusion, God protect Ukraine, God bless our troops, and we will never forget September 11.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, this year, the United States Government will collect $170 billion more in social security taxes than it needs to pay current benefits. That is $300,000 a minute from the working men and women and small businesses of America. And that money is being used to buy Treasury bonds. It is being put away under the premise that we are creating a trust fund. The full faith and credit of the United States Government backs those bonds.

Now, the President is questioning the full faith and credit, and he is saying there is no trust fund. Now, if the President is right and there is no trust fund, then we should stop taking $170 billion from the working men and women under a false premise. That would be fraud.

We have to do either one of two things: lower the tax on working men and women in this country and small businesses, or honor the trust fund and the debt of the United States of America. I think there is only one choice, and that is to honor the debt of the country. But we have a President who is saying he might not.

Who is he going to pay first? The Chinese, the Japanese? Is he going to pay off his Treasury bonds first and then default on the savings of the working people of this country?

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, it is an outrageous and reckless statement of the President of the United States to make, and if the bond markets believed the President, there would be an economic catastrophe today.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered, or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Record votes on postponed questions will be taken later today.

REALTIME INVESTOR PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1077) to improve the access of investors to regulatory records with respect to securities brokers, dealers, and investment advisers, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1077

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Realtime Investor Protection Act''.

SEC. 2. CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY.

The constitutional authority on which this Act rests is the power of Congress to regulate commerce as enumerated in article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution.

SEC. 3. METHOD OF MAINTAINING BROKER/DEALER REGISTRATION, DISCIPLINARY, AND OTHER DATA.

Subsection (i) of section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o–3(i)) is amended to read as follows:

''(i) OBLIGATION TO MAINTAIN REGISTRATION, DISCIPLINARY, AND OTHER DATA.—

''(1) MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES.—A registered securities association shall—

''(A) establish and maintain a system for collecting and retaining registration information;

''(B) establish and maintain a toll-free telephone listing, and a readily accessible electronic or other process, to receive and promptly respond to inquiries regarding—

''(i) registration information on its members and their associated persons; and

''(ii) registration information on the members and their associated persons of any registered national securities exchange that uses the system described in subparagraph (A) for the registration of its members and their associated persons; and

''(C) adopt rules governing the process for making inquiries and the type, scope, and presentation of information to be provided in response to such inquiries in consultation with any registered national securities exchange providing information pursuant to subparagraph (B)(ii).

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—Such an association may charge persons making inquiries, other than individual investors, reasonable fees for responses to such inquiries.

''(3) PROCESS FOR DISPUTED INFORMATION.—Such an association shall adopt rules establishing an administrative process for disputing the accuracy of information provided in response to inquiries under this subsection in consultation with any registered national securities exchange providing information pursuant to paragraph (1)(B)(ii).

''(4) LIMITATION OF LIABILITY.—Such an association, or exchange reporting information to such an association, shall not have any liability to any person for any actions taken or omitted in good faith under this subsection.

''(5) DEFINITION.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'registration information' means the information reported in connection with the registration or licensing of brokers and dealers and their associated persons, including disciplinary actions, regulatory, judicial, and arbitration proceedings,

and other information required by law, or exchange or association rule, and the source and status of such information.''.

SEC. 4. FILING DEPOSITORIES FOR INVESTMENT ADVISERS.

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b–4) is amended—

(1) by striking ''Every investment'' and inserting the following:

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Every investment''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(b) FILING DEPOSITORIES.—The Commission may, by rule, require an investment adviser—

''(1) to file with the Commission any fee, application, report, or notice required to be filed by this title or the rules issued under this title through any entity designated by the Commission for that purpose; and

''(2) to pay the reasonable costs associated with such filing and the establishment and maintenance of the systems required by subsection (c).

''(c) ACCESS TO DISCIPLINARY AND OTHER INFORMATION.—

''(1) MAINTENANCE OF SYSTEM TO RESPOND TO INQUIRIES.—The Commission shall require the entity designated by the Commission under subsection (b)(1) to establish and maintain a toll-free telephone listing, or a readily accessible electronic or other process, to receive and promptly respond to inquiries regarding information (including disciplinary actions, regulatory, judicial, and arbitration proceedings, and other information required by law or rule to be reported) involving investment advisers and persons associated with investment advisers. Such information shall include information on an investment adviser (and the persons associated with that adviser) whether the investment adviser is registered with the Commission under section 203 or regulated solely by a State as described in section 203A.

''(2) RECOVERY OF COSTS.—An entity designated by the Commission under subsection (b)(1) may charge persons making inquiries, other than individual investors, reasonable fees for responses to inquiries made under paragraph (1).

''(3) LIMITATION ON LIABILITY.—An entity designated by the Commission under subsection (b)(1) shall not have any liability to any person for any actions taken or omitted in good faith under this subsection.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 203A of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b–3a) is amended—

(A) by striking subsection (d); and

(B) by redesignating subsection (e) as subsection (d).

(2) Section 306 of the National Securities Markets Improvement Act of 1996 (15 U.S.C. 80b–10, note; Public Law 104–290; 110 Stat. 3439) is repealed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1077 was introduced by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG). It is a noncontroversial bill that will extend the ability of American investors to access information about security dealers.

In 1990, Congress ordered that the National Association of Securities Dealers make this information available to all investors through a toll-free number. Unfortunately, the authorization was not broad enough to extend to Internet access.

H.R. 1077 corrects this problem while maintaining toll-free telephone access to dealer information for those who prefer not to use the Internet. I urge Members to join me in supporting this important legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1077, the Realtime Investor Protection Act. This legislation will make it faster and easier for investors to obtain information about the brokers with whom they entrust their savings and retirement funds.

Since 1990, the NASD has been required to provide investors with registration information on individual brokers by toll-free telephone call or in writing. The system has provided valuable information on a broker's disciplinary history, including customer complaints, that an investor can use in selecting a broker.

While that system has worked well, the NASD would like to be able to provide this information directly to investors over the Internet where the information will be more accessible to investors and can be provided in a manner that will make it easier for investors to understand and compare among brokers.

Of the over 2.5 million plus inquiries the NASD received last year, approximately 96 percent were through the Internet, and less than 4 percent were by telephone. Because of the narrow language of the existing statute, however, NASD has not been able to put disclosure information online. Rather, investors must request and wait for a written disclosure report to be mailed or e-mailed to them.

Under the bill, the NASD would be required to make the information it maintains on brokers available to investors over the Internet, as well as by toll-free telephone call. The NASD would be held harmless for information disclosed or withheld in good faith through the expanded system, just as it is under the current statute for information provided over the telephone or in writing.

Additionally, the bill would require the NASD to establish an administrative process to address disputes over the accuracy of information, ensuring procedural fairness and an opportunity for a broker to correct errors or dispute information provided by a securities firm to the NASD. The bill also authorizes the Securities and Exchange Commission to designate the NASD to provide investor access to registration information concerning investment advisers, providing investors with another potentially valuable source of information when shopping for a financial professional.

Mr. Speaker, given the extent to which consumers have come to rely on the Internet for the information they need in making financial decisions, it is clearly time to make this information more accessible to investors. I urge support for H.R. 1077.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SHADEGG), the author of the bill.

Mr. SHADEGG. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1077, the Realtime Investor Protection Act.

As has already been indicated, this legislation will require the National Association of Securities Dealers to make its databases of complaints against broker-dealers publicly available on a secure Internet site and is relatively straightforward.

Let me explain, however, this is indeed a serious problem. I personally know of individuals whose entire wealth has been wiped out by fraud which could have been detected had these investors taken the time to research the broker-dealer they were dealing with in an appropriate manner.

As has been explained, the current law requires the NASD to maintain BrokerCheck. BrokerCheck is a system through which investors can research their broker-dealer before entrusting with them their hard-earned savings. But in light of Congress' increased focus on retirement security, I believe we should encourage Americans to, in fact, take advantage of BrokerCheck, and even go beyond that and to conduct their own research before making any investment decision.

BrokerCheck, as has been indicated by my colleague on the other side, provides these individuals with this information through a free check that can be accessed either over the Internet or by telephone. But because it is accessed over the Internet and by telephone, and requires that an inquiry be submitted and then a response prepared and that response sent back, the delay in getting this information can be anywhere between 10 minutes and as much as 2 days. This legislation goes at that problem and allows instantaneous access to this kind of information.

Through the current system and through the enhanced system this legislation will authorize, BrokerCheck will gather and make available online on an instantaneous basis, and an investor can discover, whether or not their broker has a criminal record, has been subjected to a regulatory action by the Securities and Exchange Commission, and whether or not their

broker has had consumer complaints filed against them.

While the current system is a good idea, as I indicated, it has not kept pace with technology. Today investors can only access the information by placing a request through the NASD's toll-free phone number or Website, and then must wait for a response. This legislation will update the system by requiring the NASD to make this information available through a secure Website on the Internet so investors can search for this information instantaneously.

NASD statistics bear out the need to utilize the Internet for this purpose. Let me give just a few statistics. Over 4.4 million requests for information were submitted to the BrokerCheck program in 2004, and 99 percent of these were submitted on the Internet through e-mail. Only 1 percent were by telephone. Clearly investors have figured out that the Internet is the proper mechanism for submitting this kind of inquiry and checking out their broker-dealer before they invest. But by having it require now a response from the NASD, rather than having the check be instantaneous, we are exposing investors to that 10-minute to 2-day delay during which they cannot access this information.

By making information accessible online, as H.R. 1077 does, it will be easier for individuals to research their broker-dealer and provide themselves with the information they need before they make an investment decision. I hope my colleagues share my interest in encouraging individuals to become more informed investors, and I urge a yes vote by all of my colleagues on the Realtime Investor Protection Act.

I appreciate the comments of the gentleman on the other side in support of the legislation, the comments of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY), and the support of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Real-time Investor Protection Act and would like to commend my good friend from Arizona, Mr. SHADEGG, for his excellent work on this important legislation.

Informed investors are critical to our Nation's markets. Ready access to complete information about securities firms and brokers is critical to informing investors and building investor confidence. NASD, the self-regulatory organization for broker-dealers, has been providing this information to the public since 1990 when Congress mandated that NASD make relevant portions of the information available to the public without charge through a toll-free telephone number.

At the time, the telephone was the easiest and most convenient solution. However, investors today have embraced the Internet as their preferred means of obtaining information. Therefore NASD seeks to use the Internet to disseminate this information. Investors want and need online access to disclosure of information to assist them in deciding whether to do business with a securities firm or broker.

When Congress mandated that NASD release this information, it accorded NASD immunity form liability for the release of such information to the public—recognizing that the disclosure of key information about securities firms and brokers is a critical part of NASD's regulatory and investor protection mission.

I would like to clarify that under prevailing Federal case law there is no private right of action against NASD for acts or omissions taken pursuant to its regulatory responsibilities under the Federal securities laws. I want to be clear that this legislation is not intended to change existing law pertaining to private rights of action under those laws. In addition, courts have historically granted NASD absolute immunity for its regulatory actions. This legislation is not intended to limit NASD's immunity for regulatory actions.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this bipartisan investor protection bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1077, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

INCREASED CAPITAL ACCESS FOR GROWING BUSINESS ACT

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 436) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 436

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act''.

SEC. 2. AMENDMENTS TO THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.

(a) DEFINITION OF ELIGIBLE PORTFOLIO COMPANY.—Section 2(a)(46)(C) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–2(a)(46)(C)) is amended—

(1) by striking clause (i) and inserting the following:

''(i) it does not have any class of equity securities listed for trading on a national securities exchange or traded through the facilities of a national securities association as described in Section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934;'';

(2) by striking ''or'' at the end of clause (iii);

(3) by redesignating clause (iv) as clause (v); and

(4) by inserting after clause (iii) the following new clause:

''(iv) the aggregate value of its outstanding publicly traded equity securities is not more than $250,000,000, except that the Commission may adjust such amounts by rule, regulation, or order to reflect changes in one or more generally accepted indices or other indicators for small business, consistent with the public interest, the protection of investors, and the purposes fairly intended by the policy and provisions of this title; or''.

(b) ASSETS OF BUSINESS DEVELOPMENT COMPANIES.—Section 55(a)(1) of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–55(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''securities with respect to which a member of a national securities exchange, broker, or dealer may extend or maintain credit to or for a customer pursuant to rules or regulations adopted by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System under Section 7 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934'' and inserting the following: ''equity securities listed for trading on a national securities exchange or traded through the facilities of a national securities association as described in Section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934''; and

(2) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (A), by inserting ''or'' after the semicolon at the end of subparagraph (B), and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) from the issuer of such securities, which issuer is described in section 2(a)(46)(A) and (B) but is not an eligible portfolio company because the aggregate value of its outstanding publicly traded equity securities is more than $250,000,000 but not more than $500,000,000, if such securities represent not more than 10 percent of the total assets of the business development company invested in securities described in paragraphs (1) through (6) of this section;''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from New York?

There was no objection.

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Speaker very much for allowing me to bring this important legislation to the floor for consideration today. I also thank the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) for working with me on this important issue that will help small businesses.

Small businesses are the backbone of our economy, and the Congress must ensure that they have every opportunity to succeed. It is crucial that small businesses have sufficient access to capital in order to create jobs and ensure a strong and growing economy.

Today the legislation before us, the Increased Capital Access For Growing Business Act, will ensure that small businesses have better access to capital by modernizing outdated security laws.

In 1980, Congress created business development companies to encourage investments in small, developing and financially troubled businesses known as ''eligible portfolio companies.'' BDCs

are publicly traded investment companies that invest in both public and private companies and generate an injection of capital for businesses. BDCs have provided significant benefits to the economy, including the opportunity for the public to invest in small, developing companies while also supplying much-needed financing.

The legislation we are considering today makes important changes to the securities laws that ensure the viability of BDCs and expands the businesses these entities are able to assist. In 1980, BDCs were able to invest in approximately 66 percent of the 12,000 publicly held operating companies. Since that time, however, the Federal Reserve has amended its margin rules on several occasions, resulting in a clear decrease in the number of eligible portfolio companies.

In order to correct these unintended consequences, this legislation amends the definition of an eligible portfolio company to enable the BDCs to have a greater flexibility in selecting appropriate investments. To accomplish this goal, the legislation permits BDCs to provide capital to a larger number of companies by increasing the size of companies that BDCs can invest in to reflect changes in the market since the creation of the act.

The legislation also includes specific authority for the Securities and Exchange Commission to modify dollar thresholds in the future. This would enable the SEC to review these thresholds on a regular basis and consider changes that are in the interest of the companies trying to access capital and shareholders of BDCs. Small and developing businesses should be able to devote their energies towards their customers growing their business, and not worrying about their access to capital.

As BDCs are able to provide financing to additional small and medium-sized businesses, the economy will experience greater growth and much more job creation.

I also would like to commend the chairman of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY), and the ranking member, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), for recognizing the importance and urgency of this legislation and agreeing to move it quickly.

□ 1245

This is a no-cost commonsense piece of legislation that will help small businesses and increase capital formation. That is a good, healthy economic structure for all. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important legislation for investors and small businesses.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 436, the Increased Capital Access For Growing Businesses Act. I want to commend the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) for bringing this matter to the committee's attention, as well as the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK) for their support in expediting the consideration of this measure. With this legislation, we have an excellent opportunity to help more small businesses access capital so that they can expand and grow their businesses.

Business development companies, or BDCs, are unique investment companies authorized by the 1980 amendments to the Investment Company Act. They are publicly traded companies that invest primarily in smaller companies. Since 1980, BDCs have proven to be a valuable and effective source of funding for small companies, allowing growing companies access to both capital and managerial expertise.

In 1980 when BDCs were first authorized by Congress, about two-thirds of all publicly held companies were eligible for BDC investment. While the securities and financial services industries evolved during the 1990s, neither Congress nor the SEC acted to keep the BDC statute current. As a result, the number of public companies in which BDCs could invest has been reduced drastically, effectively eliminating the option of BDC investment for many small public companies.

It is important to understand that just because a firm has gone public does not mean that it can access the financing necessary for growing and expanding. Many small companies that went public in the late 1990s, for instance, found themselves unable to access the public markets for additional capital after the market bubble burst. These smaller, illiquid company stocks could benefit greatly from financing offered by BDCs. Instead, an out-of-date regulatory structure severely restricts such investments by BDCs.

The current standard for eligibility, whether or not a company has outstanding marginable securities, has proven unworkable as it is tied to a standard that is no longer relevant. H.R. 3170 creates a more workable standard to enable BDCs to provide financing to companies as originally intended by the 1980 amendments. The legislation provides an objective standard, based on a market capitalization test, to modernize the definition of eligible portfolio companies.

H.R. 3170 modernizes United States security laws to reflect changes in the marketplace. Small and growing companies are often widely regarded as engines of economic growth and job creation. Allowing BDCs to invest in more companies in need of capital will provide more opportunities, more jobs, and contribute to the economic expansion. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation critical for small businesses and the entire United States economy. Mr. Speaker, I urge support of H.R. 436.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 436, the Increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act. This bill creates an improved regulatory environment for small business, the undisputed engine of our economy.

A quarter of a century ago, Congress created business development companies to encourage investments in small businesses. Unrelated rules promulgated by regulators since that time have had the unintended consequence of limiting the investment opportunities of business development companies.

This bill will restore the true intent of Congress by modernizing the securities laws governing these companies. Small businesses will once again have the important capital access provided by business development companies. This is crucial as small businesses must have efficient access to capital to create jobs and promote economic growth.

I would like to commend my good friend and subcommittee chair, Mrs. KELLY of New York, for her fine work in crafting this bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this important bipartisan legislation for investors and small businesses.

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

Mrs. KELLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my collegue, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) for his kind words about this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. KELLY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 436.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MORTGAGE SERVICING CLARIFICATION ACT

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1025) to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Act with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1025

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act''.

SEC. 2. MORTGAGE SERVICING CLARIFICATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating section 818 as section 819; and

(2) by inserting after section 817 the following new section:

''§ 818. Mortgage servicer exemption

''(a) EXEMPTION.—A covered mortgage servicer who, whether by assignment, sale or

transfer, becomes the person responsible for servicing federally related mortgage loans secured by first liens that include loans that were in default at the time such person became responsible for the servicing of such federally related mortgage loans shall be exempt from the requirements of section 807(11) in connection with the collection of any debt arising from such defaulted federally related mortgage loans.

''(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section, the following definitions shall apply:

''(1) COVERED MORTGAGE SERVICER.—The term 'covered mortgage servicer' means any servicer of federally related mortgage loans secured by first liens—

''(A) who is also a debt collector; and

''(B) for whom the collection of delinquent debts is incidental to the servicer's primary function of servicing current federally related mortgage loans.

''(2) FEDERALLY RELATED MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term 'federally related mortgage loan' has the meaning given to such term in section 3(1) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974, except that, for purposes of this section, such term includes only loans secured by first liens.

''(3) PERSON.—The term 'person' has the meaning given to such term in section 3(5) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974.

''(4) SERVICER; SERVICING.—The terms 'servicer' and 'servicing' have the meanings given to such terms in section 6(i) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the item relating to section 818 as section 819; and

(2) by inserting after the item relating to section 817 the following new item:

''818. Mortgage servicer exemption.''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material in the RECORD on this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from California?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of this bipartisan legislation, H.R. 1025. This is the Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act, which I have introduced with my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI). This carefully written legislation addresses a specific problem for consumers and businesses involved in the mortgage servicing industry by simply clarifying the existing law governing mortgage servicing. This noncontroversial bill enjoys strong bipartisan support. It has been approved for consideration under the suspension of the rules by both the chairman and the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this bill to fix a problem in the mortgage servicing industry which has hampered the abilities of this industry to serve its clients effectively and to conduct its business efficiently for far too long.

Currently, when a mortgage servicing company acquires the rights to service a portfolio of home loans, it is exempt from the unnecessary strictures of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act under the creditor exemption that was also extended to the originator of the mortgage. The new mortgage servicer is extended this exemption because its relationship to the borrower is more like a relationship between a borrower and a lender than like the relationship between a borrower and a true debt collection agency.

The law already recognizes this reality. However, in the typical loan servicing portfolio transfer, a small percentage of the loans acquired by a new servicer will inevitably be delinquent or technically in default at the time of transfer. The law currently treats these loans as being subject to the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, and subsequently the new servicers of these loans are required to provide certain form notices, known as Miranda warnings, to the borrower.

The law also currently requires that in every subsequent contact, both written and oral, whether initiated by the servicer or the borrower, the servicer is required to provide a shorter mini-Miranda notice disclosing that the communication is an attempt to collect a debt and that any information provided by the borrower will be used toward that end. The purpose of these cookie-cutter warnings is to prevent unscrupulous debt collectors from using false or misleading tactics, such as a phony winning sweepstakes claim or other such tactics, to trick consumers into divulging private financial information or personal details like their home address or their phone number.

The Fair Debt Collection Practices Act has worked extremely well in preventing bad actors in the debt collections business from using lies and deceit to harm consumers, and this legislation would in no way prevent it from continuing to protect American consumers.

However, as I have already mentioned, mortgage servicers are not like debt collectors. Their role to consumers is much more like that of a mortgage originator; and in the context of the mortgage servicing transfer, these Miranda notices are both detrimental to consumers and unnecessary and inefficient for mortgage servicers' operations.

First, the notice misleads the borrower about the nature of the relationship between him or herself and the new servicer. Unlike true debt collectors, mortgage servicers have a long-term relationship with their client, and these harshly worded notices often have the effect of discouraging a borrower who was slightly late on a mortgage payment from contacting their new servicer for fear that the servicer is a true third-party debt collector. This ends up frustrating the servicer's efforts to work with delinquent borrowers on developing strategies to bring their loans current and keep their credit ratings intact.

A mortgage servicer's biggest hurdle in helping delinquent borrowers to help themselves is getting them on the phone, and these threatening Miranda notices only contribute to that unnecessary fear without doing anything to help the borrower. Additionally, the information protected by the Miranda notices is information already in the servicer's possession. So nothing new is truly protected by requiring these additional legalistic and threatening notices be provided. Additionally, these warnings simply make consumers feel unnecessarily defensive and antagonistic toward their new servicer during the first step of their new association, which can have a chilling effect on the rest of their relationship.

Mortgage servicers typically send these Miranda notices along with a new customer's welcome letter as required by the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, and this letter also includes important consumer information about the new servicer and the borrower's monthly payment arrangements. This preliminary contact is the first opportunity that a servicer has to create a positive relationship with a new client, and the harsh language used in the Miranda warning can create animosity toward the servicer where none need exist.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, because the mini-Miranda is required in all subsequent contacts, they can continue for decades, even after customers bring their loans current and keep them that way for years. This bill will resolve that problem.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1025, the Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act. I would like to thank my colleague from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI) for his leadership on this bill. My thanks also go to the lead Republican sponsor of this legislation, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE), who has worked in a very strong bipartisan way to bring this bill to the floor. I commend him for that. I also want to thank the chairman and ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and the other cosponsors of the bill from both sides of the aisle for their support and help with bringing this bill before the House.

The bill before us is largely technical in nature and seeks to address a change in market practices not anticipated by the original Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, or FDCPA. The bill addresses a conflict between the disclosure requirements of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act, or RESPA, and

the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, FDCPA. This conflict only applies to a limited number of companies that act as both mortgage servicers and collectors of mortgage-related debt.

Section 6 of RESPA requires that any entity that is assigned or acquires servicing rights to a mortgage must notify the borrower of the transfer of mortgage servicing. The new entity must identify itself as the new loan servicer and disclose to borrowers that they have the right to dispute or obtain additional information about the terms of the debt being transferred.

Section 807, part 11 of FDCPA requires that any person seeking to collect a debt must identify themselves in any initial communication as a debt collector, identify the debt to be collected, and notify the debtor of their right to validate the debt and other protections provided by FDCPA. Since mortgage servicers often acquire servicing rights for entire portfolios of loans, a number of loans are likely to be in default at the time of transfer. Subsequent efforts by the acquiring servicer to collect on the defaulted debts have at times been thwarted on technical grounds with claims that the collection effort violated FDCPA. This is so because the initial communication received by the debtor was the notice of servicing transfer rather than the required notice of debtor rights.

The compromise that was negotiated 3 years ago to address this problem and which the House has previously passed under suspension would create a narrow exemption from the requirement to provide a notice of debtor rights under the FDCPA for a mortgage service who acquires responsibility for servicing a mortgage by assignment, sale, or transfer.

□ 1300

Under this exemption, a mortgage servicer could not be held liable for not providing a notice of debtor right for any loan that is actually in default at the time of the transfer of servicing rights. This means that the exemption is narrowly drawn so as to affect a very small number of mortgages.

Mr. Speaker, this is a fine bill. I urge support for H.R. 1025.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Financial Institutions and Consumer Credit.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I would like to commend the gentleman from California, who must feel like it is Ground Hog Day because he has actually been out here two prior times on this bill. In the 107th Congress, it passed by voice vote. In the 108th Congress, the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) was here, and his bill passed 424 to nothing, and yet it died in the other body, not because there was opposition, but it simply got caught up in the paperwork. I want to commend him on his persistence.

And he is doing this because without this bill, when a mortgage is transferred or assigned or bought, there are always a few people who are not only in default, but even those who are just simply delinquent, behind on a payment, and it misleads those people into believing that they are receiving a call from a debt collector who has to make Miranda-like warnings, and when they do that, they have a tendency not to talk to them.

And, in fact, and I will read a letter from some of our Democratic colleagues who are also cosponsoring this bill, in fact, the very thing that we would want these people to do is talk to their new mortgage servicer and establish a relationship to work out of that default and to work out of that delinquency, because there are actually rules that these servicers are supposed to make every attempt to establish such a relationship; yet the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, it was not meant to be. This was an unforeseen technicality in the interpretation.

So the FTC came to the Congress and enlisted the help of the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) to remedy this. Let me read the letter because I think it says it very well. It was drafted by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), who has worked tirelessly on this bill for the last two Congresses. It has a signature of the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), the gentleman from California (Mr. SHERMAN), the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS). These are all Democrats and all members of the Committee on Financial Services.

They said this about the present state of the law and the need for the gentleman from California's (Mr. ROYCE) legislation: One, the present Miranda notice misleads borrowers about the nature of the new servicer's relationship. The most important thing a delinquent mortgage borrower can do is call his or her servicer to work out options. The harshly worded warnings actually discourage borrowers from doing just that, from contacting the new servicer out of fear that the company is simply another debt collector. Two, the notice protects borrowers from providing information that the mortgage servicer already has in its possession. Mortgage servicers already possess detailed information about the borrower in the loan files. Third, the notice hurts customer relationships for the remaining term of the mortgage. The mini-Miranda warning is required in all subsequent contacts with the borrower even after the customer has brought their loan current and maintained them for years. In other words, under the present state of the law, these customers are treated for years to come as if they are delinquent or in default, and that is an insulting thing when they have brought their mortgages up to speed.

In closing, I will summarize the entire bill this way: In today's market, Mr. Speaker, mortgages are transferred, they are assigned, they are bought. And when that happens, those customers have a right to know whether they are dealing with a debt collector or they are dealing with their mortgage service provider, and that is a big difference. And this law will actually allow that to happen.

So I commend the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KANJORSKI), and I commend the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) particularly for his diligence in this matter, and I would ask the Members of this body to do what the last two Congresses have done, and that is unanimously approve this legislation, which is truly bipartisan and ought to be a model for this Congress as it works to do what is best for our citizens without regard to political party.

Mr. SCOTT of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I want to thank the gentleman from Alabama for his comments and in conclusion just say the way in which H.R. 1025 resolves the problem that we have discussed is that it creates a narrow exemption for Miranda notices for the services of federally related first lien mortgages whose primary function is servicing current loans, not collecting third-party debts. It exempts these servicers only from the Miranda notices, leaving in place all other substantive borrower protections required by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act.

This legislation is consistent with the long-standing recommendations from the Federal Trade Commission to improve the mortgage servicing process, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this bipartisan legislation to improve the mortgage servicing process for both the consumer and companies who serve them.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1025, the "Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act," providing a narrow but necessary exemption for mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien.

I want to commend Congressman ROYCE and Congressman KANJORSKI for introducing this legislation, as well as Ranking Member FRANK for helping to guide this important measure through the legislative process. This legislation passed by a voice vote in the 107th Congress and passed last Congress on a vote of 424–0.

When a mortgage servicer acquires the right to service a loan portfolio, the servicer is generally exempt from complying with the FDCPA because the Act extends the creditor's exemption to the new servicer. The problem arises because in a typical loan servicing transfer, a percentage of the loans transferred are delinquent or in default. These loans are technically covered by FDCPA provisions requiring the new mortgage servicer to include harshly

worded notices to its borrowers identifying the servicer as a ''debt collector'' and warning the borrower that any information he or she discloses to the servicer will be used in the debt collection process. These notices are commonly referred to as ''Miranda notices,'' and they can have the unintended consequences of discouraging borrowers from contacting their new service provider.

Under the exemption made by H.R. 1025, a mortgage servicer would not be required to provide a Miranda notice upon the first contact with its new customer, as well as in all subsequent contacts, on those loans that were in default at the time of transfer. However, mortgage services would not qualify for this exemption with respect to other loans that may go into default after the transfer occurs.

Let me close by saying that this bill is drafted to be consistent with previous recommendations by the Federal Trade Commission, the agency charged with the enforcement of the FDCPA, and is supported by a variety of financial services trade groups, including the Consumer Mortgage Coalition, American Financial Services Association, and Mortgage Bankers Association.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. KANJORSKI. Mr. Speaker, as the leading Democratic supporter of H.R. 1025, I rise today in strong support of the Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act. It is a good piece of legislation that will fix a technical problem under existing law.

Under the current Fair Debt Collections Practices Act, when a mortgage servicer acquires the rights to service a loan portfolio it is generally exempt from complying with the law's requirements because the act extends the creditor's exemption to the new servicer. In a typical loan servicing transfer, however, a certain percentage of loans will be delinquent or in default at the time of the transfer. These loans are therefore technically covered by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, even though the new servicer has a fundamentally different relationship with the borrower than a true debt collector.

H.R. 1025 would resolve this problem by establishing a very narrow exemption for servicers of first lien mortgages from the notice requirements of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act. All other substantive borrower protections provided by the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act would remain in full force. Additionally, the exemption is available only to servicers that are primarily engaged servicing current loans.

We worked for several years to narrow the exemption created by this bill in order to address the concerns of all interested parties. The legislation also passed the House in the 107th Congress and the 108th Congress, and when we last passed this bill it was approved by a vote of 424 to 0. I expect that we will again today pass this bill in the 109th Congress with similar bipartisan support.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, the provisions of H.R. 1025 are consistent with longstanding recommendations by the Federal Trade Commission, under the Clinton and Bush Administrations, to improve the application of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to mortgage servicing activities. I urge my colleagues to support this common-sense, technical-fix legislation.

Mr. ROYCE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1025, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

NATIVE AMERICAN HOUSING ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 797) to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing programs for Indians.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 797

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds that—

(1) there exist—

(A) a unique relationship between the Government of the United States and the governments of Indian tribes; and

(B) a unique Federal trust responsibility to Indian people;

(2) Native Americans experience some of the worst housing conditions in the country, with—

(A) 32.6 percent of Native homes being overcrowded;

(B) 33 percent lacking adequate solid waste management systems;

(C) 8 percent lacking a safe indoor water supply; and

(D) approximately 90,000 Native families who are homeless or underhoused;

(3) the poverty rate for Native Americans is twice that of the rest of the population of the United States;

(4) the population growth of Native Americans that began in the latter part of the 20th century increased the need for Federal housing services;

(5)(A) under the requirements of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4101 et seq.), members of Indian tribes are given preference for housing programs;

(B) a primary purpose of the Act is to allow Indian tribes to leverage funds with other Federal and private funds;

(C) the Department of Agriculture has been a significant funding source for housing for Indian tribes; and

(D) to allow assistance provided under the Act and assistance provided by the Secretary of Agriculture under other law to be combined to meet the severe housing needs of Indian tribes, the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) should be amended to allow for the preference referred to in subparagraph (A) by granting an exemption from title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) to tribes who comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act (title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968; 25 U.S.C. 1301–1303), or who are acting under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4131(b)); and

(6) section 457 of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899f) should be amended to include Indian tribes, tribally designated housing entities, or other agencies that primarily serve Indians as eligible applicants for YouthBuild grants.

SEC. 3. TREATMENT OF PROGRAM INCOME.

Section 104(a)(2) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4114(a)(2)) is amended by inserting ''restrict access to or'' after ''not''.

SEC. 4. CIVIL RIGHTS COMPLIANCE.

Title V of the Housing Act of 1949 (42 U.S.C. 1471 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 544. INDIAN TRIBES.

''(a) IN GENERAL.—Federally recognized Indian Tribes who exercise powers of self-government (or their instrumentalities) shall comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act (title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968; 25 U.S.C. 1301–1303) when receiving assistance under this title.

''(b) EXEMPTION.—Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 (42 U.S.C. 2000d et seq.) and title VIII of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) shall not apply to—

''(1) tribes covered by the Indian Civil Rights Act (title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968; 25 U.S.C. 1301–1303); or

''(2) tribes acting under section 201(b) of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4131(b)).''.

SEC. 5. ELIGIBILITY OF INDIAN TRIBES FOR YOUTHBUILD GRANTS.

Section 457(2) of the Cranston-Gonzales National Affordable Housing Act (42 U.S.C. 12899f(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (F), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (G) as sub-paragraph (H); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (F) the following:

''(G) an Indian tribe, tribally designated housing entity (as defined in section 4 of the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (25 U.S.C. 4103)), or other agency primarily serving Indians; and''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have on the floor today H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005, which I introduced this year with the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON).

While visiting with my Navaho and Apache constituents, I have learned

that there is a need for a real focus on long-term housing planning. If we can help tribes be flexible with their grant money, we can see great projects such as Apache Dawn, a multiphased construction development by the White Mountain Apaches that was built because they were able to be flexible and creative with their funding.

This bill makes three changes that will help Native American communities in rural Arizona and other Native American communities throughout America better address their housing needs. The first section of this bill will clarify that tribes are allowed unrestricted access to new NAHASDA funds even if they still retain program income from previous years. Currently the tribe's grant money may be restricted if that tribe is receiving program income in excess of their operating costs. This clarification is critical to ensure that we are not creating a disincentive for tribes to create housing plans for their future developments.

Second, this bill also brings USDA housing programs in line with HUD programs in allowing Indian preference which lets tribes abide by the Indian Civil Rights Act. Currently tribal governments may not exercise Indian preference for USDA programs because it would be considered a civil rights violation for giving preference based upon racial designation. Indian preference is something tribal governments value greatly in addressing the needs of their citizens. It is not a race issue. Indian preference recognizes the political designation of tribes as sovereign entities with whom we have entered into a government-to-government relationship. This amendment will help ensure greater tribal usage of USDA rural development programs.

Because another program that tribes use for their youth program existed when NAHASDA was enacted, Youthbuild, accessibility was taken away. Not only are tribes prohibited from applying for Youthbuild funds, but organizations serving Native youths are prohibited as well; yet the statistics are overwhelming. Mr. Speaker, the suicide rate for Native American youth is three times the national average. Alcohol-related deaths among Native Americans ages 15 to 24 are 17 times higher than the national average. American Native youth ages 12 to 20 are 58 percent more likely to become crime victims than any other race of the same age span. And as of February 2001, 74 percent of youth in custody in the Federal Bureau of Prisons System were Native American youths, an increase of 50 percent since 1994. Native American youth represent 1 percent of the U.S. population, yet constitute as much as 3 percent of the youth arrests for larceny, thefts and liquor law violations. These grim statistics speak to the importance of programs that teach life skills and give a sense of community to children in Indian Country.

Current tragic events make clear the need to allow our children, our Native American children, to participate in a program that builds stronger neighborhoods, safe homes, more self-esteem, and make a difference for their future. I ask support for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH), who is a true leader on all Native American issues, and I know she has great concern on housing issues as well.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the distinguished gentleman from Utah (Mr. MATHESON) for yielding me time to voice my support for the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005, and I would like to thank the distinguished gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), with whom I have the pleasure of serving on the Committee on Resources, for introducing this important legislation.

As my colleagues have indicated, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005 will ensure that Congress's intent is carried out with respect to tribal access to new NAHASDA funds. The gentleman from Arizona made the compelling point that the act will also create a more appropriate civil rights standard for tribal governments administering USDA housing programs and will give tribes access to an important housing and youth services program known as Youthbuild.

In my conversations with tribal leaders and tribal housing officials from across the State of South Dakota, the message is consistent. There is a desperate need for more housing in Indian Country. This is because historically there has been inadequate funding provided for housing programs. For instance, on the Pine Ridge Reservation, home to the Oglala Sioux Tribe in southwest South Dakota, current NAHASDA funding levels are insufficient to allow them to address their very acute housing needs. In Pine Ridge it is not uncommon to have 25 individuals or more living in one housing unit.

I hear similar concerns from other tribes, from the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe in the north to the Sisseton-Wahpeton Oyate in eastern South Dakota, and please bear in mind that these reservations are located in an area of the country where temperatures can reach 25 below or colder in the wintertime.

□ 1315

Adequate housing on South Dakota's reservations is truly a matter of life and death.

This legislation is a meaningful step in the right direction. It would allow tribes unrestricted access to new NAHASDA funds, even if they still maintain program income from previous years. This will ensure that tribal governments are not punished for developing successful income-generating housing stock.

This legislation is a top priority of the United Native American Housing Association, a regional group that represents 32 housing programs in the HUD Northern Plains Region, including all of South Dakota. It also is similar to legislation introduced in the Senate this year by my colleague TIM JOHNSON.

Of course, there is much more to be done. Congress should acknowledge and live up to the treaty obligations that we have with tribes across the country and respect the sovereignty of tribal governments. One way to do this is by responding to the substantial housing needs on our reservations by funding NAHASDA at a level that will allow tribal members to live with dignity in safe, sanitary housing.

Mr. Speaker, I hope the passage of this legislation emphasizes the current housing needs in Indian Country and resonates with my colleagues. It is a step in the right direction, but we can and we must do more.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE), who is a member of the Chickawa Tribe. The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) is a true fighter and advocate for those in Indian Country across our Nation.

Mr. COLE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I would be in trouble if I did not say Chickasaw Tribe.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005. I commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) for bringing such an important piece of legislation before the House for consideration.

This bill allows tribes to maximize funding resources provided through the Native American Housing and Self-Determination Act of 1996. It also reinforces tribal sovereignty by allowing tribes to focus certain Federal housing funding solely on tribal members. Finally, it will reinstate tribal access to Federal funding for youth programs.

Mr. Speaker, my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), has been a tireless champion for the Native American community, whether reinforcing tribal sovereignty, encouraging economic diversification, increasing educational opportunities, or improving the quality of life for Native Americans. I commend the gentleman from Arizona for his leadership in advancing the causes of the Native American community and urge support for the passage of the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, it is important that we are considering this bill today on the House floor. I do commend the leadership of the Committee on Financial Services, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr.

OXLEY) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK), and the leadership of the subcommittee, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS). They exhibit bipartisanship in an effort to get legislation done that is important, and that is why we are here today.

I certainly thank my colleague, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI). The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and I share the privilege and honor of representing the Navajo Nation. I can tell you the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) has been a tireless advocate for Navajo issues and Native American issues in general, and I value the relationship I have had with him working on those issues.

This bill, H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act, is an important bill in making a few simple changes to current law that will improve Native American access to housing.

Last year, and quite frankly, this was at the instigation of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), there was a field hearing that took place on the Navajo Reservation; and the Committee on Financial Services sponsored this field hearing, which I believe is the first housing field hearing ever to take place on the reservation.

The gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI), along with the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS), and I toured parts of the reservation before the hearing, heard from many witnesses from a number of tribes, and we learned a lot during that hearing. We saw some startling things, and we learned a lot that needs to be addressed.

We learned the poverty rate for Native Americans is twice that of the rest of the U.S. population; that many Native Americans continued to live in appalling housing conditions, even as those in much of the Nation have improved, and we saw some of those conditions when we toured the reservation.

American Indians and Alaskan native populations live in housing that is often and justifiably compared to third-world nations. One out of every five Indian homes lacks complete plumbing facilities. Over 90,000 American Indians and Alaska Natives are homeless or underhoused. So I am so pleased that as a result of the subcommittee hearing out on the reservation and the testimony we heard that the bipartisan work of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) and of others that we are bringing to the floor today can help address at least some of these issues.

This bill will not address all of the challenges associated with Native American housing, but it will provide progress on the issue. It takes a positive step by stretching existing resources and creating flexibility in the delivery of housing for Native Americans.

Specifically, the bill will amend the current law to explicitly direct the Department of Housing and Urban Development to allow tribes unrestricted access to new Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act funds, even if they still retain program income funds from previous years. You have heard that described by a couple of speakers before me.

This is so important, because sometimes when investments get made in new housing, there is a rental stream or income that comes off of that housing; and if the law is interpreted in a way we do not want to have happen, it prevents new funds from coming in to move ahead with additional housing programs. This act today addresses that problem so we can continue to make progress.

The bill will also amend the Housing Act of 1949 and will bring USDA housing programs into line with HUD Indian housing programs in allowing Indian preference.

Finally, of course, the bill will reinstate Indian access to YouthBuild grants. The grants are part of a Housing and Urban Development Department program that provides job training and academic assistance to low-income young people. Ensuring that tribes are eligible to create for YouthBuild grants will fill a void in access to funding for youth programs in Indian Country.

So as I said, this bill does take some important steps forward in addressing the housing needs of Native Americans. Beyond that, there are two other lessons I think we can learn from this bill, and I think a lot of people in Congress might want to pay attention to this.

The first is, I think, we worked the way we are supposed to work. We heard from constituents, we went and conducted a field hearing, we listened to a lot of tribes from around this country. We took that information back through the leadership of the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

We have now formed legislation to address some of the problems that were appropriately brought to our attention during the hearing process, and this legislation is before us today. If it passes, as I am confident it will, hopefully it will move in the other body as we will and we will make some progress on an issue. That is why we are elected in this body, is to make progress on issues.

The second lesson is the relationship that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) has exhibited in working with folks on the other side of the aisle. It is a valuable bipartisan relationship. It is the way you get things done around here.

So I commend the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) on his leadership on this issue, and I thank my colleagues for bringing the bill to the floor. I certainly encourage this bill's adoption.

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

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the gentleman from Utah for his advocacy and particularly for the leadership he showed during the hearing out in Navajo Country.

In closing, I want to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Chairman NEY), who has been a tireless advocate on Native American housing issues, who represents a tough district with a lot of rural needs, and who understands and has articulated the message that is now getting out across the country, the need to help so many of our first citizens, the Native Americans of our Nation.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to have on the House floor today H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act which I introduced earlier this year with my colleague Mr. MATHESON of Utah.

While visiting with my Navajo and Apache constituents, I have learned that there is a need for a focus on long term housing planning. If we can help tribes be flexible with their grant money we will see great projects such as Apache Dawn, a multi-phase construction development by the White Mountain Apache that was built because they were able to be flexible and creative with their funding.

This bill makes three changes to help Native American communities in rural Arizona, and across the nation, better address their housing needs.

The first section of this bill will clarify that tribes are allowed unrestricted access to new NAHASDA funds even if they still retain program income from previous years.

Currently a tribes' grant money may be restricted if that tribe is receiving program income in excess of their operating costs.

This clarification is crucial to ensure that we are not creating a disincentive for tribes to create income or plan for their future developments.

This bill also brings USDA housing programs into line with HUD programs in allowing Indian preference which lets tribes abide by the Indian Civil Rights Act.

Currently, tribal governments may not exercise Indian preference for USDA programs because it would be considered a Civil Rights violation for giving preference based on a racial designation.

Indian preference is something tribal governments value greatly in addressing the needs of their citizens—it is not a race issue. Indian preference recognizes the political designation of tribes as sovereign entities with whom we have entered into a government to government relationship.

This amendment will help to ensure greater tribal usage of USDA Rural Development programs.

Because another program that tribes used for their youth programs existed when NAHASDA was enacted, YouthBuild accessibility was taken away.

Not only are tribes prohibited from applying for Youthbuild funds, but organizations serving Native youth are prohibited as well, yet the statistics are overwhelming:

The suicide rate for Native youth is three times the national average . Alcohol related deaths among Native Americans ages 15–24 are 17 times higher than the national average.

Native youth ages 12–20 are 58 percent more likely to become crime victims than any other race of the same ages.

As of February 2001, 74 percent of youth in custody in the Federal Bureau of Prisons system were Native American youth, an increase of 50 percent since 1994.

Native American youth represent 1 percent of the U.S. population, yet they constitute 2 percent to 3 percent of the youth arrested for offenses such as larceny-theft and liquor law violations.

These grim statistics speak to the importance of programs that teach life skills and give a sense of community to children in Indian Country. Current tragic events make clear the need to allow these children to participate in a program that will build stronger neighborhoods, more selfesteem and make a difference for their future.

Thank you for the opportunity to speak on this matter and I urge your support of this bill.

Mr. OXLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005 and want to commend the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Arizona, RICK RENZI, for his tireless work and continued dedication to improving the housing conditions for Native Americans in this country.

Native Americans are three times more likely to live in overcrowded housing, and are more likely than other Americans to lack sewage and water systems, telephone lines and electricity, according to the 2000 U.S. Census. Nearly 12 percent of Native Americans lack complete plumbing, compared with 1.2 percent of the general population. Native Americans have the highest poverty rates at 26 percent and have the highest unemployment rate in the country at nearly 14 percent.

Last year, in May, this Committee held the first Indian Housing Congressional hearing in Tuba City, Arizona in Indian country. At that hearing, members were able to witness first hand the substandard conditions experienced by Native Americans and learned of the many barriers to housing development on reservations.

After that hearing, this Committee took action and enacted H.R. 4471, the Homeownership Opportunities for Native Americans Act of 2004 to provide more chances to provide quality housing for Native Americans. That legislation restored the government repayment under the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program from 80 percent to 95 percent in case of default. The bill we are considering today represents another installment in this Committee's commitment to addressing the many housing needs facing Native Americans. The legislation we are considering today, H.R. 797, represents another small step toward improving housing for Native Americans in this country.

First, it requires federally recognized, self-governing Indian Tribes (whose self-governing status would otherwise make them exempt) to comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act—title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968—if they receive financial assistance from the Agriculture Department for farm housing. Under current law, the department can provide loans to farm owners to improve housing conditions for themselves or their workers. The Indian Civil Rights Act prohibits tribes from making laws that restrict freedom of religion, speech or the press. It also sets other requirements pertaining to fair due process for people who are arrested.

The measure also exempts tribes currently in compliance with the Indian Civil Rights Act and tribes acting under other federal affordable housing programs from compliance with certain sections relating to fair housing under other civil rights laws, which overlap with provisions in the Indian Civil Rights Act.

The bill makes Indian tribes or their housing entities eligible for Youthbuild grants. The grants are part of a Housing and Urban Development Department program that provides job training and academic assistance to low-income young people.

Finally, the measure clarifies that the Interior Department cannot restrict access to or reduce funds going to tribes receiving block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (PL 104–330).

While this legislation does not make monumental changes, it makes changes that will help stretch the housing resources available to Native Americans. I urge my colleagues to support.

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 797, the Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005. I would like to thank my colleague and friend, Cong. RICK RENZI from Arizona, for his hard work to bring this legislation to the floor. His commitment to improving the housing conditions in Indian Country is an example we should all follow.

Native Americans today are experiencing chronic housing affordability problems. Over 32.5 percent of the homes located on tribal lands are overcrowded and less than 50 percent of homes in Indian Country are connected to public sewer systems. Approximately 40 percent of tribal homes are considered substandard compared to a national average of six percent.

Last May, the Subcommittee on Housing and Community Opportunity held a field hearing in Tuba City, Arizona on the state of housing in Indian Country. The hearing was the first time the Housing Subcommittee held a hearing on tribal lands. At this hearing, members were able to witness first hand the substandard conditions experienced by Native Americans. It gave members the opportunity to learn of the many barriers to housing development on reservations.

After that hearing, the Financial Services Committee took action and passed H.R. 4471, which restored the government repayment under the Title VI Loan Guarantee Program from 80 percent to 95 percent in case of default. The bill we are considering today represents another installment in this Committee's commitment to addressing the many housing needs facing Native Americans.

H.R. 797 requires federally recognized, self-governing Indian Tribes (whose self-governing status would otherwise make them exempt) to comply with the Indian Civil Rights Act—title II of the Civil Rights Act of 1968—if they receive financial assistance from the Agriculture Department for farm housing. Under current law, the department can provide loans to farm owners to improve housing conditions for themselves or their workers. The Indian Civil Rights Act prohibits tribes from making laws that restrict freedom of religion, speech or the press. It also sets other requirements pertaining to fair due process for people who are arrested.

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Finally, the measure clarifies that the Interior Department cannot restrict access to or reduce funds going to tribes receiving block grants under the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 (PL 104–330).

Development programs delivered to Indian Country should be highly flexible and adaptive to the very unique and specific circumstance in each tribal setting. Native Americans must be able to take full advantage of partnering and leveraging efforts across institutions and at all levels of government.

While today's legislation does not make monumental changes, it will help stretch the housing resources available to Native Americans. If we begin to succeed at these initiatives, then opportunities will move into these rural areas. As we work to help strengthen opportunities in Indian Country, together we will all continue to play a significant role in improving the quality of life for all families.

I urge my colleagues to support this piece of legislation.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 797.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 148) supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 148

Whereas the financial services industry in the United States benefits millions of people in the United States, providing products and services that allow individuals and families to build homes, buy cars, finance educations, start businesses, and meet everyday needs;

Whereas personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens, yet a study completed in 2004 by the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier;

Whereas financial education has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes, yet a 2004 survey completed by the National Council on Economic Education found that the number of States that include personal finance in education standards for students in kindergarten through high school has improved since 2002 but still falls below 2000 levels;

Whereas expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth, yet studies show that as many as 10 million households in the United States are ''unbanked'' or are without access to mainstream bank products and services;

Whereas personal financial management skills and lifelong habits develop during childhood, and 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least one credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money;

Whereas although more than 42,000,000 people in the United States participate in qualified cash or deferred arrangements described in section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly referred to as ''401(k) plans''), a Retirement Confidence Survey conducted in 2004 found that only 42 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement and 4 in 10 workers say that they are not currently saving for retirement;

Whereas personal savings as a percentage of personal income decreased from 7.5 percent in the early 1980s to 1.1 percent in the last two quarters of 2004;

Whereas Congress sought to implement a national strategy for coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts through the establishment of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC) in 2003, the designation of the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission, and requirements that the Commission's materials, website, toll-free hotline, and national multimedia campaign be multilingual;

Whereas Members of the United States House of Representatives established the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus (FELC) in February 2005 to (1) provide a forum for interested Members of Congress to work in collaboration with the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, (2) highlight public and private sector best-practices, and (3) organize and promote financial literacy legislation, seminars and events, such as ''Financial Literacy Month'' in April 2005 and the annual ''Financial Literacy Day'' fair on April 27, 2005; and

Whereas the National Council on Economic Education, its State Councils and Centers for Economic Education, the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, its State affiliates, and its partner organizations have designated April as 'Financial Literacy Month' to educate the public about the need for increased financial literacy for youth and adults in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 148.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to call up House Resolution 148 for consideration. This valuable resolution supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, and its purpose is to increase awareness of the significance of well-planned personal financial management. I strongly support this goal, and I encourage my colleagues to join me in support of this important resolution.

Mr. Speaker, it can be overwhelming for Americans of any age to establish and manage income, savings, and credit. But learning simple financial principles can help protect against illness or disability, long-term losses of unemployment, and other aspects of life that most of us will experience at one time or another.

Mr. Speaker, the resolution cites that over the last 20 years, personal savings have decreased from about 7.5 percent of personal income during the 1980s to only 1.1 percent in the last two quarters of 2004. This, I am afraid, shows the dangerous reality that unfortunately Americans are relying too much on credit and many are spending beyond their means.

Most Americans and their families will experience lean financial times sometime during their lives. That is why the message of this resolution is so important and why we need to encourage schools to teach our young people the principles of personal finance at early ages.

Life is uncertain, and jobs change. Family circumstances and macroeconomic instability can affect every one of us. But we as a Nation can be confident that we will ultimately enjoy big returns on our investments in financial literacy.

Mr. Speaker, several important groups, including the National Center on Economic Education, the Jump$tart Coalition For Personal Financial Literacy and their partner organizations consider April to be Financial Literacy Month. Consistent with this designation, today I am pleased to join with my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), to sponsor this legislation in supporting financial literacy. I urge all Members to vote in favor of the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, financial literacy may be more important today than during any other time in our Nation's history. That is why I am pleased to support H. Res. 148, introduced by the gentlewoman from the Great State of Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), which supports the goals of Financial Literacy Month for Youth.

As the resolution notes, a study by the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that 92 percent of college students have at least one credit card by their sophomore year. This fact becomes alarming when you consider that the same study found that only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 claimed that they had been taught how to manage their money by their parents. This resolution serves as an important wake-up call for all of us: the administration, Congress, and the American taxpayer.

As the economy begins to rebound from an arduous period, now is an opportune time to teach all Americans, young and old, about fiscal responsibility. The Jump$tart Coalition's aim is to identify personal finance materials for educating our youth. To that end, they have established 12 must-know personal finance principles for young people if they want to improve their financial future.

The 12 financial principles stressed during Financial Literacy Month for youth are, one, map your financial future; do not expect something for nothing; high returns equal high risk; know your take-home pay; compare interest rates; pay yourself first; money doubles by the rule of 72, which is a way of determining how long it takes your money to double while in the bank; your credit past is your credit future; start saving young; stay insured; budget your money; and do not borrow what you cannot repay.

These important, but basic, principles are of value to all of us. But let me add one more, since the 15th is not too far away: pay your taxes, and on time.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to endorse this resolution supporting the goals of Financial Literacy for Youth Month and urge all of my colleagues to support it as well. As a matter of fact, my mother used to tell us that if you take care of your nickels, then your quarters will take care of themselves.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for his support for this important resolution, and I thank him for his wit and wisdom.

Madam Speaker, at this time I am pleased to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), the author of this resolution.

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Minnesota for yielding me time and for cosponsoring this resolution and for his advocacy for financial literacy.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of House Resolution 148, which my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), and I introduced for a second year to designate April as Financial Literacy Month. We did this once again to raise public awareness about the importance of financial education in the United States and the serious consequences that come when young people, adults, and older Americans lack basic understanding of personal finance and economics.

□ 1330

Madam Speaker, ours is a compelling case, and I know that many Members of the House who cosponsored this resolution agree that our country is in a financial literacy deficit. The most recent statistics indicate that most of our States do not require schools to have financial literacy programs, and 7 out of 10 of our children and grandchildren failed a basic financial literacy exam.

The numbers look equally bad for young and older adults. Studies show that almost all of our Nation's college students have a credit card by the second year of college, but only about a quarter report that their parents actively taught them how to manage money. The number of bankruptcies remains at a historic high. Over 1.6 million bankruptcy cases were filed in 2004.

And we all know Social Security will soon reach a juncture, and now is the time for us to encourage our children and young and older adults to embrace learning about finance and economics and engage in good budget and long-term savings habits.

Abraham Lincoln, one of our most beloved Presidents and fellow Illinoisan, once said, ''You cannot escape the responsibility of tomorrow by evading it today,'' and I agree. We should help our citizens avoid getting caught in a credit quagmire, stay out of bankruptcy court, and steer clear of a financially unsound retirement. I believe that we need to encourage all Americans to take ownership over their finances, to be financially astute, and establish financial security now. Now is the time.

I pledge to continue to promote financial and economic education, and I know that I am joined by an army of supporters here on the Hill and across the country. In recent years, the Congress, Federal agencies, State and local governments, schools, the private sector, not-for-profit and for-profit groups have worked hard and made incremental strides toward improving the financial aptitude of Americans of all ages and walks of life. However, there is so much more that we can and must do to turn the tide.

Many States have implemented outstanding financial literacy programs for children. In my home State of Illinois, State Treasurer Judy Baar Topinka created the Bank At School program which helps children learn the fundamentals of money management through the operation of an in-school bank. Schools are partnering with financial institutions which conduct a monthly Bank Day at the school where students open savings accounts and make regular deposits.

I believe that programs like this will provide the guidance that is desperately needed; but we do need to do more. We need to coordinate our programs. We need to improve America's financial report card, and we need to encourage financially sound behavior.

In Congress we catapulted the Financial Literacy Movement into action when we passed the Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act. This act established the Financial Literacy and Education Commission, which has made great strides since its first meeting in 2004. They have established a Website, mymoney.gov., and are in the process of developing a national strategy.

While the Commission's work to date has been commendable, some of us in Congress thought that we ought to do more. That is why in February, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA) and I formed the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. The caucus currently has 45 Members with 23 Republicans, 21 Democrats, and 1 Independent. We all agree that financial literacy is a national priority, and our goal is to bring together interested parties and participants at the national, State, and local levels to establish best practices and to promote financial and economic literacy on Capitol Hill, at home in our districts and, eventually, around the world.

We are forming an ambitious agenda for the weeks and months to come. On April 27 we will host our first Financial Literacy Fair in the House Cannon Caucus Room. I would encourage everyone to attend the fair. Our caucus also aims to establish a Website, provide a focal point in working with the Senate and executive branch, including the Commission, and showcase all of the great programs that have been launched in the business, education, and not-for-profit communities.

Today I encourage all Members of the House to join the caucus and work with us to educate Americans about finance and economics.

Madam Speaker, the state of financial literacy among our citizens may not garner much in the way of headlines, but it is an issue nonetheless that should command our attention. While it is a problem that is serious and urgent, it is one that can be solved through education. That is why I urge my colleagues to support this resolution in support of financial literacy. It is our duty to help our citizens of all ages and walks of life to succeed in today's increasingly sophisticated world of finance.

I want to thank my distinguished colleague and friend, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), for his strong support and sponsorship of this resolution. I would also like to thank the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. DAVIS), for being a cosponsor of this resolution and moving it through his committee. I would especially like to thank the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), also members of the Committee on Government Reform, for managing this resolution. I would also like to thank the distinguished gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. PRYCE) for her support of the resolution and dedication to this initiative.

In conclusion, I would like to thank all of the Members who cosponsored this resolution for their support.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HINOJOSA), the cosponsor of this resolution.

(Mr. HINOJOSA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks, and include extraneous material.)

Mr. HINOJOSA. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 148 that the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I introduced earlier this year. The legislation supports the ideals and the goals of Financial Literacy Month, which falls in April of each year.

Before I proceed, I want to take this opportunity to thank the gentlewoman from Virginia (Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS), the chairman of the Subcommittee on Civil Service, and especially my Ranking Member, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DANNY DAVIS). Also, I would like to recognize and thank Tania Shand on the minority staff for helping expedite committee consideration of our bill. My distinguished colleague, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), has always been a strong supporter of economic education and financial literacy, and I want to thank him for managing the bill today for our side of the aisle.

The gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT) and I have also worked closely on financial literacy issues with the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the House Committee on Rules. I think all of us owe him a great deal of gratitude for being one of the first Members of Congress to call for bringing attention to the need to improve financial literacy rates.

To celebrate Financial Literacy Month, a Financial Literacy Day Fair will be held April 27 from noon to 4 p.m. in the Cannon Caucus Room. I join my friend, the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), in encouraging all of our colleagues and their staffs to attend this event.

Every day, consumers deal with money, from balancing a checking account to shopping for a mortgage or auto loan, researching ways to pay for a college education, checking credit card statements, saving money for retirement, understanding a credit report, or simply deciding whether to pay cash or charge a purchase. The list goes on and on, but many consumers do not really understand their finances.

In 2004, reports from Jump$tart and the National Council on Economic Education, the Schwab Foundation and others indicated that almost 66 percent of high school students failed a basic financial literacy exam. The numbers are not much better for adults. High bankruptcy rates, increased credit card debt, and identity theft make it imperative that all of us take an active role in providing financial and economic education during all stages of one's life.

On February 15, 2005, I cofounded, and currently cochair, the Congressional Hispanic and Economic Literacy Caucus with the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT). The caucus seeks to address these issues head on by increasing public awareness of poor financial literacy rates, and will work to improve those rates. The caucus will provide a forum for my colleagues to promote policies that advance financial literacy and economic education. It is my hope that through the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, we can further educate Americans about financial and economic topics ranging from homeownership to credit ratings and, yes, insurance.

At this point, Madam Speaker, I will insert for the RECORD letters and press releases supporting passage of this resolution. They include a press release from the National Association of Mortgage Brokers and a letter of support from Merrill Lynch. I would also insert letters supporting the creation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus be included in the RECORD. They include a statement by Treasury Deputy Assistant Secretary Dan Iannicola, a release by the National Council on Economic Education, a letter of support from Junior Achievement, a press release from the Investment Company Institute, a statement from the North American Securities Administrators Association, and a statement by the Savings Coalition of America, and I have them all included here.

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MORTGAGE BROKERS APPLAUDS RESOLUTION DECLARING APRIL ''FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH''

MCLEAN, VA—The National Association of Mortgage Brokers (NAMB) supports the bipartisan resolution passed by the U.S. House of Representatives today designating April as ''Financial Literacy Month.''

''We commend Reps. Judy Biggert (R–IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D–TX) for introducing a resolution that calls for the federal government, states, local governments, schools, businesses and other groups to observe Financial Literacy Month,'' said NAMB President Bob Armbruster. ''Financial education is important for today's consumers who face a complex array of financial products and services.''

NAMB works closely with the financial services industry as part of its on-going commitment to consumer education. NAMB has a long history of promoting consumer financial education. Last year, for example, NABM initiated a pilot consumer credit education program using Freddie Mac's CreditSmart® and CreditSmart® Español financial literacy curricula. The pilot is currently being managed by NAMB state affiliates in California, Florida and Texas.

NAMB also has partnered with United Guaranty to create a consumer information presentation—''Are You Prepared to Head Down the Road to Homeownership?®''—to help educate minorities, immigrants and low-to-moderate income households on the home-buying process. The presentation covers common home mortgage terminology, important steps in the home-buying process, fair housing laws, credit reports and more.

''For consumers, financial education is essential to protecting oneself against fraud or abusive financial practices and this education process should begin at a young age, with some targeted curriculum in our high schools,'' adds Armbruster. ''The more consumers know, the better they are at managing their finances.''

For more information visit NAMB's consumer home page on the NAMB Web site, www.namb.org.

MERRILL LYNCH,
Washington, DC, April 5, 2005.

Hon. RUBEN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. HINOJOSA: Merrill Lynch strongly supports the formation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus and applauds the efforts of Representative Judy Biggert and yourself in addressing this important issue.

Merrill Lynch has long shared the Caucus' goal of improving financial literacy for all Americans at all stages of life. The Merrill Lynch Investing Pays Off® (IPO) curriculum has been specially developed as a tool for volunteers, parents and educators and is designed to be an enjoyable program that will bring to life important concepts and information that all young people need to know. The curriculum has been designed in three stages for ages spanning 7 to 18.

Merrill Lynch has also launched a financial education program for Girl Scouts in the Greater New York area. Girl Scouts in the region will use the IPO curriculum during troop meetings and educational programs to develop their entrepreneurial skills and increase their financial knowledge.

The Merrill Lynch IPO program partnered with Sesame Workshop in using Sesame Street character Elmo to bring financial education to children ages 3 to 6 and their parents, through an interactive website and an activity book in English and Spanish.

Merrill Lynch strongly supports your efforts to increase public awareness of poor literacy rates across the country and work toward improving those rates

Sincerely,

BRUCE E. THOMPSON, Jr.,
First Vice President.

STATEMENT OF DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FINANCIAL EDUCATION DAN IANNICOLA, JR. ON THE FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC LITERACY CAUCUS

This Department of Treasury press release may be viewed at: http://www.treas.gov/press/releases/js2254.htm

Today's formation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus is an important step in the federal effort to promote personal economic security through financial education. I commend Representatives Judy Biggert and Ruben Hinojosa for their efforts to provide Americans with the education resources they need to achieve their financial goals. I look forward to partnering with the caucus to advance Treasury's commitment to ensuring that Americans learn more about their finances and, in so doing, live better lives.

NCEE APPLAUDS LAUNCH OF ''FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC LITERACY CAUCUS''

The National Council on Economic Education (NCEE) is offering its full support for the newly formed House ''Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.'' On Tuesday, February 15, Representatives Judy Biggert (R–IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D–TX) announced the formation of this bipartisan congressional organization. The Caucus will help organize legislative efforts and policy initiatives related to financial literacy and economic education. Membership is open to all Members of the House of Representatives.

''Representatives Biggert and Hinojosa are to be commended for bringing energy, focus and commitment to this effort,'' said Robert Duvall, President and CEO of the NCEE. ''Their action could not be more timely. By providing a dedicated forum for economic and financial education policy, the Caucus will help both to direct and to magnify the tremendous congressional interest and energy in these critical issues.''

I encourage all House Members to join this important organization, and become actively involved in its vital mission,'' Duvall stated, for the NCEE.

Both Representatives Biggert and Hinojosa will be featured speakers at the 2005 National Summit on Economic and Financial Literacy, convened and conducted by the NCEE, which will be held on Thursday, March 3, 2005 at the National Press Club in Washington, DC.

ABOUT THE NCEE

The NCEE (www.ncee.net) is a non-profit, non-partisan organization dedicated to improving economic literacy. Through its unique nationwide network of state Councils and more than 200 university based Centers for Economic Education, NCEE's programs reach more than 150,000 K–12 teachers and over 15 million students in more than 70,000 schools each year. The NCEE was also recently designated by the U.S. Department of Education as the leadership organization to implement the $1.5 million Excellence in Economic Education program through the No Child Left Behind legislation. Through the Cooperative Education Exchange Program (CEEP), the distinctive programs of the National Council on Economic Education are also reaching over 10 million students in 26 countries, including Indonesia, Central and Eastern Europe, the former Soviet Union and other developing market economies.

JUNIOR ACHIEVEMENT,
Colorado Springs, CO, February 15, 2005.

Hon. RUBEN HINOJOSA,
Rayburn House Office Building,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVE HINOJOSA: On behalf of Junior Achievement's 1,400 associates and 110,000 classroom volunteers nationwide, congratulations on your latest effort to promote financial literacy and economic education.

The establishment of a Financial & Economic Literacy Caucus reinforces the importance of a financially literate society. With personal bankruptcies and debt continuing to soar, I urge the caucus to consider a focus on youth. According to the latest JA Poll on Personal Finance, nearly 70 percent of teens nationwide say they influence their parents' buying decisions, while nearly 25 percent of 18-year olds say they already own and use their own credit cards. The earlier we can intervene with an education on the ''economics of life,'' the better off we'll be.

As the nation's oldest and largest organization dedicated to promoting economic education and financial literacy, JA stands ready to assist the caucus in advancing its goals.

Thank you for your resolve in championing this important issue. We look forward to working with you.

Sincerely,

DAVID S. CHERNOW,
President and CEO, JA Worldwide.

ICI LAUDS FORMATION OF THE FINANCIAL LITERACY CAUCUS WASHINGTON, DC

February 15, 2005.—The Investment Company Institute today announced its support for the creation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus under the bipartisan leadership of caucus Co-Chairs, Congressmen Judy Biggert (R–IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D–TX).

The caucus will host educational forums and such events as ''Financial Literacy Month.'' It will also act as focal point for communicating with various public and private agencies and groups.

''Mutual funds are many Americans' introduction to investing,'' said ICI President Paul Schott Stevens. ''The earlier they understand the importance of investing to pay for educating their children and funding their retirement, the more effective their planning will be. We are pleased to support the Caucus' mission of promoting financial literacy.''

Providing America's 92 million mutual fund investors with the tools they need to develop goals, evaluate risk, and make informed investment decisions is a long-standing mission of the Institute and its mutual fund members, Stevens said.

The Institute supports financial education through its Investor Awareness series of public messages and publications and through the work of its Education Foundation. Since 2000, the Foundation's primary focus has been the Investing for Success program.

In partnership with the National Urban League and the Hispanic College Fund, the program promotes the benefits of long-term investing within the African-American and Hispanic communities.

Reps. Biggert and Hinojosa are both members of the House Committee on Financial Services and the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which has jurisdiction over pensions. They also share long histories of promoting financial literacy through their legislative actions.

NASAA COMMENDS LAUNCH OF CONGRESSIONAL FINANCIAL AND ECONOMIC LITERACY CAUCUS

WASHINGTON, February 16, 2005.—The following is a statement from North American Securities Administrators Association President and New Jersey Board of Securities Chief Franklin L. Widmann on the formation of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. Organized in 1919, NASAA is the oldest international organization devoted to investor protection. NASAA's membership consists of securities administrators in the 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, Canada, and Mexico.

''NASAA commends Representatives Judy Biggert (R–IL) and Rubén Hinojosa (D–TX) for their leadership in forming the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. Providing a forum for Members of Congress to promote policies advancing financial literacy and economic education is an important step to ensuring that our citizens have the tools necessary to build financial knowledge and financial security.

''State securities regulators share your concern about the deficit level of financial literacy in this country and the impact it has on personal financial decision-making. And we also share a common dedication and commitment to doing something about it.

''We stand ready to assist the Caucus and serve as a resource, as you move forward in developing and implementing programs to improve the level of financial literacy in this country.''

Madam Speaker, financial literacy means empowerment, power to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, and leaders. It means banking the unbanked and bringing them into the mainstream financial system to protect them from abusive predatory or deceptive credit offers and financial products.

Numerous programs exist to improve financial literacy: The NCEE's Financial Fitness For Life program; Jump$tart's Personal Finance Education Standards and Benchmarks are used by educators and parents; Junior Achievement's programs and surveys; ICI's Investing for Success program; the FDIC's free, multilingual Money Smart adult financial literacy curriculum; the FTC's I.D. theft What's It All About program; as well as CFA's America Saves program; VISA's Practical Money Skills For Life program; AICPA's 360 Degrees of Financial Literacy program; the Girl Scouts of America's Money Smarts program; the CHCI NHI's homeownership workshops; Lincoln Financial's financial planning programs; the ABA Education Foundation's Take Control of Our Personal Finances program; ACB's Money Rules program; the North American State Securities Association's program.

Madam Speaker, the list goes on and on. It includes Fannie Mae's homeownership program in English and Spanish; Operation Hope's Banking on Our Future program; and Freddie Mac's CreditSmart Espanol program.

At present, several of these financial literacy programs are operating in my congressional district, Texas 15. The Security Industry Association's Stock Market Game is one such program. I am proud that my district was chosen again this year to participate in SIA's second annual Capitol Hill Challenge stock market program. This year I selected La Feria High School, located in Cameron County, Texas, to participate in this program. They have been competing against 15 other districts from across our country. I wish them well. Please know I will be rooting for my team.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Illinois (Mrs. BIGGERT), and her legislative assistant Nicole Austin, for working with me on today's legislation.

In closing, I want to say that I look forward to continuing to collaborate with her on any and all efforts that will help increase public awareness of the need to improve financial literacy, to promote programs that increase financial literacy for all during all stages of life, and to significantly improve the financial literacy rates across this great country. It is never too late to take control of your personal finances, and it is something that all of us in the United States can start today.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, Madam Speaker.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side. I would just simply close by suggesting that my father used to tell us that money is like life. The better you manage it, the longer you are likely to keep it.

Madam Speaker, I strongly support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I would only close by saying that financial literacy clearly is an idea whose time has come. I thank the authors for bringing it forward. I urge all Members to support the adoption of House Resolution 148.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I am here today to supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month. I want to thank my colleagues Congresswoman BIGGERT and Congressman HINOJOSA for introducing such a valuable piece of legislation.

The financial services industry in the United States benefits millions of people in the United States, providing products and services that allow individuals and families to build homes, buy cars, finance educations, start businesses, and meet everyday needs. Personal financial education is essential to ensure that individuals are prepared to manage money, credit, and debt, and become responsible workers, heads of households, investors, entrepreneurs, business leaders, and citizens, yet a study completed in 2004 by the Jump$tart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy found that high school seniors know less about principles of basic personal finance than did high school seniors 7 years earlier.

Financial education has been linked to lower delinquency rates for mortgage borrowers, higher participation and contribution rates in retirement plans, improved spending and saving habits, higher net worth, and positive knowledge, attitude, and behavior changes, yet a 2004 survey completed by the National Council on Economic Education found that the number of States that include personal finance in education standards for students in kindergarten through high school has improved since 2002 but still falls below 2000 levels.

Expanding access to the mainstream financial system provides individuals with lower-cost and safer options for managing finances and building wealth and is likely to lead to increased economic activity and growth, yet studies show that as many as 10 million

households in the United States are 'unbanked' or are without access to mainstream bank products and services. Personal financial management skills and lifelong habits develop during childhood, and 55 percent of college students acquire their first credit card during their first year in college, and 92 percent of college students acquire at least one credit card by their second year in college, yet only 26 percent of people between the ages of 13 and 21 reported that their parents actively taught them how to manage money.

Although more than 42,000,000 people in the United States participate in qualified cash or deferred arrangements described in section 401(k) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (commonly referred to as '401(k) plans'), a Retirement Confidence Survey conducted in 2004 found that only 42 percent of workers surveyed have calculated how much money they will need to save for retirement and 4 in 10 workers say that they are not currently saving for retirement. It is unfortunate that personal savings as a percentage of personal income decreased from 7.5 percent in the early 1980s to 1.1 percent in the last two quarters of 2004.

Congress has sought to implement a national strategy for coordination of Federal financial literacy efforts through the establishment of the Financial Literacy and Education Commission (FLEC) in 2003, the designation of the Office of Financial Education of the Department of the Treasury to provide support for the Commission, and requirements that the Commission's materials, Web site, toll-free hotline, and national multimedia campaign be multilingual.

I am glad to be here today to support the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month; and join my colleagues in requesting that the President issue a proclamation calling on the Federal Government, States, localities, schools, nonprofit organizations, businesses, other entities, and the people of the United States to observe the month with appropriate programs and activities.

Mr. DREIER. Madam Speaker, I would like to commend the Gentlelady from Illinois, Mrs. BIGGERT, and the Gentleman from Texas, Mr. HINOJOSA, for introducing this important resolution. As a member of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus, I am proud to rise in support of this measure.

Over 40 years ago, fewer than 2 in 10 families owned stocks. Today, this figure has risen dramatically, with more than 50 percent of Americans owning assets dependent on the stock market. We've come a long way. But I believe we can still do more to provide greater opportunities for all Americans to become part of the Investor Class.

One method is to reach out directly to our local communities. In my own district, I am sponsoring a team of students from Bonita High School (La Verne) to participate in the Securities Industry Association's (SIA) stock market game. This program provides teachers with an engaging real-world tool for teaching basic economic skills while instilling in their students an understanding of the importance of sound saving and investing. As students track their team's portfolio, they are able to commit the skills they learn in school to real-world financial decisions.

It is also important to note that efforts to enhance financial literacy should not just be confined to our own country. As we strive for expanded trade and investment with our global partners, the financial ups and downs in world markets have a greater impact on our local economies. Helping to spread financial and economic literacy to emerging markets is critically important to establishing stability in developing nations. For example, in 2004 Citigroup and the Citigroup Foundation provided more than $22 million in support of financial education programs in activities that reached millions of people in more than 40 countries. These activities included community development projects to support the expansion of thrift and credit-based cooperative groups in India and the development of a microfinance industry in China.

Financial literacy is more than just crunching numbers. It is about empowerment and opportunity. It is about making your money work for you, whether it is buying a first home, paying for college, or planning for retirement. That is why we must do everything we possibly can to ensure that all Americans have a solid understanding of personal finance.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution.

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

□ 1345

The SPEAKER pro tempore. (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.) The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 148.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECOGNIZING AND HONORING FIREFIGHTERS FOR THEIR MANY CONTRIBUTIONS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 188) recognizing and honoring firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 188

Whereas in 1736 Benjamin Franklin founded the Union Fire Company, the first volunteer fire company;

Whereas there are more than 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States;

Whereas approximately 75 percent of all firefighters are volunteers who receive little or no compensation for their heroic work;

Whereas career and combination fire departments protect 3 out of 4 Americans;

Whereas there are more than 30,000 fire departments in the United States;

Whereas approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year;

Whereas more than 340 firefighters died responding to the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001;

Whereas firefighters respond to more than 24,000,000 calls during an average year;

Whereas firefighters also provide emergency medical services and life safety education; and

Whereas it is estimated that on April 7, 2005, more than 2,000 firefighters will attend the 17th Annual National Fire and Emergency Services Dinner and Seminars;

Resolved, That the House of Representatives honors and recognizes the more than 1,100,000 firefighters in the United States for their contributions to and sacrifice for the Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of this worthwhile resolution that honors our Nation's incredible firefighters. This resolution extends the most sincere gratitude of the House of Representatives to the more than 1 million men and women who stand ready to put their lives on the line each time that fire station alarm bell rings.

Madam speaker, American firefighters respond to nearly 25 million calls each year from citizens across the country. Their dependability and service during countless kinds of urgent events are traits that Americans have come to count on.

From their unequal bravery at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon on September 11, 2001, to their responsiveness during the 2003 California wildfires, to their aid provided time and time again following the series of hurricanes in Florida last fall, firefighters have been on the front lines of many headlining emergencies in recent years.

Through these events, I believe Americans have gained an even greater level of admiration for firefighters because of their courage and selflessness.

Madam Speaker, on behalf of all Members, I want to thank firefighters for their service to this country. I highly commend the distinguished ranking member of the homeland security select subcommittee, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), for introducing this measure.

I urge the adoption of House Resolution 188.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time

as he might consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), the sponsor of this resolution.

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 188, a bipartisan resolution that I have offered, along with the gentleman from California (Mr. COX), honoring the service and sacrifices of our Nation's firefighters.

I am a former volunteer firefighter, so I understand what our 1.1 million firefighters give up in the name of service. Our firefighters, whether they are paid or volunteer, put their lives at risk with every call they must answer.

Our paid firefighters are active in many charitable activities that benefit our communities. They lose time away from their families. They train and prepare, yet they never complain. Madam Speaker, in the case of volunteer firefighters, they often have to devote time in raising money to purchase equipment and pay for training that will keep them safe while they protect us and our property.

Sadly, each year over 100 firefighters lose their lives in the line of duty. I encourage every Member of Congress to pay a visit to the National Firefighters Memorial in Emmitsburg, Maryland.

From my home State of Mississippi in 2004, two firefighters were killed in the line of duty. Those two firefighters, Elliott Davis, Jr., and Terrie Eiland, paid the ultimate sacrifice to protect their fellow citizens.

Recently, Mississippi constructed a memorial park in Pearl, Mississippi, to honor the 67 firefighters from the State who have paid the ultimate sacrifice. We all vividly remember the heroism of the firefighters in New York on 9/11; over 340 firefighters lost their lives on this horrific day.

It is impossible to know, Madam Speaker, how many thousands of lives the selfless response of the New York firefighters saved that day. Our firefighters and other first responders are the first line of defense for many incidents of terrorism or national disaster.

This week over 2,000 fire service leaders from around the United States are in Washington to attend the 17th annual Natural Fire and Emergency Services dinner and seminar. These fine men and women are here to learn more about what we are doing in Washington to support firefighters.

At the same time, we can learn a great deal from them. These men and women are the living embodiment of what makes this country so great. I encourage each Member of Congress to take time from their schedules to meet with their local fire service representatives who are in town.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pride to stand before this body in support of House Resolution 188, a measure that honors and recognizes firefighters for their many contributions throughout our history. In many respects, this measure says thank you to all firefighters for all of the sacrifices, the dedication, and the commitment they continually display in protecting our towns, cities, States, and our Nation.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 8 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) who has been, in my time in Congress, the leader of the Fire Caucus and the go-to guy on fire issues.

Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I want to first of all thank my distinguished chairman for his kind comments and for his leadership on a number of issues, especially those today dealing with the fire service, and thank the distinguished ranking member as well and the other Members who will speak here today.

Madam Speaker, I would not be in this body were it not for my involvement in the fire service of America. I grew up the youngest of nine children in a fire service family. Like my six older brothers and father, I became involved as a firefighter, president of my fire company, chief of my fire company, state instructor, and while teaching school during the day went back and got a degree in fire protection.

When I came to Congress, what I saw was a Federal Government that was not being responsive to the 1.2 million men and women who serve this country. It was back 18 years ago that we formed the Fire Caucus. It has been the largest caucus in the Congress for the past 10 years, 340 Members.

The institute, which will benefit from the dinner tomorrow night, works the issues of firefighters in this Congress, and has given us unbelievable success, success in the form of grants. Working with our good friend, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) and the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER) and our good friend, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT), and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and others, we have established great programs to assist these people in protecting their towns.

And to our colleagues I would say, you know, the fire service is more than just people who fight fires. They are really the heart and soul of America. They are the backbone of our communities. The 32,000 organizations, 85 percent of whom are volunteer, are the organizations that organize July 4th parades, Memorial Day celebrations; they rescue the cats in the trees.

They pump the cellars out when they are flooded. They are the people who allow us to vote in their fire halls on election day. They are the receptions where we have our weddings and our anniversaries in the fire station. They host the Boy Scout and Girl Scout troops. They are the fabric of what makes America what it is. There is no other group of people in the country that works as largely volunteers, where 100 of them are killed during the course of their volunteer activities, as well as their paid activities.

The fire service is America. It is older than the country is, the first fire department having been founded 250 years ago. The fire service is what this country is all about, people who give back in small towns and big cities to protect our communities.

The fire service is finally getting national recognition, and all of us need to continue that effort. Madam Speaker, in my 20 years in Congress, I have been at all of our disasters of major significance: The floods in the Midwest, the Murrah Building bombing in Oklahoma City, Hurricanes Andrew and Hugo, Loma Pietra, Northridge earthquakes, and in every case, every case, the men and women of the fire service are there protecting our towns. They are our domestic defenders. They are the people who respond for us.

Madam Speaker, I was at the World Trade Center in 1993 and met a fellow who would become my good friend, Chief Ray Downey. He made recommendations to us that we in this Congress took to heart. We established the Gilmore Commission because of Chief Downey's recommendations. The saddest call I took on September the 11 of 2001 was from a battalion chief friend of mine in New York who said, ''Curt, Ray is down. He has been killed by the collapse of the first tower.''

I said, ''I will be on the first train into New York the next day.'' And so I went on the first Amtrak train into New York City, was met at Penn Station by a battalion chief and taken down to Ground Zero where I spent the day at the headquarters of the Fire Department of New York, with the firefighters who were there doing harrowing acts and attempting to identify people that were still trapped.

As I walked from the center of the activity at Ground Zero around the back of one of these seven-story piles of rubble, I could see two firefighters on their knees. And I could barely read the back of their turn-out gear. As I got closer, I saw the names on the back, and there were the names Downey and Downey.

You see, like firefighting families all across America, when the father gets involved, so do the brothers and so do the uncles. There were two of Ray Downey's five kids, searching through the rubble to try to find the remains of their father at the last site that he had been seen.

We did not find Ray Downey's remains until 8 months later through DNA evidence, that we could give him a proper burial. I said it cannot get much worse than this. But you have to understand, Madam Speaker, who those men and women are. I went back to the Javits Center with the head of the firefighters union, Harold Shaitberger.

Our job was to greet the family members of those who were missing, the 343 firefighters that were missing and eventually were determined to be killed in the collapse of the Trade Center towers. And I remember two families standing out. The first was a woman in her late 30s. She had a baby

in her arms and was being held up by her brother and her sister. As she came in, I said, I am terribly sorry. The country is grieving with you. Who is missing?

She said, Congressman, my husband is missing. He was the rock of my family. He was everything. He was a great neighbor. He was involved in the community. What do I do now, Congressman? We have 10 children.

We sometimes take these people for granted. Ten children yet still developing time to help protect his neighbors and his friends and people he had never met.

And then a second woman came in in her 50s. She was being helped by her brother. I went over and I embraced her. I said, I am terribly sorry. Who is missing? And she said, Congressman, my husband is missing.

Her name was Angelini, I will never forget it. She said, Congressman, my husband was ready to retire from the New York City Fire Department, just a matter of months after a full career. He is gone, I know he will not be back, because I would have gotten a call by now.

I said, I am terribly sorry, Mrs. Angelini. She said, But, Congressman, my son is gone too. You see, he wanted to be like his father.

So Angelini Junior was like his father, a firefighter in New York. Both of them were killed by the collapse of the Trade Center towers. How do we tell that family that the work they did is so vitally important to our country? We tell it by doing the things that we are doing in Congress to support those firefighters that are alive.

And I would ask my colleagues on this day that we welcome 2,200 firefighters to Washington to help me right a wrong. Junior firefighters today have been ruled by the Justice Department that they are not eligible as American heroes. It is outrageous to the junior firefighters killed in the line of duty, 1 year below the normal age of 18, cannot qualify for public safety officer death benefits.

We need to right the wrong of the Justice Department so that anyone who volunteers, whether it be a 15- or 16-year-old junior firefighter in Wisconsin, or whether it be a 17-year-old Eagle Scout doing his volunteer fire work in Florida, if they are killed in the line of duty, they too are American heroes.

Today, that is not the case. So I thank my colleagues for their support. I thank them for their leadership. I welcome everyone tomorrow night as we celebrate, for the 17th time, America's true domestic defenders, the men and women of the American fire service. I thank my colleagues for yielding the time to me.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL), another strong proponent of firefighters.

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) for yielding me this time.

We are overwhelmed. This is a great piece of legislation that has been introduced by the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON). We are all supportive of it.

□ 1400

The gentleman from Pennsylvania and I are always overwhelmed day in and day out by the work of all of our first responders, and today we recognize our firefighters.

Just recently, Madam Speaker, we had tremendous floods in north Jersey. Who were the first there? The first there were our firefighters, and the best action we could take was to recognize their service and to do something about it here.

I want to commend the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. THOMPSON), my good friend, the ranking member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, for this resolution and for his leadership of some of the most important issues of our time.

This resolution, H. Res. 188, pays needed tribute to the over 1.1 million firefighters in the United States, who take 24 million calls a year. Think about that. Day in and day out. It gives us a chance to say thank you to the men and women who contributed to and sacrificed so much for this country.

Every 19 seconds a fire department responds to a fire somewhere in America. Over 1.5 million fires are handled by public fire departments. These are staggering figures when we know many places have manpower shortages; many places do not have the resources within the municipalities to do what has to be done.

Firefighters risk their lives at an alarming rate, and we know their heroism is absolutely critical. Where we would be without them, Madam Speaker? What would we do without them?

The work of firefighters is as noble as it is vital, and we will remain forever grateful. They are truly heroes, truly heroes in our midst.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues, I plead with my colleagues, the chairman, the ranking member, that we not forget these words today when we have to reinforce the Fire Act, when we have to appropriate for the SAFER Act so that we put our actions where our words are.

God bless these men and women that put their lives on the line every day, and I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time, and just note that I rise in support of H. Res. 188, honoring the service of America's firefighters.

Every day these Americans risk their lives to save others. Three hundred forty-five firefighters died at the World Trade Center, but what is not mentioned is that one-quarter of them were off duty. They were off duty, but those firefighters heard the call they were needed. They risked, and in some cases sacrificed, their lives in order to save others.

In America such sacrifices are a daily occurrence. Three times a minute there is a fire call somewhere in the country. Firefighters never know when that call could be their last.

This resolution is a very simple way for us to say thank you for the job you do. We honor you. You make a difference every day.

I urge its adoption.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he might consume to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS), thank him for his leadership on this issue, and thank him for his commitment to firefighters throughout this country.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of our Nation's firefighters. I am proud to have cosponsored this resolution. I am even more proud of my work with the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, which I have been privileged to cochair with the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), who started that caucus, and who is, I think, probably the most ardent spokesperson on behalf of firefighters and firefighting safety in this country.

The Fire Services Caucus, Madam Speaker, has long championed initiatives to include the safety and well-being of our Nation's firefighters and to enhance their ability to protect our communities.

Specifically, we have worked to establish and fund the assistance to the firefighters grant program, which has provided more than $2 billion in equipment and training grants for career and volunteer fire departments across the country.

Madam Speaker, it is appropriate that we recognize the extraordinary contribution to the passage of that act. Indeed, he was the author of that act, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL). I want to thank him for his leadership which is untiring, unflagging and so effective on behalf of our firefighters and the emergency response personnel all over this country. I thank him.

Madam Speaker, more recently we have worked to authorize and fund the SAFER program, which the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL) also talked about, and perhaps others have as well, which provides much-needed assistance to allow career and volunteer departments to hire and recruit additional personnel. Understaffing is not only a safety problem for our neighborhoods, but a safety problem for our men and women who risk their lives in our defense.

It is appropriate that we work tirelessly on behalf of the 1.1 million men and women serving as our domestic defenders. We send men and women abroad to defend freedom, to defend democracy. We are tragically losing some of those people in Iraq today and perhaps Afghanistan. They do so as volunteers. They do so because they believe in our country, in its ideals and in freedom.

Very frankly, here at home we are kept safe by men and women in uniform as well, our police and our firefighters and our emergency responders. We owe them not only a debt of gratitude, but we owe investing in their enterprise to keep them safe and to keep our neighborhoods and communities safe.

We ask far too many of them to risk their lives in our defense every day with outdated equipment, Madam Speaker, insufficient training and inadequate staffing, and we have an obligation to provide them the necessary resources to perform their jobs as safely and effectively as possible.

By honoring this obligation and supporting programs like the SAFER Act and the fire grants, we not only ensure they will go home to their loved ones at the end of the day, we also enable them to better perform their job by protecting us and our loved ones every day.

Madam Speaker, we will all vote for this resolution. It is easy to vote for resolutions. It is appropriate to vote for this resolution, but if we really mean what we say in honoring these firefighters, men and women, volunteers and career, if we really mean that, the gentleman from New Jersey is correct, and I am sure, I have not heard others speak, but I am sure the observation was made as well, we need to invest our resources behind the work that they do. This resolution, while appropriate and while important, it will not be as meaningful as it otherwise would be.

I thank the gentleman for yielding me the time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, we have no further speakers on our side, I do not believe, on this resolution.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I will close for our side, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Firefighters are indeed on the front lines between the public and the devastation that fires or other emergencies can cause. This mostly volunteer force helps protect the public interest from these dangers by rapidly responding to a variety of emergencies despite hazardous conditions and long, irregular hours.

Every year fires and other emergencies take thousands of lives and destroy property worth billions of dollars. Fire kills 3,700 and injures more than 20,000 people each year. Direct property losses due to fire reach almost $11 billion a year.

Firefighters pay a high price as well. Approximately 100 firefighters die in the line of duty each year.

Firefighters must be prepared to respond immediately to a fire or any other emergency that arises. Because fighting fires is dangerous and complicated, it requires organization and teamwork. Education, training and teamwork have lowered the rate of America's fire losses today to represent a dramatic improvement from more than 20 years ago. In 1971, this Nation lost more than 12,000 citizens and 250 firefighters to fire.

We owe a debt of gratitude to firefighters for making our communities safer. Therefore, I strongly support this resolution and urge that all of my colleagues do the same, and we continue to owe tremendous debts of gratitude to those men and women who every day protect us from fires.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the gentleman from Illinois, and I thank all the other speakers on this important resolution. I think it is important that we, as a Congress, periodically recognize the contributions and the sacrifices that our firefighters make on our behalf every single day. So I hope all Members will join me in supporting the adoption of this resolution.

Mr. SHAYS. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res 188, which recognizes and honors the contributions firefighters have made to our country.

Firefighters have played an important role in our nation's history since the first volunteer fire company was founded in 1736 by Benjamin Franklin. Firefighters take their oath of public safety very seriously and go above and beyond their call of duty to serve and protect the citizens of the United States.

On September 11, 2001, the firefighters of our nation selflessly risked and gave their lives in one of most tragic days in the history of our country. The site of those brave men and women putting their lives on the line to enter the smoldering World Trade Center to save as many people as they could is still a humbling vision three years later. My heart goes out to the hundreds of firefighters who gave their lives on that horrible day.

The terrorist attacks were not just attacks on New York City, but on the nation. With New York as a continuing top terrorist target, the protection of New York City is becoming a national responsibility. Other cities with tall buildings throughout the country face the same challenges with their communication systems and will need the same upgrades. Improvements in New York will lay the groundwork for improvements to communications systems across the country.

In light of this fact, it is my hope Congress will redouble its efforts to insist that communications systems of firefighters in high-risk urban areas be upgraded. The "9/11 Can You Hear Me Now Act," which Congresswoman Maloney will be introducing soon with my support, instructs the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to provide a communication system that must be capable of operating in all locations and under the circumstances we know firefighters face and will continue to face when responding to emergencies.

Today and every day, the bravery and self-sacrifice of the firefighters in the United States deserves to be commended. Their efforts have had an enormous impact on the public safety of our citizens. Thanks to the 1.1 million firefighters in the United States, the country is a safer place to live.

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H. Res. 188, which honors our nation's firefighters for the life-saving work they do every day to keep our families safe and secure. All too often we take for granted the heroic efforts of these dedicated public servants, and I am pleased to join my colleagues in taking a moment to say thank you.

On Chicago's North Side, there is a large mural dedicated to the memory of fallen firefighters. It depicts several events where these brave men and women answered the call to rescue their fellow citizens. The events pictured range from the tragic 1958 fire at Our Lady of the Angels school in Chicago to the events of September 11th, 2001. In each of these emergencies, firefighters have selflessly risked their lives so that others may live. The words in the center of the mural say it all: "First Ones In, Last Ones Out."

On December 7th last year, a fire broke out in Chicago's LaSalle Bank Building, a landmark skyscraper built in 1934. As flames and heavy smoke poured out of the 29th floor windows, dozens of Chicago firefighters entered the building. These heroes showed exceptional professionalism and valor as they evacuated all 45 stories of the building and extinguished the fire. Of the 37 people injured in the fire, 22 were Chicago firefighters. As a direct result of their swift response and expertise, no lives were lost in one of the city's worst fires in recent memory.

Chicago firefighters receive a great deal of attention when handling major events such as the LaSalle Bank fire, but perhaps their greatest achievement is in the quiet work of prevention, inspection and education. Fire-related fatalities in Chicago are at a 25-year low, thanks to improvements in building safety and community outreach efforts by local firehouses to schools, senior centers and neighborhood associations. Chicago's citizens are now better informed about how to prevent and handle emergency situations, and they view their local firehouse as an important and valuable resource in the neighborhood.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues calling up this important resolution today, and I look forward to working with them to provide America's firefighters with the support and resources they need to continue their heroic work.

Mr. BACA. Madam. Speaker, I rise in support of House Resolution 188, legislation that recognizes the courageous sacrifices of our nation's firefighters. I would like to thank the gentleman from Mississippi for introducing this symbolic and vital resolution.

Every day, firefighters risk their lives protecting our families, our property and our way of life. They fight for our security, not because they have to, but because they choose to.

Over the years in California, wildfires have destroyed homes, damaged properties and threatened the livelihood of thousands of families.

In 2003, Southern California and the Inland Empire experienced devastation like never before. Wildfires burned more than 740,000 acres of forest. Nearly 3,600 homes were destroyed and many people lost their lives. At one point, nearly 16,000 firefighters were battling the blazes at the peak of devastation. Without the bravery and fortitude of our firefighters, the wildfires in Southern California would not have been extinguished.

This exhibition in public service is not limited to my district or state. From the forests of California to the streets of New York City, firefighters selflessly put themselves in harm's way, believing in their call to duty.

We owe a great deal of gratitude to these brave men and women who fight daily for our safety.

Madam Speaker, I stand in strong support of this resolution and commend Congressman THOMPSON for his sponsorship. We need to continue to support individuals that are willing to stand on the line for us. I hope that my colleagues will join me in recognizing these selfless acts.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the dedicated men and women who serve my district, the State of Connecticut, and our nation as firefighters.

Today, across the country, over 1.1 million career and volunteer firefighters stand ready to answer our calls for help. In 2003, our 30,524 fire departments responded to 22.4 million alarms—an average of one every 20 seconds. They work and volunteer countless hours ensuring the safety of others, and if needed, are ready to risk their life to save another.

Firefighters are truly on the front lines of protecting our communities and our nation, and in recent years their role has extended beyond just putting out fires. Today, firefighters serve as the first responders for medical emergencies, provide search and rescue services to victims trapped in burning or collapsed buildings, handle hazardous materials and extract injured persons from car accidents. Above all else, they provide hope to those in need in times of danger and despair.

I have met many of the men and women who serve as firefighters in the first district of Connecticut, and I am proud to represent such brave and dedicated public servants. Each and every day, these selfless heroes give their all to protect our communities and our families. I thank them for their service and urge all of my colleagues to support H. Res. 188.

Mr. COSTELLO. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 188, a resolution to honor and recognize firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation. As a member of the Congressional Fire Services Caucus, I commend the service and honorable duty firefighters across the country provide to our communities. I am especially proud of the firefighters and fire departments that protect and look after the 12th Congressional District of Illinois.

For the fire service to maintain a strong voice in the federal discourse on homeland security issues, we must have a strong U.S. Fire Administration and sufficient funding for personnel, vehicles, and equipment. As a result, I have continually supported the Assistance to Firefighters Grants program and have been very successful in helping many departments in Southern Illinois secure grants to improve their operations each fiscal year. Additionally, I am a cosponsor of several bills in the l09th Congress to aid firefighters and fire departments to ensure they are properly equipped to protect themselves and their communities.

I am pleased the House of Representatives is considering H. Res. 188 today, and urge my colleagues to support the passage of the bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, I stand today in support of H. Res. 188 which recognizes and honors our nation's firefighters for the many contributions throughout our nation's history. Their great efforts range from ground support following the destruction of the World Trade Center in New York to relief efforts following the Tsunami of the Coast of Ache Indonesia. Not only do our nation's firefighters contribute on an international scale, but they also support our local communities in times of need and distress.

In January of this year, in my district, I joined forces with local humanitarian organizations, and federal, state, and local officials to conduct a medical relief drive for the Tsunami (in Indonesia) victims. To this end, I also worked closely with the City of Houston's Fire Department. They were very instrumental in helping to receive medical supplies and other items for the victims. My sincerest thanks goes out to Fire Chief Phil Boriskie and to the City of Houston for their efforts and strong commitment to providing relief for Tsunami victims.

Currently there are over 1.1 million firefighters in our nation, and 75 percent are volunteers. These are individuals who put there life on the line everyday. They deserve all the honor and notoriety we can give them.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 188.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CAPTAIN MARK STUBENHOFER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1460) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the ''Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 1460

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CAPTAIN MARK STUBENHOFER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, shall be known and designated as the ''Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building''.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in a law, map, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the facility referred to in subsection (a) shall be deemed to be a reference to the ''Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1460, the bill under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may require.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1460, which I introduced to recognize the bravery and selfless dedication of Captain Mark Stubenhofer.

Captain Stubenhofer was born in Fairfax, Virginia, on April 18, 1974. He grew up there in the suburbs of this great capital of freedom, and he was an all-American from the start.

Mark delivered newspapers in the morning before school. He worked long after the school day ended doing homework or practicing baseball. He attended West Springfield High School in West Springfield, Fairfax County, and he attended Nativity Catholic Church nearby.

He was elected student government vice president at West Springfield and played varsity baseball. After graduation, he went on to Clemson University where he honed his leadership skills through the school's ROTC program. He graduated from Clemson in May of 1996 and immediately began fulfilling his obligation to the Army.

Captain Stubenhofer was commissioned as an infantry officer and attended both the elite Airborne and Ranger schools. He went on to serve two tours in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

During his first tour in 2003, he helped liberate five Iraqi cities. In his second tour, Captain Stubenhofer served as a company commander for the 1st Battalion, 41st Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 1st Armored Division. He was awarded numerous medals and honors, among them two Bronze Star Medals, the Purple Heart, the Meritorious Service Medal and two Army Commendation Medals.

Madam Speaker, during his final tour of duty, Captain Stubenhofer's third child was born, a daughter he asked his beloved wife Patty to name Hope. As he commented in his last phone conversation to his parents, the reason for the name was that it was hope that brought him to Iraq in the courageous

service of his country. Tragically, Captain Stubenhofer never met his daughter Hope. He was killed in combat on December 7, 2004.

Madam Speaker, we owe Captain Mark Stubenhofer, and all those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country, a debt of gratitude that we can never repay.

While we pay homage to fallen heroes like Mark with memorials or post offices, the most fitting tribute is the enduring memory of their lives.

As Pericles, the greater orator, builder and general of Athens, said, for to famous men, all the Earth is a sepulcher, and the virtues shall be testified not only by the inscription in stone at home, but by an unwritten record of the mind which more than any monument will remain with everyone forever.

Madam Speaker, I urge all my colleagues to forever remember Captain Mark Stubenhofer and to keep a record in our minds and hearts of the great works and sacrifices that all of our sons and daughters of the military continue to make on our behalf. Captain Stubenhofer was one of America's finest.

□ 1415

His deeds and sacrifices will forever be remembered by his friends and family and by a grateful community in Springfield, Virginia, who share with me their pride in having his name enshrined on our local post office.

I thank the Virginia delegation for their unanimous support of this resolution, and I ask all Members to pass H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume; and as a member of the House Committee on Government Reform, I am pleased to join our chairman, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), in the consideration of H.R. 1460, legislation naming the U.S. postal facility in Springfield, Virginia, after Captain Mark Stubenhofer. This measure, which has been sponsored by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), chairman of the Committee on Government Reform, was introduced with the support and cosponsorship of the entire Virginia delegation.

Captain Mark Norman Stubenhofer died on December 7, 2004, in Baghdad, Iraq, when his unit was attacked by small arms fire. Captain Stubenhofer, a company commander, was assigned to the 1st Battalion, 41st Regiment, 1st Armored Division in Fort Riley, Kansas. Captain Stubenhofer, a native of Springfield, Virginia, was on his second tour of duty in Iraq when he was killed.

Mark Stubenhofer graduated from West Springfield High School in 1992. In high school, he was a student government leader, member of the homecoming court, and baseball player. After high school, Mark went on to graduate from Clemson University with a degree in history in 1996. Mark joined the Army after graduating from college. While in the Army, he was certified as an Army Ranger and jump instructor. He earned the Bronze Star during his first tour of duty in Iraq.

He left behind a wife, Patty, and three children, Lauren, Justin, and Hope. Madam Speaker, I commend the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for seeking to honor the sacrifice of Captain Stubenhofer by naming a postal facility in his honor in his hometown. I urge swift adoption of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to simply urge all Members to support the passage of H.R. 1460.

Madam Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1460.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING THE LIFE AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS HOLINESS POPE JOHN PAUL II AND EXPRESSING PROFOUND SORROW ON HIS DEATH

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of April 5, 2005, and as the designee of the majority leader, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 190) honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 190

Whereas His Holiness Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla in Wadowice, Poland, on May 18, 1920, and on October 16, 1978, was elected the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church, making history by becoming the first Pope from Poland and the first non-Italian Pope in more than 400 years;

Whereas Pope John Paul II dedicated his long life to the peace and well-being of mankind;

Whereas Pope John Paul II risked his own life by defying the Nazi forces which occupied Poland during World War II and protecting its Jewish population, while trying to inspire faith in the oppressed;

Whereas Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland in June 1979, unleashing a patriotic and religious force that would ultimately lead to the peaceful toppling of the Communist regime in Poland;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was a unique, substantial, and historic catalyst in the demise of Soviet communism and the emancipation of hundreds of millions of people from totalitarian rule;

Whereas Pope John Paul II used public and private diplomacy and the power of moral suasion to encourage world leaders to respect the inalienable rights of the human person;

Whereas Pope John Paul II articulated the importance of individual liberty being undergirded by a ''moral order'', embraced the poor and oppressed masses of the world, and encouraged governments and the faithful to attend to the needs of those who are less fortunate;

Whereas Pope John Paul II ministered to Catholic and non-Catholic alike, providing a personal example of grace, endurance, compassion, courage, sacrifice, and foresight;

Whereas Pope John Paul II was an articulate and outspoken advocate for religious freedom and Christian humanism, asserting that the Catholic Church could not claim religious liberty for itself unless it was willing to concede it to others;

Whereas Pope John Paul II sought to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths, expressing sadness and regret for the acts of individual past and present Catholics who persecuted others on account of their faith, and promoting reconciliation through dialogue with Jews and Muslims and through visits to areas of historic conflict, including Ireland and the Holy Land;

Whereas Pope John Paul II traveled more extensively than any other Pope, traversing nearly three-quarters of a million miles, visiting more than 125 countries, being seen by more people than any person in human history, and ministering to more than six million people at once in the closing mass of World Youth Day 1995 in the Philippines;

Whereas on January 8, 2001, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, J. Dennis Hastert, presented Pope John Paul II with the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest award that Congress can bestow upon any individual;

Whereas in November 2003 the House of Representatives and the Senate unanimously agreed to House Concurrent Resolution 313, which called upon the President, on behalf of the United States, to present the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Pope John Paul II;

Whereas on June 4, 2004, President George W. Bush traveled to the Vatican and presented Pope John Paul II with the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian award of the United States Government;

Whereas, even as Pope John Paul II struggled to regain his physical strength after suffering failings in his physical condition in early 2005, he continued to minister to the faithful, while suffering with grace and in silence; and

Whereas up until the moment of his death on April 2, 2005, Pope John Paul II remained faithful and principled, inspiring a continuing defense of the unique dignity of every human life: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) has learned with profound sorrow of the death of His Holiness Pope John Paul II;

(2) expresses gratitude for the life of Pope John Paul II and the innumerable blessings manifested through his service;

(3) commends the life's work of Pope John Paul II, recognizing his enduring and historic contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace in the world;

(4) expresses condolences to the people of Poland for the loss of such an inspirational figure in Poland's transformation from a totalitarian regime to democratic government;

(5) extends its heartfelt sympathy to the more than one billion Catholics around the world, including more than sixty-six million Catholics in the United States, who looked

to Pope John Paul II as Supreme Pontiff; and

(6) calls upon the people of the United States to reflect on the life of Pope John Paul II during the worldwide period of remembrance following his death.

SEC. 2. The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to the Secretary of State with a request that the Secretary transmit it to the Papal Secretary of State at the Vatican.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 190, the resolution under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Illinois?

There was no objection.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, it is a privilege to speak in honor of the life and the achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II. It is hard to imagine any other person who holds so much worldwide respect regardless of religious faith. The estimated 4 million people, including 200 heads of state, expected to attend the Pope's funeral in Rome later this week will bear witness to history's high regard for this man of principle and courage.

John Paul II dedicated his long life to peace and freedom for all mankind. As a young man, the Pontiff risked his life and defied Nazi forces which occupied Poland in an effort to protect the Jewish population and others in his homeland. As the 264th Pope, his faith remained steadfast during the years of the Cold War, playing an important role in the demise of Soviet communism.

As columnist Charles Krauthammer commented this week, ''John Paul II's first great mission was to reclaim his native Eastern Europe for civilization, and he demonstrated what Europe had forgotten and Stalin never knew: the power of faith as an instrument of political mobilization.'' Visiting more than 125 countries over his career, the Pope reached out to people of other cultures and religions in an effort toward greater understanding, healing, and harmony.

Despite the steady decline in his health due to Parkinson's disease, and especially since he fell ill in early February, John Paul II continued to lead the Roman Catholic Church with his gentle strength and noble heart. He remained faithful, principled, and resolute concerning the continuing defense of the Church's traditional belief in the unique dignity of every human life from conception until natural death.

During a long and fruitful life, he literally provided the world with an example of how to live with dignity and unshakable faith. He told us to ''be not afraid'' in the face of seemingly insurmountable challenges. He showed us how to demand justice from the unjust. His faith inspired us when we most needed reassurance. His composure and dignity during times of great suffering serves as an inspiration to us all. He bore his personal cross with grace and serenity until the very end of his long and remarkable life.

As John Paul II has said, ''Faith opens us to a hope that does not disappoint, placing us before the perspective of the final resurrection.'' While life itself is short and tenuous, I am comforted by the fact that His Holiness is finally at home and in a place of peace and refreshment with the Father. I am sure he is praying for us even now, as we are praying for him.

It is appropriate we mourn his passing. It is right and proper that we grieve over the loss of humanity's great champion; but we should also feel gratitude that this Pope stayed with us for so long and look forward to the time when we will hear the words he surely heard last Saturday: ''Come, Beloved of my Father, and enter the Kingdom which has been prepared for you since the beginning of time.''

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in strong support of this resolution.

Madam Speaker, at the outset, I would like to express my deep appreciation to the distinguished chairman of the Committee on International Relations, my good friend, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), for authoring this resolution remembering the life of Pope John Paul II. I also welcome the wholehearted support for this measure of my friend, our Democratic leader, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI).

Madam Speaker, one billion Catholics worldwide, more than 60 million of them Americans, have suffered the staggering loss of a unique spiritual leader. And for all humanity, Pope John Paul II was a towering figure in the struggle for freedom. He railed against injustice all his life. He fought tirelessly on behalf of the poor, and he kept alive the aspirations of the oppressed wherever they were.

Those of us who have shared in his fight against both Nazism and communism have a special appreciation for him. Those of us who lived in the grip of Nazism and communism will always be grateful for his eloquence and his courage in his fight against Hitler's tyranny and Soviet domination during the Cold War.

I had the profound honor, with my wife, of having a serious conversation with Pope John Paul II during the visit to Rome in 1998. In our long discussion with His Holiness, we were struck by his clarity of mind, his captivating personality, and his absolute refusal to let his deteriorating health force him to remain behind the walls of Vatican City. These impressions came back to me during these very last days when a Pope silenced by illness nevertheless continued to call out forcefully for freedom and peace and to bring comfort to millions around the globe.

In his first public address at his installation as the Supreme Pontiff in 1978, John Paul II famously urged the faithful, and I quote, ''Be not afraid.'' In the decades that followed, this message resonated well beyond the Church and the City of Rome. Within months of assuming his papacy, Pope John Paul II traveled to his native Poland. Enormous crowds poured onto the streets to greet him. The Pope pointed out that it was impossible to understand Poland without the context of Catholicism, and that, in his words, ''There can be no just Europe without the independence of Poland.''

Throughout the 1980s, the Pope remained in constant contact with the nascent Solidarity labor movement and with the Polish Government, pushing successfully for the end of martial law in 1983, and, ultimately, Madam Speaker, the end of the Polish Communist regime in 1989.

The demise of communism in Poland dramatically influenced the pace of Democratic change throughout Central and Eastern Europe. Americans, together with the rest of the world, will be eternally grateful for his important role in bringing liberty and democracy to tens of millions of men and women behind the Iron Curtain.

The Pontiff went on to provide inspiration for the ''people power'' revolt against the corrupt rule of Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines, and he strongly supported the pro-democracy efforts of the Archbishop of Manila, Cardinal Jaime Sin. Marcos fell from power in 1986. Then the Pope traveled to Chile in 1987 and spoke out firmly against the authoritarian rule of Augusto Pinochet. Democracy took hold in Chile in 1990. Then the Pope traveled to East Timor in 1999, inspiring a whole generation of young Timorese to protest Indonesian occupation. East Timor won its freedom in 2002.

Pope John Paul II also made extraordinary efforts to repair relations between Catholics and Jews. In 1982, he took the historic step of establishing diplomatic relations between the Vatican and the State of Israel. He became the first Pope in modern times to visit a synagogue. In 2000, he was the first Pope to travel to the State of Israel; and there, Madam Speaker, he quietly read a prayer of reconciliation at the Western Wall, requesting forgiveness for the sins of the Church against Jews through the centuries.

□ 1430

At a somber visit to the Yad Vashem, the memorial to the Holocaust, the

Pope spoke movingly of his Jewish friends he had lost to the death camps during the Holocaust, and he recommitted the Catholic Church to battling anti-Semitism around the globe. He said, ''The world must heed the warning that comes to all of us from the victims of the Holocaust, and from the testimony of the survivors.''

Madam Speaker, with his efforts to reach out to Jews worldwide and to the State of Israel, and with his ceaseless work to promote human rights globally, Pope John Paul II, became a truly historic figure. We were all inspired by his passion for justice. His voice will be missed in the great global chorus that sings out for freedom in all corners of the world. I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. HYDE. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Madam Speaker, first of all, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Abraham Lincoln was succeeded by Andrew Johnson. Johnson was impeached by his fellow Republicans. Teddy Roosevelt became so frustrated with his successor, he came back to run against him.

Great Presidents and great Popes are seldom succeeded by great Presidents and great Popes, which is why so many of us mourn the loss of Pope John Paul II so much.

I never saw him in person. As a third-generation Lutheran boy marrying a Catholic girl, I take a more ecumenical view of the papacy. Until John Paul II, I saw the Pope as generally irrelevant to matters of personal faith and world events. Karol Wojtyla changed all that. He began his papacy with those simple words, ''Be not afraid.'' He lived those words until his dying breath. History always finds a special place for the fearless.

He understood something that many Western sophisticates do not. There is enormous persuasive power in communicating deeply held moral truths. President Victor Yushchenko reminded us today of something the Pope said. He said, ''The path of truth is often difficult, but never impossible.''

He literally took up his cross daily and led charismatically his massive flock. He spoke with clarity to them and to the world. He led by example, and in the process, like St. Peter before him, he changed the world.

He stared down the Soviets when they threatened to put down the Solidarity movement in his native Poland. He traveled more and touched the lives of more people than any Pontiff in history. I thank God for giving us Karol Wojtyla. He will be succeeded. He will be hard to replace.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS).

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

One of the great experiences I have had in life was to have an audience with Pope John Paul II. I traveled to Rome with the former mayor of the city of Chicago, Harold Washington; two other colleagues of mine at the time, a Jewish gentleman, Larry Bloom, and a Polish gentleman, Bill Krystaniak. The four of us met with the Pope, two African Americans, a Jewish person, and a Pole. When we were ready to leave, Bill Krystaniak replied, ''We can actually end our trip because one of my wishes has been fulfilled.''

Each one of us left with a tremendous sense of peace and tranquility, knowing that we had been in the presence of encompassing greatness, one who fought poverty, ignorance, discrimination, totalitarianism, whose arms were wide enough and broad enough and strong enough to embrace the hopes of the world.

I strongly support this resolution. Chicago is home to more Poles than any city in the world with the exception of Warsaw, and I know that we experienced a tremendous sense of pride, not only our Polish citizens, but all of Chicago, knowing that Pope John Paul II, had passed our way.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory of Pope John Paul II. He served as the head of the Catholic Church during a tumultuous 26 year period that saw changes that rocked the World as well as the Church. During his life, Pope John Paul II's influence extended far beyond the Catholic faithful to non-Catholics and world leaders. As a result, his death is mourned by people of all faiths around the world.

In his role as head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II led a growing Church that spans 6 continents and consists of people from very different backgrounds. His credibility as a leader was bolstered by his willingness to take stands that were often unpopular and sometimes viewed by many in highly developed countries as anachronistic. His willingness to take stands that reflected the traditional teachings of the Church was strengthened by his willingness to acknowledge that the Church had at times failed to stress its traditional teachings during challenging periods. He did not just acknowledge past errors, but sought to prevent future ones by confronting the totalitarian threat of his time, the Soviet Union.

John Paul II was a tireless champion of democracy in Eastern Europe and an unrelenting critic of the Soviet Union and its puppet regimes in Eastern Europe. His experience growing up in Nazi occupied and Soviet controlled Poland surely influenced his pro-democracy, anti-totalitarian worldview.

As Chicago is home to the largest number of Poles of any city in the world other than Warsaw, his death hits especially close to home. Many Chicagoans of Polish descent fled Poland during the crackdowns and turmoil of the 1980s—a period during which Pope John Paul II was a major figure in the pro-democracy, anti-Soviet movement in his homeland. Developments in Poland proved decisive in ending Soviet domination in Eastern Europe as well as the collapse of the Soviet Union itself. For his leadership in the fight against totalitarianism, many people in Eastern Europe and of Eastern European descent hold him in particularly high esteem.

His leadership in the pro-democracy movements in Eastern Europe represents only one facet of his numerous accomplishments. A complete list would not be possible, though I am certain that my colleagues in the house will point out many more.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. TIAHRT).

Mr. TIAHRT. Mr. Speaker, I join my colleagues today in rising to honor the life and achievements of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and to express profound sorrow on his death. This week is bittersweet for people of faith throughout the world. We mourn the loss of a great leader and a man respected by people of many different faiths, yet we also celebrate his life and rejoice that he is now enjoying his eternal reward.

From the selection of the first Polish Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in over 400 years, Pope John Paul II's leadership of the Catholic Church was truly historic. Rightfully credited with helping bring about the end of communism, he also maintained a voice of morality during a time of overwhelming secularization of the West. The Pope was a stalwart in the fight against what he termed a ''culture of death.'' He was unrelenting in his promotion of a culture of life.

Many talk of the Pope's legacy and presumed sainthood, but it seems the only legacy Pope John Paul II ever desired was a world of hope that celebrates life.

Our great 40th President, Ronald Reagan, is credited with restoring optimism to Americans, but even before Reagan, Pope John Paul II began his mission to restore hope to a pessimistic world. In carrying his message, Pope John Paul II tirelessly traveled all ends of the globe as no Pope and no leader has done before. Even as he was in great physical pain, he did not stop visiting people of all ethnicities, cultures and faiths to bring Christ's message.

Pope John Paul II inspired even the most cynical demographic of the human population, young adults. The Pope's message to the students of freedom and faith led to the success of Solidarity. In later years, the annual World Youth Days were filled with students eager to hear the Pope's message of faith and hope. The Pope challenged them to a life of service in all walks of life. He said, ''Jesus, Servant and Lord, is also the one who calls. He calls us to be like him because only in service do human beings discover their own dignity and the dignity of others.''

Mr. Speaker, the young people touched by Pope John Paul II will continue to carry out his work as they come to shape the world in coming years. It is fitting that Pope John Paul II was carried back home to the Lord

on the vigil of Divine Mercy Sunday, a feast day he instituted. His last message to the world, which was read posthumously, should be repeated often across the globe: ''To humanity, which at times seems to be lost and dominated by the power of evil, egoism and fear, the risen Lord offers as a gift his love that forgives, reconciles and reopens the spirit to hope. It is love that converts hearts and gives peace. How much need the world has to understand and accept Divine Mercy.''

Mr. Speaker, we pray that John Paul II's message will be burned in our hearts and guide us through the current and future world challenges. We also pray for the repose of his soul and are delighted that he is in the company of the Lord he dutifully served his 84 years on Earth.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE).

(Mr. PENCE asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PENCE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support, along with the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE), on behalf of this resolution honoring the life and achievement of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and expressing profound sorrow upon his death.

Mr. Speaker, while I am a United States Representative today, my first public position ever was that of an altar boy at St. Columbus Catholic Church in Columbus, Indiana, so it is with a particular sense of privilege that I rise today in this capacity to recognize the extraordinary life and work of Pope John Paul II.

My Catholic faith and that of my entire family continues to remain the bulwark of our world view, and much of that over the past three decades has been invigorated by the leadership and eloquence and courage of this man.

Now, many in the national media have commented since the Pope's passing this last Saturday about the nature of his appeal and the source of the international grief that has attended his passing. Many commentators in print and on television have suggested that his appeal is a direct result of his well-schooled public abilities, loosely defined as his charisma.

But I rise today in support of this resolution to respectfully disagree with those commentators and to say that I believe Pope John Paul II's appeal on a global scale is grounded in his role as a moral leader; in fact, one of the chief moral leaders on the planet of the 20th century.

His moral leadership and his personal courage were forged, as we have heard even today, from an extraordinary youth in the grip of Nazi Germany's tyranny. Pope John Paul II, from very early in his life, became an opponent of every form of government organized to present tyranny against the mind of man. His stands against communism throughout his life literally were the underpinning that brought down that wall we heard President Yushchenko speak of with gratitude today.

He was also a moral leader not only for his own Christian church, but for the wider world. And as the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) just shared eloquently, after centuries of silent enmity between Christendom and the ancient people of Israel, Pope John Paul II spoke words of reconciliation and healing.

In particular, his visit and prayers at the Yad Vashem Holocaust Memorial in Jerusalem was, I believe, a watershed event in the history of the Christian church and will resonate for centuries in the work of the Catholic Church and Christians across the globe.

Pope John Paul II stood against the immorality of communism and anti-Semitism and ensured that the church would remain a bulwark of moral truth. And he stood for the sanctity of life, as the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) stated so eloquently. When the culture of death has made such a steady advance across Western civilization, Pope John Paul II stood for the unborn. His leadership, his voice, his compassion will be missed in the life of his church and, I argue humbly, the wider world. Pope John Paul II's death is a loss for humanity. He was not just the leader of the largest Christian church in the world, he was truly a moral leader.

May God rest his soul and bring comfort and consolation to millions of his adherents.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS).

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, if I may, I would like to tell a story. In January of 1945, a young Jewish girl, 13 years of age, stumbled from a Nazi labor camp in Poland, starved to skin and bones, and clad only in her striped rags. She shivered in the Polish winter.

□ 1445

Though she did not know it yet, Edith Zierer was completely alone in the world, her mother, father and sister murdered in Nazi camps. When she felt that she could no longer bear the cold, Edith rested in the corner of a train station.

Suddenly, a young man wearing a long robe, only 24 years of age himself, approached her. He gave Edith tea, bread and cheese and offered to help her get to Krakow to find her parents. She rose to thank him, but fell to the floor, unable to stand because she was so weak. The young man took Edith in his arms, carried her to the train, and sat down in a cattle car beside her. He shielded her from the cold with his coat, built a small fire for warmth, and accompanied her to Krakow.

Edith Zierer lived, and she still lives today as a result of the kindness of this stranger. Mr. Speaker, that generous stranger was also an orphan, a young seminarian named Karol Wojtyla, eventually Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, this is what we mean by a culture of life. A culture of life is surviving tragedy as Pope John Paul II did and pledging yourself to bettering the lives of others. A culture of life is forgiving those who try to extinguish your life as Pope John Paul II did when he visited his would-be assassin in jail and forgave him for his sins. A culture of life is knowing too well the misery of war and becoming a champion of peace. A culture of life is embracing the diversity of people living on this planet, advocating religious tolerance, human rights, and a more equitable distribution of the Earth's precious resources.

Mr. Speaker, a culture of life is treating each human being as Karol Wojtyla treated Edith Zierer. Let a culture of life, in this fashion, be Pope John Paul II's legacy.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL).

(Mr. PAUL asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PAUL. I thank the chairman for bringing this resolution to the floor, and I strongly support it.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to join my colleagues in paying tribute to the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. Pope John Paul II was one of the great religious leaders of modern times and an eloquent champion of human freedom and dignity. Unlike all too many misguided religious leaders, the Pope understood that liberty, both personal and economic, is a necessary condition for the flourishing of human virtue. The Pope's commitment to human dignity, grounded in the teachings of Christ, led him to become one of the most eloquent spokespersons for the consistent ethic of life, exemplified by his struggle against abortion, war, euthanasia, and the death penalty.

Unfortunately, few in American politics today adhere to the consistent ethic of life. Thus we see some who cheered the Pope's stand against the war and the death penalty while downplaying or even openly defying his teachings against abortion and euthanasia. Others who cheered the Pope's opposition to abortion and euthanasia were puzzled or even hostile to his opposition to war. Many of these pro-life supporters of war tried to avoid facing the inherent contradictions in their position by distorting the just war doctrine which the Pope properly interpreted as denying sanction to the Iraq war. One prominent talk show host even suggested that the Pope was the enemy of the United States for this position.

In conclusion, I am pleased to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II. I would encourage those who wish to honor the memory of John Paul to reflect on his teachings regarding war and the sanctity of life and consider the inconsistencies in claiming to be pro-life but supporting the senseless killing of innocent people that inevitably accompanies militarism, or in claiming to be

pro-peace and pro-compassion but supporting the legal killing of the unborn.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 2 minutes to my distinguished colleague, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member for yielding time, and I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for bringing this resolution to the floor. Might I offer my deepest sympathy to the world's family of Catholics, to those Catholics in my congressional district, the 18th Congressional District in the State of Texas, and as well allow me as a member of the ecumenical community, many different faiths, to be able to express our sympathy as well.

It is important to note what many of us believe Pope John Paul II stood for, an unyielding spine, backbone, someone who was larger than life, who believed in humanity and its safety and love and as well had the common touch, a man who understood suffering, having lost his mother at an early age of 8 years old, his older brother of scarlet fever just a few years later, and his father, who was a sergeant in the army, in 1941. He understood suffering. Yet he was the first Pope to expand his reach and understand the value of the world's religious communities coming together.

And so he paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust. He was the first Pope to visit Auschwitz and as well to visit the synagogue of Rome. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II went to the Holocaust memorial as well. And, yes, he visited Syria. Pope John Paul II was also the first Pope to visit a Muslim mosque when he traveled to Damascus, Syria. Later on, with the strength of his conscience, he said to us, war is a defeat for humanity and that wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore prove ultimately futile.

So I simply have these words to say, Mr. Speaker, simply to thank Pope John Paul II for his legacy and his life, to appreciate the fact that he was willing to lift those who could not lift themselves and thank him for teaching us about the genocide in Sudan and allowing us to lift ourselves to be able to stand against it and to fight with every breath in our body to be able to live his legacy, and that is a man of peace and a man who loved humanity.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of the House Resolution honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death. Truly, billions of people around the world, both Catholic and non-Catholic alike mourn the death of Pope John Paul II. He held one of most influential positions on Earth, but his life will be remembered as a man of the people, a man who never saw any barriers between people.

I plan to travel with the Congressional Delegation to Pope John Paul's funeral at the Vatican in Rome along with an estimated two million mourners. This man has touched the life of so many both with his words and with his actions, that people now come together to honor this great man. Pope John Paul was born Karol Wojtyla on May 18, 1920, in Wadowice, Poland. His early life was not easy, his mother died when he was only eight years old. Three years later, he lost his older brother to scarlet fever. His father, who was a sergeant in the army, died in 1941. By the age of 20, he had lost three of his closest family members. But as he would throughout his life, he summoned his courage and his remarkable resolve to remain true to his religious upbringing. He would grow up in Poland during an era of Nazi occupation and repression. He worked as a common laborer and even as religious expression was being quelled by the Nazis he continued his Catholic teachings.

He would become the youngest bishop in modern Polish history at the age of 38 as the Archbishop of Krakow. Nine years later he was the youngest cardinal, guiding the Catholic faithful in a country that was officially atheist. He was known even then for his stance against Communism and the forces of oppression and hate. On Oct. 16, 1978 at the age of 58, John Paul II was selected to lead the Roman Catholic Church as the youngest pope of the 20th century. His relative youth allowed him to be extremely active and meet with people throughout the world. His charisma and grace allowed him to touch the hearts of people and convey a message of peace and collective humanity.

As Pope, John Paul II traveled the world to directly speak to the issues that confronted society. Whereas previous pontiffs often remained distant, never straying far from the Vatican, John Paul maintained a busy travel schedule. He completed 102 pastoral visits outside of Italy, and 144 within, visiting almost 130 countries during his 26 years as Pope. He logged more kilometers of travel than all other popes combined. His first visit as pope was to his homeland of Poland which was still beset by Communist rule. He advocated for the solidarity movement and he pushed for change, but he insisted above all else that any movement in order to be successful must be peaceful. It was Pope John Paul who aptly stated that: "Social justice cannot be attained by violence. Violence kills what it intends to create." His influence and guiding hand brought down the rule of Communism in Poland and ushered in a new era throughout Europe and indeed much of the world. I was honored to recently have meetings with both former Polish President Lech Walesa and current President Aleksander Kwasniewski and it seems clear that together with the Pope's influence Poland was able to transform from an oppressive communist country under strict Soviet control and with a weak economy to an independent and democratic country with a fast growing free-market economy. The end of communism fell like a series of dominoes in nations throughout the world and truly Pope John Paul was among the most influential in setting off these series of events.

Pope John Paul also used his travel to improve relations between the Vatican and people of other faiths. He grew up in an area of Poland where he lived next to many people of Jewish faith during the era of Nazi persecution where he saw his Jewish neighbors face brutality. As Pope he wrote and delivered a number of speeches on the subject of the Church's relationship with Jews, and often paid homage to the victims of the Holocaust in many nations. He was the first pope to have visited Auschwitz concentration camp in Poland, in 1979 and his visit to the Synagogue of Rome was the first by a pope in the history of the Catholic Church. In March 2000, Pope John Paul II went to the Holocaust memorial Yad Vashem in Israel and touched the holiest shrine of the Jewish people, the Western Wall in Jerusalem, promoting Christian-Jewish reconciliation. The Pope said at that time that Jews are "our older brothers". Pope John Paul was also the first Pope to visit a Muslim Mosque when he traveled to Damascus, Syria. He used his position of influence to bring people of all faiths together and for that we should be grateful.

At each stop he made as Pope he reiterated that we only have one lifetime to live and that we must ensure that we use this time to achieve peace instead of suffering in war. It was Pope John Paul who stated: "War is a defeat for humanity." And that "Wars generally do not resolve the problems for which they are fought and therefore . . . prove ultimately futile." His words certainly ring true for the present, as well as the past and future. Indeed, Pope John Paul II was a great man for all ages; it was he who stated: "The future starts today, not tomorrow." His presence and stature will be missed and we are right to mourn this great man. However, the Pope John Paul would be the first to tell us that the future is now and we must continue to move forward. We must all use his words and the lessons learned to help guide future generations. Because while the issues of society may change over time, the basic spirit of humanity never does.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am very pleased to yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), the majority leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HYDE) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for offering this resolution.

From the darkness, Mr. Speaker, came the words, ''Be not afraid.'' A quarter century on, through tearful eyes, we behold the man, Karol Wojtyla, who with gentle vigor willed history toward the splendor of truth.

Born to an age of man and an era of oppression, John Paul II gave witness to all who would be free that the Author of History was too the Author of Liberty. As a secret seminarian witnessing the Nazi occupation of Poland, the Third Reich wanted him arrested. As a bishop witnessing the Soviet domination of Eastern Europe, the politburo wanted him dead. And as Holy Father witnessing the degradation of human life, the culture of death wanted him silenced.

Yet in the face of their threats, not despite them but because of them, his voice rang out all the louder and his heart beat all the stronger in love for the children of God. He battled tyranny his whole life, tyrannies of the sword and of the heart, that the world, his universal flock, might throw off the yoke of evil and embrace the love of God's truth.

Against violence, oppression, materialism and hatred, John Paul defended

the dignity of human life with a warm voice and an iron will. He was the rock upon which a generation of Catholics built their churches and the walking symbol of faith, hope and charity that fuels the Christian heart. Much has been rightly said of John Paul's role in the victory of freedom over tyranny in the East; but much more will be said, Mr. Speaker, of his eventual role in the victory of freedom over license in the West. For the culture of life is the culture of John Paul II.

In his later years, the Pope gave perhaps his most profound witness to the dignity of human life as he carried age and disease around on his back like a cross. He stumbled along the way, like his Savior, but he never put it down.

In his final days, as his long-suffering body began to fail, pilgrims came to his home at the Vatican to pray and to share this particular moment in the history of faith. And still they come. Around the world, billions of every creed are treated to photographs of John Paul as a child in Poland, as a young actor, and a priest. We see footage from his decades in Rome, the smiling face, the graceful, athletic frame, the gentle voice that roared truth to power.

It is in these images, Mr. Speaker, that the grace of his late suffering can be fully understood. He gave to his God and neighbor all that he had, all his heart, all his mind, all his soul, until there was nothing left to give but his broken, weary body which he gave with a prayer of joy and a soft, final amen.

Thus shall we remember our friend John Paul, warrior-saint, the Lion of Krakow.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. FORTENBERRY).

(Mr. FORTENBERRY asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FORTENBERRY. Mr. Speaker, let me add my voice to the millions of Americans and people throughout the world who now mourn the loss of Pope John Paul II. He was an extraordinary man of great courage and conviction of faith. His life was consumed in sacrifice, out of love of God and love of others; and he reminded us constantly of the duty we have to the least among us, the poor, the vulnerable, the weak who have no power but the protection of those who willfully sacrifice on their behalf.

Pope John Paul II not only confronted physical deprivation but also intellectual and spiritual poverty. His constant admonishment to us, particularly those of us in power, to rebuild a culture of life is a message so desperately needed in our world. He had a heart for the youth and traveled extensively to bring a message of hope and love, saying to the young especially, act courageously and do not be afraid.

Mr. Speaker, I will miss him. America will miss him. The world will miss him. I now believe that he hears the words, Well done, good and faithful servant.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), our Democratic leader and my friend and neighbor who will be one of the leaders of the congressional delegation leaving for Rome.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding me this time and for his kind words. It is indeed a privilege to be part of a delegation to the funeral of the Holy Father. I also thank the distinguished chairman of the committee. I know how much he respected and admired the Holy Father. I thank him for his leadership in helping us express our condolences as well.

Mr. Speaker, my mother used to always say of John Paul II, ''He is a saint walking the Earth.'' Indeed, he was. It is in that spirit and with deep sadness at his passing but with great thanks and joy for his life of good works that I rise today to join my colleagues in paying tribute to Pope John Paul II.

□ 1500

Pope John Paul II was one of the great spiritual and humanitarian leaders of our time. His deeds, his words and his indomitable spirit of love were a blessing to this world, and the entire world mourns his passing.

Again, I am very honored to be part of the congressional delegation to the Pope's funeral on Friday, and I hope that our delegation can help convey the thoughts, prayers, and deep sympathies of the American people on his passing. We will be pleased to join our President in doing that.

Pope John Paul II was a man of God, and he was a man of the people. He was passionate in his commitment to doing God's work here on Earth. St. Francis of Assisi, who was the patron saint of my city of San Francisco, said, ''Preach often, sometimes use words.'' The life of John Paul II was a sermon he preached every day by example. His ministry fed the hungry, cared for the sick, and invited the stranger. He was a champion for the poor, promoting justice and economic development around the world. His work built on the legacy of Pope Paul VI, not his immediate predecessor, except for 33 days his predecessor, who believed, ''If you want peace, work for justice.'' Pope John Paul II helped to bring justice and healing to the relationship between Catholics and Jews, and I know how important that is to the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS). His commitment to nonviolence and to peace on Earth was heartfelt and steadfast.

With a concern and caring for all of God's children, John Paul II reached out to people of all ages, nationalities, and faiths. As we all know, he traveled to so many countries in his service as Pope, and he spent more than 2 years in his papacy outside of Rome. I like to say that he was aptly named John Paul: John, the Apostle of love, and Paul, who preached the Gospel to such a wide range of people in the earliest days of Christendom. In doing so himself, Pope John Paul II brought the redemptive message of the Catholic Church to places it had never been, and he inspired millions of individuals who saw in his conviction and in his example the light of God.

He had a special bond with the youth of the world. I remember when I met him in San Francisco when he came there, and it was so exciting for us to welcome the Holy Father, and when he landed at Crissey Field in a helicopter, it was so dramatic. And when I met him, our Archbishop, Archbishop Quinn, said, as we were chatting, ''Your Holiness, I have confirmed the Congresswoman's children.'' And he said, ''That's good, that's good.'' And he said, ''Your Holiness, I have confirmed the Congresswoman's five children.'' And he said, ''That's very good, that's very good.''

And as I said, he had a special bond with the youth of the world. He spoke with them as a spiritual leader, but also as a teacher and as a friend. The guidance he offered to today's youth will benefit the world for years to come.

Likewise, his influence on world events will be felt for generations. John Paul II played an enormous role in the fall of communism and ending the Cold War, and that has been mentioned here. He was a man of peace. As a priest in Poland, he waged a persistent struggle for nearly three decades against the Communist Government over the building of churches and the right of his people to worship as they choose. He continued that work as Pope, inspiring the Polish people and the Solidarity movement, and offering spiritual strength to others working to free themselves from Communist regimes.

In his later years, the Pope offered the world a very different but significant form of inspiration. Suffering from Parkinson's disease and with failing health, he struggled until the end to share God's word. He taught us about the dignity of every individual and showed us that we must always seek to make a difference on this Earth.

It is written in the Book of Genesis, ''Thou shalt go to thy fathers in peace; thou shalt be buried in a good old age.'' John Paul II is with our Father now. We were blessed that he preached peace in this world for so long.

As we honor his memory, as we sing his praises, we must also heed his message. The Catholic Church recently gave us a guide, the compendium of Catholic social justice, for how we can address some of the issues the previous speaker talked about, addressing the needs of the poor, the vulnerable, and the weak. President Bush mentioned that when he gave His Holiness the Presidential Medal of Freedom, he mentioned that he had championed the

work for the poor, the vulnerable, the needy, he said, and the weak. We must do that in our work here. It would then be an appropriate honor and remembrance for the life, leadership, service, and holiness.

My mother said, as I said in the beginning, he is a saint walking this Earth. Anyone who was ever in his presence knew they were in the presence of a holy man. Because he lived and we observed him, we have a responsibility to follow his lead.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART).

Ms. HART. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois for yielding me this time, and my colleagues who are so eloquently expressing the impact that Pope John Paul II has had on all of us and on the world, and hopefully on all of us here in this House.

He became Pope in 1979, when I was a teenager. In a quiet Catholic community, one that was quietly prayerful, quietly service-oriented, but quietly, he inspired us not to be so quiet. He inspired us to change that quiet prayer into exuberant song. He inspired us to get involved, to step out of the churches, step out of our own communities, and give more direct service, become more directly involved with those afflicted with illness, with those afflicted in poverty, with those with other problems, emotional concerns, and active the Church became.

I could not even describe the difference in the church I grew up in in Pittsburgh from 1979 to today, inspired by Pope John Paul II. Young people, everyone mentions that the Pope has a very close connection with young people. World Youth Days around the world were so widely attended from children around the world that it gives me great hope for the future of the world.

A young priest at my church, who is now probably about 33 or 34, had taken a delegation to the World Youth Day last year or the year before and had come back with a pretty amazing story. In this world of corporal comfort, one of the young men in the group had complained to him that it was so crowded, he had to stand next to a pile of stinking garbage in the hot sunshine. And he was waiting and waiting and smelling the garbage and waiting and thinking, why am I here? This is so uncomfortable. And then finally the Holy Father took the podium. It was raining, it was wet. But when the Holy Father took the podium, the sun shown through. This young man conveyed to my priest what I think was the Holy Father's point all along. This world is not perfect. This world can be made more perfect through our action, our prayer, our involvement. This young man, I am sure to this day, is a very faithful and active Catholic and a faithful and active servant, one whose attitude that day was transformed from himself to generosity and interest in others, one that I hope we all take as his legacy.

A man who grew up in such a difficult time, in a difficult oppressive time, in an area where obviously his faith was not quite permitted, was such an inspiration to world leaders, Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, working hand in hand with them because he understood that the fundamental connection between redemption and human freedom was real, and he needed to participate. He showed us that every human has value. His own personal suffering is a testament to the vital sacredness of all human life.

He called special attention to the unborn. We still struggle in not paying enough attention to the unborn. Just recently we demonstrated, unfortunately, how our society does not pay close enough attention or concern to the incapacitated, the infirm. I hope this reflection today will help us do so.

The Pope said that each man in his suffering can also become a sharer in the redemptive suffering of Christ. We are wise to remember him, his legacy, especially his teaching, through his powerful words, but mostly through his powerful actions.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. BEAUPREZ).

Mr. BEAUPREZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for all of his leadership, especially for bringing this resolution to the floor today, but for all of his leadership throughout the years. I thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) as well for his leadership, similarly a champion of justice and a compassionate individual who speaks with tremendous moral clarity.

Mr. Speaker, I am saddened today, as a lifelong Catholic, at the thought of the death of our great Holy Father, John Paul II. As I stand in the well of this Chamber, it also strikes me as curiously ironic that we come to commemorate the life of John Paul II, who spoke with enormous moral clarity, and I stand staring at the image of Moses, the first of our lawgivers, who defined moral clarity for us in those early beginnings of civilization and humanity.

The early years for John Paul II were a journey of hardship and sacrifice. Born Karol Wojtyla in a small town outside of Krakow in 1920, the same year of my mother's birth, by the way, he was the second of two sons. His mother died when he was but 9 years old, and by the time he was 21, he had lost his dear brother and his father as well.

Young Karol found himself alone. He worked in a rock quarry and then a chemical factory to earn a living and to avoid being deported to Nazi Germany. To fulfill a wish that his father had, young Karol began preparing to give his life to the Lord by studying at an underground, clandestine seminary in Krakow, doing so in secret to avoid the wrath of the Nazis. His faith and belief in God eventually led him to the very chair of St. Peter. As the head of the Holy See, a position he held for more than 26 years, he led his flock longer than any other Pope and certainly longer than any in recent memory.

I was always humbled by this man who was able to exert so much influence on the politics of our world and the direction of mankind, yet had the ability to do so with such a quiet, gentle hand.

One must look no further than the collapse of the Soviet Empire for an example of how much influence he had. While no one person can claim that they were the lone force behind the collapse of communism, there should be no argument that the extent to which John Paul II played in defining it and defeating it was enormous. Along with another great man of his era, Ronald Reagan, they confronted their adversaries face to face and helped defeat this evil, and did so without war.

□ 1515

This man of God, who was once an avid outdoorsman, who skied and hiked the Italian mountainside, who aggressively traveled the globe more than any other Pope, became almost like a family member to everyone in the world, regardless of faith.

He embraced the modern media. John Paul entered the homes and touched the hearts of countless millions with his message of love, truth, devotion, and courage. He was unwavering in his defense of all life, limitless in his forgiveness, including of his own would-be assassin, and without peer as he embraced all the world's faiths and humbly asked forgiveness from our Jewish brethren for a Church and a world that did too little for too long.

Those of us privileged to serve in this hallowed Chamber have the opportunity to meet presidents, prime ministers, kings and queens, the famous and the fortunate of the world. Twice I was in the presence of this Pope, in 1993 in Denver and at the Vatican in 1995.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that the essence of this humble man from Krakow transcended humanity. His essence emanated peace, holiness and a sense that surrounding him was a glimpse to all of us of our Creator's promise for eternity. Without so much as a single word, his spirit overwhelmed all who witnessed his being.

''Be not afraid'' became the motto of his remarkable Papacy. Inspired by his commitment to peace, freedom, compassion for the poor and oppressed and for a culture of life, may we also carry on his legacy of truth in our very own lives.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 2 minutes to my friend, the distinguished gentleman from New York (Mr. ENGEL), a member of the Committee on International Relations.

Mr. ENGEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished ranking member and my good friend for yielding me time;

and I rise, of course, in support of this resolution, as have all my colleagues.

Pope John Paul was an exceptional person. While one would expect all kinds of accolades to come at this time, the accolades that come for him are truly heartfelt and truly deserved.

I had the occasion to meet him my very first year in Congress in 1989 in the Vatican. There is a picture that was taken of us talking. It looks like we are in very serious talk, and I am opening my mouth and speaking with him. People have always said to me when they see that picture, My goodness, what were you saying to the Pope?

The truth is that those of us that were in the first row, the Pope is moving along shaking our hands. He shook my hand. I said to him, I am Congressman ELLIOT ENGEL from New York. He looked at me and smiled and said, God bless America, and moved on to the next person. That is the remembrance I have of him.

He certainly was a compassionate man, someone who really cared about the people. Of course, he was the first non-Italian Pope in nearly 500 years. I had the occasion just a couple of weeks ago to visit Krakow, Poland, where he came from and where he did his ministry in his early years; and the people there, of course, have special, warm feelings for him.

I want to mention, as so many of my colleagues have, the Pope's tremendous gestures of reconciliation with the Jewish community, both in terms of anti-Semitism and going to Israel and having the Vatican and Israel establish diplomatic relations. He was a person that not only spoke his mind, but he put into play practical steps; and certainly the Church was on record as opposing, actively opposing, anti-Semitism under his watch.

So on behalf of my constituents and on behalf of the people of New York and on behalf of the American people, I just want to extend, first of all, my heartfelt condolences to everyone who is mourning, and all of us are mourning the Pope, and say that his life has truly touched all of us, Catholic and non-Catholic alike. He is a man that we will always remember and one who we will certainly always miss.

I also take my hat off to this great tribute that this House is now giving by passing this resolution to honor Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 15 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GINGREY). The gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) is recognized for such time as he may consume.

Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with my colleagues and the millions, if not billions, of people throughout the world in celebrating the life of His Holiness Pope John Paul II, and support the resolution and thank the gentleman from Illinois (Chairman HYDE) for presenting it.

Mr. Speaker, no one at the time in 1978 expected Cardinal Wojtyla to be elected the Keeper of the Keys to the Church. In his election as Pope, John Paul II became the first non-Italian Pope in 405 years of Papal history.

John Paul II was truly the People's Pope. Throughout his Pontificate, John Paul II traveled the world, visiting over 115 countries on 170 trips. It was with the people that Pope John Paul II connected the most. He called upon the world to embrace freedom and human dignity. In doing so, the Pope will be remembered for his role as peacemaker, instrumental in the fall of communism in Europe and the liberation of his own native Poland.

But the Pope also called on the world's religions to open their doors to each other. Drawing from his own experiences in Nazi-occupied Poland, the Pope advocated interfaith dialogue. He became the first Pope to enter a synagogue and embraced the leaders in Islam. His work to expand communication between the faiths has brought together a generation of the devoted, and our world is a better place for it.

During an open-air mass in St. Peter's Square in 1998, the Pope asked of himself, Have you been a diligent and vigilant master of the Church? Have you tried to satisfy the expectations of the faithful of the Church and also the hunger for truth that we feel in the world outside the Church?

Although he did not answer then, we can answer for him today. Yes, yes, you have.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to yield 3 minutes to my good friend, the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BLUNT), the distinguished majority whip.

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for yielding me time to speak on this important issue.

As has been said many times on the floor today, we celebrate the life of a man who truly changed the world. If I were going to start a list of people who freed other people in the 20th century, I would put the names of Franklin Roosevelt, Winston Churchill, Ronald Reagan, and John Paul II at the beginning of that list.

This is a man whose life defied all logic and reason, because his life was about something bigger than logic and reason. His life was about faith, and faith is bigger than those things. If you wrote this individual's story in a book as a novel, it would seem too unreasonable to be the subject of that novel.

Born in an obscure part of Poland, he resisted the Nazi occupation of his country and led a resistance that exceeded anything we could imagine as the leader of the Church in Poland under the Soviet Union. All of us who were thinking about world events or even were just amazed at what was happening in the world have to remember that first trip back behind the Iron Curtain in 1980, and seeing tens and hundreds of thousands of people come to see this individual, defying their government as he defied their government, and the sudden realization to most of us in the West that there was something going on behind the Iron Curtain and in the Soviet Union and particularly in Eastern Europe that we really had not realized to be as big as it was.

This is an individual who, to my amazement, was seen by more people than any other person who has ever lived. As you think about the quarter of a century of his leadership of the Church, the tens of thousands and hundreds of thousands and even millions of people that would see John Paul II at one time, more people saw him than ever saw anybody else in the history of the world.

His impact was great. His leadership was strong, his reaching out to people of all faiths, particularly his ecumenical reach to all Christians. As a Baptist, I appreciate the leadership of this Pope. He reached out to all Christian faiths, but he also reached beyond Christian faiths to people of all faiths as no Pope ever had before.

We celebrate his life. He stood for something bigger than the tangible things that we so often think about and deal with. It is a great honor to be able to stand here on the floor of the House where people reflect on freedom every day, and reflect on the life of this man who did so much to extend freedom of all kinds, with the freedom of religion being the most important of those, to so many people around the world.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, in concluding on our side, may I just say that for the last hour you have heard an outpouring of genuine affection and respect and admiration for a great spiritual leader. These were not empty phrases. These were heartfelt thoughts and expressions of profound respect for a person who in a profound way has changed our world for the better.

In concluding, I again want to thank my friend for crafting this brilliant and moving resolution on which we are about to vote.

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

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) for his usual superb cooperation, and I wish to associate myself with his remarks in closing.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 190, a measure honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II, and expressing profound sorrow on his death. It is with great honor that I stand here today to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II and recognize his contributions to the causes of freedom, human dignity, and peace.

The leadership the Holy Father displayed during his 26-year tenure as Supreme Pastor of the Roman Catholic Church helped to shape our moral conscience. His fight to end human rights abuses and his opposition to communism not only influenced the Catholic community, but the world community. He was a defender of the faith whose leadership during a pivotal time was profound. I am truly awed by the life of the Holy Father.

Born Karol Jozef Wojtyla, Jr. in 1920, Pope John Paul II was the second son of Karol Wojtyla, Sr. and Emilia Kaczorwoska Wojtyla. Karol, Sr. was a retired officer for the Polish Army as well as a tailor, and Emilia was a schoolteacher. Pope John Paul II repeatedly demonstrated his unique ability to form friendships that crossed the social norms of the time. Although his hometown of Wadowice, Poland was wrought with anti-Semitism, Pope John Paul II and his family did not share in that hatred. He was the first Pope to visit a synagogue and the first to visit a memorial in nearby Auschwitz honoring victims of the Holocaust. His Holiness was also the first Pope to visit a mosque.

Shortly after his father's death in 1941, Pope John Paul II attended an underground seminary in Krakow, where he was eventually ordained in 1946. His powerful compassion and faith carried him quickly up the ranks of the Church as he was named the auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958. He was instrumental to the Vatican Council II deliberations in 1962, which encouraged diversity in language and practice of the Catholic faith in order to facilitate the inclusion of laymen in worship while also condemning anti-Semitism around the world. The profound respect he enjoyed throughout the Catholic community led to his election as Pope after the death of Pope John Paul I in September 1978, making him the first Slavic Pope in history.

Less than a year after being named Pope, John Paul II returned to his native Poland and forcefully supported the Polish Solidarity movement and opposed communism. His insistence that no system of government override religious beliefs gave hope to people of faith throughout the former Soviet Union that reforms would take place. The courage and determination that he displayed in opposition to a world power reflected the strength of his convictions and his willingness to stand up to an institutional force that challenged the beliefs of the church.

Pope John Paul II was an indomitable figure despite increasing infirmities. Though he survived an assassination attempt in 1981, his health was never quite the same. However, his warmth and compassion shone brightly to all who met him and quickly endeared him to young people around the world. He is said to have been seen by more people than anyone else in history, exemplifying his connection to ordinary people. He was an unwavering moral leader whose power and appeal derived from the way he lived his life. He demonstrated this when he prayed for his would-be assassin.

Pope John Paul II was also an intellectual, a pragmatist, and a scholar who was a defender of liberty. His charisma and his ability to lead were intertwined with his status as the ''People's Pope.'' He forged a bond with people of all faiths by projecting his warmth and compassion beyond his flock. Pope John Paul II's life provided strong moral leadership during a pivotal time in history that enabled the fall of communism and the victory of liberty. The world was truly blessed to have Pope John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, during his 26 years as pontiff, Pope John Paul II spread the Catholic faith with visits to over 115 countries. His gift for uniting those of different beliefs earned him Man of the Year honors from Time Magazine in 1994, and his popularity among both Catholics and non-Catholics around the world was a testament to his genuine love for humanity. His teaching of tolerance and love for thy neighbor will be a lasting legacy for this truly great religious leader.

Mr. SHUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise this afternoon to honor the life and work of Pope John Paul II and to offer my condolences to Catholics around the globe who mourn the death of their spiritual leader. For 26 years Pope John Paul II was a faithful Shepard to his flock and acted as a primary example of peace and justice to millions of all faiths.

Trained as an actor, Pope John Paul II used the world stage to promote his message of social justice and freedom for all of God's people. Upon his election to the Papacy, Pope John Paul made one of his many journeys home to his native Poland. It was upon that journey that the Pope defiantly preached against the oppressive tyranny of communism and promoted messages of solidarity and freedom. In uttering the simple words, ''Be Not Afraid'', John Paul II offered courage to hundreds across Eastern Europe to break free from the chains of communism.

Despite the illness that plagued him in the later part of his life, John Paul II never faltered in fighting against injustice and in protecting the most innocent in our society. Indeed, it was in the Pope's very public suffering that we are reminded of the dignity of every human life from conception until natural death. Mr. Speaker, today we join together to honor the life of a true servant of God. While we mourn Pope John Paul II and are filled with sorrow at his passing, we also rejoice in knowing that he has returned home to his Father.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great man of the Catholic faith and a hero to those of all faiths. I was deeply saddened to learn of the death of Pope John Paul II. I join the millions of people around the world that have been mourning the loss of this great man and great spiritual and moral leader who stood firmly for the oppressed, for the downtrodden, and for people of all faiths around the world.

Pope John Paul II was a great man, and a strong advocate for equality. He spoke out time and time again against discrimination and injustice in all its forms. He believed in the ''right to have a family and to have an adequately paying job'' and that everyone should be able ''to exist, preserve and develop one's own culture.'' His compassion for his fellow man and woman was overtly obvious.

Pope John Paul II has spread the word of God and the gospel to the world. He was the most traveled Pope in history as he brought these ideas across the globe, especially to the world's poorest people on the continents of Asia, South America, and Africa. He was the only pope to have visited a Caribbean country and has held mass in a host of Central and South American countries. In the last two decades under the Pontiff, the number of Catholics in Africa has doubled and the Pope has visited over a dozen countries on the continent. He appointed nearly two dozen cardinals from Latin America and the Caribbean, including Oscar Andres Rodriguez Maradiaga of Honduras and Claudio Hummes of Brazil, and thirteen from Africa, including Francis Arinze of Nigeria.

Citing the commitment to social justice in the Old Testament, the Pope was a long-time champion of debt relief. In 1994, he called on the United States and other nations to forgive the debts of 40 of the world's poorest countries; to fight vigilantly against hunger, poverty, and disease; and to establish programs to build sound economic policies in those countries.

Though he mourned September 11th with the rest of the world, the Pope steadfastly believed that peace, not war, is the path to creating a safer world for all. He was an outspoken critic of the Iraqi war and called on international leaders to find a peaceful mechanism to address their differences.

Pope John Paul II worked to ease the centuries' old tensions between the Catholic Church and Jews. He was the first Pope to visit a concentration camp and was also the first Pope to visit a synagogue, calling Jews ''our eldest brothers.'' He has repeatedly tried to keep the Catholic Church morally grounded in its advocacy but adaptive to changes in the world.

Not only was he a spiritual leader and warrior for civil rights of universal renown, but he was also an intellectual powerhouse. He was capable of speaking to his people in multiple languages. He wrote volumes on the philosophies of mankind and the virtues of faith.

Personally, I have always respected and admired the Pope for his humanitarianism and empathy for others. He led by example and marked a path of principle and conviction. During my second meeting in 1987 with the pontiff, I was humbled to hear his views and thoughts on drug eradication and other contemporary issues. For over a half century, he had implored the international community to think with grace, act with compassion, and behave with deep regard and respect for our fellow man.

In his many decades of service as the head of the Catholic Church, Pope John Paul II has done tremendous good for both the Catholic Church and the people of the world. He was a man who commanded my sincere respect, and his loss will be felt by me for many, many years to come. Pope John Paul II was a man who in death, as in life, was an inspiration and guide to us all.

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing my sadness at the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. Since 1978, he piously served as the head of the Roman Catholic Church and was an inspiration to Catholics and non-Catholics across the world.

It could be said that the Pope was a true ''Renaissance Man''—with a love for literature, art, and music. Once he entered the priesthood, his passion for poetry and the written word did not wane. He continued writing about issues close to his heart, including peace, oppression and spirituality.

Immediately following his inauguration, Pope John Paul II began traveling the world. He brought global attention to the communist and socialist governments of his native Poland and other parts of Eastern Europe, and called for reform and changes. During World War II, he

saw first-hand the low points of humanity's cruelty to one another and throughout his pontificate vowed to halt tyranny and hatred. His peaceful opposition to human rights violations will always be remembered and will continue to be an inspiration to us all.

He committed his life to his faith, and was instrumental in bringing attention to peace and justice, poverty and disease, and each individual's connection to one another. As a Catholic myself, I admired Pope John Paul II for his devotion to God, his involvement with global issues, and his ability to bridge gaps between the Church and its past. I join millions of others in mourning his passing.

The Holy Father will be missed, but he now joins the Father he served so dutifully during his life on earth. I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution and honor this great man.

Mr. MORAN of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. His life will serve as an inspiration to all those who seek to make this a more peaceable and unified world.

Born in Wadowice, Poland, Karol Wojtyla did not know the challenges that life would present to him, or that he would confront these challenges with great courage. His mother passed away when he was nine years old, followed by his brother several years later. It was during this time that his faith in God strengthened and he began his journey towards the papacy. Karol Wojtyla quietly studied to become a priest during the Nazi occupation of his beloved Poland, and in November 1946 he was ordained a priest.

During his service as a priest and later as Archbishop of Krakow, Father Wojtyla actively defied the Communist regimes that were attempting to end religious worship throughout Poland. In 1967, he was made a Cardinal and on October 16, 1978 he was elected as the 264th Pope of the Catholic Church and took the name Pope John Paul II in honor of the three pontiffs who preceded him.

During his papacy, Pope John Paul II showed the world the strength of his character that the people of Poland had known for years. In May 1981, he survived an assassination attempt and later met with his would be assassin and forgave him. This example of absolution showed the world the true nature of this man and the power of faith.

Pope John Paul II was instrumental in defeating Communist regimes throughout Eastern Europe. His support for the Solidarity Movement in Poland helped create a domino effect throughout Europe as people chose democracy over Communism.

His work to foster ecumenism throughout the world's principle religions will also be a part of his lasting legacy. Pope John Paul II was the first pope to visit the Western Wall in Jerusalem and asked for forgiveness from the Jewish people for wrongs the Catholic Church had committed against them. He also reached out to Muslims and visited with leaders of the Islamic faith.

As the most traveled Pope in history, John Paul II brought his message of hope to millions of people in 129 countries. He was also able to make a connection with the youth of the world that no other Pope had achieved. He recognized the importance of young people to not only continuing the life of the church, but also sustaining the future of our world. He championed human rights and justice for the poorest people in the developing world to the youth he met with throughout his papacy. I am hopeful that when the young people he touched with his words and actions become leaders in our world they will continue this message of hope.

Mr. Speaker, Pope John Paul II taught the world many important lessons. He taught us to forgive, to stand up for the rights of all people, and how to create change peacefully. He has touched many lives, and will continue to do so even after his passing. As we reflect on his legacy and the spiritual guidance he offered, may people of faith everywhere take guidance from the values he instilled in our world.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 190, which honors the life and achievements of Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was a man of devout faith who used his leadership to help the poor, mediate conflicts around the world, and fight tyranny. As a man who fought both the Nazi and the Communist regime in Poland in pursuit of his own faith, he was a strong advocate for religious tolerance and freedom. His life's work is truly inspiring to all of us.

As the most traveled Pope in history, Pope John Paul II visited more than 120 countries and traveled approximately three quarter of a million miles. During these visits he worked to bring peace to regions of the world that were in conflict. He embraced the poor and the oppressed across the world by encouraging us to help those who are less fortunate.

His hope for a better world for those who had nothing should remind us all as Pope John Paul II said to ''practice mercy heroically with the lowliest and the most deprived.'' Pope John Paul II was able to rise above political and religious conflict to deliver a message of peace, love, and faith all while promoting equality for all.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of the most influential Popes in modern history. Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojityla on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland.

During his childhood the Pope was very athletic and an exemplary student. He had a passion for the outdoors and the theatre. In 1942 he felt a calling to the church. He was ordained a priest at the age of 26. Subsequently, he served as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland and was appointed a Cardinal.

On October 16, 1978, Cardinal Wojityla became Pope John Paul II. He opened the door for future non-Italian Popes as he was the first since Adrian VI in 1522. He was also the first Pope of Polish ethnicity.

Pope John Paul II impacted people of all ages world wide, especially young people. Creating World Youth Day in 1986, the Pope showed his commitment to young people worldwide. His hope was to instill the values of freedom, hope; truth, and justice in youth so they could work towards bettering the future of humanity.

Religious tolerance and acceptance were Pope John Paul's core ideals. He had a profound respect for other religions. During his childhood, he had many Jewish friends and expressed a long-standing respect for the Jewish faith. He expressed sorrow for historic hostilities toward Jews and prayed at the Western Wall in Jerusalem, Judaism's most Holy site. John Paul II was also the first Pope to visit a Mosque and visited more than 20 Islamic countries. Pope John Paul II went to great lengths to encourage religious tolerance. In 1986 the Pope invited a diverse group of 90 religious leaders to Assisi, Italy to pray and recognize the role world religions have in promoting understanding and tolerance.

An advocate for human rights, peace and justice, the Pope was the most traveled pope in history. He visited over 120 countries in every continent except Antarctica and met with a diverse group of World Leaders. Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to meet with the President of the United States. His commitment to the love of people and the love of his religion transcended political boundaries. In 1998 Pope John Paul II became one of the first leaders to visit communist Cuba and meet with Fidel Castro.

Pope John Paul II died on April 2, 2005.

Pope John Paul's II captivating personality and commitment to the church and humanity ingratiated him into the hearts of millions of people worldwide. The members of the House of Representatives remain mindful of John Paul's II message of tolerance, hope, peace, and justice.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II, who traveled the world for twenty-six years and touched billions of lives. In the countries he visited, he delivered a message of peace and reminded the world about the power of love for all humanity. As the leader of the Catholic Church, he worked toward the fall of communism and spread hope to millions of oppressed people. One of the most influential figures of the modern era, this son of Poland taught us to respect human life in all forms. His legacy will be felt for generations to come. His actions in life and his strength in death have inspired people of all faiths. I join with billions around the world who mourn the loss and celebrate the life of this great man.

Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I was deeply saddened to learn that the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II, passed away on April 2nd. This extraordinary man touched millions across the world with his dynamic, courageous and compassionate leadership. I know that we in the United States join a global community in mourning this great and blessed man.

From his humble beginnings in Poland, Pope John Paul II became the first non-Italian pontiff in 455 years and one of the most beloved figures in recent memory to Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The first pope to visit a synagogue and a mosque, he will be remembered as a spiritual leader who worked tirelessly to bring people of all faiths together. His papacy helped stem the tide of communism in Poland and Eastern Europe. His ministry on behalf of the poor and the sick is well known by worshipers worldwide.

One of the most moving moments I've ever experienced was seeing the pope speak to hundreds of thousands of Cubans at an outdoor mass in Havana in 1998. He delivered a message of religious tolerance, social justice, and human rights in the country of Fidel Castro. His powerful presence and words in Revolutionary Square were greeted by thunderous applause from the Cuban people. It was a special event I'll never forget.

During his historic first visit to the United States in 1979, the pope famously told the crowd in Boston that ''the pope is your friend.'' Now we say goodbye to a man of hope, a

man of faith and a man of dignity. Today we say goodbye to our friend. May he rest in peace.

Mr. GONZALEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join San Antonio and the world in mourning the passing of Pope John Paul II, a great religious and humanitarian leader.

Pope John Paul II was born Karol Jozef Wojtyla on May 18, 1920 in Wadowice, Poland. He excelled in school as a brilliant student and athlete, gaining a passion for religion, poetry, and the theatre.

He was ordained in 1946, assuming priestly duties in 1949 as chaplain to university students at Krakow's St. Florian's Church. He rose steadily through the church hierarchy, becoming the auxiliary bishop of Krakow in 1958 and was later appointed archbishop of Krakow in January 1964.

During this time he made a name for himself as a formidable theologian and staunch defender of the Catholic faith as he taught at the Krakow Seminary and Catholic University of Lublin.

He was later elevated to cardinal in June 1967, and elected as Pope John Paul II on October 16, 1978. He proved to be one of the most energetic and hard-working men ever to occupy the Papal See, visiting more than 120 countries, delivering more than 2,000 public addresses, and issuing a plethora of encyclicals and apostolic letters.

Pope John Paul II was the third longest serving pontiff in history, serving for 26 years. His passing marks the end of one of the longest and most widely respected reigns in papal history.

A man of the cloth, Pope John Paul II was also a man of the people. His teachings, spiritual guidance, and leadership came from his belief in peace and justice and the goodness of mankind. It was that belief that guided him as he journeyed around the world reaching out to people of all faiths.

He was a world leader and respected statesman who challenged communism and advocated democracy, and who always championed the causes of the poor and our great responsibility to them.

Pope John Paul II was a blessing to this world, and though he has left us now, his spirit, his love, and his lessons should guide us for a lifetime.

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, Rome 1993. I knew the City. Except for the machine-gun carrying Carbineri at Rome's Fumicino Airport, and the cars whizzing by me on the autostrada at 150 kilometers per mile, Rome seem strangely familiar. Perhaps it was the ten years studying Latin, following the exploits of Caesar, Veni, Vedi, Vici, except Caesar never had to drive his chariots in rush hour. Nor did anyone dare crowd his style along the Appian Way. Everywhere I looked cars were bumper on bumper, I did a sidewalk survey and noticed that about seven of ten cars parked along any given street had body damage. Rome was very personal like that. My friend Judy and I had come to visit the Eternal City to study the cradle of our faith. As we toured, it became clear that just as Washington is a monument to Presidents, Rome is a celebration of the Papacy.

Prior to leaving for Rome I had lunch with an old friend, Dr. Robert White, the famed neurosurgeon and physician to the Pope. I told him I was soon going to be visiting Rome. He made a call to his friend at the Jesuit's headquarters in Rome and was able to arrange for a special visit to the Vatican, including attendance at a general Papal audience, Judy and I, and about five thousand other persons.

Minutes before we left the hotel for our Vatican tour, I received a call that there had been a change of plans. Judy and I were to come immediately to a certain entrance off St. Peter's Square. Just in case I was going to meet someone I always wanted to meet, I brought with me a ceremonial presentation of a Key of the City of Cleveland, although they changed the locks when I left the Mayor's office. When we arrived, we were greeted by Swiss guards. Then we were ushered into the large hall where the general audience was held. It had the air of carnival, colorful, noisy, boisterous. Slowly we were escorted past one jammed pew after another to the front pew, et introibo ad altare Dei . . .

A priest in a simple black cassock, a former resident of Milwaukee, who followed American politics, approached smilingly, ''Mayor Kucinich?'' I accepted the honorific though it had been thirteen years since I left Cleveland City Hall, concluding my own personal experience with Manichean struggles with the forces of power and light. The years after City Hall were, well, different. Except for brief service in City Council, filling an unexpired term, I could not win an election to save (or lose) my soul.

''Yes. We're very excited to be here,'' I said. The priest, now a personal assistant to the Pope responded: ''We're really glad you could make it.'' Wait a minute. I waited my whole life just to get into close proximity to the Pope and one of his assistants is telling me he's glad? ''The Holy Father will be here shortly. There will be a general audience. Afterwards, people will file out and then he will come over to talk with you.''

That is the moment I knew I was about to meet Pope John Paul II. I was lost in thought. Judy feigned panic ''Omigosh,'' she kept saying over and over.

The General Audience is something like Cleveland's West Side Market on a Saturday, except many a pilgrims dancing, playing music, and singing, while wearing the colorful costumes of their native lands.

The Pope enters to wild applause. He sits on a simple throne and after about an hour and a half his right hand is supporting his head. I thought how physically demanding it was for him.

The General Audience ended. The Pope had brief discussions with a group of clergy. He then walked in our direction. He stopped and spoke to two other couples. Then he approached.

He looked at Judy, and greeted her first. He then turned to me. ''Is this your wife?'' he asked, in English. She wasn't. Neither of us were married. I wasn't going to lie to the Pope. Talk about setting yourself up to go to Hell . . .

''A friend, Holy Father.''

He nodded.

''Holy Father, I come from Cleveland. . . .''

''Yes, we were talking about you earlier, about your public service,'' he said.

''I remember Cleveland.''

Indeed the Pope had visited Cleveland, as Cardinal Karol Wojtyla, at St. Stanislaus Church in the Slavic Village Neighborhood. One of his closest friends was John Cardinal Krol, whose family came from St. Stanislaus Parish. There was a great joy in Cleveland when he was chosen Pope. The Polish community brought together 10,000 people in Public Hall to celebrate in prayer and song. We spoke for a few minutes about how the same Polish community was instrumental in my election as Mayor in 1977.

''Holy Father, I have a special gift I would like to give you, a Key to the City of Cleveland. It was one of the last Keys from my Administration. I supposed he received a thousand like it, but he accepted it and an accompanying certificate graciously as several cameras flashed around us. He turned to Judy and he thanked her for coming.

Then my life changed. John Paul II put his hand on my head. He looked into my eyes and said in a Polish-accented English I have come to know so well in my own neighborhood: ''My son, I give you my special blessing.'' I felt something at that moment. Whether it was a connection with his charisma or grace, I felt something, a different energy field, a buzz, my imagination? A sense of peace? I felt something. Later I would mark that bright encounter as one when conditions began to change for the better in my own life.

I thanked him in Polish. He smiled.

He invited us to visit again. Ever the altar boy, as he was about to leave, I offered to him a prayer in Latin: ''Emitte lucem tuam et veritatem tuam.'' Send forth your light and your truth. It was said as an affirmation of his spiritual leadership, his own quest to bring peace to the world.

He said goodbye. Judy and I were suddenly alone in the pew. The Audience had ended.

There are millions of people the world over who felt a personal connection to John Paul II. Yet his passing may become significant not for that aspect of him which died in us, but for something within each of us that was reborn through his life.

It was the only time I would ever meet him. I have often thought back to that moment when he offered me his blessing.

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the world this week suffered an immeasurable loss, and millions of men, women, and children in all corners of the globe lost their champion and a voice for those who do not have a platform to speak for themselves. His Holiness John Paul II, Bishop of Rome, head of the Catholic Church, and the spiritual leader of nearly one billion people, was a man who made an immeasurable difference in the path taken by the world in the last quarter of the Twentieth Century and the first part of the Twenty-First Century.

His quiet strength, determination, and belief in the power of non-violent opposition were instrumental, along with the efforts of President Ronald Reagan and many other leaders around the world, in bringing an end to the old communist regimes which had become entrenched in the capitals of Europe. He was a man who had developed an insurmountable inner strength and faith which, even after the loss of his entire family during the early years of his life and the perils he faced under the heel of Nazism and communism, was unshakable. His love and work on behalf of the Catholic Church and of the people of his native Poland—indeed, of men, women, and children of all faiths and all walks of life—were the driving force in his rise to become a bishop and archbishop in Krakow, Poland, and ultimately his election as pontiff.

I was never fortunate to meet the Holy Father myself, but I have met many individuals who had such an opportunity. In talking with them, and in reading the countless reports of people around the world who were in his presence, it is clear to see how truly remarkable this man was and how moving a meeting with him could be. He was a man of hope, a man of vision, and a man of unceasing faith, and in his 26-year papacy those qualities were shared with peoples and nations around the world in his over 100 trips away from Vatican City.

Mr. Speaker, there are many times in life where we refer to someone's character and manner of living their life as signs that they are a saint. Karol Wojtyla was such a person who may indeed receive sainthood for his work—a young man from Poland who early on dedicated his life to his faith and his church and who grew into Pope John Paul II, a man who never lost that dedication and who impacted countless people around the world. His life and his work will be discussed and, remembered far into the future, and it is my hope his life and his leadership serve as an inspiration for all of us for many years to come.

Mr. MURTHA. Mr. Speaker, in my estimation, the Pope was instrumental in helping to bring down communism. His words in Poland, ''Don't be afraid,'' resonated throughout the world against tyranny, despotism and injustice.

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Pope John Paul II, a moral, political, and religious leader who helped re-shape the Catholic Church and the entire world.

The story of a small town boy from Poland, who grew up to become one of the longest serving and most influential Popes in history, is an inspiration. He survived the destruction of his homeland first by Nazi invaders, and then by Communist occupiers, despite his strong commitment to a religion those powers despised.

During World War II, Pope John Paul II was forced to attend an underground seminary to further his religious education, and as a priest he needed to be constantly mindful of Poland's communist regime. Yet, when he was asked if he feared retribution from the government, he replied, ''I'm not afraid of them. They are afraid of me.''

Once he became Pope, however, His Holiness was able to come to the aid of others fighting for freedom and human rights. His support for the Solidarity movement in Poland and opposition to communists and dictators around the globe remade our world. When he became Pope in 1978, communism had a stranglehold on Eastern Europe and was on the march around the globe. As Pope, he encouraged opposition movements and gave hope and guidance to millions in their struggle. Thanks in large part to his leadership, in 2005, at the close of his papacy, communism is confined to the dustbin of history, and it is freedom that is on the march.

Not only did Pope John Paul II lead political change, but he encouraged moral change as well. In 1981, when a Turk named Mehmet Ali Agca shot the Pope twice in an assassination attempt, the Pope later went to the cell of the man who tried to kill him, and personally forgave him. By both preaching and practicing forgiveness, Pope John Paul II demonstrated the enormous potential of human kindness.

In a time when many leaders look to the polls and test political winds for guidance, Pope John Paul II stood unflinching at the center of the most controversial moral debates of our time, and held firm, while always supporting the sanctity and dignity of human life. His presence will be sorely missed, but his accomplishments will long be relished.

May God bless his soul.

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 190, which honors the heroic life and historic pontificate of Pope John Paul the Second.

For over a quarter century, John Paul the Second provided powerful, charismatic, and effective leadership for the world's one billion Catholics. But his legacy will forever reach far beyond the boundaries of faith or nationality.

In the faithful service of God, he confronted evil and injustice wherever he found them, from the Nazism and Communism that gripped his beloved Poland to the hunger, suffering, and poverty that continues to afflict the world.

He affirmed life through his teachings and through his example. He lived vigorously and inquisitively—and he confronted suffering and death with courage and serenity.

Today, we mourn his passing—while celebrating with thanksgiving the powerful and eternal spiritual model he left for us all.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my support for this resolution and my deep regret of the recent passing of Pope John Paul II. I also extend my special sympathy to the more than one billion Catholics around the world and the more than 66 million Catholics in the United States.

Pope John Paul II was one of the most significant leaders of our time. He worked tirelessly to promote the basic freedoms and dignities shared by all humanity. He was instrumental in serving as a catalyst for the fall of the Soviet Union and the emancipation of millions from totalitarian rule. More broadly, he worked in public and in private to persuade world leaders to respect their citizens' basic human rights. The Pope consistently embraced the poor and the oppressed masses of the world, and urged governments to take care of the needs of all its citizens.

One right of particular importance to John Paul II was freedom of worship. Ministering to Catholic and non-Catholic alike, the Pope took unprecedented steps on behalf of the Catholic Church to promote religious freedom for all citizens, regardless of their particular religious belief. To that end, he became the first Pope to visit a synagogue and a mosque, and made numerous public pronouncements committing the Vatican to upholding religious tolerance.

As ranking member of the U.S. Helsinki Commission, I met John Paul II during a 2003 trip to the Vatican, and listened to his address to the Parliamentary Assembly of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. In that speech he praised the work of the OSCE to encourage the recognition of religious freedoms among its member nations. He observed that maintaining a secular state while promoting the ability of individuals to worship as they choose in private ''corresponds, among other things, to the demands of a healthy pluralism and contributes to the building up of authentic democracy, to which the OSCE is truly committed.''

The Pope took historic steps to heal divisions between the Catholic Church and other Christian faiths. I was pleased that the Vatican strongly supported our efforts to host the first-ever OSCE conferences on the issue of anti-Semitism. These conferences produced the ''Berlin Declaration,'' which unambiguously condemned all forms of anti-Semitism and committed the members of the OSCE to collect and maintain statistics on anti-Semitic crimes and hate crimes, and to promote Holocaust education and remembrance programs.

In September of 2004 Archbishop of Baltimore Cardinal William H. Keeler, who has fought tirelessly to ensure that discrimination and racism have no place in the public dialogue, attended the OSCE's Conference on Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination in Brussels. I hosted a roundtable with Cardinal Keeler and other religious leaders in Baltimore in October 2004 to discuss the conference and how we can work to prevent racism and xenophobia and promote tolerance. I wish Cardinal Keeler well as the cardinals meet in a conclave over the next several weeks to elect a new pope.

Pope John Paul II was an inspiring leader in the battle to stamp out religious discrimination and ensure that all individuals have the freedom to worship as they desire. Future generations must work to promote his legacy, so that we may one day live in a world in which no individual is denied their inalienable right to worship as they see fit.

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, those of us who have lived in the era of Pope John Paul II have had the great privilege during the past twenty-six years of witnessing the important work of this great leader.

John Paul II was an extraordinary theologian, a brilliant statesman who worked ceaselessly for peace and freedom, and a brave Polish patriot. He embodied the Christian, Marian doctrine of love and mercy; millions throughout the world have been forever changed for the better by the life of Pope John Paul II.

Perhaps his most important accomplishment was lifting the ban on the devotion to the message of divine mercy as explained by our Savior directly to Sister Faustina, and the Pope's institution of Divine Mercy Sunday by the Church, as well as the canonization of Saint Faustina. Our prayers of gratitude for those great works of Pope John Paul II accompany our prayers for his eternal rest.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, people around the world of all faiths share a deep sadness for the passing of His Holiness John Paul II.

New York City mourns the loss of John Paul II with special remembrance and appreciation for the care and attention he showed our city, visiting twice as Pope and before that as Cardinal.

I was personally touched and grateful for the prayers and blessings he offered to the victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks, their families, and all the rescue and recovery workers who responded to Ground Zero after the attacks.

He met personally with several New York firefighters who had responded to the attacks, praying for their strength and the health of their fellow firefighters, families and fellow New Yorkers in a dark and difficult hour.

This is just one example of how Pope John Paul II was always attentive to the needs of those suffering.

His Holiness John Paul II traveled the world for twenty six years in his Papacy, delivering

a consistent message of the need for peace and the promise of hope.

Through his faith, his words, and his example in life, Pope John Paul II helped democracies to blossom and greater tolerance to flourish across the world.

Crowds of thousands will mourn the passing of Pope John Paul II in the days and weeks ahead.

I hope that in this time of sadness and reflection, we also remember the gifts that John Paul II brought into the world, celebrating his life and his ministry to the world's greatest troubles and needs.

We should keep Pope John Paul II's actions for the betterment of others always in our mind.

He fought for the dignified treatment of all people, he stood up for the downtrodden, and he worked to unify the world in common missions for greater good.

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the millions of people across the globe paying public, private and prayerful tribute to the life of Pope John Paul II.

The experiences of Karol Wojtyla's youth and priesthood in Poland created a unique depth of faith and empathy with the human condition perfectly suited for the times in which he led. Through the early death of his parents, he understood the fragility of life, empowering him with an unshakable devotion to the preciousness of all humanity. His young adulthood under Nazi and Soviet occupation gave him an acute understanding of oppression, inspiring him to become the most significant vessel of peaceful subversion to the forces of communism in Eastern Europe and apartheid in South Africa. His intimate exposure to the holocaust and enduring friendships with Polish Jews in his community allowed him to become a conduit of contrition and fellowship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish faith.

He was one of the most vigorous, charismatic and universally admired religious leaders in the history of the modem world. His travels, visiting 129 countries during his papacy, delivered the Christian message to every comer of the planet. His many trips, particularly to the Third World, illustrated his identification with the poor. His prolonged health struggle was a powerful example of dignity and spiritual deliverance in the face of human suffering. While on his deathbed he wrote, ''I am happy, and you should be as well. Let us pray together with joy.'' Upon being informed of the masses of young people holding vigil outside his window, the Pope, who had worked so tirelessly advocating for the young, said: ''I have looked for you. Now you have come to me. And I thank you.'' He reportedly looked out the window and uttered his last word: ''Amen.''

The life and times of Pope John Paul II constitute a portrait of greatness seemingly without precedent in modernity. Throughout his 26 years as Pope, one man, Karol Wojtyla of Krakow, spread faith, uplifted the poor, challenged political oppression, worked to heal centuries-old inter-faith rifts, and inspired billions with his quiet grace. His legacy shall endure for the ages.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of one of the world's most remarkable leaders of the past century, Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II was special not only to Catholics, but also to those of us outside his religious faith. He was a giant in the advancement of peace, spirituality and human dignity. I join the rest of the world in grieving his loss and celebrating his life.

After witnessing two of the greatest evils of the past century firsthand, Nazism and Communism, Pope John Paul II made the betterment of humanity the centerpiece of his service both to the church and to the world. Having emerged from poverty and oppression to become the first Polish Pope in history, Pope John Paul II became a beacon of good will.

Pope John Paul II worked to breakdown barriers between countries, faiths, and people. Among many other profound and groundbreaking gestures, this Pope was the first to visit a German death camp, visiting Auschwitz in 1979. There he prayed first at a Hebrew stone and second at a Polish stone.

The Pope understood that different people saw the world through different lenses but he fought the biases that long characterized the fault lines of differing cultures. He counseled us, ''Peace is not built in mutual ignorance but rather in dialogue and encounter. Unity is not uniformity.'' Pope John Paul II built a culture of tolerance, openness and understanding. ''Solidarity helps us to see the other not as an object of exploitation but as a neighbor in the banquet of life to which all are equally invited,'' he reminded us.

Let me close by capturing a deeply held conviction of the Pope's that I have long held dear to my own service as a Member of the United States Congress. The Pope steadily and forcefully worked towards a better future for all of mankind and he saw this future embodied in children.

He remarked, ''We must all work for a world in which no child will be deprived of peace and security, of the right to grow up without fear and anxiety.'' The greatest challenge for any generation is to leave behind a better world for our children. This Pope truly understood and embraced this challenge.

We will miss Pope John Paul II for his spirituality, for his dignity, for his leadership and for his profound humanity. But, much as his faith indicates that his soul will live on eternally, the impetus and legacy of his principled life will live on eternally here on earth.

Mr. HASTINGS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and pay tribute to His Holiness Pope John Paul II, who embodied the message of peace and compassion. John Paul II was a man of God and a missionary of faith. He led the Catholic Church through an eventful and revolutionary quarter century in the world, inspiring hundreds of millions of people in dozens of countries to throw the yoke of dictatorship and oppression, His Holiness' motivation and ethical leadership were guiding lights in a time that struggled with darkness. His vision will, very simply, be missed.

To be Pope is to not only lead the Catholic Church, but to lead the world. Pope John Paul II was an ardent protector of global human rights. His stubborn opposition to the world's dictatorships ushered in profound movements of change. At the same time, His Holiness also deeply believed in the importance of forgiveness, as he demonstrated when he forgave his would-be assassin. His courageous efforts to repair the long, tumultuous relationship between the Catholic Church and the Jewish people opened a meaningful dialogue that will continue for decades.

Mr. Speaker, I will always remember meeting the Pope in 2003, and, in fact, I have in the center of my office wall the picture taken of the two of us in the Vatican. As I shook his hand, I deeply appreciated and admired the fact that His Holiness cared not for the color of my skin or my faith. He was a messenger of peace above all. He preached about the culture of life, the culture of faith, and the brotherhood of all mankind. He led by example and his strength was evident, even in his final days.

I share the Pope's insistence that peace and compassion can overcome the influence of evil in the world. The global community must continue to take up this message. Action is the only way to apply the teachings we acquire in life, and so I call on all individuals to live with compassion for your brothers and sisters, just as the Pope did throughout his life. He will truly be missed.

Mr. COSTELLO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II, a true statesman and defender of faith. The Pope's death is truly a loss to the world. Many are the people he touched with his unconquerable quest for peace and equality.

Pope John Paul II brought hope to all corners of the world, to people of all faiths and backgrounds, with his powerful belief in the human spirit. I will always remember the Pope's visit to St. Louis in 1999. Having the opportunity to meet him was a special moment in my life, and his visit was one of the great moments in our region's history. He will be remembered as a tremendous spiritual leader and as a force for good in the world, and his legacy will last a long time.

He was a man who truly reflected justice and the sanctity of life in his teachings, travels and way of life. From making landmark trips to various parts of the world to strongly upholding the Christian way of life, I will always intensely admire his moral courage and integrity.

For all of humanity, Pope John Paul II has been an inspiration in a troubled world. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in support of H. Res. 190 and paying respect and recognition to Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my deep sadness at the passing of Pope John Paul II and to strongly support H. Res. 190. The world has lost a great moral leader his Holiness. Pope John Paul II was a man who held profound convictions, displayed enormous compassion, and continuously reminded us of our common humanity and obligations to each other. My thoughts and prayers are with all those who mourn the passing of this remarkable spiritual voice.

As a young seminarian in 1945, Karol Wojtyla came across a small girl who had just been liberated from the Nazi labor camp in Czearochowa, Poland. She had boarded a passing coal train and rode it until she could no longer stand the cold. That is how she ended up in the train station in the small town of Jedrzejows. It was here, sitting alone in the corner of the train station in her striped prison uniform, that Karol Wojtyla discovered her. She told him that she was trying to get to Krakow to find her parents and other family members. He provided her with food and shelter, and helped her get back to Krakow. Even as a young man, the future John Paul II had the humanity, compassion, and courage to help this young girl when others passed her by.

When he became Pope in 1978, his Holiness took his convictions and moral strength around the world. In more than 200 visits to 126 countries over the course of his papacy, Pope John Paul II exhibited charisma and a set of core beliefs that focused people worldwide on the plight of the less fortunate and the forgotten. He inspired faith not only in God, but in ourselves. He articulated a message that every person matters, and every child of God has a purpose on Earth.

This philosophy was writ large when it came to world affairs. Just eight months after his inauguration, Pope John Paul II returned to his native Poland, still under communist rule, and reminded the massive crowds—and the authoritarian leaders who oppressed them—of their fundamental, God-given human rights. By supporting the Solidarity movement within Poland, he helped to break the back of the authoritarian communists in Poland and then the rest of Western Europe. Pope John Paul II was a catalyst for change at a key moment in history, and millions of people live more freely today due to his efforts. He always believed in, and never stopped fighting for, a world in which people were free from tyranny, poverty, and war.

On that first visit to Poland in 1979, Pope John Paul II offered a prayer: ''Spirit,'' he said ''come and renew the face of the earth.'' Let us renew that prayer today. There is still too much suffering in this world, too much oppression, poverty and abuses of human rights. His Holiness Pope John Paul II would want us to continue doing our best, individually, and collectively, to address these challenges. There are many lessons he taught to me, so much to draw from his remarkable life. Above all, let us remember this: one person can change the world. He showed us that as Pope, yes. But he also showed it in 1945, when he changed the world for Edith Zierer. With faith we can renew the face of the earth. With his faith Karol Wojtyla changed lives. We have a lot of work ahead of us, but we need to remember to start today by extending the hand of human kindness to our fellow humans, just as that young seminarian did at the end of the Second World War a half century ago for Edith Zierer.

Mr. REYES. Mr. Speaker, the citizens of El Paso, Texas join with Catholics and people of faith and compassion around the world in expressing their profound grief at the death of a great man, Pope John Paul II. I am grateful to have the opportunity to join with my colleagues today to give thanks for Pope John Paul II's many contributions to mankind and to express our deep sorrow at his passing.

A small-town boy from Poland who became the first non-Italian to assume the pontificate in over 400 years, Pope John Paul II expanded the Church and welcomed into its faith millions of souls around the world. At the same time, he was an unfailing advocate for the poor, weak, and vulnerable, a strong voice for global peace, and a great champion for the sanctity of life.

Through his unprecedented travels and many sermons and writings, Pope John Paul II awakened in people—from Asia to Africa and from the former Soviet Union to Latin America—the innate human desire to shake off the yoke of autocracy and social inequity. By the power of his faith and charisma, he empowered the oppressed to seek freedom and demand human rights. Also, at a time of global turbulence and uncertainty, his words and actions provided an essential moral deterrent to Communism.

Mr. Speaker, the world has been truly blessed by the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II. I urge all of my colleagues to support this important resolution.

Ms. BORDALLO. Mr. Speaker, today I join with fellow Catholics around the world in mourning the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. The world has seen the passing of a great man dedicated to peace throughout the world. His actions reflected his preaching of love, healing and forgiveness, advocating for peace and reaching out to other faith traditions. Despite turmoil and controversy, he held fast to his beliefs, gaining the respect of many around the world, even those who did not agree with him. His teachings will be remembered by millions and his influence will guide world leaders for years to come.

Throughout his ministry, he remained firm in his beliefs, leading by word and deed, fearless in his efforts to spread the Gospel of Christ. He believed in the inalienable right and dignity of the human person from conception through the moment of death. He was unafraid to shape world events, speaking passionately for peace and advocating for human rights. From his early years during the Nazi occupation of Poland where he risked his life to protect Polish Jews from persecution to his forgiveness of his would-be assassin, he has led by example, in faith and humility.

His steadfast support of the Solidarity movement in his homeland of Poland provided hope and encouragement to the Polish people and led to peaceful government reforms that precipitated the collapse of communism in Poland and the eventual fall of the Soviet Union, bringing freedom to millions of people. As these events were unfolding, Pope John Paul II was also reaching out to other parts of the world, using his influence to bring about change.

Through his efforts, he helped reduce tensions between world leaders, advocating for peace and justice. He sought to heal divisions across the different faith traditions, promoting reconciliation and dialogue between members to further understanding and respect for all people.

Pope John Paul II traveled all over the world. For millions, his visits would be the only opportunity to see a pope in person. Despite his afflictions of arthritis and Parkinson's disease, the Holy Father continued to travel the world, bringing hope and encouragement to the millions still oppressed by tyranny, hunger, disease and despair.

Pope John Paul II was especially dear to the people of Guam. He was the only Pope to visit Guam and he mesmerized our people with his dignity, kindness and sincerity. From his first words upon his arrival, spoken in the native Chamorro language, and throughout his short visit, his presence brought a spiritual renewal to the island's Catholics, many of whom camped overnight in streets and parking lots near the plaza where he was to say Mass. On February 23, 1981, tens of thousands of people gathered at the Plaza de Espana in Agana, Guam, to attend the service and receive his blessing. The crowd was captivated by this gentle man who spoke passionately of his love for God and his love for humanity, praising the dedication of Catholics in Guam and Micronesia for their faithfulness while reminding them that their faith should be practiced in all that they do. He then took time to comfort the elderly and the sick in our hospital who were unable to attend his Mass, blessing and encouraging them with his words, ''You are the strongest among all of us, who build the church through your suffering.''

It was an awesome sight to see children with their parents and grandparents, religious and government leaders, gathered to welcome the Holy Father, to celebrate Mass and to bid him farewell as he departed our island.

His visit marked a turning point for Catholics in Micronesia. In 1984, three years after his visit, the Pontiff honored our island and the Chamorro people with the elevation of the Diocese of Agana to a Metropolitan Archdiocese, naming the late Bishop Felixberto C. Flores, the first Chamorro Bishop, the first Metropolitan Archbishop of Agana and appointing another Chamorro, Father Anthony S. Apuron as Auxiliary Bishop. A year later, he approved the creation of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and appointed Monsignor Tomas A. Camacho, a Chamorro and a native of Saipan, as its first Bishop.

Also in 1984, the Holy Father announced the beatification of Padre Diego Luis de San Vitores, the Jesuit priest who brought Christianity to Guam and was later martyred for baptizing the child of a Chamorro chief. Over two hundred people from Guam went on the pilgrimage to Rome to attend the beatification ceremony.

Although he would not return to the island before his passing, his visit will never be forgotten. From the street named in his honor, Chalan Santo Papa Juan Pablo Dos, to the bronze statue erected to commemorate his visit, the people of Guam will always remember this man of faith and vision who taught us ''not to be content to boast of a glorious heritage from the past without turning to the demands of the present moment.'' Rather, we must put our faith into practice each and every day, seeking more effective ways to proclaim the message of love to all those we meet.

Pope John Paul II was beloved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike. Through the many challenges confronting the Catholic faith and the world, Pope John Paul II as the Bishop of Rome and Supreme Pastor of the Catholic Church was the rock of the Church and the conscience of the world. At his passing, we mourn the loss of a great person. For Catholics, we take comfort in the knowledge that he is at peace with God the Father, His Son, Jesus Christ, and the Holy Spirit in heaven. On behalf of the people of Guam, ''Adios Santo Papa yan in guiya hao.''

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, April 5, 2005, the resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the resolution.

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

Mr. HYDE. 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, this 15-

minute vote on adopting H. Res. 190 will be followed by a 5-minute vote on H. Res. 148.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 415, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 94]

YEAS—415

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
DeLay
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—19

Baird
Brown (OH)
Clyburn
Cubin
Forbes
Gutierrez
Hobson
Hoekstra
Istook
Kingston
Lynch
Millender-McDonald
Napolitano
Rangel
Shimkus
Souder
Waters
Watson
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FOLEY) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1551

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 94, had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. ISTOOK. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 94 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 148.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 148, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 409, nays 2, not voting 23, as follows:

[Roll No. 95]

YEAS—409

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Barton (TX)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boswell
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Camp
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cox
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (KY)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doolittle
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Frank (MA)
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hefley
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Johnson, Sam
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kind
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kucinich
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lee
Levin
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (GA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
Lipinski
LoBiondo
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Lynch
Mack
Maloney
Manzullo
Marchant
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHenry
McHugh

McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, Gary
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Musgrave
Myrick
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Ortiz
Osborne
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Portman
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Royce
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherman
Sherwood
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Towns
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Weller
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)

NAYS—2

Flake
Paul

NOT VOTING—23

Baird
Brown (OH)
Clyburn
Cubin
DeLay
Evans
Forbes
Gohmert
Gutierrez
Hobson
Hoekstra
Jefferson
Jones (NC)
Kingston
Millender-McDonald
Otter
Rangel
Shays
Shimkus
Souder
Waters
Watson
Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1600

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. GUTIERREZ. Mr. Speaker, on April 6, 2005, I was unavoidably absent from this chamber. I would like the record to show that, had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall votes 94 (H. Res. 190—Honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death) and 95 (H. Res. 148—Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month).

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 740 and H.R. 742

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to have my name removed as a cosponsor of H.R. 740 and 742. My name was mistakenly added to these bills by the sponsor in place of my colleague, Representative TOM PRICE.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from North Carolina?

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO COMMISSION ON CONGRESSIONAL MAILING STANDARDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to 2 U.S.C. 501(b), and the order of the House of January 4, 2005, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards:

Mr. NEY, Ohio, Chairman;
Mr. ADERHOLT, Alabama;
Mr. SWEENEY, New York;
Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, California;
Mr. HOLT, New Jersey;
Mr. SHERMAN, California.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

(Mr. HOYER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I take this time for the purpose of inquiring about the schedule for the coming week. I yield to the majority leader, Mr. DELAY, for the purposes of informing us of the schedule.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. The House will convene on Tuesday at 2 p.m. for legislative business. We will consider several measures under suspension of the rules; a final list of these bills will be sent to the Members' offices by the end of the week.

Any votes called on these measures will be rolled until 6:30 p.m.

On Wednesday and Thursday, the House will convene at 10 a.m. for legislative business. We likely will consider additional legislation under suspension of the rules, as well as S. 256, The Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005.

In addition, we also plan to consider H.R. 8, the Death Tax Repeal Permanency Act of 2005.

Finally, I would like to remind all Members that we are finished voting for the week. We will not be in session tomorrow to accommodate Members traveling to Rome for the funeral services of His Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his information.

I would ask the majority leader if he knows which days we will be considering bankruptcy and which day we will be considering the estate tax bill? I yield to my friend.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding. We do not know at this point, and we will certainly advise the gentleman when we have that. The problem is because of this shortened week, we have committees that are marking up next week that had planned to mark up this week, and we have to try to work out the schedule so that we can make it as convenient for those markups as possible.

Mr. HOYER. Reclaiming my time, in any event, both bills will be on the calendar next week?

Mr. DELAY. That is correct. The gentleman is correct.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, with respect to the budget resolution which we have passed, I know the Senate has appointed conferees, but we have not yet appointed conferees. Does the leader know when we might appoint conferees for the budget conference? I yield to the leader.

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman yielding.

I am not advised as to when we could go to conference on the budget, possibly next week. I know the House is yet to appoint the conferees, so we have a ways to go before a conference report is completed.

Mr. HOYER. I would ask the majority leader, he is confident that we will have a conference?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, I am confident that we will have a conference. Yes, I am very confident.

Mr. HOYER. One additional question. I presume the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) will be invited to the conference at some point in time, along with others?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) is a very good friend of mine, and it would hurt my feelings if we did not invite the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. SPRATT) to the conference.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that assurance. As the gentleman knows, we have had some problems, at least from our perspective, in being included in the conferences from time to time. That is an important one.

Our citizens are confronting, as my colleague knows, very high gas prices, $2.20, $2.30, $2.50 in some areas of the country. I understand that the committees of jurisdiction are expected to be marking up next week or are in the process of marking up the energy bill. Can the gentleman tell me when that bill might be on the floor?

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman would yield, the gentleman is

correct, and we are all concerned about the higher gas prices and as important as that is to higher prices of oil and gas. We have been trying to pass or get to the President an energy bill for almost 5 years or 6 years. We have an excellent chance of actually getting a bill to the President this year.

We have had three committees scheduled to mark up components of the energy bill this week, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the Committee on Ways and Means, and the Committee on Resources, but due to the shortened week, only one of those was able to begin their markup. I hope, and we are going to work very hard, and I expect that all three of those committees will complete their markups next week, and we will be able to have a comprehensive energy bill on the floor hopefully by the following week.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for that information.

ADJOURNMENT FROM WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005, TO FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 8, 2005.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

ADJOURNMENT FROM FRIDAY, APRIL 8, 2005, TO TUESDAY, APRIL 12, 2005

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Friday, April 8, 2005, that it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12, 2005, for morning hour debate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY NEXT

Mr. DELAY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday next.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Texas?

There was no objection.

SANDY BERGER AND THE ''SLOPPY SOCKS SCANDAL''

(Mrs. BLACKBURN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, in July 2004, I addressed the Sandy Berger ''Sloppy Socks Scandal'' here on the floor. At that time, many of the liberals here in Washington said that the former Clinton national security aide had done nothing wrong, that he had not stolen Top Secret documents regarding the Clinton's administration terrorism policies.

Well, today we know the truth. Sandy Berger did indeed steal and destroy Top Secret documents. In fact, it is such a clear case of theft and such a disturbing crime against this Nation that Mr. Berger has pled guilty to taking classified material. He has pled guilty to taking classified materials.

The punishment does not fit the crime. I was stunned to learn that for stealing national secrets and for putting his own interests and that of the Clinton administration above America's war on terrorism, that he will simply have to pay a $10,000 fine and relinquish his security clearance for 3 years. This is outrageous.

Those of us who are shocked by this outcome will be watching to be sure that no future Democratic administration ever gives Mr. Berger a job in the national security arena again.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to indicate on rollcall votes that I missed yesterday, I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 91; I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 92; I would have voted ''aye'' on rollcall vote No. 93. I was not present because I was unavoidably detained on official business in my district.

CONGRATULATING THE BAYLOR LADY BEARS ON WINNING THE WOMEN'S NCAA NATIONAL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, what more can I say about those Baylor Lady Bears, Baylor as good as green and gold. All of us from the State of Texas applaud the Baylor Bears and their coaches.

Mr. Speaker, I will quickly call off the roll: Number 45, Steffanie Blackmon; No. 24, Tiffanie Blackmon; No. 22, Jordan Davis; No. 5, Chanelle Fox; No. 25, Melanie Hamerly; No. 1, Monique Jones; No. 13, Victoria Jones; No. 51, Emily Niemann; No. 4, Chisa Onoiwu; No. 21, Chameka Scott; No. 20, Angela Tisdale; No. 35, Abiola Wabara; No. 2, Chelsea Whitaker; No. 12, Latoya Wyatt; No. 33, Sophia Young; coaches Kim Mulkey-Robertson, Bill Brock, Johnny Derrick, Jennifer Roberts and Mike Snaufer.

Congratulations to all of them, and we are looking forward to seeing them in Houston, Texas, to be able to honor them.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Baylor University Women's Basketball team on winning their first NCAA title. With a final record of 32–3, the Lady Bears have risen to the challenge and have represented the Big Twelve Conference and the State of Texas with pride. The Lady Bears completed their magical season last night in Championship game by beating Michigan State 84–62.

The Lady Bears are a tremendous team that play as one unit and are led by seniors Chelsea Whitaker and Steffanie Blackmon. I attended the Lady Bears' 68–57 victory over LSU in the Final Four game on Sunday and was particularly excited for junior forward Sophia Young, who scored 21 points in the game, and was named the Tempe Regionals' MVP earlier in the tournament. She scored a game high 26 points in the Championship Game, once again rising to the occasion. As a Member of the House Immigration Subcommittee, I was able to help bring Miss Young's mother, Annie Christopher, from St. Vincent, West Indies to see her daughter play collegiate basketball for the first time. Sophia is a very talented basketball player and I am glad that she was able to take her place as a member of the Baylor basketball team through the U.S. Immigration program. We as a nation embrace talent such as Sophia's athletic gifts and we recognize the value of reuniting families for important moments. After Baylor's latest victory when Sophia was able to hug her mother in the stands, you could see that this is the real face of immigration.

I also want to congratulate Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson on her great achievements at Baylor. Last night she became the first women's coach to win a championship as a player and coach. She truly deserves all the credit she receives for the job she has done with this talented team. In 2000, she inherited a program that went 7–20 the previous season and in her very first season she guided the Lady Bears to a 21–9 record and last year took Baylor to the Sweet 16. This year the Lady Bears finished their season having won 20 straight games, the longest such streak in college basketball this year.

I am confident that the great fans of Baylor helped carry the Lady Bears to victory throughout the year. This team wasn't the favorite to win the championship when the season began and even throughout the Tournament they were considered the underdog, but they never gave up believing in themselves and in this team. They became only the fourth team in the history of both men's and women's NCAA basketball to beat three No.1 seeds en route to national title. This team has withstood great challenges, both mental and physical to reach the pinnacle of women's college basketball. This team played with pride and determination and they deserved to finish their season with a victory. With that said, let me congratulate each player and coach of the 2005 Baylor Women's Basketball Team:

45 Steffanie Blackmon P 6–2 SR–3L Dallas, Texas/Rowlett; 24 Tiffanie Blackmon P 6–0 SR–3L Dallas, Texas/Rowlett; 22 Jordan Davis G 5–9 RS JR–2L Celina, Texas/Celina High School; 5 Chanelle Fox G 5–11 RS JR–2L Houston, Texas/Westfield; 25 Melanie Hamerly P 6–5 SR–3L Orange, Texas/Little Cypress-Mauriceville; 1 Monique Jones G 5–9 SO–1L Ferriday, La./Ferriday; 13 Victoria Jones G 5–4 FR–HS San Marcos, Texas/San Marcos HS; 51 Emily Niemann F 6–1 SO–1L Houston, Texas/Westbury Christian; 4 Chisa Ononiwu G 5–7 FR–HS Houston, Texas/Westfield HS; 21 Chameka Scott G 6–0 JR–2L

Friendswood, Texas/Clear Brook; 20 Angela Tisdale G 5–5 FR–HS Austin, Texas/Del Valle, HS; 35 Abiola Wabara F 6–0 RS SO–1L Parma, Italy/Liceo Scientifico Marconi; 2 Chelsea Whitaker G 5–9 RS SR–2L Dallas, Texas/Skyline/Virginia; 12 Latoya Wyatt G 5–7 SO–TR Fort Worth, Texas/L.D. Bell HS/McLennan CC; and 33 Sophia Young F 6–1 JR–2L St. Vincent, West Indies/Evangel Christian Academy.

Coaches: Kim Mulkey-Robertson—Head Coach; Bill Brock—Associate Head Coach; Johnny Derrick—Assistant Coach; Jennifer Roberts—Assistant Coach; Mike Snaufer—Graduate Assistant.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING LYNN McINTYRE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Lynn McIntyre, who is retiring as vice president for university affairs at Sonoma State University in Rohnert Park, California. Rohnert Park is located 40 miles north of San Francisco, across the Golden Gate Bridge in Sonoma County.

In her position as vice president, Lynn has demonstrated great skill and diplomacy in overseeing public media and government relations, university publications and university policies, and several special projects of interest to the university. She is a valued member of the university president's cabinet, advising him on management decisions.

Lynn has had a diverse and varied career in education and banking. She has worked in Somalia. She has served in the Peace Corps in India. She has been a secondary schoolteacher in California and an administrator at Boston University, as well as vice president at both Security Pacific Bank and First Interstate Bank in Los Angeles. In this capacity she provided financial services to Fortune 500 and other companies in California and throughout the South and the West.

Raised on family farms in the central valley of California, Lynn received BA and MA degrees from the University of California, Berkeley, and an MBA degree from Simmons College in Boston. She also studied in Vienna, Austria.

As a board member of Goodwill Industries of the Redwood Empire, and a member of the Sonoma County Business Education Roundtable, Lynn stays active in community affairs.

She and her husband Jerry own a vineyard in Sonoma County, selling pinot noir and merlot grapes to prominent wineries. As a hobby, they also make their own wine under the private label of Starr Creek Vineyard. I have tasted it. It is delicious.

As President Ruben Arminana of Sonoma State so aptly noted when commenting on Lynn's skills in diplomacy and administration, he said, ''She makes possible the impossible. She is loved and admired by faculty, staff, administrators and members of the community.''

Mr. Speaker, I have greatly enjoyed working with Lynn McIntyre at Sonoma State University. Although her outstanding efforts will be missed, I know that she will stay involved in university affairs and in important education issues in our community. I wish her luck in retirement and look forward to seeing her in other capacities.

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

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

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to assume the time of the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

JUDICIAL POWER GRAB

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, regardless of how one feels about the Terri Schiavo case, and regardless of whether one is a liberal or a conservative, everyone should be concerned that the judiciary seems to be setting itself up as a type of superlegislature.

Our Founding Fathers clearly did not mean for the judicial branch to be superior to or more powerful than the legislative and executive branches.

A Member of the other body, former State supreme court justice, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), made some very serious charges on the floor of the Senate Monday. He said, ''It causes a lot of people great distress to see judges use the authority they have been given to make raw political or ideological decisions.''

He added that ''sometimes the Supreme Court has taken on this role as a policymaker rather than an enforcer of political decisions made by elected representatives of the people.''

The reason people on both sides of the political spectrum should be concerned about this judicial power grab is that the political pendulum swings. Sometimes conservatives control legislative bodies; sometimes liberals do. Would liberals someday want conservative judges overruling their legislation?

The Schiavo bill was very narrowly drawn to apply to just that case at the request or insistence of more liberal Members of both the House and Senate.

□ 1615

Then some liberals in the media, in Congress, and in the courts criticized the bill as being too narrowly drawn. One judge, showing great arrogance, even scolded the Congress for acting, issuing a bitter non-judicial type of an opinion.

I served for 7½ years as a circuit court or State trial court judge in Tennessee. I have great respect for the legal profession and the judiciary. When I attended George Washington University's law school in the early 1970s, I took a course in legislative law. We were taught then that the courts were not legislatures. They were not to be political bodies, and they were to give great deference to the actions of the Congress and the State legislatures.

In fact, we were taught, through a great amount of case law, that the primary role of the courts was to try to determine legislative intent, not to try, whenever possible, to overrule it anytime judges might disagree for personal and/or political reasons.

The intent of the Congress was clear in the Schiavo case, with the bill passing the House 203 to 58 with strong support from both bodies and by unanimous agreement in the Senate. Are we now to have some type of judicial dictatorship?

Thomas Jefferson, in a letter written in September of 1820, said this, responding to the arguments that Federal judges should be the final interpreters of the Constitution: ''You seem to consider the Federal judges as the ultimate arbiters of all constitutional questions, a very dangerous doctrine, indeed, and one which would place us under the despotism of an oligarchy. Our judges are as honest as other men, and not more so. They have with others the same passions for the party, for power, and the privilege of the corps. Their power is the more dangerous, as they are in office for life and not responsible, as the other functionaries are, to the elective control. The Constitution has erected no such single tribunal.'' A quote from Thomas Jefferson.

Alexander Hamilton, writing many years ago in Federalist Paper No. 81, said: ''To avoid all inconveniences, it will be safest to declare generally that the Supreme Court shall possess appellate jurisdictions that shall be subject to such exceptions and regulations as the national legislature may prescribe. This will enable the government to modify this in such a manner as will best answer the ends of public justice and security.''

All judges are elected or appointed through a political process, yet many do not like to admit this either to

themselves or to others. So they sometimes go to extremes and bend over backwards to prove how nonpolitical they are. They leap at the opportunity to rule against a political defendant or show their power by overturning a political decision by Congress or some other legislative body.

Federal judges in particular are not only unelected; they are, as a practical matter, almost totally unaccountable. Thus they have very great power, which is very easy to abuse. For most of the history of this country, Federal judges exercised this power with great restraint, giving great deference to legislative bodies. For many years now, however, we have had far too many judges who have lost their humility and have not shown this same restraint. In the process of trying to show how nonpolitical and above politics they are, they have ironically become more political than ever before.

This has become so common that now a majority of people in this country have become upset with government by the Judiciary instead of by coequal legislative and executive bodies. We are going down a dangerous path, Mr. Speaker, and one that was clearly not intended by our Founding Fathers or the Constitution they gave us.

We are supposed to have a government of, by, and for the people, not one that ignores clear legislative intent and becomes one that is only of, by, and for the courts and of, by, and for very political and power-hungry judges.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

TRIBUTE TO MAYOR JOHN MEDINGER

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

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to John Medinger upon his retirement as mayor of La Crosse, Wisconsin. Involved in local politics since 1976, John is a dedicated public servant and a good friend. I will miss his leadership as mayor, but I am confident he will remain active in our community and influential in improving the quality of life in western Wisconsin.

Born and raised in La Crosse, Mayor Medinger and his family have always been active in local politics and have contributed immensely to the growth and development of our community. His father, Don, a good union member, served on the La Crosse City Council and was well-respected throughout the area. Following his father's example of civic duty, John ran for and was elected to the Wisconsin State Assembly in 1986, where he served for the next 16 years.

From 1993 to 1996, he worked for U.S. Senator RUSS FEINGOLD as his western Wisconsin regional coordinator, and in 1996 he ran for and was elected mayor of La Crosse. During his tenure as mayor, he continually advocated for social justice on behalf of the hard-working families in western Wisconsin. His contributions and dedication to the community made him an excellent mentor, and our area has been well served by his leadership.

I have known John for many years and have admired his thoughtfulness, idealism, unwavering principles, and ability to reach across party lines to create good public policy. As mayor, he was always honest and never hesitated to tell you when he thought you were wrong. Likewise, he was the first to embrace a good idea and work to put a plan into action.

Lastly, I commend John for his tireless work to encourage and welcome greater racial diversity, which has made the La Crosse area a special place to live and raise a family.

John exemplifies all that is good, noble, and decent in public service. He believes in our representative democracy, and he made himself approachable and accessible to anyone who wanted to share their thoughts with him, whether it was when he showed up on their doorstep during the course of his many campaigns or during his time in office.

Both John and his wife, Dee, have sacrificed greatly to live a life of public service. If anyone deserves a break from the public spotlight, they do. Although John Medinger is retiring from the mayoral position, his advocacy and community work will leave a lasting legacy on the La Crosse community, and the area will continue to benefit from all that he has done.

I want to thank him for his hard work and dedication, and I wish Dee and John the best of luck in their future endeavors.

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

(Mr. BOUSTANY 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 California (Mr. SCHIFF) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. SCHIFF 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 Indiana (Mr. BURTON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. BURTON of Indiana 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 Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

IN MEMORY OF MARINE LANCE CORPORAL WESLEY JOEL CANNING

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

Mr. POE. Mr. Speaker, ''I don't do it for the money, I don't do it for the glory. Providing for our future is my responsibility. I can't call in sick on Mondays when the weekend has been too strong. I just work straight through the holidays and sometimes all night long. You can bet that I stand ready when the wolf growls at the door. I am solid, I am steady, I am true down to the core.''

This is taken from Toby Keith's ''American Soldier.'' And, Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of a young American Marine from a tranquil town in southeast Texas of approximately 34,000 people, Marine Lance Corporal Wesley Joel Canning, who died valiantly serving our country and our Nation in Iraq. He was assigned to the 2nd Assault Amphibian Battalion, 2nd Marine Division, II Marine Expeditionary Force based at Camp Lejeune, North Carolina.

Lance Corporal Canning, in just 21 short years, had already exhibited a lifetime of courage and boldness. He was killed in combat on November 10, 2004, in Al Anbar Province, Iraq, during the successful American offensive against the insurgent enemy in Fallujah.

He was a native of Friendswood, Texas. Wes, as he was called by his friends and family, graduated from Friendswood High School in 2002 and left for boot camp in July, just 2 months after his graduation. Resolute about becoming a Marine since his junior year, he had approached his parents with the idea. His father, Joe Canning, recalls their hesitations: ''He decided he wanted to become a Marine,'' his father said. ''Spend 20 years in the service and pursue a career in the criminal justice system. I tried my best to talk him out of it, telling him to go and get a good education, but he was hooked on becoming a Marine. And after doing everything I asked him to do, talking to recruiters from the other branches of service and friends and relatives who had served, he seemed more convinced than ever that the Marines was absolutely the right thing for him to do.'' In the end, ''His mom and I gave him our blessing.''

The devastating terrorist attack on September 11, which occurred before he

ever graduated from high school, further fueled this desire. According to his mother, Jo Ellen Canning, ''9/11 didn't deter his efforts. He wanted all the more to go and protect his country.''

He graduated from the Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He steadfastly pursued a post that would allow him to see action. Open for deployment in Iraq, he stayed at Camp Pendleton in California rather than accept another assignment.

In mid-March of 2003, with the commencement of Operation Iraqi Freedom, Lance Corporal Canning's wish came true. ''He went to the front lines at the beginning of the war. There was not much telephone contact, so we watched TV the whole time until he made it home,'' Mrs. Canning recounts. In a letter to his parents that month, he described going in with the initial push and penetrating Baghdad.

He then returned to Texas after completing his first of ultimately two tours he volunteered for in Iraq. He excitedly did two things that, as his dad told me, ''they advise the boys not to do.'' He trekked out to Lone Star Ford, bought a new little black pickup truck, so he could show his band of Marine brothers back at the base in North Carolina his proudly displayed bumper sticker, ''Don't Mess With Texas.'' He also wedded his sweetheart from Fort Collins, Chayla.

Married just 11 months, and only 11 months, he was once again deployed in September of 2004 to Iraq, where he was looking forward to participating in the training of Iraqi soldiers and police. Now he is a husband, a family man, and he decided to serve 4 years, go back to school, and build a life with his new bride, Chayla, who, in spite of the obvious strain, loved being a Marine wife. She said, ''Wes wanted to protect our family so our little brothers wouldn't have to. He was very protective of everybody.''

Two months after being deployed to Iraq for a second tour, he left the following voice mail message for his father, who could not answer the phone because he was working on an offshore oil rig: ''Hey, Dad, it's me. I love you and miss you. We're still over here.''

Two days later, Lance Corporal Canning was killed in action precisely on the 229th birthday of the United States Marine Corps, November 10, 2004.

Myrlene Kennedy, the principal of Wes's high school, recalls, ''He was kind to students and adults alike. He had a quick smile, a captivating personality, and that allowed him to have many friends.'' Wes's teachers said, ''He knew pretty much what he wanted to do. Following his ambition, he joined the United States Marine Corps after graduation in 2002. He began that journey he dreamed of and talked about with teachers and friends. He loved wearing his Marine Corps T-shirt to class his senior year.''

Wes's philosophy was written in his own high school yearbook: ''Everything happens for a reason.'' For the Marine Corps Reserve Unit in Galveston, Texas, a unit like the one Lance Corporal Canning was a part of, his death constituted the first time it had to bring home one of its own flag-draped caskets, the flag that was presented to Chayla, in addition to the Purple Heart Lance Corporal Canning was awarded. When asked by a reporter if she deemed her son a hero, Mrs. Canning swiftly replied, ''He's always been a hero.''

Today, in Operation Iraqi Freedom, the United States Marine Corps alone has lost 49 Texans in combat-related casualties. While our military cannot replace individuals of exceptional character like Lance Corporal Canning, I believe his service will provide a sterling example for the men and women who carry forward his tenacious fight against terror, tyranny, and treachery.

In fact, Mr. Speaker, just this last week, April 1, which would have been Lance Corporal Canning's 22nd birthday, marked another momentous occasion, his best friend, Jason Powell, graduated from the United States Marine Corps Depot that had christened Lance Corporal Canning.

Lance Corporal Canning, as LeAnn Womack said, achieved ''something, something worth leaving behind.'' He has touched other lives and inspired a fellow man to carry the torch and legacy of the Corps. Moreover, Lance Corporal Canning helped establish a democracy in Iraq, this historic start which I was privileged to observe on January 30 in a land far, far away.

I believe if today we could hear from Lance Corporal Canning himself, as a member once and always of the United States Marines, as a member of the few and the proud, he would resonate the remainder of Toby Keith's American Soldier: ''And I will always do my duty no matter what the price. I have counted up the cost, I know the sacrifice. I don't want to die for you but if dying is asked of me, I will bear that cross with honor 'cause freedom don't come free. I am out here on the front line. Sleep in peace tonight. I am an American soldier, an American, an American Soldier.''

So, Mr. Speaker, we extend our prayers, our condolences to his parents, relatives, fellow students at Friendswood High School in Texas, and his beloved wife. May this American hero's devotion to his country continue to kindle our dreams and ambitions as a free and independent people.

So Semper Fi, Lance Corporal Canning. Semper Fi.

□ 1630

BAYLOR SCORES NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. EDWARDS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, national champions, that is what the American people can now call the Baylor University women's basketball team. Last night the Baylor Lady Bears convincingly won the national championship by beating a talented Michigan State team 84–62. It is the second largest margin in a NCAA women's basketball final. It is the first Big 12 team, men or women's, to win a national basketball championship.

The Baylor Bears were one of only four teams in NCAA history, men or women's, to beat three number one teams in the Final 16. That accomplishment is impressive in and of itself, but what is incredible is just 5 years ago the Baylor Bears basketball team was at the bottom of the Big 12.

Mr. Speaker, the important message of this great American success story is that the values of hard work, determination and teamwork truly make a difference.

A key part of that team is Coach Kim Mulkey-Robertson, who became coach at Baylor just 5 years ago, taking over a program with a losing season and at the bottom of the Big 12 ladder. Coach Mulkey-Robertson would be the first to give credit to her tremendous and inspired players on the Baylor team, but she also deserves credit for bringing out that inspiration, and for teaching those students to be their best and then to even be better.

I congratulate Coach Mulkey-Robertson for being the first woman in NCAA basketball history to be a player on a national basketball championship team and then to be the coach of a national championship team. I believe all Americans can be proud not only of the victory on the basketball court, but the values reflected in that victory. Hard work, determination, and teamwork truly make a difference.

WELCOMING 2ND BATTALION HOME

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

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, more than 400 Marines serving with the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Marine Regiment will be arriving home in Chicago on April 9, 2005, concluding their 9-month deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom with a hero's welcome at the Allstate Arena. Many organizations, businesses, and families affiliated with the 2nd Battalion will come together to show their support, appreciation to these citizen soldiers who served their country by championing the cause of freedom in Iraq.

The 2nd Battalion of the 21st Marine Regiment was activated on June 1, 2004, to support Operation Iraqi Freedom. The mobilization brought together the Headquarters, Echo, and Weapons Companies, forming the battalion. The unit deployed to Iraq in September 2004 and began conducting support and security operations in northern Babil Province, Iraq.

These dedicated marines operated out of an abandoned chicken processing plant many described as resembling a police station. Their formula for success was to blend their superb military training with many years of law enforcement expertise by their commanding officer. Lieutenant Colonel Mark A. Smith was an Indiana State police. Nearly every platoon included two or three policemen by trade, which proved invaluable in the work of the unit. The battalion used police procedures in its intelligence work, comparing anti-Iraqi forces to criminals back home.

The combination of marine training and police experience allowed the battalion to capture more than 200 insurgents during their deployment. Because of their successful nighttime raids, 2nd Battalion 24 Marines earned the nickname ''The Mad Ghosts'' from the insurgents operating in Babil Province. Like other U.S. forces operating in Iraq, these marines truly owned the night, and their operations continued until 2nd Battalion was relieved by elements of the U.S. Army in March.

Unfortunately, some of these brave marines made the ultimate sacrifice in the defense of our country. Thirteen marines perished during this mobilization and deployment, 12 as a result of hostile action. Our thoughts and prayers are with the families and loved ones of the following marines who will not be returning home with their colleagues this weekend: Corporal Brian Prening, Corporal Robert Warns, Corporal Nathaniel Hammond, Corporal Peter Giannopolos, Lance Corporal Branden Ramey, Lance Corporal Daniel Wyatt, Lance Corporal Richard Warner, Lance Corporal Travis Wichlacz, Lance Corporal Shane O'Donnell, Private First Class Ryan Cantafio, Sergeant Matthew Adams, Lance Corporal Andrew Nowacki, and Private First Class Brent Vroman.

Mr. Speaker, these brave marines, their families and their employers back home all made sacrifices to support freedom and human rights and tolerance around the world. During their service in Iraq, Iraq became the United Nations' newest democracy. We celebrate the citizen soldiers who wear the uniform so proudly to protect their great nation.

To the men and women of the 2nd Battalion of the 24th Marine Regiment, to the unit based in Waukegan, Illinois, we offer you our heartfelt thanks for your service and sacrifice. We thank your loved ones for their sacrifice and support. Welcome home, and most importantly, Semper Fi.

COMMENTS ON THE EPA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the EPA is trying to exploit the poor people in my district for their pseudo-Nazi and Tuskeegee-like studies to determine what pesticides do to infants and toddlers in Duval County Florida.

In October, the EPA received $2.1 million to do the study from the American Chemistry Council, a chemical industry front group that includes members such as Dow, Exxon, and Monsanto Critics of the research, including some EPA scientists, claim the study's funders guarantee the results will be biased in favor of the chemical industry, at the expense of the health of the impoverished children serving as test subjects.

The families would have to keep spraying, even when the directions on the bottles say "cover all food and keep pets and children outside and away from the pesticides."

The point of the study is to determine what happens to children exposed to pesticides. There is no reason to believe that the participants would be informed about incorrect use of pesticides that would abnormally affect the children. Any change in pesticide use would skew the results.

In fact, EPA policy recommends that children be kept away from all pesticides because all pose some health risks. But the agency will not be warning parents in this study group. Doing so would interfere with the study. Infants and toddlers up to 3 years in age are involved, and the agency will warn their parents of the pesticide danger only if their children begin to show risky levels of pesticides in their urine,

There are no safeguards to prevent a family from increasing their pesticides use to become eligible for the study.

This is a low income area. $970 over two years, plus a video camcorder is a lot of money to many people.

The EPA Press Release for this study said: "As part of this exposure study, the American Chemistry Council (ACC) has signed a cooperative research agreement with EPA to collect information on exposures of young children to several household chemicals, including phthalates, brominated flame retardants, and perfluorinated chemicals."

These classes of chemicals have been shown to have effects on male sperm counts in adults, and are known to be dangerous. The European Union is in the process of banning these drugs.

This project is symptomatic of a larger problem.

This administration has been pushing to increase human testing.

American kids should not be guinea pigs for a misguided administration proposal to help the large pesticide companies increase sales.

HONORING THE LIFE OF POPE JOHN PAUL II

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay homage to the life of Pope John Paul II. Although I am deeply saddened by his passing on Saturday, April 2, I join my colleagues in honoring the extraordinary life that he led.

Born in Poland in 1920, Karol Wojtyla secretly studied theology during the Nazi occupation, and then became a leader in the opposition to communism as a young priest and bishop. His elevation to the papacy in September of 1978 was full of symbolism and significance. Pope John Paul II was the first Slavic Pope and the first non-Italian Pope in 455 years. During his 26-year papacy, he led the Catholic Church and its members with dignity and conviction. He traveled more miles, gave more speeches and published more material than any of his predecessors, and ushered the papacy into the modern era.

In the insightful words of his biographer, George Weigel, his life was a witness to hope. He was a large influence in the collapse of communism in Eastern Europe and the dismantling of the Berlin Wall. His trip to his native Poland in 1979, just a year after his investiture as Pope, set the country spiritually afire against the communists and inspired the Solidarity movement on every level.

His unique relationship with President Ronald Reagan, what Time Magazine called ''the Holy Alliance,'' enabled a bloodless end to the Cold War. President Reagan sent his top envoy, General Dick Walters, to the Vatican many times to take intelligence on the Communists to the Pope. In December of 1980, the Pope, the Reagan White House, the Solidarity movement and many other players were able to stop a planned Soviet invasion of Poland.

Pope John Paul II also made friends of the progressive Russian President Mikhail Gorbachev in the 1980s who would later tell an Italian newspaper that what happened in Eastern Europe over these last few years would have been impossible without the Pope's presence.

Pope John Paul II held a deep desire for the unity of the Christian churches, in particularly that of the Western Roman Catholic and the Eastern Orthodox Churches. He preached understanding between religions, and in his later years in the papacy, he astounded the world by visiting synagogues, mosques and Protestant churches. He sought reconciliation with the Jews, asking God's forgiveness for the sins of the Church against Christianity's ''elder brother'' by placing a memorable prayer on the Western Wall during a pilgrimage to the Holy Land in March 2000.

As a Catholic who served as an altar boy and attended parochial school in my youth, I recall the pride I felt when, after an assassination attempt in 1981, Pope John Paul II sought out his assailant to offer him forgiveness rather than condemnation. He leaves behind a legacy of grace and compassion.

Pope John Paul II spoke directly to the concerns of the family, understanding the family to be the foundation of a society rooted in relationships of love. He spoke frequently about human rights, especially the right to life. As a prolife obstetrician, I was inspired by his strong stance against what he referred to as a disturbing phenomenon of widespread destruction of so many human lives and the blunting of the moral sensitivity of people's consciousness because of it. He stood against this culture of death as a violation against the human person and against God, the Creator and Father. Without his tireless voice, these rights would be even further threatened.

He shows us a great example of how to live, and then how to die. With his death, the world has lost one of the great figures of our lifetime, and his leadership will be sorely missed. My prayers today are of thanksgiving for his life and service to all humankind, and that we will continue on his sacred legacy.

POPE JOHN PAUL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from New York (Mr. HIGGINS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in expressing the deep sorrow of the House of Representatives upon the death of the Holy Father, Pope John Paul II. As a Catholic myself, but also as a public official with a keen eye toward domestic and international affairs, I rise also to celebrate the life and the 26-year papacy of John Paul II.

As history's third longest pontificate, it was not without its faults, to be sure. All told, however, it is undeniable that the papacy of Pope John Paul II was the most significant in the 20th century and one of the most significant of all time.

Born in Wadowice, Poland, in 1920, Karol Wojtyla was a serious if nondescript youth. Young Karol enjoyed dramatics and thought of becoming an actor, but was instead called to serve the Church. Studying in secret for the priesthood as Poland was occupied by Nazis during World War II, young Karol became Father Wojtyla on November 1, 1946, and subsequently served in various capacities in his native Poland, serving under the legendary Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, and later serving in his own right as Archbishop of Krakow, Poland.

On June 26, 1967, Archbishop Wojtyla was elevated to the College of Cardinals, receiving the Red Hat, as it is known in Vatican circles, from Pope Paul VI.

Krakow is known in official European guidebooks as the gem among European towns, although its survival under the invasion and occupation of soldiers in the wake of World War II and during the Cold War years is often believed to be miraculous in and of itself. Whereas cities like Warsaw saw significant devastation during World War II, physically Krakow managed to survive relatively unscathed.

□ 1645

It did not emerge psychologically unscathed, however, as the Cold War years took its toll on the city and on the Polish people, scars that would take the unique vision of an electrician from Gdansk and the spiritual inspiration of a religious leader from Wadowice to finally begin to heal.

Cardinal Wojtyla continued to lead his flock throughout the Papacy of Paul VI, until its conclusion at his death in the summer of 1978. It is right here that the story of Cardinal Wojtyla's rise to the Papacy becomes most interesting.

In 1978, the Catholic Church on a worldwide scale was in need of renewal. After years of devout and faithful following of the teachings of the Church, many Catholics, particularly here in America, began to question the direction of the Church on a number of issues, including birth control, priestly celibacy, and the potential ordination of women as priests. At the time of Pope Paul VI's death, it was said by many that the Papacy required a new direction, one that was perhaps most succinctly summed up by the sociologist and journalist Father Andrew Greeley, who said that the Church needed ''a hopeful holy man who can smile.'' In August, our Church got that man in Pope John Paul I.

Cardinal Wojtyla could not have attended the August conclave with any belief that he would be elevated to the Papacy, as there had been no non-Italian Pope in more than 450 years. Accordingly, he and his mentor, the primate of Poland, Cardinal Wyszynski, attended the conclave and participated in the elevation of Albino Cardinal Luciani, the patriarch of Venice, to the Papacy as Pope John Paul I. It is believed that Cardinal Wojtyla received votes in the initial balloting during that August conclave, but it is said that the announcement of his name did not cause the Cardinal even to raise his head from his reading. He did not, and could not, expect to be selected by his brethren, and so upon the election of John Paul I, Cardinal Wojtyla returned to Krakow, secure in the knowledge that the Church had new leadership for the foreseeable future and that he would be able to return to minister to his flock.

Then the unexpected happened, the death of Pope John Paul I after the briefest of papacies. That the cardinals would return so soon to Rome to elect yet another successor to St. Peter was shocking to say the least, but even at that time Cardinal Wojtyla could hardly have expected to be elected. Interestingly, however, Wojtyla was age 58, an age usually considered young for a Pope; but in 1978, following the untimely death of Pope John Paul I, a new premium was placed on the health and vigor of the new Pope. In addition, Cardinal Wojtyla's reputation as an avid outdoorsman and skier continued to feed the notion that he was vigorous and able to withstand the physical challenges that would face a new Pontiff.

Not much is known of the conclave that elevated Cardinal Wojtyla to the Papacy, but much can be assumed. It can be assumed that Italian cardinals would have liked to have elected another Italian, but likely were unable to find a suitable candidate. It was at that time, it is surmised, that leaders within the College of Cardinals, including cardinals from South America, Austria and the Netherlands, saw an opportunity to elect a non-Italian as a compromise between competing factions of Italian cardinals. They joined with other cardinals to make history by electing the first Polish Pope.

We should stop to think for a moment of what occurred during this conclave. We as elected officials in the House of Representatives, each of us made the conscious decision to stand for election before our peers within our own districts. We made these decisions, all of us, of our own volition and with knowledge for the most part of the consequences of our respective decisions to run.

Cardinal Wojtyla did not have that same opportunity. As I have said, as a member of the College of Cardinals in October of 1978, Cardinal Wojtyla, despite his status as a great spiritual leader in his archdiocese, had no reason to believe that he would emerge as Pope when white smoke would emerge from the stovepipe at the top of the Sistine Chapel. He would soon be surprised.

It is believed that as the ballots were held, counted and revoted and the votes in conclave crept steadily higher and higher for Cardinal Wojtyla, he became more and more concerned. It is not known for certain, but it is believed that Cardinal Wojtyla, when he initially received the required number of votes to be elected, asked for some time to pray and contemplate the decision of whether or not to accept, and may well have asked for a final vote to confirm the cardinals' decision.

It is undeniable, Mr. Speaker, that Pope John Paul II made major contributions to the demise of totalitarian communism, a system in which the state claims ownership of everything physical and attempts to exert control over everything intellectual. In such a system, no one may express belief in anything other than Marxism, and the suppression of free thought and individual liberty are its exclusive goals. The Church, first in Poland and then elsewhere, broke through these controls by offering people a safe place to meet and a new vision of the world. The Church soon became not only a place of worship but it became a place where writers, artists, and playwrights

could have their works read, seen, and heard.

In helping to create a more open society, the priests of these churches followed the example of John Paul II, who as young Karol Wojtyla in Communist Poland, secretly studied for the priesthood and founded an underground theater. This new way of thinking was not entirely religious. The Pope traveled the world, including the communist world, speaking not only of God but of history and culture, of a new civil society steeped in openness and freedom, tempered by love, forgiveness, and understanding. This new openness had a liberating impact on the oppressed of the world and a debilitating impact on their oppressors.

In the years to come, 26 years, 5 months and 17 days to be precise, Pope John Paul II led the faithful through an incredible period in world history, helped facilitate the end of a bitter Cold War, and helped spread peace and democracy to nations across the world. The election of Pope John Paul II took on additional significance in the context of the political situation in his homeland of Poland. Pope John Paul II strongly encouraged the Solidarity movement in Poland, led by former Gdansk electrician Lech Walesa. The Holy See gave Solidarity vital material and moral support that further legitimized the movement in the eyes of the Polish population, becoming a de facto vehicle of opposition to the Communists who, though demoralized, remained in power in Poland.

I remember vividly the image of Walesa kneeling before the Pope to pay homage to him and seeing the Pope practically lift Walesa off his feet to embrace him, suspending the strict protocol of the Vatican to embrace the man who was leading millions of his fellow Poles toward a democratic state. Theirs was a struggle of common purpose and the Pope's willingness, indeed his steadfast insistence on using the weight of his Papacy as a counter to Communist aggression, was a vital component in ending Cold War hostilities and producing an independent Polish state.

This point is one of considerable interest to my own constituents in western New York. The history of Buffalo is one of rich and diverse ethnic neighborhoods, and western New York's Polish-American community is strong and proud today as it has been for generations. The pride in Cardinal Wojtyla's ascension to the Papacy in 1978 was felt by all of Polonia and all of western New York. It lasted throughout John Paul II's Papacy and is something felt in parishes from throughout Buffalo, Erie, and Chautauqua counties.

Speaking parochially, the future Pope visited Buffalo twice as a cardinal, once in the 1960s and again in the 1970s, visiting Polish-American churches on Buffalo's east side, where parishes still exist in which mass is said in Polish. Today, just as they did in 1978, all parishes throughout Buffalo and western New York proudly celebrate the Papacy of John Paul II and the special connection that Buffalonians have to him and to his years as Pope.

We have to remember that Pope John Paul II was history's most traveled Pope and brought his message of faithfulness and hope to billions of people throughout the world, Catholics and non-Catholics alike. The Holy Father used his influence to mediate conflicts throughout the world and established diplomatic relations between the Holy See and more than 70 additional independent nations.

Pope John Paul II also reached out to many people of other faiths, including and especially to Jews, whom John Paul II thought were unfairly subjected to years of scorn and discrimination by Christians of all denominations. John Paul II led by example, becoming the first Pope to visit Rome's synagogue and by taking the necessary steps toward establishing diplomatic relations between the Holy See and the State of Israel. In the year 2000, John Paul II paid a visit to Jerusalem, visiting the Holocaust memorial in Jerusalem; and on March 23, 2000, he paid a visit to the holiest of religious sites in Judaism, the Western Wall. At the Wall, the Pope followed tradition by leaving a written prayer at the Wall itself, seeking the Jews' forgiveness for the sins of Christians over the years, the text of which prayer follows:

''God of our fathers, You chose Abraham and his descendants to bring Your name to the nations. We are deeply saddened by the behavior of those who in the course of history have created these children of Yours to suffer, and asking Your forgiveness, we wish to commit ourselves to genuine brotherhood with the people of the Covenant.''

We also cannot forget that John Paul II was a great spiritual leader for the youth of the world and felt a special connection to young people in pursuing his ministry. John Paul II utilized the most modern of communication tools to bring his message forth and in the mid-1980s established Catholic Youth Days throughout the world where the youngest Catholics were encouraged to participate in the faith in a manner unlike any seen previously.

It cannot be said that John Paul II's Papacy was perfect. None, possibly save for that of the first Pope, St. Peter, could possibly attain such heights. Reductions in vocations, financial improprieties, sex abuse scandals, and other issues continue to test the faith of our people; and it is unlikely that the Papacy of John Paul II, or anyone else, could deal with those concerns completely. It will be up to the new Pope, whomever he may be, to lead the Church and its faithful in the months and years to come and as a spiritual leader to help Catholics and people of all faiths to deal with the many challenges that we face.

Undeniably, Pope John Paul II's charisma and warmth drew people to his Papacy like never before. Hundreds of millions, young and old, Christian and Jew, from every corner of the world came to worship with him, and with him join together to make the world a better place. His Papacy made people feel unafraid and challenged the faithful to go unafraid in pursuit of a better life.

Before Pope John Paul's predecessor was elevated to the Papacy, he too had misgivings about assuming the mantle of leadership that his colleagues were about to confer upon him. Albino Cardinal Luciani sat fretfully during the voting, but was approached by two friendly cardinals who offered him support. One told him not to worry, because when God gives a burden, he also gives the strength to carry it. Another told him, Don't fear, the whole world is praying for the new Pope.

As the world prays for the peaceful repose of Pope John Paul, so does the world pray for his successor to effectively and faithfully lead our Church during the months and years to come. Human though he may have been, Catholics throughout the world pray for leadership for our faith provided by Pope John Paul II. While we pray for the peaceful repose of his soul, we are confident that God, upon the appearance of Karol Wojtyla at the gates of heaven, has said the immortal words, ''Well done, good and faithful servant.''

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, John Paul II was a remarkable leader whose intense faith, intellectual brilliance, and sheer physical stamina are beyond dispute. He has been an inspiration to me and to millions of others, and his leadership brought people of all faiths closer together. John Paul II was a beacon of freedom and he gave his voice to those who could not speak, especially to those who were oppressed by the brutality of Communist oppression.

In public pronouncements during his visits to Poland and at every possible opportunity, he bore a simple message: truth matters, faith matters, freedom matters and injustice must be condemned and challenged.

□ 1700

He encouraged such dissidents as Poland's Lech Walesa and Czechoslovakia's Vaclav Havel to live ''as if'' they were free, undermining the elaborate system of lies that the Communist system depended upon to survive. Once pretenses were stripped away, more and more people realized they were not alone. It was Pope John Paul II's courage and decisive action that nurtured Poland's Solidarity movement and served as a catalyst to the peaceful liberation of Poland and the fall of the Iron Curtain.

Pope John Paul II was the first Pope to truly take his papacy outside the Vatican and deliver his message all across the globe. He made an outstanding 104 pilgrimages to 129 countries. I had the privilege of seeing the

Pope twice, once in 1979 at a mass at Five Holy Martyrs Parish in Chicago and once at a mass at the Vatican on Christmas Eve. I am but one of millions of people worldwide who were moved by the personal experience both of his charisma and also the truth that he spoke.

Pope John Paul II broke precedent after precedent in reaching out to those of other faiths. He was the first Pope since St. Peter to visit a synagogue and the first to visit a mosque. In an extraordinary illustration of his respect for other faiths, he issued a series of papal apologies for the Church's past treatment of Jews, for the Crusades, and for the Church's role in the post-Reformation wars of religion. He understood the critical importance of forgiveness for peace, even forgiving his would-be assassin.

While some may view the Pope's statements and actions as representing an inconsistent political ideology, the truth is that everything that John Paul II did arose from one inviolable principle: Every individual has dignity, and society must constantly strive to uphold that dignity and promote a ''culture of life.'' He understood that if the life and liberty of each person is to be protected, this principle must motivate the actions of governments.

I join my fellow Catholics and people everywhere in mourning the passing of the Holy Father. Pope John Paul II had a remarkable and blessed life, altering history and making the world a better place. But even with his death, there are still millions, including many youth, who have been inspired by his life, who will continue to strive to carry on his good work. This is a true testament to one of the greatest figures, perhaps the greatest figure, of the 20th century.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. ISRAEL).

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding to me. And we all thank the gentleman for organizing this Special Order. He has already demonstrated his leadership in this Chamber simply by taking this action tonight, by leading the United States Congress in paying special tribute and honoring the life of John Paul II.

Mr. Speaker, so much has been said on this floor, on the news channels, throughout the world about the life of Pope John Paul II. And I just wanted to share with my colleagues a reminiscence that I have. I never met the Holy Father, but I did connect to him through one profound moment that I experienced when I visited the Auschwitz death camp in January with Vice President CHENEY and two Members of this body as part of the delegation of Americans who went to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the liberation of the Auschwitz death camp. John Paul II could not attend that event. His health did not allow him to. So he sent a special message.

That camp is located near Krakow, a community in Poland that knows the Holy Father very well. And at that camp in the middle of a rather severe snow in very cold weather, a Vatican emissary read a message from John Paul II. He talked about his own visit to Auschwitz in 1979, and he talked about how, while he made that visit, which had to be exceedingly difficult for him, he stopped before a memorial and prayed in Hebrew, and then he stopped before another memorial and prayed in Polish.

John Paul II was a builder of bridges. He was a uniter. He had a deep faith and a profound belief in concepts which guide us every day right here in this body. We start every day, and every classroom, so many classrooms throughout America start every day, by pronouncing a very simple concept: liberty and justice for all. That is something that the Holy Father believed in profoundly. Liberty and justice for all.

He believed in peace, but he also had the fortitude and the compassion and the commitment and the raw courage to oppose two of the greatest evils that the 20th Century had ever witnessed in communism and nazism. He was not simply an eyewitness to those evils. There were plenty of eyewitnesses to those evils. He was a vigorous opponent of those evils, an outspoken opponent not simply when they were occurring, but even years after they occurred, because he always wanted to remind us of our moral obligation, our fundamental moral obligation, to speak the truth against evil no matter when it occurred, where it occurred, how far back it occurred.

I want to conclude by sharing with my colleagues some statements that John Paul II has made because I think those statements continue to guide us even today even at this difficult time. The Pope understood that different people see the world through different lenses, but he fought the biases that have long characterized the fault lines of different cultures. He counseled us. This is what he said: ''Peace is not built in mutual ignorance but rather in dialogue and encounter. Unity is not uniformity.'' He built a culture of tolerance and openness and understanding. He said, ''Solidarity helps us to see the other not as an object of exploitation but as a neighbor in the banquet of life to which they are all equally invited.'' A very important reminder.

And, Mr. Speaker, let me close by capturing a deeply held belief of the Pope's that I have long held dear in my own service as a Member of this body. The Pope steadily and forcefully worked towards a better future for all humankind, and he saw this future embodied in our children. Those are the people that we have our most important obligation to because they are our future. The Pope said, ''We must all work for a world in which no child will be deprived of peace and security, of the right to grow up without fear and anxiety.'' Mr. Speaker, the greatest challenge for any generation is to leave behind a world that is better for our children than it was for us. This Pope truly understood and embraced that challenge.

We will all miss Pope John Paul II for his spirituality, for his dignity, for his convictions, for his leadership, and for his profound humanity. But much as his faith indicates that his soul will live on eternally, the impetus and legacy of his principled life will live on eternally here on Earth.

I again thank the gentleman for his leadership in organizing this Special Order.

Mr. HIGGINS. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to also take this opportunity to thank the gentleman from New York for having this Special Order.

I grew up going to Catholic school, 12 years of Catholic school at Our Lady of Mount Carmel Grade School and John F. Kennedy High School, and I received my first holy communion under this Pope. I was confirmed under this Pope, and I was married under this Pope. And for those of us who are involved in the political system, not only here but around the world, one of the things we tend to notice is that in many ways international figures are inconsistent. And I think as we celebrate the life of this great Pope and this great statesman, I think it is important for us to recognize his consistency and how he was consistent with all of his philosophies through the Church and through his life. And whether one always agreed with this Pope or not, regardless of the political pressure that was being put from certain quarters in certain interest groups on certain countries, the Pope was always very consistent.

He was prolife on abortion. He was prolife on the death penalty. He understood that we honor not only the Holy Church, but God and the rest of us through our actions, and this Pope, through his actions, and what he advocated for, always for the poor, always for the disenfranchised, always for the workers, always for those people who did not have a voice, this Pope did not have to worry about the political implications, and he acted out of a position of love, and he did not always do it when it was just convenient for him or for the Church. And that is very important.

When the war in Iraq came before this Chamber and came before the international community, it was this Pope who took a firm position. And, interestingly enough, throughout the war it was this Pope who was one of the only international leaders we would hear talk about the innocent civilians who were getting killed throughout the war in Iraq. And whether or not the war was justified is a debate for this Chamber, but I think it is important for us to recognize that this Pope understood that those innocent lives were

God's children, too, and the Pope made sure that the conscience of the world paid attention to that.

One or two final points about the example of this Pope. A lot of religious issues and a lot of religious connotations have been made over the past few years and have made their way to the forefront of our political discourse here. And I think this Pope has taught us through his life on how we have to understand and utilize a religion consistently and the philosophies consistently.

But on the issues of Christianity, the issues of nonjudgment, which is the highest ideal of the Christian faith, not to judge, and for this Pope to go to the mosque, to go to the synagogue, to disagree with one on issues of the day, but yet never judge one personally or never judge one's country personally is a lesson for all of us. The man who spoke for the poor, the man who spoke for the disenfranchised, the man who spoke for the workers, and the man who taught my generation of service, and in the Catholic schools and in the Catholic Church one of the great doctrines is that we have a responsibility regardless of what we are doing to make money or to protect one's family or to help one's family survive, we have an obligation in some capacity to serve others. And this Pope in many ways served all of us with his intellect, with his knowledge, with his commitment, with his example of nonjudgment and tolerance.

We have a lot that we can digest that this Pope has shown us, and I hope that those of us in this body and around the world will use this celebration as an opportunity to get to know this Pope in a better way and a deeper way and hopefully implement his example in the day-to-day workings of this Chamber.

I thank the gentleman from New York for yielding to me.

□ 1715

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my upcoming Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Arizona?

There was no objection.

TRIBUTE TO POPE JOHN PAUL II

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL).

Mr. MCCAUL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank the gentleman from Arizona for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to pay tribute to the extraordinary life of Pope John Paul II. I served as an altar boy as a child, was educated by the Jesuit priests, and as a Roman Catholic I admired this man for his unwavering faith, extreme determination, and belief in the culture of life. His service to the Church and his dedication to freedom for all individuals are legacies the world will remember and honor for decades to come.

As the Holy Father once said, ''Freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.''

Ten years ago, my wife, Linda, and I had the honor of a private audience with the Pope where we came to believe even more in his efforts to speak out strongly in favor of human rights as he stood firmly with the United States in defeating communism and spreading democracy across our globe.

This son of Poland served as a beacon of light to the world's oppressed and unborn. In life, as in death, the youth of the world loved this Pope. He too loved them and believed, ''As the family goes, so goes the nation and so goes the whole world in which we live.''

His message on the sanctity of human life and social justice served as a rallying cry for millions looking for an advocate for the defenseless and the weak. He gave a voice to the silenced and provided hope to the hopeless.

Pope John Paul II appealed to the better nature of man. Humanity was well served by his Papacy. With his passing, let us celebrate his service to all mankind and listen quietly as the angels in heaven sing in joy as he ascends to touch the face of God.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, we are here to honor the life and legacy of Pope John Paul II, and I am joined by several of our colleagues here tonight.

Mr. Speaker, we often get materials and letters from our constituencies, and sometimes even from other States. Although I represent Arizona, a close friend of mine from California, Kevin Rishell, wrote us a poem today related to Pope John Paul II, and it seemed appropriate to read. So I am going to start with that:

''Pope John Paul II.
A man of simple convictions,
A man of great love and peace;
A father to the nations,
A friend now at last released.
Into the arms of his beloved Savior;
Into history,
With God's tender favor.
'Well done' faithful servant,
Echoes 'cross Heaven's portals;
As John Paul is welcomed,
By friends and other immortals.
His life was a service to God,
And to his neighbors;
To the weak and to the poor,
And dearly loved unbelievers.
For he believed that all life,
Had a godly purpose;
That all life was special,
And that God was never spurious.
For he understood clearly,
The vain rantings of men;
How popular their wisdom,
Seemed to change with the wind.
But he held true to his course,
In the most turbulent times;
With God's Word as his pilot,
And the Holy Spirit as his guide.
In faith, he stood against evil,
When it could have cost him his life;
And for decades and more,
He fought for what was right.
For God was his center,
And Jesus was his friend;
And the Comforter never left him,
From birth to honored end.
For he was on a holy quest,
Of nearly mythic proportions;
A man with a great commission,
Teaching truth and sacred traditions.
He knew where he came from,
And he knew where he would go;
Secure in Christ, adored by the masses,
This humble shepherd-soul.
But now his journey's over,
A final appointment he will keep;
A righteous servant to his Master,
In whose arms he will now rest and sleep.
While leaving a beautiful legacy,
Of honor and valiant grace;
That will live on beyond this tribute,
A priestly mantle so hard to replace.
We will miss you Holy Father,
We will miss your humor and your passion;
We will miss your concern for personal details,
And your courage to speak and to take action.
But now you have fought your good fight,
And you have finished your race;
We thank you for your example,
And pray God bless you for your faith.
Via con Dios, my precious brother,
Go with God my blessed friend;
Shalom to you my loving confessor,
Be at peace and as you always said, 'Amen.' ''

Mr. Speaker, it is with great admiration and gratitude that I now personally rise to commend to the ages the life of Karol Wojtyla, Pope John Paul II.

Pope John Paul II lived an intentional life. Too often today, we spend our lives in a reactive state, with daily events and crises drowning out the reflection and study which are required to live an intentional life.

The Pope did not fall into this trap of the immediate. He instead considered his life's great questions and, after seeking guidance in Holy Scripture and through prayer, he steadfastly stayed wisdom's course.

Mr. Speaker, by now the narrative of the Pope's life has become well-known. Growing up in Poland, he had firsthand experience with two of the 20th century's most horrible totalitarian creations, that being Nazism and Soviet Communism. Living under these systems as a young man, he saw in detail not only the physical corrosion wrought by these systems of government, but the spiritual and social decay they engendered as well.

He looked beyond the jackboots and the tanks and saw that the real power of these regimes stemmed not from physical force, but from an intellectual climate that was stripping the humanness from humanity. Karol Wojtyla dedicated himself to fighting this evil,

not with force of might, but through prayer, availing his heart, soul and mind unto God, and in serving his fellow human beings.

He exemplified what the Holy Scripture exhorts from man: ''To do justly, to love mercy, and to walk humbly with God.'' He sought for justice to be done and the truth to be told by placing a handwritten acknowledgment of Christian sins against the Jewish people in a crevice of the Western Wall in Jerusalem, and in his admonishment of the kneeling Father Ernesto Cardenal, the Sandinista Culture Minister in Nicaragua.

He demonstrated mercy, and after recovering from his wounds from the assassination attempt on his life by Mehmet ali Agca, he visited this deranged Turk in prison. He visited him, and then he forgave him.

And he walked humbly, Mr. Speaker, allowing all of us to watch as he deteriorated physically right before our eyes, believing that those who follow Christ, as Christ himself taught, must sometimes endure suffering.

Karol Wojtyla became Pope John Paul II in 1978, and held the Chair of Saint Peter for more than 26 years. At the beginning of his Papacy, the totalitarianism that had colored his youth was on the march throughout the world. Previously free people were being enslaved by Soviet Communism with alarming regularity. However, the Soviet Union had reached its zenith, and soon would crumble, due in large part to the efforts of a triumvirate of courageous and noble leaders: Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher and this new Pope, John Paul II.

He chose to attack the intellectual moorings of totalitarianism; thus he could eliminate the power structure that it rested upon.

He opposed abortion, believing innocent human life was sacred and that the casual elimination of the weak is the first step on the path that leads to the enslavement of all. One of the great teaching documents of his pontificate, ''Evangelium Vitae,'' stated: ''Life, especially human life, belongs only to God; for this reason, whoever attacks human life in some way attacks God himself.''

He opposed liberal theology, firmly believing that a Church which did not stand up for its core doctrines would be unlikely to stand up to evil in the world. And he encouraged us all to do the same, stating that ''freedom consists not in doing what we like, but in having the right to do what we ought.'' And kindly but boldly he encouraged us not to be afraid, stating: ''Have no fear of moving into the unknown. Simply step out fearlessly knowing that God is with you, therefore no harm can befall you; all is very, very well. Do this in complete faith and confidence.''

He demonstrated this full and complete trust in God, and from his first appearance on the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica proclaimed that ''Christ, Christ is the answer.''

He was a friend of the United States, not out of blind loyalty, but out of a recognition that ''radical changes in world politics leave America with a heightened responsibility to be for the world an example of genuinely free, democratic, just and humane society.''

And he admonished and cautioned us that it is not enough to speak about freedom, but that freedom must have a purpose, stating: ''When freedom does not have a purpose, when it does not wish to know anything about the rule of law engraved in the hearts of men and women, when it does not listen to the voice of conscience, it turns against humanity and society.''

Perhaps one of the most fitting tributes to this great man can be found in the news coverage of his death. While the Free World celebrates his legacy and openly mourns his passing, states such as China, which still hold much of their population in the dehumanizing chains of Marxism, do the best to stifle these reports. It seems fitting that the only countries to bar a Papal visit were China, North Korea, Vietnam, and post-Communist Russia.

Those leaders know that John Paul II lived a life in accordance with a view that rejected dehumanizing chains, because man was created to be free, and even though he has passed from this life and into the next, his world view remains, and his courage in the face of death is a powerful symbol of that world view.

The oppressors realize that if their subjects witness this courageous man and embrace his vision of humanity that their days will be numbered. We should all pray that they do.

In the meantime, Mr. Speaker, we should all take great comfort and gain great courage with the Pope's words of hope to all of us. He said, ''Do not abandon yourselves to despair. We are the Easter people and hallelujah is our song.'' I am certain that he is right now joined by a multitude of others singing ''Hallelujah'' to the One he dedicated his life to.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. AKIN).

(Mr. AKIN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. AKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Pope John Paul II. The Holy Father held a special place in the hearts of more than 1 billion Catholics worldwide. For many younger people, he was the only Pope they had ever known. However, his influence was by no means limited to the Catholic community. Rather, his moral courage and spiritual passion gave encouragement, clarity, and strength to people around the globe.

My hometown of St. Louis was honored by a visit by the Pope in January of 1999. The arrival of the Pope to the birthplace of the first cathedral west of the Mississippi was truly an honor and Americans poured into St. Louis to participate in prayer services, a rally and celebration mass.

Of particular note was the enthusiasm of the young people who came to a rally held in St. Louis on the evening of January 26, 1999. Reaching out to young people truly seemed to be a characteristic of this Pope.

The Holy Father spoke not only to the Catholic community, but to men and women of conscience on every continent. Most notable may be his courage in standing for a culture of life, as well as defying communism and standing in solidity with those opposed to that great evil. That courage will be noted in history as a fulcrum that turned the wheel of history from dictatorship to freedom.

His defense of the culture of life is best embodied in his own words given in October 1979 right here in Washington, D.C.

□ 1730

Let me quote just for a moment. ''I do not hesitate to proclaim before you and before the world that all human life is sacred, because human life is created in the image and likeness of God. And so, we will stand up every time that human life is threatened. When the sacredness of life before birth is attacked, we will stand up and proclaim that no one ever has the authority to destroy unborn human life.''

In recent decades I believe there have been no more stirring or inspiring words to encourage those of us who believe in protecting unborn life than these. The Pope's consistent fight for the sanctity of life never wavered. His defense of life extended from the moment of conception to natural death. His heart was always toward the weak and powerless, those whose voices were silenced cruelly or unjustly.

The same defiant commitment to human dignity animated his resolve to oppose communism. In the 1980s, communism faced three implacable foes: Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, and Pope John Paul II. The Pope's courageous and historic leadership emboldened the downtrodden people of Poland and all of Eastern Europe to say, ''Enough.'' He deserves the thanks of all people for that critical role in consigning the former Soviet Union and its satellite dictatorships in human memory.

Pope John Paul will be fondly remembered as a person of great energy and courage and faith, a man who did not shrink from fascism when he entered into an underground seminary in Poland during Nazi occupation, nor from communism when he challenged the world to rid itself of that evil. In his final years, he countenanced great personal suffering with great dignity. He died as he lived, with bravery and faith.

Today we honor his memory. May we always honor his legacy.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to pay my respects to one of

the world's greatest spiritual leaders, Pope John Paul II.

The Pope was a wonderful humanitarian who was much more than just a leader of the Catholic Church and its 1 billion members around the globe. He was a servant of God, whose purpose in life was to work on behalf of all of humanity.

John Paul II was a courageous man, courageous all his life, who worked to make the world a better place by fighting for basic human rights, such as the right to freedom from oppression. Having grown up under nazism and communism, he understood firsthand the negative effects of totalitarian rule. He inspired a ''revolution of conscience'' in his home country of Poland, which Lech Walesa credits helped bring about the fall of communism.

The Pope was not afraid to take a tough stand and challenge dictators face to face. His criticism of rulers such as Alfred Stroessner in Paraguay, Augusto Pinochet in Chile, and Ferdinand Marcos in the Philippines encouraged opposition movements that eventually led to the demise of their regimes.

The Pope was also a staunch advocate of the right to life. He constantly challenged people to foster a culture of life. Ten years ago John Paul II stated, ''We are facing an enormous and dramatic clash between good and evil, death and life, the 'culture of death' and the 'culture of life.'" He challenged that, ''We are all involved and we all share the inescapable responsibility of choosing to be unconditionally prolife.'' I deeply admire the Pope for taking this stand.

In a society often characterized by worldliness, the Pope stood as a symbol of morality, integrity, and faith. John Paul II was not someone who acted in accordance with public opinion polls. He did what he knew was right, and he spoke with conviction. Even if people did not agree with him on every issue, they respected him and admired him.

No one in our lifetime has been a better role model for us all. He was, all his life, to the end of his life, a teacher and a servant. I join with the rest of the world in mourning his loss.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I want to recognize the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. RENZI).

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful that the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) took the time and the effort to reserve an hour so that we could take the time to pay tribute to a man who has given us so much, to celebrate his life and to lay out for the people of the world how much he truly sacrificed and gave.

I had the honor to visit with him in Rome at Christmas of 2003. I accompanied a delegation of a couple of Congressmen who went over and who brought a House Resolution that signified and thanked him for 25 years of public service, of being that spiritual warrior that we all embraced. It was an honor to be with him. In his presence, you felt that holiness. You felt the holiness of a man of deep prayer, a man of hard work and conviction, a man who did not sway in the wind and who was not forced by modernization, by the tides of modern theology that we have seen.

When I heard of his death, I was in Panama just a few days ago. I was fortunate to be with the large Latino population, one of the fastest-growing populations in the Catholic Church, who turned out and who truly mourned his death. Monday I was in Mexico City, and I had an opportunity to visit the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. I watched a poor Mexican family on their knees, walking on their knees in pain and in suffering, to show personal sacrifice to honor the life of this Pope. And with the few small dollars that they had left, they bought several candles and placed them at the statue of John Paul II in Mexico City. A true tribute for those who have so little to give so much.

It is interesting that the Pope's last teaching, the last formal message that came out of Rome, dealt with the life of Terri Schiavo. It is interesting that the message that came from this Pope was that we should not so swiftly embrace the culture of death. As a Roman Catholic, as a father of 12 children, I am so grateful that his last teaching will be that of life, that we embrace innocence, that we look to help the unborn; that we treat all life, whether it be disabled or whether it be strong and healthy, with dignity.

Mr. Speaker, this public servant sent a powerful message each time he rose, even when he was then himself disabled. I found him to be noble and kind. I found his humility to be a great example that led our world. When we look at what he did to fight against the evils against democracy, especially with the Iron Curtain, the Soviet Union, Poland, Hungary, Bulgaria, Romania, Czechoslovakia, and East Germany; each of them owe a portion of their freedom to this champion. Each of them owe a portion to the tolerance and forgiveness, the releasing of the evil grip of communism, to this champion. He told them not to be afraid. In doing so, he moved masses into solidarity and unleashed the evils of Communists.

He personally survived the Nazi bloodlust that swept through his native Poland, and he survived the Iron Curtain which attempted to strangle the free spirit of men. His life will be honored in our work to continue that struggle, to fight daily for the free spirit of men all over the world who continue to be repressed. He was unafraid because he believed in God. Through prayer, he received courage from the true source; true courage comes to those who pray, true bravery to those who pray.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS), my neighbor, we both know that angels feel no injury. Angels are created and cannot be hurt. Angels do not bleed. True bravery can only be shown by moral men and women. This man showed true bravery, and it was because of that courage through prayer that he received.

When he was in Rome in May of 1981, when the attempted assassination was made on his life, he spent 20 days in the hospital. He showed us the power of perseverance. He spent the rest of his life showing us the power of forgiveness, especially when he met with his would-be assassin.

So while we are saddened by his passing, we celebrate his life. We continue to be encouraged by his teachings, and we allow his powerful spirit to inspire us daily to strive for goodness, for humility, for forgiveness and for justice. I love this champion of freedom and life. I love the fact that God sent us a spiritual warrior who fought for the good, a warrior whose most powerful weapons was that of peaceful prayer, peaceful words, solidarity, and the teachings of life.

I thank the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) for setting aside this hour and for allowing us to give a small tribute to the life of John Paul II.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota. Mr. Speaker, I, too, want to thank my distinguished colleague from Arizona for organizing this time for us to pay our respects to a man who has had a profound impact on our world and a profound impact on the oppressed throughout this world.

We feel sad because of our loss, but this is natural. But we should, in fact, rejoice, for I have no doubt that this great son of Poland has ascended into heaven and has been welcomed home by our Lord, whom he did so much to serve with his life that he was given.

We should not dwell on our loss, but we should rejoice for all the years we were privileged to know him, to see him, to hear him, and to learn from his example. We should rejoice in the strength he had inspired by his faith and conviction to suffer through Parkinson's for so many years, to survive an assassination attempt, and the unsurpassed Christian spirit to confront his nearly successful assassin and forgive him and pray with him, and to know that he is at peace now with the Heavenly Father he so nobly and humbly served.

It is difficult to remember what the world was like before we had the example of our Pope a scant 27 years ago. The year he was chosen, Iranian protests were brewing that would lead to the imminent fall of the Shah, usher in the ayatollahs, and produce an era of war and terror. The Soviet Union was jailing religious dissidents and staging coups such as that which they nurtured in Afghanistan and followed with a full-fledged invasion.

Before John Paul II, we did not yet have the vision and the leadership of

Ronald Reagan nor of Margaret Thatcher, who, together with them, he would usher in the end to the Cold War. We were told that the West was in irreversible decline, and that the freedom bequeathed to us as an inalienable right, preserved and protected by the wisdom of the people assembled in democratic government, had failed. The peoples of the world were being told that individual dignities should be subjugated to the collective. It seemed that the only religion was that of the state, and that it was to the state that people thought we should direct our worship.

A young Pole named Lech Walesa had not yet dreamed that a simple concept like solidarity could overcome the awesome forces of fear and oppression that were the Soviet system; that is, until another son of Poland had ascended to the throne of St. Peter and did what he would do for the rest of his life: He provided the world with a brilliant example of the best of humanity.

John Paul II knew better than the conventional wisdom of the intelligentsia, of those who had surrendered their birthright, who had chosen to obey the commands of the state, who had ceased to recognize the demands of the respect for human dignity.

□ 1745

He believed that communism would fall and freedom reign, because communism at its core represented a false understanding of human nature. He knew that totalitarianism in all of its forms would fall. He was in a position to know this because of the cruel and harsh experience he gained having seen them both up front and close as a youth, as Poland was plagued by both Nazi fascism and then communism.

He saw from an up-close vantage what is possible when authority is perverted to a philosophy contemptuous of life. He wrote to a friend, while a cardinal, that a degradation, indeed a pulverization, of the fundamental uniqueness of each human person was at the heart of the sickness in the human heart that made the tragedies of the 20th century possible; that when this happens, as it did in the totalitarianism ideologies of communism and fascism, the result was the unnatural death of 120 million people in Europe and Asia.

This truth is epitomized in an image seared in the collective memory of the world, when the Pope went to the Holy Land, bowed in remembrance over the memorial flame in Yad Vashem, the Jewish Holocaust memorial.

The experience of this youth informed his mission as a Pontiff and was made possible because of his indomitable faith in the Creator.

He fiercely pursued an agenda that life in all of its forms is sacred because it is created by God, especially human life, which is created in his image. Stalin once derisively remarked that the Pope was a relatively powerless person, a mere figurehead, once famously asking an aide, how many divisions does he have?

Stalin never had to come to face John Paul II, but later communist leaders would come to know the danger posed by this man and what he represented on Earth and in heaven. They knew that if the Church led by this man was not dealt with sooner or later, it would destroy them throughout the world where the people would travel to places where people were trapped under communism, and totalitarianism parts of the world that did not dare have hope until they saw John Paul II.

The power was understood by those tyrants who feared that John Paul II would come to them, would visit their land and inspire those people. This was understood by the communist masters of Poland, when the newly installed Pope made his first visit there in 1979, returning to the land of his youth, of his first flock as a young priest.

The Soviet system knew that it had met its match when one-third of all of the people in Poland turned out to witness the homecoming of their native son. The only thing for the Soviets to do was to tremble, and the trembling that started that day did not end until the Berlin Wall came down 12 years later.

The last few outposts of repression that remain in our world today deeply fear the loss of their power by the words and the actions of a simple man who would bring a measure of freedom. It was a simple, yet eternal, message of faith in the almighty. It almost defies our pitiful ability to comprehend just how different the world is today as we celebrate this man's life and mourn our having lost him.

On my bookshelf at home I have a well-read book of George Geigel's biography of John Paul II titled, I think appropriately, ''Witness to Hope.'' Billions of people around the world saw this man in that way, whether in the full vigor of his youthful pontificate or in his advanced years. For billions of people around the world, the sight of this man was to see hope. He stood for Catholicism and all of the principles; yet he was appreciated by all people around the world.

Here was a man who, while standing for his faith, brought the essence of freedom to everyone unapologetically. His 26-year Papacy saw him take this message to every corner of the world. He was seen by more of his flock than perhaps all of his 263 predecessors combined. He reached out to Jews, Muslims, Protestants, and the Eastern Orthodox Church. He took the time to learn at least a few phrases in over 100 different languages just so that he could communicate his message of hope at every place that he visited.

His message of human dignity is understood in every language, and it was understood in every land he saw during the generation he served humanity and God as the bishop of Rome.

In one of his many writings, he argued that humanity is right to seed freedom, but only if it is a freedom that is used to do justice. And justice, as he reminded us, is to confer, preserve, protect, prolong, and give meaning and value to life.

The spread of freedom will continue unabated in his absence. It will continue to inspire by his example as America leads a providential mission that humanity will only know peace and prosperity when every one of God's children knows the freedom and enjoys the dignity bestowed on them by their heavenly Father.

We thank our heavenly Father that we were able to know this man and to benefit by his love for us and the love of God. We will profit and do service to our children if we remember the words of this man who will soon be known across history as John Paul the Great.

Freedom has continually to be won; it cannot merely be possessed. It comes as a gift, but can only be kept with a struggle. Gift and struggle are written into pages, hidden yet open.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. I now yield to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for 5 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman for yielding and for organizing this special hour that we have here in the United States Congress to commemorate the life of a man so well lived, I am hard pressed to even suggest another individual contemporary of mine who can compete in that category, a life extraordinarily well lived, a life that began in Poland in 1920, May 18, a month after my mother was born.

And as he lived through that life in Poland, and he saw the Nazi pressure come on the border, and as that border pressure became the invasion of Poland in September of 1939, he was a young man, a young man the son of a poor soldier, a young man who was at that time already a theologian, a student, a philosopher, an actor, and a writer of plays.

And as the Nazis occupied Poland through that period of time, during the Second World War, some of that work needed to go underground. It needed to stay underground when the Soviets took over.

But he lived a life where he saw the Nazi Holocaust, he saw the totalitarianism that came with the Nazis, and he saw the oppression that came with the communists and the Soviet Union. It gave him a perspective that could not be gained perhaps anywhere else on the planet but there.

And those of us who believe in providence know very well that God put him there. And he put him there for us, for so many things that we have benefited from over those ensuing years, those 65 years from 1920 until 1985, as he lived underneath the Nazis and the Soviet Union, and underneath the totalitarianism that came with that.

Yet he emerged as Pope, unheard of, unheard of and unnamed. In fact, I have an interesting personal anecdote to this, that Pope John Paul now referred to as the first, lived only 32 days

after he was named Pope, and ascended to the Papacy and died, another period of time, we were in that unknown period of time when we did not know who the next Pope would be. That went on for days and several weeks.

Early in that process I had no idea who the next Pope would be. I had not even looked at names or studied that or tried to handicap that decision that would come out of the conclave. But I remember that I had a dream one night, and I woke up in the morning and I said to my wife, Marilyn, I said, I had a funny dream last night. I dreamed that our new Pope would be Polish, and he named himself John Paul II.

And we laughed. It sounded so ridiculous that there would be a Pope who wasn't named, and especially from Poland that would ascend to the Papacy. And that joke was a joke amongst us. And then when he was named Pope, a Polish Pope, John Paul II, and that little insight came true, I had no idea what kind of a man he would be; but one of the first things he did in his first foreign trip was go back to Poland. There he was seen by one-third of the population of Poland, and the stops that he made people coming out of the mountains by the millions.

They wore their best holiday clothing. They played musical instruments, a great celebration and honor for this Pope. The son of Poland had returned as his first foreign trip from the Vatican.

And his message was, Be not afraid. Today we hear that message in the countries around the world. If you can lift that veil of fear, if you can lift it in East Germany, or if you can lift it in Iraq or Iran or Lebanon today when people are no longer afraid, they can do great things.

And that ''be not afraid'' message is the message that we hear every time from the mainstream news media today when they say the veil of fear has been lifted off of Lebanon today, that is the people's message. That is Pope John Paul II's message from 1978 that still echoes and still inspires for freedom. Be not afraid. If you would listen to Lech Walesa today, all the times that they tried to organize Solidarity in Poland and were unable to do so until Pope John Paul came and carried that message.

And people stood up and his message also was, be peaceful. We do not need a violent revolution. We need a peaceful revolution of people who are not afraid. That message of be not afraid brought Poland into freedom for the first of the Eastern Bloc countries. And that message of, be not afraid when the Wall came down on November 9 of 1989, and the people crawled over the Wall and climbed on it and celebrated and chiseled pieces out of it, and I have a piece of the Berlin Wall in my office here in Congress, and that piece symbolizes the single most significant historical event in my lifetime, the end of the Cold War.

When that Wall came down, the Iron Curtain came crashing down. It could not have come down without Pope John Paul and his message. And it was a historical miracle the way that freedom echoed across the Eastern European nations, the square in Prague, people rattling their keys. They held their keys in the air, and shook their keys. They shook their keys for freedom the way that they held up the color orange in the Ukraine, which we heard from today; and the way they waved the Lebanese flag in the square in Beruit today, that was a peaceful assembly of freedom in Prague growing from and being from that inspiration of be not afraid, be courageous.

He was consistent; he believed in the principles of the Bible and the Church as being immortal and faced with the modern religion that says that the Bible needs to be read in light of contemporary values. He rejected that kind of philosophy because the Church has to stand for timeless values, not changing and fluctuating values.

His courage in the face of life, on the issue of marriage, the issue of peace, all of those things together, the sanctity of human life has been an inspiration for many of us on marriage and the family.

This was an issue that floated across this country throughout the last elections. And 11 States went to the polls and said they stood for marriage; many of those people went to the polls inspired by John Paul II and his consistency in values, his consistency in faith, his consistency in the value of human life and how important the family is as the unit, the unit through which all of our values, our religious values, our work ethic, our culture as a people, flows through that unit of a man and a women joined together in holy matrimony and children, and passing those values along to the next generation. That human unit of the nuclear family is the key to civilization.

And if we fail in his message to hold our families together in this country and on this planet, we have failed humanity. That is part of the legacy as well as the inspiration to stand with those principles. There was no compromise with evil with John Paul II. He knew evil. He faced evil daily, and he stood for peaceful and high godly purposes. There was no compromise with wrong. If you compromise with wrong, it becomes part wrong. If it is part wrong, it is all wrong.

□ 1800

He stood with those principles that consist in ethic of the Catholic Church. It is the sanctity of human life, and no one could have stood for that any greater than John Paul II. We stand here today, yes, in mourning, but in great celebration, great celebration for a life so well lived that we can give thanks to his legacy for time immemorial, and I pray that we will also refer to him as John Paul, the Great.

I appreciate the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. FRANKS) yielding.

Mr. FRANKS of Arizona. Mr. Speaker, I want to just thank all of my colleagues that joined in this tribute to this noble leader of over a billion Catholics, and I just suggest, Mr. Speaker, that this is one Baptist who is very grateful that Karol Wojtyla walked our way.

We are grateful for his courage to stand against the Soviet communism. We are grateful for his courage to stand against the Nazis. We are grateful for his courage to stand for that imago dei, that image of God, in every human being, for his commitment to human dignity.

We are grateful most of all, Mr. Speaker, that he reminded us that we are the Easter people, that ours is a solemn hallelujah, and that we need never be afraid again.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all my colleagues, I wish this great, noble leader an eternal godspeed and a conviction that he has heard those words that are the greatest words any human being can hear, and that being, Well done, thou good and faithful servant.

THE ORDEAL OF TERRI SCHIAVO AND THE RIGHT TO LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DENT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, today in this Special Order I want to address two subjects, the first being the ordeal of Terri Schiavo and the right-to-life issue.

Mr. Speaker, clearly no one wins in the legal and political battles over the death of Terri Schiavo. Although it has been terribly politicized, a valuable debate has emerged. This debate is not about abortion or euthanasia in general, nor about death in the abstract. It is about an individual's right to life and the value of life itself. Without concern for the life of each, individual liberty is meaningless and indefensible.

This debate deals with the passive treatment of the critically and terminally ill. This type of decision is manageable most of the time without government interference, but circumstances in this case made it difficult to determine proper guardianship. The unprecedented level of government involvement, questions about which branch of government had the ultimate say, and what the explicit intent of the patient was brought national attention to what was otherwise a family conflict.

Terri Schiavo is a unique case, and, unfortunately, her fate ended up in the hands of the lawyers, the judges and the legislators. The media certainly did their part in disrupting her final days.

In a free society, the doctor and the patient, or his or her designated spokesperson, make the decision, short of using violence, in dealing with death and dying issues. The government stays out of it.

This debate, though, shows that one life is indeed important. It is not an esoteric subject. It is a real life involved and a personal issue we cannot ignore, especially in this age of Medicare, with government now responsible for most of the medical bills.

We are rapidly moving toward a time when these decisions will be based on the cost of care alone, since government pays all the bills under national health care. As we defer to the state for our needs, and parental power is transferred to government, it is casually expected that government will be making more and more of these decisions. This has occurred in education, general medical care and psychological testing. The government now can protect the so-called right of a teenager to have an abortion, sometimes paid for by the government, without notifying the parents.

Free-market medicine is not perfect, but it is the best system to sort out these difficult problems, and it did so for years.

Eventually government medicine surely will ignore the concern for a single patient as a person, and instead, a computer program and cost analysis will make the determination. It will be said to be more efficient, though morally unjustified, to allow a patient to die by court order rather than permitting family and friends to assume responsibility for the cost of keeping patients alive.

There is plenty of hypocrisy to go around on both sides of this lingering and prolonged debate. In this instance, we heard some very sound arguments from the left defending States rights and family responsibility while criticizing the Federal Government involvement. I am anxious for the day when those who made these arguments join me in defending the Constitution and States rights, especially the 9th and 10th amendment, on many other economic and social issues. I will not hold my breath.

More importantly, where are those who rightfully condemn congressional meddling in the Schiavo case because of federalism and separation of powers on the issue of abortion? These same folks strongly defend Roe v. Wade and the so-called constitutional right to abort healthy human fetuses at any stage. There is no hesitation to demand support of this phony right from both Congress and the Federal courts. Not only do they demand Federal legal protection for abortion, they insist that abortion foes be forced to fund this act that many of them equate with murder.

It is too bad that philosophic consistency and strict adherence to the Constitution are not a high priority for many Members, but perhaps this flexibility in administering the rule of law helps create problems such as we faced in the Schiavo ordeal.

Though the left produced some outstanding arguments for the Federal Government staying out of this controversy, they frequently used an analogy that could never persuade those of us who believe in a free society guided by the constraints of the Constitution. They argued that if conservatives who supported prolonging Terri's life would only spend more money on welfare, they would demonstrate sincere concern for the right to life. This is false logic and does nothing to build the case for a local government solution to a feeding tube debate.

First, all wealth transfers depend on an authoritarian state willing to use lethal force to satisfy the politicians' notion of an unachievable fair society. Robbing Peter to pay Paul, no matter how well intentioned, can never be justified. It is theft plain and simple and morally wrong. Actually, welfare is antiprosperity so it cannot be prolife. Too often good intentions are motivated only by the good that someone believes will result from the transfer program. They never ask who must pay, who must be threatened, who must be arrested and imprisoned. They never ask whether the welfare funds taken by forcible taxation could have helped someone in a private or voluntary way.

Practically speaking, welfare rarely works. The hundreds of billions of dollars spent on the war on poverty over the last 50 years has done little to eradicate poverty. Matter of fact, worthwhile studies show that poverty is actually made worse by government efforts to eradicate poverty. Certainly the whole system does nothing to build self-esteem, and more often than not does exactly the opposite.

My suggestion to my colleagues who did argue convincingly that Congress should not be involved in the Schiavo case is please consider using these same arguments consistently, and avoid the false accusation that if one opposes increases in welfare, one is not prolife. Being proliberty and pro-Constitution is indeed being prolife, as well as proprosperity.

Conservatives, on the other hand, are equally inconsistent in their arguments for life. There is little hesitation by the conservative right to come to Congress to promote their moral agenda, even when it is not within the jurisdiction of the Federal Government to do so.

Take, for instance, the funding of faith-based charities. The process is of little concern to conservatives if their agenda is met by passing more Federal laws and increasing spending. Instead of concentrating on the repeal of Roe v. Wade and eliminating Federal judiciary authority over issues best dealt with at the State level, more Federal laws are passed which, strictly speaking, should not be the prerogative of the Federal Government.

The biggest shortcoming of the Christian right position is its adamancy for protecting life in its very early, late and weakened stages, while enthusiastically supporting aggressive war that results in hundreds of thousands of unnecessary deaths. While the killing of the innocent unborn represents a morally decadent society, and all life deserves an advocate, including Terri Schiavo, promoting a policy of deadly sanctions and all-out war against a nation that committed no act of aggression against us cannot come close to being morally consistent or defendable under our Constitution.

The one issue generally ignored in the Schiavo debate is the subtle influence the cost of care for the dying had on the debate. Government-paid care clouds the issue, and it must be noted that the courts ruled out any privately paid care for Terri. It could be embarrassing in a government-run nursing home to see some patients receiving extra care from families while others are denied the same. However, as time goes on, the economics of care will play even a greater role since under socialized medicine the state makes all the decisions based on affordability. Then there will be no debate, as we just witnessed in the case of Terri Schiavo.

Having practiced medicine in simpler times, agonizing problems like we just witnessed in this case did not arise. Yes, similar medical decisions were made and have been made for many, many years, but lawyers were not involved, nor the courts, nor the legislators, nor any part of the government; only the patient, the patient's family and the doctor. No one would have dreamed of making a Federal case of the dying process.

A society and a government that lose respect for life help create dilemmas of this sort. Today there is little respect for life; witness the number of abortions performed each year. There is little respect for liberty; witness the rules and laws that regulate our every move. There is little respect for peace; witness our eagerness to initiate war to impose our will on others. Tragically, government financing of the elderly, out of economic necessity, will usher in an age of euthanasia.

The accountants already have calculated that if the baby-boomer generation is treated to allow maximum longevity without quality of life concerns, we are talking about $7 trillion in additional medical costs. Economists will determine the outcome, and personal decisions will vanish. National health care, of necessity, will always conflict with personal choices.

Compounding the cost problems that will lead to government-ordered euthanasia is the fact that costs always skyrocket in government-run programs. This is true whether it is a $300 hammer for the Pentagon or an emergency room visit for a broken toe, and in addition, deficit financing, already epidemic because of our flawed philosophy of guns and butter, always leads to inflation when a country operates on a paper money system.

Without a renewal in the moral fiber of the country and respect for the constitutional rule of law, we can expect a lot more and worse problems than we

witnessed in the case of Terri Schiavo. When dying and medical care becomes solely a commercial event, we will long for the days of debating what was best for Terri.

Hopefully this messy debate will lead more Members to be convinced that all life is precious, that family and patient wishes should be respected, and that government jurisprudence and financing fall far short of providing a just solution in these difficult matters.

WHO'S BETTER OFF?

Mr. PAUL. On another subject dealing more with foreign policy, I would like to address what is going on in Iraq.

Mr. Speaker, whenever the administration is challenged regarding the success of the Iraq War or regarding the false information used to justify the war, the retort is, ''Aren't the people of Iraq better off?'' The insinuation is that anyone who expresses any reservations about supporting the war is an apologist for Saddam Hussein and every ruthless act he ever committed.

The short answer to the question of whether the Iraqis are better off is that it is still too early to declare, ''Mission accomplished.'' But more importantly, we should be asking if the mission was ever justified or legitimate in the first place. Is it legitimate to justify an action that some claim yielded good results, if the means used to achieve them are illegitimate? Do the ends justify the means?

□ 1815

The information Congress was given prior to the war was false. There were no weapons of mass destruction; the Iraqis did not participate in the 9/11 attacks; Osama bin Laden and Saddam Hussein were enemies and did not conspire against the United States; our security was not threatened; we were not welcomed by cheering Iraqi crowds as we were told; and Iraqi oil has not paid any of the bills.

Congress failed to declare war, but instead passed a wishy-washy resolution citing U.N. resolutions as justifications for our invasion. After the fact, now we are told the real reason for the Iraqi invasion was to spread democracy, and that the Iraqis are better off. Anyone who questions the war risks being accused of supporting Saddam Hussein, disapproving of democracy, or ''supporting terrorists.'' It is implied that lack of enthusiasm for the war means one is not patriotic and does not support the troops. In other words, one must march lockstep with the consensus or be ostracized.

However, conceding that the world is better off without Saddam Hussein is a far cry from endorsing the foreign policy of our own government that led to regime change. In time it will become clear to everyone that support for the policies of preemptive war and interventionist nation-building will have much greater significance than the removal of Saddam Hussein itself.

The interventionist policy should be scrutinized more carefully than the purported benefits of Saddam Hussein's removal from power. The real question ought to be this: Are we better off with a foreign policy that promotes regime change while justifying war with false information? Shifting the stated goals as events unravel should not satisfy those who believe war must be a last resort used only when our national security is threatened.

How much better off are the Iraqi people? Hundreds of thousands of former inhabitants of Fallujah are not better off with their city flattened and their homes destroyed. Hundreds of thousands are not better off living with foreign soldiers patrolling their streets, curfews, and the loss of basic utilities. A hundred thousand dead Iraqis, as estimated by the Lancet Medical Journal, certainly are not better off. Better to be alive under Saddam Hussein than lying cold in some grave.

Praise for the recent election in Iraq has silenced many critics of the war. Yet the election was held under martial law implemented by a foreign power, mirroring the conditions we rightfully condemned as a farce when carried out in the old Soviet system and more recently in Lebanon. Why is it that what is good for the goose is not always good for the gander?

Our government fails to recognize that legitimate elections are the consequence of freedom and that an artificial election does not create freedom. In our own history, we note that freedom was achieved first and elections followed, not the other way around.

One news report claimed that the Shiites actually received 56 percent of the vote, but such an outcome could not be allowed for it would preclude a coalition of the Kurds and the Shiites from controlling the Sunnis and preventing a theocracy from forming. This reminds us of the statements made months ago by Secretary Rumsfeld when asked about a Shiite theocracy emerging from a majority democratic vote, and he assured us that would not happen. Democracy, we know, is messy and needs tidying up a bit when we do not like the results.

Some have described Baghdad, and especially the Green Zone, as being surrounded by unmanageable territory. The highways in and out of Baghdad are not yet secure. Many anticipate a civil war will break out sometime soon in Iraq. Some claim it is already under way.

We have seen none of the promised oil production that was supposed to provide grateful Iraqis with the means to repay us for the hundreds of billions of dollars that American taxpayers have spent on the war. Some have justified our continuous presence in the Persian Gulf since 1990 because of a need to protect ''our'' oil. Yet now that Saddam Hussein is gone and the occupation supposedly is a great success, gasoline at the pumps is reaching record highs, approaching $3 a gallon.

Though the Iraqi election has come and gone, there still is no government in place and the next election, supposedly the real one, is not likely to take place on time. Do the American people have any idea who really won the dubious election at all?

The Oil-for-Food scandal under Saddam Hussein has been replaced by corruption in the distribution of U.S. funds to rebuild Iraq. Already there is an admitted $9 billion discrepancy in the accounting of these funds. The overbilling by Halliburton is no secret, but the process has not changed.

The whole process is corrupt. It just does not make sense to most Americans to see their tax dollars used to fight an unnecessary and unjustified war. First, they see American bombs destroying a country, and then American taxpayers are required to rebuild it. Today it is easier to get funding to rebuild infrastructure in Iraq than it is to build a bridge in the United States. Indeed, we cut the Army Corps of Engineers' budget and operate on the cheap with our veterans as the expenditures in Iraq skyrocket.

One question the war promoters do not want to hear asked, because they do not want to face up to the answer, is this: Are Christian Iraqis better off today since we decided to build a new Iraq through force of arms? The answer is plainly, no.

Sure, there are 800,000 Christians living in Iraq, but under Saddam Hussein they were free to practice their religion. Tariq Aziz, a Christian, served in Saddam Hussein's cabinet as foreign minister, something that would never happen in Saudi Arabia, Israel, or any other Middle Eastern country. Today, the Christian churches in Iraq are under attack and Christians are no longer safe. Many Christians have been forced to flee Iraq and migrate to Syria. It is strange that the human rights advocates in the U.S. Congress have expressed no concern for the persecution now going on against Christians in Iraq. Both the Sunni and the Shiite Muslims support the attacks on the Christians. In fact, persecuting Christians is one of the few areas in which they agree; the other being the removal of all foreign forces from Iraqi soil.

Considering the death, destruction, and continued chaos in Iraq, it is difficult to accept the blanket statement that the Iraqis all feel much better off with the U.S. in control rather than Saddam Hussein. Security in the streets and criminal violence are not anywhere near being under control.

But there is another question that is equally important: Are the American people better off because of the Iraq war?

One thing for sure, the 1,500-plus dead American soldiers are not better off. The nearly 20,000 injured or sickened American troops are not better off. The families, the wives, the husbands, children, parents, and friends of those who lost so much are not better off. The families and the 40,000 troops who were forced to reenlist against their will, a

de facto draft, are not feeling better off. They believe they have been deceived by their enlistment agreements.

The American taxpayers are not better off having spent over $200 billion to pursue this war, with billions yet to be spent. The victims of the inflation that always accompanies a guns-and-butter policy are already getting a dose of what will become much worse.

Are our relationships with the rest of the world better off? I would say no. Because of the war, our alliances with the Europeans are weaker than ever. The anti-American hatred among a growing number of Muslims around the world is greater than ever. This makes terrorist attacks more likely than they were before the invasion. Al Qaeda recruiting has accelerated. Iraq is being used as a training ground for the al Qaeda terrorists, which it never was under Hussein's rule.

So as our military recruitment efforts suffer, Osama bin Laden benefits by attracting pre-terrorist volunteers.

Oil was approximately $27 a barrel before the war; now it is more than twice that. I wonder who benefits from this?

Because of the war, fewer dollars are available for real national security and defense of this country. Military spending is up, but the way the money is spent distracts from true national defense and further undermines our credibility around the world.

The ongoing war's lack of success has played a key role in diminishing morale in our military services. Recruitment is sharply down and most branches face shortages of troops. Many young Americans rightly fear a coming draft, which will be required if we do not reassess and change the unrealistic goals of our foreign policy.

The appropriations for the war are essentially off-budget and obscure, but contribute nonetheless to the runaway deficit and increase in the national debt. If these trends persist, inflation with economic stagnation will be the inevitable consequences of a misdirected policy.

One of the most significant consequences in times of war that we ought to be concerned about is the inevitable loss of personal liberty. Too often in the patriotic nationalism that accompanies armed conflict, regardless of the cause, there is a willingness to sacrifice personal freedoms in pursuit of victory. The real irony is that we are told we go hither and yon to fight for freedom and our Constitution, while carelessly sacrificing the very freedoms here at home we are supposed to be fighting for. It makes no sense.

This willingness to give up hard-fought personal liberties has been especially noticeable in the atmosphere of the post-September 11 war on terrorism. Security has replaced liberty as our main political goal, damaging the American spirit. Sadly, the whole process is done in the name of patriotism and in a spirit of growing militant nationalism.

These attitudes and fears surrounding the 9/11 tragedy and our eagerness to go to war in the Middle East against countries not responsible for the attacks have allowed a callousness to develop in our national psyche that justifies torture and rejects due process of law for those who are suspects and not convicted criminals.

We have come to accept preemptive war as necessary, constitutional, and morally justifiable. Starting a war without a proper declaration is now of no concern to most Americans or the U.S. Congress. Let us hope and pray the rumors of an attack on Iran in June by U.S. Armed Forces are wrong.

A large segment of the Christian community and its leadership think nothing of rationalizing war in the name of a religion that prides itself on the teachings of the Prince of Peace, who instructed us that blessed are the peacemakers, not the warmongers.

We casually accept our role as world policemen and believe we have a moral obligation to practice nation-building in our image regardless of the number of people who die in the process.

We have lost our way by rejecting the beliefs that made our country great. We no longer trust in trade, friendship, peace, the Constitution, and the principle of neutrality while avoiding entangling alliances with the rest of the world. Spreading the message of hope and freedom by setting an example for the world has been replaced by a belief that the use of armed might is the only practical tool to influence the world. And we have accepted, as the only superpower, the principle of initiating war against others.

In the process, Congress and the people have endorsed a usurpation of their own authority, generously delivered to the executive and judicial branches, not to mention international government bodies. The concept of national sovereignty is now seen as an issue that concerns only the fringe in our society.

Protection of life and liberty must once again become the issue that drives political thought in this country. If this goal is replaced by an effort to promote world government, use force to plan the economy, regulate the people, and police the world against the voluntary desires of the people, it can be done only with the establishment of a totalitarian state. There is no need for that. It is up to Congress and the American people to decide our fate, and there is still time to correct our mistakes.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. WOOLSEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. EDWARDS, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KIRK, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GINGREY, for 5 minutes, today.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until Friday, April 8, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for speaker-authorized official travel during the first quarter of 2004 and the first quarter of 2005, pursuant to Public Law 95–384 are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. ALCEE HASTINGS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 22 AND FEB. 26, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Alcee L. Hastings	2/22	2/26	Austria	583.68	760.00					583.68	760.00
Committee total					760.00						760.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ALCEE L. HASTINGS, Mar. 8, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. FRED TURNER, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 23 AND FEB. 26, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Fred L. Turner	2/23	2/26	Austria	436.05	570.00					436.05	570.00
Committee total					570.00						570.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

FRED L. TURNER, Mar. 3, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. KYLE NEVINS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Kyle W. Nevins	2/21	3/1	China	7,388.91	894.00		5,889.02				6,783.02
Committee total					894.00		5,889.02				6,783.02

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KYLE W. NEVINS, Mar. 16, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. DAVID BELLIS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
David Bellis	2/21	3/1	China	7,388.91	894.00		5,889.02				6,783.02
Committee total					894.00		5,889.02				6,783.02

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DAVID BELLIS, Mar. 15, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MS. ANNE BURESH, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Anne Buresh	2/21	3/1	China	7,388.91	894.00		5,507.02 195.00 187.00				6,783.02
Committee total					894.00		5,889.02				6,783.02

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ANNE BURESH, Mar. 23, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, MR. KENNY KRAFT, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 21 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Kenny Kraft	2/21	3/1	China		894.00		5,908.58				6,802.58
Committee total					894.00		5,908.58				6,802.58

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

KENNY KRAFT, Mar. 24, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO ISRAEL, JORDAN, IRAQ, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN DEC. 13 AND DEC. 16, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Roy Blunt	12/13	12/14	Israel		3,088.00						3,088.00
Hon. Steny Hoyer	12/14	12/15	Jordan		2,032.00						2,032.00
Hon. Ben Cardin	12/15	12/15	Iraq								
Hon. Tom Cole	12/15	12/16	Ireland		3,032.00					3,032.00	
Hon. Mark Kirk											
Brian Gaston											
Geoff Plague											
Brian Diffell											
Committee total					8,152.00						8,152.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROY BLUNT, Chairman, Jan. 14, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO MEXICO-U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Jim Kolbe	5/13	5/16	Mexico		797.69						797.69
Hon. Cass Ballenger	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Hon. David Dreier	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Hon. Charles Stenholm	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Hon. Joe Barton	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Hon. Donald Manzullo	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Hon. Jerry Weller	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Fran McNaught	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Patrick Baugh	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Jim Farr	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Jean Carroll	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Amy Serck	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Paul Oostburg Sanz	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Brad Smith	5/13	5/16	Mexico		335.05						335.05
Jean Carroll	4/29	4/30	Mexico				1,868.77		16.00		1,884.77
Caleb McCarry	4/29	4/30	Mexico		456.84		1,868.77		50.00		2,375.61
Patrick Baugh	10/20	10/22	United States		667.29		511.71				1,179.00
Delegation expenses:											
Representational									6,772.38		6,772.38
Interpreters									3,390.00		3,390.00
Miscellaneous									60.31		60.31
Payment to Treasury of accrued interest									192.52		192.52
Committee total					6,277.47		4,249.25		10,481.21		21,007.93

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JIM KOLBE, Chairman, Feb. 28, 2004.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRITISH AMERICAN INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Michael Bilirakis	7/16	7/18	USA		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. John Boozman	7/16	7/18	USA		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. Vernon Ehlers	7/16	7/18	USA		1,310.54						1,310.54
Hon. Gil Gutknecht	7/16	7/18	USA		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. Thomas Petri	7/16	7/18	USA		1,561.51						1,561.51
Hon. Bart Stupak	7/16	7/18	USA		2,078.68						2,078.68
Debra Gebhardt	7/16	7/18	USA		1,310.54						1,310.54
Frances Marcucci	7/16	7/18	USA		1,310.54		491.20				1,801.74
Vince Morelli	7/16	7/18	USA		1,310.54						1,310.54
Walker Roberts	7/16	7/18	USA		1,310.54						1,310.54
Sam Stratman	7/16	7/18	USA		1,310.54						1,310.54
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational									40,645.66		40,645.66
Payment to Treasury of accrued interest									477.88		477.88
Miscellaneous									610.30		610.30
Committee total					16,187.96		491.20		41,733.84		58,413.00

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

THOMAS E. PETRI, Feb. 15, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO CANADA-U.S. INTERPARLIAMENTARY GROUP, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Amo Houghton	06/17	06/21			1,470.87						1,470.87
Hon. Phil English	06/17	06/21			1,210.52						1,210.52
Hon. Eni Faleomavaega	06/17	06/17			261.45						261.45
Hon. Don Manzullo	06/17	06/21			1,059.08						1,059.08
Hon. Clay Shaw	06/17	06/21			1,216.36						1,216.36
Hon. Nick Smith	06/17	06/21			1,047.80						1,047.80
Hon. Cliff Stearns	06/17	06/21			1,056.07						1,056.07
Hon. Mark Souder	06/17	06/21			1,094.80						1,094.80
Hon. Thomas Tancredo	06/17	06/21			1,083.14						1,083.14
Dr. John Eisold	06/17	06/21			1,083.05						1,083.05
Liberty Dunn	06/17	06/21			1,175.47						1,175.47
Carl Ek	06/17	06/21			1,070.64						1,070.64
Chelsi Stevens	06/17	06/21			1,074.10						1,074.10
Bob Van Wicklin	06/18	06/21			812.73		635.70				1,448.43
Lodging and Miscellaneous					1,580.04						1,580.04
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Functions									49,434.55		49,434.55
Miscellaneous (Payment of Accrued Interest)											
Committee total					16,296.12		635.70		49,599.99		66,531.81

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

DONALD A. MANZULLO, Chairman, Mar. 10, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE NATO PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Doug Bereuter	11/30	12/05	Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia				6,384.69				
	2/17	N/A	Belgium (trans. to France)				140.65				6,525.34
Michael Ennis	11/30	N/A	Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia				3,511.40				3,511.40
Vince Morelli	11/30	12/05	Bulgaria, Romania, Slovenia				6,384.69				6,384.69
Susan Olson	6/30	7/03	California, United States		768.47		744.30				1,512.77
Patrick Prisco	11/11	N/A	Italy (trans. to Venice)				116.04				116.04
Mark Wellman	6/30	7/04	California, United States		653.84		890.20				1,544.04
Lodging and Miscellaneous					608.25						608.25
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational Functions									39,345.92		39,345.92
Miscellaneous									2,698.97		2,698.97
Committee total					2,030.56		18,171.97		42,044.89		62,247.42

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

JOEL HEFLEY, Chairman, Mar. 7, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO TRANSATLANTIC LEGISLATORS' DIALOGUE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JAN. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2004

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Chris Connelly	11/13	11/16	United States		841.81						841.81
Hon. Jo Ann Davis	11/13	11/16	United States		909.51						909.51
Hon. Phil English	11/13	11/16	United States		944.69						944.69
Hon. Darrell Issa	11/13	11/16	United States		841.27						841.27
Kay King	11/13	11/16	United States		821.25						821.25
Hon. John Mica	11/14	11/16	United States		574.59						574.59
Joe Painter	11/13	11/16	United States		865.45						865.45
Francis Record	11/13	11/16	United States		930.20						930.20
John Walker Roberts	11/13	11/16	United States		865.25						865.25
Laura Rush	11/13	11/16	United States		930.77						930.77
Amy Serck	11/12	11/16	United States		1,095.00						1,095.00
Melissa Smith	11/13	11/16	United States		821.25						821.25
Linda Solomon	11/12	11/16	United States		1,332.60						1,332.60
Cliff Stearns	11/14	11/16	United States		566.79		108.00				674.79
Sam Stratman	11/13	11/16	United States		821.25						821.25
Hillel Weinberg	11/13	11/16	United States		821.25						821.25
Delegation Expenses:											
Representational					62,652.94						62,652.94
Misc.									508.08		508.08
Translation					6,100.00						6,100.00
Committee total					82,843.87		108.00		508.08		83,459.95

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HENRY HYDE, Chairman.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRAZIL, URUGUAY, PANAMA, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 22 AND MAR. 1, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Roy Blunt	2/22	2/23	Brazilia, Brazil		2,058.28		N/A		N/A		2,058.88
Hon. Mark Foley	2/23	2/25	Uruguay		4,086.39		N/A		N/A		4,086.39
Hon. Don Sherwood	2/25	2/28	Brazil		5,181.00		N/A		N/A		5,181.00
Hon. Lacy Clay	2/28	3/1	Panama		2,596.00		N/A		N/A		2,596.00
Hon. Steve Pearce											
Mildred Webber											
Neil Bradley											
Brian Diffell											
Jessica Ballarger											
Dr. John Eisold											
Bill Livingood											
Committee total					13,922.27						13,922.27

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

ROY BLUNT, Chairman, Mar. 24, 2005.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRITISH AMERICAB PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETINGS IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 23 AND FEB. 28, 2005

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Hon. Thomas E. Petri	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Hon. Paul Gillmor	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Hon. Joel Hefley	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Hon. Michael Bilirakis	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Hon. Dennis Moore	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Hon. John Boozman	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Hon. Randy Forbes	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Hon. John Tanner	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO BRITISH AMERICAB PARLIAMENTARY GROUP MEETINGS IN LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 23 AND FEB. 28, 2005—Continued

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem [1]		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency [2]
Debbie Gebhardt	2/23	2/28	United Kingdom		2,320.00		2,991.10				5,311.10
Fran Marcucci	2/23	2/28	United Kingdom		2,320.00		2,991.10				5,311.10
Susan Olson	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Vince Morelli	2/23	2/26	United Kingdom		1,446.00		6,087.33				7,533.33
Mark Wellman	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Beverly Hallock	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Dr. Kay King	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Kathy Becker	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Candace Bryan Abbey	2/24	2/28	United Kingdom		1,838.00		(3)				1,838.00
Committee total					31,818.00		12,069.53				43,887.53

[1] Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
[2] If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
[3] Military air transportation.

THOMAS E. PETRI, Mar. 7, 2005.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

1380. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 04-01, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1381. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 03-10, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1382. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act by the Department of the Army, Case Number 03-06, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

1383. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Homeland Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on assistance provided by the Department of Defense to civilian sporting events in support of essential security and safety, covering the period of calendar year 2004, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2654(e); to the Committee on Armed Services.

1384. A letter from the Principal Deputy Under Secretary for Personnel and Readiness, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Brigadier General Vern M. Findley II, United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of major general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

1385. A letter from the Acting Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and the Office of Management and Budget Circular A-76, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1386. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recordkeeping and Reporting Requirements for Drug Products Containing Gamma-Hydroxybutyric Acid (GHB) [Docket No. DEA-234F] (RIN: 1117-AA71) received January 10, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1387. A letter from the Associate Buerau Chief, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Developing a Unified Intercarrier Compensation Regime [CC Docket No. 01-92] T-Mobile et al. Petition for Declaratory Ruling Regarding Incumbent LEC Wireless Termination Tariffs — received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1388. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), FM Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Rhinelander, Wisconsin) [MB Docket No. 04-288; RM-11045] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1389. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Nantucket, East Harwich, and South Chatham, Massachusetts) [MB Docket No. 02-72; RM-10399; RM-10639; RM-10640] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1390. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Lake Havasu City, Arizona, and Pahrump, Nevada) [MB Docket No. 04-224; RM-10853; RM-10854] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1391. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Adams, Massachusetts) [MB Docket No. 04-357; RM-11076] (Ashtabula, Ohio) [MB Docket No. 04-358; RM-11071] (Crested Butte, Colorado) [MB Docket No. 04-359; RM-11072] (Lawrence Park, Pennsylvania) [MB Docket No. 04-360; RM-11073] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1392. A letter from the Deputy Chief, WCB/TAPD, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Federal-State Joint Board on Universal Service [CC Docket No. 96-45] National Telephone Cooperative Association Petition for Reconsideration — received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1393. A letter from the Assistant Chief, WCB/PPD, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Presubscribed Interexchange Carrier Charges [CC Docket No. 02-53] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1394. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of the Commission's Rules Concerning Airport Terminal Use Frequencies in the 450-470 MHz Band of the Private Land Mobile Radio Services [WT Docket No. 02-318; RM-10184] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1395. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — The 4.9 GHz Band Transferred from Federal Government Use [WT Docket No. 00-32] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1396. A letter from the Senior Legal Advisor, International Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Procedures to Govern the Use of Satellite Earth Stations on Board Vessels in the 5925-6425 MHz/ 3700-4200 MHz Bands and 14.0-14.5 GHz/11.7-12.2 GHz Bands [IB Docket No. 02-10] received February 9, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1397. A letter from the Assistant Buerau Chief, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Part 11 of the Commission's Rules Regarding the Emergency Alert System [EB Docket No. 04-51; RM-10619] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1398. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communication Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b), Table of Allotments, FM Braodcast Stations. (Fort Rucker, Ozark and Slocomb, Alabama) [MB Docket No. 04-146; RM-10871] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1399. A letter from the Interim Legal Advisor, WTB, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Auction of Direct Broadcast Satellite Licenses [AUC-03-52] received, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1400. A letter from the Assistant Bureau Chief, International Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Flexibility of Delivery of Communications by Mobile Satellite Service Providers in the 2 GHz Band, the L-Band, and the 1.6/2.4 GHz Bands [IB Docket No. 01-185] received March 18, 2005,

pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1401. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — The Development of Operational, Technical and Spectrum Requirements for Meeting Federal, State, and Local Public Safety Communication Requirements Through the Year 2010 [WT Docket No. 96-86] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1402. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Implementation of Sections 309(j) and 337 of the Communications Act of 1934 as Amended [WT Docket No. 99-87] Promotion of Spectrum Efficient Technologies on Certain Part 90 Frequencies (RM-9332) received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1403. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Kerman, California) [MB Docket No. 04-301; RM-10969] (Lockney, Texas) [MB Docket No. 04-302; RM-11020] (Lone Wolf, Oklahoma) [MB Docket No. 04-303; RM-11025] (Quanah, Texas) [MB Docket No. 04-304; RM-11021] (Orchard Mesa, Colorado) [MB Docket No. 04-306; RM-10754] (Rising Star, Texas) [MB Docket No. 04-307; RM-10982] (Twentynine Palms, California) [MB Docket No. 04-308; RM-10973] (Waterford, California) [MB Docket No. 04-309; RM-10974] Received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1404. A letter from the Legal Advisor to the Bureau Chief, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 73.202(b) Table of Allotments, FM Broadcast Stations. (Gassville, Arkansas) [MB Docket No. 04-237; RM-10997] (Nantucket, Massachusetts) [MB Docket No. 04-238; RM-10997] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1405. A letter from the Chairman, Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, transmitting the second report of 2004, as required by the Nuclear Waste Policy Amendments Act of 1987, Public Law 100-203, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 10268; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

1406. A letter from the Director, International Cooperation, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of Transmittal No. 01-05 which informs of an intent to sign a Project Arrangement for the Australia/United States Phased Array Radar (AUSPAR) Project between the United States and Australia, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2767(f); to the Committee on International Relations.

1407. A letter from the Secretary, Department of State, transmitting notification of the convening of an Accountability Review Board to examine the facts and the circumstances of the loss of life at a U.S. mission abroad and to report and make recommendations, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 4834(d)(1); to the Committee on International Relations.

1408. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the texts of ILO Convention No. 185 Revising the Seafarers' Identity Documents Convention, 1958, adopting this instrument at its 91st Session at Geneva, June 19, 2003, pursuant to Art. 19 of the Constitution of the International Labor Organization; to the Committee on International Relations.

1409. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting a draft of proposed legislation to authorize appropriations for Fiscal Years 2006 and 2007 for the Broadcasting Board of Governors, pursuant to the U.S. Information and Educational Exchange Act of 1948, as amended; the Radio Broadcasting to Cuba Act, as amended; the Television Broadcasting to Cuba Act, as amended; the U.S. International Broadcasting Act of 1994, as amended; and the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998; to the Committee on International Relations.

1410. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's report entitled ''Country Reports on Human Rights Practices for 2004,'' pursuant to Pub. L. 107-228, Sec. 638; to the Committee on International Relations.

1411. A letter from the Acting Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Report on Workforce Planning for Foreign Service Personnel, pursuant to Section 601(c) of the Foreign Service Act of 1980, as amended by Section 326 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for FY 2000 (Pub. L. 106-113); to the Committee on International Relations.

1412. A letter from the Under Secretary for Political Affairs, Department of State, transmitting an update on the progress made and the challenges that remain with the partnership with Colombia; to the Committee on International Relations.

1413. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting notification of intent to obligate funds for purposes of Nonproliferation and Disarmament Fund (NDF) activities; to the Committee on International Relations.

1414. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report of surplus real property transferred for public health purposes, including purposes authorized by the Stewart B. McKinney Homeless Assistance Act, as amended, for October 1, 2003, through September 30, 2004, pursuant to Public Law 100—77, section 601 (101 Stat. 515); to the Committee on Government Reform.

1415. A letter from the Chairman, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's Combined Annual Performance Budget 2005, prepared in accordance with the Government Performance and Results Act and OMB Circular No. A-11; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1416. A letter from the Chairman, U.S. Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting justification for the Board's FY 2006 appropriation requests; to the Committee on Government Reform.

1417. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Kentucky Regulatory Program — received March 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1418. A letter from the Chief, Division of Scientific Authority, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Special Rule To Control the Trade of Threatened Beluga Sturgeon (Huso huso) (RIN: 1018-AT54) received March 1, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1419. A letter from the Director, Office of Surface Mining, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Colorado Regulatory Program [CO-033-FOR] received March 21, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1420. A letter from the Acting Chair, Federal Subsistence Board, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Subsistence Management Regulations for Public Lands in Alaska, Subpart C and Subpart D — 2005-06 Subsistence Taking of Fish and Shellfish Regulations (RIN: 1018-AT46) received March 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1421. A letter from the Director, Office of Hearings and Appeals, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Probate of Indian Trust Estates (RIN: 1094-AA50) received March 2, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1422. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Pacific Halibut Fisheries; Catch Sharing Plan [Docket No. 050216042-5042-01; I.D.021105E] (RIN: 0648-AT06) received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1423. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands; 2005 and 2006 Final Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 112204A] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1424. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Central Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041202339-4339-01; I.D.021805F] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1425. A letter from the Deputy Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Vessels Catching Pacific Cod for Processing by the Offshore Component in the Western Regulatory Area of the Gulf of Alaska [Docket No. 041202339-4339-01; I.D. 021805G] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1426. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher/Processor Vessels Using Hook-and-Line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Management Area [Docket No. 041202338-4338-01; I.D. 021805A] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1427. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Gulf of Alaska; Final 2005 and 2006 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 041126333-5040-02; I.D. 112204C] received March 11, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1428. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna Quota Specifications, General Category Effort Controls, and Catch-and-Release Provision [Docket No. 041203341-5047-02; I.D.

072304B] (RIN: 0648-AR86) received March 16, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1429. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Of Alaska; Groundfish by Vessels Using Non-Pelagic Trawl Gear in the Red King Crab Savings Subarea [Docket No. 041126332-5039-02; I.D. 030405A] received March 18, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

1430. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill entitled the ''Judicial Reporting Improvement Act''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1431. A letter from the President and Chief Executive Officer, National Safety Council, transmitting the Council's 2004 Annual Report, entitled ''IMPACT''; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

1432. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Project Planning and Review, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the reports of the Chief of Engineers on the projects listed in enclosure 1, consistent with Section 113 of Pub. L. 108-447, and notification that the current report of the Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works on these projects is still pending; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1433. A letter from the Board of Trustees, National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust, transmitting the National Railroad Retirement Investment Trust's annual management report covering FY 2004, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231n Public Law 107—90, section105; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

1434. A letter from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting a draft bill ''To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make certain rules regarding sales of property comply with conflict-of-interest requirements applicable to the federal judiciary, and for other purposes''; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1435. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting notice that the actions necessary to implement section 303 are complete, and a summary of the progress of the demonstration project thus far, pursuant to Public Law 108—203, section 303; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

1436. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a report on Department of Defense Actions to Support Voting Assistance to Armed Forces Outside the United States, as required by Section 568 of the Ronald W. Reagan National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for FY 2005; jointly to the Committees on Armed Services and House Administration.

1437. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting a report, entitled ''Medicare Contracting Reform: A Blueprint for a Better Medicare,'' in response to Section 911(g) of the Medicare Precription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003, Pub. L. 108-173; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

1438. A letter from the Chair, Commission on International Religious Freedom, transmitting the ''Report on Asylum Seekers in Expedited Removal: Findings and Recommendations,'' pursuant to Section 605 of the International Religious Freedom Act of 1998 (IRFA); jointly to the Committees on International Relations and the Judiciary.

1439. A letter from the Chair, Office of Compliance, transmitting a copy of the 2004 Annual Report of the Office of Compliance, pursuant to Section 301(h) of the Congressional Accountability Act (CAA); jointly to the Committees on House Administration and Education and the Workforce.

1440. A letter from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the Board's Congressional Justification of Budget Estimates for Fiscal Year 2006, pursuant to 45 U.S.C. 231f(f); jointly to the Committees on Appropriations, Transportation and Infrastructure, and Ways and Means.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. GILCHREST:

H.R. 1489. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish a coastal ocean observation system; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SKELTON:

H.R. 1490. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize the National Defense University to award the degree of Master of Science in Joint Campaign Planning and Strategy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Mr. GORDON, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. INSLEE, and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER):

H.R. 1491. A bill to provide for the establishment of the Nanomanufacturing Investment Partnership, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 1492. A bill to provide for the preservation of the historic confinement sites where Japanese Americans were detained during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BLUNT (for himself, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. PETRI, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. KIRK, Mr. NEY, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. WICKER, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. AKIN, and Mr. HERGER):

H.R. 1493. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to reduce the proliferation of boutique fuels, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KIND (for himself and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 1494. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a pilot program under which up to 15 States may issue electronic Federal migratory bird hunting stamps; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1495. A bill to amend the Military Selective Service Act to terminate the registration requirement and the activities of civilian local boards, civilian appeal boards, and similar local agencies of the Selective Service System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska (for himself, Mr. MICA, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. COSTELLO, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 1496. A bill to return general aviation to Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida):

H.R. 1497. A bill to require the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other appropriate departments and agencies, to conduct an economic impact study on the dual gateway policy of the Government of Ireland before the United States takes any action that could lead to the discontinuation of the policy; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. RYAN of Ohio (for himself and Mr. HUNTER):

H.R. 1498. A bill to clarify that exchange-rate manipulation by the People's Republic of China is actionable under the countervailing duty provisions and the product-specific safeguard mechanisms of the trade laws of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 1499. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction to members of the Armed Forces serving in a combat zone for contributions to their individual retirement plans even if the compensation on which such contribution is based is excluded from gross income, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. DREIER (for himself and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1500. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make the 2003 reduction in the individual capital gains tax rates permanent and to further reduce and simplify such rates and to reduce the corporate capital gains rate; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. RYUN of Kansas):

H.R. 1501. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act with respect to penalties for powder cocaine and crack cocaine offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BERMAN (for himself and Mr. DELAHUNT):

H.R. 1502. A bill to restore civil liberties under the First Amendment, the Immigration and Nationality Act, and the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Intelligence (Permanent Select), and Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. MATHESON, and Mr. CANNON):

H.R. 1503. A bill to designate certain lands in the Cedar Mountains in the State of Utah as wilderness, to ensure the compatibility of such wilderness and wildness study areas with continued access by the Armed Forces to the special use airspace and lands that comprise the Utah Test and Training Range, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. BISHOP of Utah (for himself, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. OWENS, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FILNER, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. MICHAUD):

H.R. 1504. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the deduction for host families of foreign exchange and other students from $50 per month to $200 per month; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida (for herself, Ms. HARRIS, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. POE):

H.R. 1505. A bill to revise the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Registration program; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DELAURO (for herself, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. SIMMONS):

H.R. 1506. A bill to improve the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Ms. DELAURO:

H.R. 1507. A bill to establish the Food Safety Administration to protect the public health by preventing food-borne illness, ensuring the safety of food, improving research on contaminants leading to food-borne illness, and improving security of food from intentional contamination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. COOPER, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Mr. BECERRA):

H.R. 1508. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to facilitate automatic enrollment in 401(k) plans, and for related purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself and Mr. SHAW):

H.R. 1509. A bill to create an inspection program that uses videophone systems at certain points of entry in Florida to satisfy customs and immigration reporting requirements; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. SHAW, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Ms. HART, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1510. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the depreciation recovery period for roof systems; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FOLEY (for himself, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. HAYWORTH, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. INSLEE, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. SIMPSON, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. OTTER, Mr. WELLER, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. MCCRERY, and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 1511. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a 5-year extension of the credit for electricity produced from wind; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts (for himself and Mr. LYNCH):

H.R. 1512. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resources study regarding the suitability and feasibility of designating certain historic buildings and areas in Taunton, Massachusetts, as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN:

H.R. 1513. A bill to exempt from the Freedom of Information Act certain photographic images of deceased persons that are taken by or for medical examiners; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. GERLACH:

H.R. 1514. A bill to reserve a small percentage of the amounts made available to the Secretary of Agriculture for the farmland protection program to fund challenge grants to encourage the purchase of conservation easements and other interests in land to be held by a State agency, county, or other eligible entity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JINDAL (for himself, Mr. BAKER, and Mr. MCCRERY):

H.R. 1515. A bill to adjust the boundary of the Barataria Preserve Unit of the Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. JINDAL:

H.R. 1516. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for expenditures incurred by the taxpayer to restore or protect wetlands from coastal erosion; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas (for himself, Mr. HERGER, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. NEY, Mr. STEARNS, and Mr. SIMMONS):

H.R. 1517. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. FOLEY, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 1518. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand the exclusion for employer-provided educational assistance to include educational assistance provided to dependents of employees; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LARSON of Connecticut (for himself and Mr. EMANUEL):

H.R. 1519. A bill to help American families save, invest, and build a better future, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky:

H.R. 1520. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the tax on distilled spirits, wine, and beer to be collected quarterly from certain small taxpayers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. SHERMAN, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. WATSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 1521. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to deny all deductions for business expenses associated with the use of a club that discriminates on the basis of sex, race, or color; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY (for herself, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 1522. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to expand the loan forgiveness and loan cancellation programs for teachers, to provide loan forgiveness and loan cancellation programs for nurses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. MCCARTHY (for herself, Mr. OWENS, and Mrs. MALONEY):

H.R. 1523. A bill to provide student loan forgiveness to the surviving spouses of the victims of the September 11, 2001, tragedies; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MOORE of Kansas (for himself, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, and Mr. MORAN of Kansas):

H.R. 1524. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the ''Ed Eilert Post Office Building''; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Ms. NORTON:

H.R. 1525. A bill to establish the United States Commission on an Open Society with Security; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. OTTER (for himself, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. PAUL, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah):

H.R. 1526. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 and title 18, United States Code, to strengthen protections of civil liberties in the exercise of the foreign intelligence surveillance authorities under Federal law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PAUL:

H.R. 1527. A bill to remove all embargoes on food, medicine, and medical supplies; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. SENSENBRENNER:

H.R. 1528. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to protect vulnerable persons from drug trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 1529. A bill to amend the Federal Power Act to provide for Federal and State coordination of permitting for electric transmission facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 1530. A bill to encourage the development of hydroelectric projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 124. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress regarding the importance of organ, tissue, bone marrow, and blood donation and supporting the goals and ideals of National Donate Life Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. SERRANO, Ms.

CARSON, Mr. TANNER, Mr. WYNN, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, Mr. BAKER, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. CASE, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. DICKS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. EVANS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BACHUS, and Mr. FORTU@O):

H. Con. Res. 125. Concurrent resolution expressing support for the designation and goals of ''Hire a Veteran Week'' and encouraging the President to issue a proclamation supporting those goals; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota (for himself, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. KLINE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. RAMSTAD, and Mr. SABO):

H. Con. Res. 126. Concurrent resolution expressing the condolences and deepest sympathies of the Congress in the aftermath of the recent school shooting at Red Lake High School in Red Lake, Minnesota; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. HYDE:

H. Res. 190. A resolution honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself and Mr. TANCREDO):

H. Res. 191. A resolution urging the Government of Romania to recognize its responsibilities to provide equitable, prompt, and fair restitution to all religious communities for property confiscated by the former Communist government in Romania; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MCGOVERN:

H. Res. 192. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives encouraging the active engagement of American in world affairs and urging the Secretary of State to take the lead and coordinate with other governmental agencies and non-governmental organizations in creating an online database of international exchange programs and related opportunities; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida (for himself, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. MACK, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WELLER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. CANNON, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, and Mr. WELDON of Florida):

H. Res. 193. A resolution expressing support to the organizers and participants of the historic meeting of the Assembly to Promote the Civil Society in Cuba on May 20, 2005, in Havana; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Florida:

H. Res. 194. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives in support of Federal and State funded in-home care for the elderly; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KINGSTON (for himself, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. TERRY, Ms. WATSON, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SHAW, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. OTTER, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. BROWN of South Carolina):

H. Res. 195. A resolution recognizing the 60th anniversary of Victory in Europe (VE) Day and the Liberation of Western Bohemia; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. LEE (for herself, Mr. WATT, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CONYERS, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas):

H. Res. 196. A resolution recognizing the anniversary of the ratification of the 13th Amendment and encouraging the American people to educate and instill pride and purpose into their communities and to observe the anniversary annually with appropriate programs and activities; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California (for himself, Ms. PELOSI, Mr. HOYER, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TANNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CONYERS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. DICKS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. DELAHUNT, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. NADLER, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Mr. EVANS, Mr. SABO, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. CARSON, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. WATSON, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. STARK, Mr. CLAY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. FARR, Mr. CASE, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BORDALLO, Ms. LEE, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio):

H. Res. 197. A resolution honoring Franklin Delano Roosevelt; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Ms. FOXX, Mr. COBLE, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. HAYES, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. WATT, and Mr. MILLER of North Carolina):

H. Res. 198. A resolution congratulating the University of North Carolina men's basketball team for winning the 2005 NCAA Division I Men's Basketball National Championship; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

H. Res. 199. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the massacre at Srebrenica in July 1995; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. STRICKLAND (for himself, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, and Mr. SWEENEY):

H. Res. 200. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''National Correctional Officers and Employees Week'' and honoring the service of correctional officers and employees; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 1531. A bill for the relief of Veronica Kehinde Akintade; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. CARSON:

H. Res. 201. A resolution referring the bill (H.R. 1328) entitled ''A bill for the relief of Adela and Darryl Bailor'' to the chief judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims for a report thereon; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 8: Mr. POE, Mr. BONILLA, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, and Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 21: Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 22: Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 25: Mr. THORNBERRY.

H.R. 29: Mr. MCCAUL of Texas.

H.R. 37: Mr. MACK.

H.R. 40: Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 47: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.

H.R. 63: Mr. OLVER and Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H.R. 64: Mr. LINDER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. HART, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. CONAWAY, and Mrs. CUBIN.

H.R. 114: Mr. ACKERMAN.

H.R. 127: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 128: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. RUSH, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. CLYBURN, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. BECERRA, and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 136: Mr. NEY.

H.R. 147: Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. CLEAVER, and Mr. JEFFERSON.

H.R. 153: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.

H.R. 154: Mr. BERRY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. SKELTON.

H.R. 198: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, and Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 215: Mr. TERRY, Ms. KAPTUR, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.

H.R. 228: Mr. KING of New York, Mr. SHAYS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. PAYNE, Mrs. LOWEY, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. SESSIONS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. OLVER, Mr. WALSH, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. OWENS, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. TOWNS.

H.R. 297: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. FILNER, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. FARR.

H.R. 311: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. CARNAHAN, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H.R. 312: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 313: Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
H.R. 328: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland and Mr. LATOURETTE.
H.R. 330: Mr. YOUNG of Alaska.
H.R. 331: Mr. PETRI.
H.R. 339: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 356: Ms. FOXX and Mr. BOUSTANY.
H.R. 373: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GORDON, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. PALLONE, and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts.
H.R. 378: Mr. PAYNE, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Mr. KANJORSKI.
H.R. 400: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. SHADEGG.
H.R. 408: Mr. GALLEGLY.
H.R. 414: Mr. FOLEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H.R. 415: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 421: Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 475: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 476: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 513: Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. SIMMONS, and Mr. BECERRA.
H.R. 514: Mr. KIND.
H.R. 525: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois and Mr. LATHAM.
H.R. 534: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 551: Mr. BECERRA and Mr. STARK.
H.R. 558: Mr. BERRY.
H.R. 565: Mr. HINCHEY.
H.R. 581: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. MEEHAN, and Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 595: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan and Ms. BALDWIN.
H.R. 596: Mr. BOOZMAN.
H.R. 609: Mr. BONILLA.
H.R. 633: Mr. CARDIN.
H.R. 653: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 654: Mr. TIERNEY, Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 659: Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. SPRATT, Mr. MCCRERY, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. BARROW, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PAUL, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. BAKER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ROSS, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. SOUDER, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. SIMMONS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. GORDON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. ALEXANDER, and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 669: Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. MOLLOHAN, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. MELANCON.
H.R. 670: Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 689: Mr. CALVERT.
H.R. 737: Ms. SLAUGHTER.
H.R. 739: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 740: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 741: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 742: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 748: Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 759: Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HIGGINS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 772: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. FILNER, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
H.R. 778: Mr. FORTUÑO.
H.R. 788: Mr. MATHESON.
H.R. 793: Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, and Mr. MCCRERY.
H.R. 797: Mr. RAHALL.
H.R. 808: Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. HALL, Ms. HOOLEY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WHITFIELD, Mr. KIRK, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 838: Ms. WATERS, Mr. EVANS, and Mr. FATTAH.
H.R. 845: Mrs. MYRICK.
H.R. 857: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN.
H.R. 867: Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 871: Mr. NADLER.
H.R. 874: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 923: Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 928: Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 930: Mr. MICA.
H.R. 934: Mr. ROSS and Mr. DOYLE.
H.R. 939: Mr. CLAY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. FILNER, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GONZALEZ, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 940: Mr. PUTNAM.
H.R. 952: Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. MICHAUD, and Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas.
H.R. 963: Mr. HOBSON.
H.R. 972: Mr. BACHUS, Ms. SOLIS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 994: Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GORDON, Mr. KLINE, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FILNER, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. TURNER, Mr. INSLEE, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. WU, Mr. ROSS, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. FORD, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. HOLT, Mr. PUTNAM, and Mr. PASTOR.
H.R. 997: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. HAYWORTH.
H.R. 998: Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BERRY, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. ROSS, and Mr. HAYWORTH.
H.R. 1017: Mr. WELDON of Florida.
H.R. 1023: Mr. EHLERS.
H.R. 1048: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 1049: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 1055: Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 1073: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1074: Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1075: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1088: Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 1095: Mr. WALSH.
H.R. 1114: Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.
H.R. 1119: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 1131: Mr. SESSIONS.
H.R. 1145: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 1146: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas.
H.R. 1151: Mr. JINDAL, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. TERRY, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mrs. CUBIN, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GORDON, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. BONNER, and Mr. ALEXANDER.
H.R. 1183: Mrs. CHRISTENSEN and Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia.
H.R. 1184: Mr. CASE.
H.R. 1193: Mr. KILDEE and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1201: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota and Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
H.R. 1204: Mr. TOWNS, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. OLVER, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. MCNULTY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WU, Ms. LEE, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. TIERNEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 1214: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. ACKERMAN, and Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island.
H.R. 1217: Mr. BROWN of Ohio.
H.R. 1219: Mr. DEFAZIO.
H.R. 1227: Mr. CARDIN and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 1241: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. CRAMER.
H.R. 1248: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mr. PRICE of Georgia.
H.R. 1249: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mrs. MILLER of Michigan.
H.R. 1262: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. OLVER, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. CASE, Mr. KIND, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MICHAUD, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. FILNER, and Ms. BORDALLO.
H.R. 1281: Mr. SPRATT.
H.R. 1286: Mr. KOLBE, Mr. MCHENRY, and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 1295: Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1297: Mr. ACKERMAN.
H.R. 1306: Mr. OTTER, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. COX, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. HAYES, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. NEY.
H.R. 1313: Mr. EHLERS, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. CROWLEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 1314: Mr. MARSHALL.
H.R. 1322: Ms. DELAURO and Mr. MCINTYRE.
H.R. 1333: Mr. ENGLISH of Pennslvania, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. OLVER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. WYNN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. CHANDLER, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. HYDE, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 1351: Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. GORDON, and Mr. MICHAUD.
H.R. 1356: Mr. FATTAH, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. BOUCHER.
H.R. 1357: Mr. BURTON of Indiana.
H.R. 1363: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1365: Ms. BERKLEY.
H.R. 1379: Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 1380: Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 1400: Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 1405: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. MCDERMOTT.
H.R. 1406: Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.
H.R. 1419: Mr. OWENS, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mr. PALLONE.
H.R. 1421: Mr. LEACH and Mr. REGULA.
H.R. 1438: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 1440: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts.
H.J. Res. 16: Mr. HALL and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.J. Res. 39: Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WAMP, and Mr. KUHL of New York.
H. Con. Res. 24: Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. COSTA, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. CONYERS.
H. Con. Res. 35: Mr. OLVER.
H. Con. Res. 41: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California and Mr. MARIO DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H. Con. Res. 52: Mr. CANNON.
H. Con. Res. 61: Mr. EVANS.
H. Con. Res. 71: Mr. HONDA.
H. Con. Res. 83: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. ALLEN, Ms. BERKLEY, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
H. Con. Res. 97: Mr. FILNER and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Con. Res. 108: Mrs. DAVIS of California, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. RAHALL, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, and Mr. HINOJOSA.

H. Res. 76: Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H. Res. 84: Mr. MCCRERY.

H. Res. 85: Mr. DOGGETT.

H. Res. 127: Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. COSTA, Mr. CUELLAR, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. REYES, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. LINDA T. SÁNCHEZ of California, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. CARSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Ms. LEE, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA, Ms. HARMAN, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. WATSON, Mr. CLAY, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H. Res. 142: Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 148: Mr. FEENEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. WATERS.

H. Res. 158: Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. KILDEE, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. YOUNG of Alaska, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota.

H. Res. 172: Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania.

H. Res. 183: Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. WATT, Mr. ROSS, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Ms. CARSON, and Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California.

H. Res. 185: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H. Res. 186: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. OWENS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. REYES, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. VISCLOSKY, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. CASE, Mr. WEINER, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. KILPATRICK of Michigan, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. CARNAHAN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. FARR, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. SKELTON, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. MICHAUD, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. LANGEVIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. MEEHAN, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. PASCRELL, Ms. BORDALLO, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SNYDER, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Ms. CARSON, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. MELANCON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. ORTIZ, Mr. FORD, Mr. HONDA, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PASTOR, and Mr. WAXMAN.

H. Res. 188: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. REICHERT, Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois, Mr. FORBES, Mr. CASTLE, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. HERGER, Mr. MELANCON, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 740: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 742: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

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Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 109th CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

Vol. 151 WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, APRIL 6, 2005 No. 38

Senate

The Senate met at 9:32 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Senator from the State of Tennessee.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal Spirit, who governs the nations with justice, hallowed be Your name. Lord, You cause the Earth to yield its harvest and send blessings to those who fear You. Great and marvelous are Your works.

Today give guidance to our Senators and the representatives of the people of this great land. Enable them to see the stamp of Your image in each person they serve. Remind them that when they lift up the lost and the least, they labor for You. Use them as Your instruments to bring order out of chaos. Bless our military men and women. Save them from calamities and clothe them with the armor of Your righteousness. And, Lord, give traveling mercies to the Senators who will be traveling to the Vatican.

We pray this in Your powerful Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 6, 2005.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable LAMAR ALEXANDER, a Senator from the State of Tennessee, to perform the duties of the Chair.

TED STEVENS,
President pro tempore.

Mr. ALEXANDER thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, this morning, following the leader time, we will resume consideration of the State Department authorization. In a moment, we will consider a couple of resolutions that have been cleared, with some brief remarks. Following that, there will be debate time remaining before 10 this morning, to be used for the pending Biden amendment. At 10 a.m., we will vote on the Biden amendment as the agreement provided last night.

Following that vote, the Senate will recess for a joint meeting of the House and Senate to receive an address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko, which is at 11 o'clock. Therefore, the Senate will proceed to the House of Representatives at approximately 10:30 this morning.

At the conclusion of the joint meeting, we will resume debate on the State Department bill. I expect votes throughout the course of the afternoon and likely into the evening, if necessary, to finish that bill. I hope Members will show some restraint and not feel compelled to offer amendment after amendment to the underlying bill and only those amendments that are substantive and necessary.

Chairman LUGAR and Senator BIDEN are expected to be on the floor throughout the day working on amendments. Senators should notify their respective cloakrooms if they intend to offer an amendment to the State Department bill. We will need to work very efficiently over the course of the day. I ask for all Members' assistance in this process.

UKRAINIAN PRESIDENT VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, in about an hour and a half we will receive the address by Ukrainian President Viktor Yushchenko.

It all began on November 22—not that long ago. On that icy Ukrainian day, hundreds of thousands of protesters from all over the countryside converged on Kiev's Independence Square to protest the Ukrainian Presidential election. The incumbent favored candidate, Viktor Yanukovych, had been declared the winner already. Meanwhile, nonpartisan, independent exit polling—or series of polls—showed that Viktor Yushchenko, leader of the opposition party, had a clear nine-point lead.

For 17 days, in subzero weather, hundreds of thousands of men and women filled the streets of Independence Square, huddled in tents among strangers, braving the threats of police violence. It was an astonishing emotional display that stunned the world as these images came through our newspapers and across the television. After 17 days of this nonviolent solidarity, the people won. A new election was held. On January 23, Viktor Yushchenko was

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

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sworn in as the new President. The ''Orange Revolution'' will be forever emblazoned in the memories of all those who strive for freedom.

On behalf of the Senate, I am privileged to welcome the leader of this historic moment, President Viktor Yushchenko, to our Nation's Capitol.

Today, at 11 a.m. the President will address a joint session of Congress, making him the only leader of a former Soviet republic outside of Russia to do so. We are honored to have him address our highest legislative Chambers. We extend to him our congratulations and to the Ukrainian people our friendship and support. We are grateful for the sacrifices the Ukrainian military made in pursuing the cause of freedom and security in Iraq.

However, much lies ahead. I am heartened by President Yushchenko's commitment to reform. Following his inauguration, the Senate pledged to support the Ukrainian people to establish full democracy, rule of law, respect for human rights, and a free, transparent, and open economy. We firmly support Ukraine's independence and territorial sovereignty and their full integration into the international community of democracies.

The President of the United States has requested resources to support Ukraine's democracy building. It goes without saying that the Senate supports funding Ukraine's efforts.

I look forward to President Yushchenko's historic address to the Congress in a short while. He and the people of Ukraine have inspired the world and have written a new chapter in the story of human freedom.

On that first day the marchers filled Independence Square, they chanted: ''Together we are many. We cannot be defeated.''

Today, on behalf of the American people, I say to the people of Ukraine: Together we are one. Freedom will prevail.

COMMENDING THE NORTH CAROLINA TAR HEELS MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2005 NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 98, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 98) commending the University of North Carolina Men's basketball team for winning the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Championship.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 98) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 98

Whereas on April 4, 2005, the North Carolina Tar Heels defeated the Illinois Fighting Illini 75–70 in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (''NCAA'') Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Tar Heels now hold 5 men's basketball titles, including 4 NCAA tournament titles—the fourth-most in NCAA history;

Whereas the Tar Heels' men's team has won championships in 1924, 1957, 1982, 1993, and 2005;

Whereas Tar Heels head coach and Asheville, North Carolina, native Roy Williams won his first NCAA title in just his second year coaching the team, improving to 470–116 in 17 seasons as a head coach, and has the best record of any active coach in men's basketball;

Whereas seniors Jawad Williams, Jackie Manuel, Melvin Scott, Charlie Everett, and C.J. Hooker celebrated 4 years at North Carolina with a ''Final Four'' win;

Whereas Sean May was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament, scoring 26 points and collecting 10 rebounds in the final game;

Whereas Tar Heels Raymond Felton and Rashad McCants joined Sean May on the All-Tournament Team, along with Illini players Luther Head and Deron Williams;

Whereas the North Carolina Tar Heels finished the 2004–2005 season with 33 wins and just 4 losses, and won the championship by defeating an Illinois team that tied an NCAA record for wins in a season at 37;

Whereas freshman Tar Heel Marvin Williams helped seal the victory with a tip-in with 1 minute and 26 seconds left to play;

Whereas the Tar Heel defense held Illinois to 27 percent from the field in the first half and prevented the Illini from scoring during the last 2 minutes and 37 seconds;

Whereas North Carolina defeated Michigan State 87–71 to earn a spot in the final contest;

Whereas the Tar Heels defeated Oakland and Iowa State in Charlotte, North Carolina, then Villanova and Wisconsin in Syracuse, New York, to advance to the ''Final Four'';

Whereas Albemarle, North Carolina, native Woody Durham has been the radio play-by-play voice of North Carolina's basketball programs since 1971, and this was his 11th ''Final Four'' with the Tar Heels and third national championship call;

Whereas the Tar Heel team members are excellent representatives of a fine university that is a leader in higher education, producing 38 Rhodes scholars, as well as many fine student-athletes and other leaders;

Whereas each player, coach, trainer, manager, and staff member dedicated this season and their efforts to ensure the North Carolina Tar Heels reached the summit of college basketball;

Whereas the Tar Heels showed tremendous dedication to each other, appreciation to their fans, sportsmanship to their opponents, and respect for the game of basketball throughout the 2005 season; and

Whereas residents of the Old North State and North Carolina fans worldwide are to be commended for their long-standing support, perseverance and pride in the team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the champion North Carolina Tar Heels for their historic win in the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the University of North Carolina Tar Heels win the tournament; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of North Carolina Chancellor James Moeser and head coach Roy Williams for appropriate display.

COMMENDING PAT SUMMITT, HEAD COACH OF THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 97, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will state the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 97) commending Patricia Sue Head Summitt, head women's basketball coach of the University of Tennessee, for three decades of excellence as a proven leader, motivated teacher, and established champion.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 97) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 97

Whereas Pat Summitt, in her 31st year as head coach of the Lady Volunteers (the ''Lady Vols''), has become the Nation's all-time winningest NCAA basketball coach (men's or women's) with her 880th career victory, surpassing the legendary coach Dean Smith of the University of North Carolina;

Whereas Pat Summitt, at the age of 22, took over the women's program at Tennessee in 1974, when there were no scholarships and she had to wash the uniforms and drive the team van;

Whereas Pat Summitt won her first game on January 10, 1975, and continued to win games as she became the youngest coach in the nation to reach 300 wins (34 years old), 400 wins (37 years old), 500 wins (41 years old), 600 wins (44 years old), 700 wins (47 years old), and 800 wins (50 years old);

Whereas Pat Summitt has coached the Lady Vols to 15 30-plus win seasons, including a perfect season of 39–0, 13 Southeastern Conference (SEC) regular-season titles, and 11 SEC tournament championships;

Whereas Pat Summitt has appeared in more NCAA tournament games (107), and has won more tournament games (89), than any other collegiate coach, including a record of 36–0 in the first two rounds, 16 NCAA Final Four appearances, and 6 NCAA Championship Titles, including the NCAA's first back-to-back-to-back women's titles in 1996, 1997, and 1998;

Whereas Pat Summitt played on the 1976 United States Olympic team and later

coached the United States women's basketball team to its first Olympic gold medal in 1984;

Whereas Pat Summitt has been named SEC coach of the year 6 times and national coach of the year by several associations, including the Sporting News Coach of the Year, the Naismith Coach of the Year, and the Associated Press Coach of the Year;

Whereas Pat Summitt and the Lady Vols were selected by ESPN as the ''Team of the Decade'' (1990s), sharing the honor with the Florida State University Seminole's football team, and Summitt became the first female coach to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated;

Whereas Pat Summitt was officially accepted to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999, and was then inducted to the Basketball Hall of Fame on October 13, 2000, as only the 4th women's basketball coach to earn Hall of Fame honors;

Whereas Pat Summitt's Lady Vols have a remarkable graduation rate, as each student-athlete who has completed her eligibility at Tennessee has received her degree or is in the process of completing all of the requirements; and

Whereas Pat Summitt has recently been honored by the University of Tennessee, as the court at Thompson-Boling Arena will be named ''The Summitt'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends the University of Tennessee women's basketball coach, Patricia Sue Head Summitt, for three decades of excellence as a proven leader, motivated teacher, and established champion.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise to speak to the resolution that was just passed, along with my fellow Lady Vol fan and colleague, Senator LAMAR ALEXANDER, who is currently occupying the Chair.

This is a resolution honoring our friend Pat Summitt, head coach for the University of Tennessee women's basketball team, as one of the greatest coaches in NCAA basketball history.

For 31 seasons, Pat Summitt has served as the head coach of the Tennessee Lady Volunteer basketball team. When she first took the position in 1974 as a 22-year-old graduate teaching assistant, her team consisted of non-scholarship players who depended on her to wash their uniforms and drive the team's van. Only 53 fans witnessed Coach Summitt's first win that season. But from that day forth, Coach Pat Summitt and the Lady Vols started what is now an unprecedented winning tradition.

This season, Pat became the Nation's all-time winningest NCAA basketball coach, men's or women's, with her 880th career victory, surpassing the legendary Coach Dean Smith of the University of North Carolina. Along the way, Pat Summitt has achieved unparalleled results on the court, elevating the Lady Vols to one of the elite programs in all of sports.

Her resume consists of 15 30-plus win seasons, including one undefeated season record of 39 to 0. Pat has coached her team to six national titles, including back-to-back-to-back championships in 1996, 1997 and 1998. The Lady Vols played in their 16th Final Four this past Sunday as Pat Summitt set a new all-time record for Final Four appearances.

Following her remarkable run in the 1990s, the Lady Vols were named ''Team of the Decade'' by ESPN, tying with the Florida State football team, and on October 13, 2000, Coach Summitt became only the fourth women's coach inducted into the Basketball Hall of Fame. The University of Tennessee has recently honored Pat Summitt by renaming the court at Thompson-Boling Arena ''The Summitt.''

Today I join together with the many Lady Vols fans in acknowledging Coach Pat Summitt for her service to her team, the University of Tennessee, and the game of basketball. Her dedication to excellence over the past 31 years has been exemplary and has made her a role model for future generations of students, players, and coaches.

Congratulations, Pat Summitt.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. VITTER). The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I join my colleague, the majority leader, in saying a word about Pat Summitt.

I am delighted the majority leader scheduled time for this discussion of Pat Summitt and submitted the resolution, which I am proud to cosponsor.

There are a great many superlatives one could offer about Coach Summitt. Perhaps the most obvious is sustained excellence over such a long period of time—as the majority leader said, 16 Final Four appearances, three back-to-back national titles, 107 NCAA tournament games, virtually undefeated on the floor of the Thompson-Boling Arena, which is now renamed The Summitt in her honor, always playing the toughest schedule, always high expectations.

I was president of the University of Tennessee for nearly 3 years. I remember going to a year-end Lady Vols basketball banquet because I remember the team had won the Southeastern Conference Championship and did not make the Final Four. Pat Summitt congratulated the players, but I remember the atmosphere was more like a funeral than a celebration because, obviously, the team did not meet the expectations Coach Summitt had for her players.

We live in a society of televised images in which we meet a steady stream of people who are at the top of their game for 15 minutes or for a few months or for a few years. But for Pat Summitt, it has been 31 years at the top of her game, and there is no end in sight.

There are a couple of other less obvious superlatives about Coach Summitt. One of these is unselfishness. The coaches whom she regularly defeats will tell you, to a woman or a man, that no one has done more to build the game of women's basketball than Pat Summitt. When she started, there were three girls at each end of the court playing in an empty gym. Today it is my favorite game to watch on television because of the skill of the players, because of the team play, because of the good coaching, and now because of the parity of the sport.

There are a lot of good teams, a lot of good coaches, and many of them are former assistants to Pat Summitt. It seems she always has a good word to say about this program or that program, this opponent or that opponent. Her objective is to build the game up as much as it is to win the game.

The final superlative is Pat Summitt's emphasis on academic achievement. Every young woman who has ever played for her over 31 years has either graduated or is working today on the requirements for graduation. That is almost as difficult as winning back-to-back NCAA championships. It certainly sets the right tone for college sports.

I know how proud I was as a university president to have that most visible symbol of our university have such high values. It is mentioned at all the games, people see it all the time. It is a superlative achievement.

This past year, Nicky Anosike, one of eight children of a mother from Nigeria now living in the United States, became a sudden star at the University of Tennessee as a freshman. There were six great recruits said to be the best recruiting class ever in the history of this country. Four of them were hurt. Nicky Anosike was not hurt, and she suddenly became a starter on the team and one of its best starters. Some people say she is a female Scottie Pippen at the top of his game.

As I suspect happens with many of Pat's freshman students, Nicky Anosike called home the next few weeks discussing with her mother how difficult it was to play for Pat Summitt because she demanded so much. Her mother said: What does she expect of you that I did not expect of you? That is the reason why I believe parents and young women want those young women to go to the University of Tennessee to play for Pat Summitt when they might be admitted to any school in the country. It is that for 31 years, Pat Summitt has brought out the best in those young women.

VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I wish to comment on the majority leader's remarks about Viktor Yushchenko, who will be addressing a joint meeting at 11 o'clock.

Two weeks ago, I had the privilege, with the Democratic leader, of visiting with Mr. Yushchenko for an hour. We also were in Georgia, Iraq, Palestine, and Israel. We saw emerging democracies across the country.

One of the most vivid impressions I had was after meeting with Mr. Yushchenko, we met with students in Ukraine. Senator REID asked them how long before they expected results. These were the ones who Senator FRIST described as being among the hundreds of thousands in November and December waiting outside in the bitter cold

causing this change. Some of the students said a year. Others disagreed and said 9 months.

It seems to me one of the greatest dangers we have with these emerging democracies is reminding them that there is no such thing as an instant democracy in Ukraine or anywhere else. So I said to the students with respect: In the United States, it took us 12 years to write a constitution after the Declaration of Independence, and we had to lock the press out to do it. It took us 130 years to give women the right to vote. It took us 200 years before African Americans could vote in every part of our country.

So in Iraq, in Georgia, in Ukraine, in emerging democracies, patience is important, and that is one of the examples we have.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 600, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 600) to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Lugar amendment No. 266, to strike the amendment to the limitation on the United States share of assessments for the United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

McCain/DeWine amendment No. 267, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine.

Baucus amendment No. 281, to facilitate the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba, as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 200.

Craig/Roberts amendment No. 282 (to amendment No. 281), to clarify the payment terms under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000.

Dodd amendment No. 283, to express the sense of the Senate concerning recent provocative actions by the People's Republic of China.

Dorgan/Wyden amendment No. 284, to prohibit funds from being used for television broadcasting to Cuba.

Biden amendment No. 286 (in lieu of the language proposed to be stricken by Lugar amendment No. 266), relative to the United States share of assessment for United Nations Peacekeeping operations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the time until 10 a.m. will be equally divided between the chairman and ranking member.

The Senator from Tennessee.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum and ask that the time be equally charged.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 286

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask Senators to oppose the Biden amendment. I appreciate the perspective of Senators who want to preserve the 27-percent cap, as well as those who want the cap to be reduced to the 25-percent level in accordance with the Helms-Biden legislation.

In offering this amendment, I am attempting to represent the views of those Senators who believe that forthcoming discussions on U.N. reform should include additional consideration of U.S. financial obligations for peacekeeping. This is a reasonable expectation given the reform context at the United Nations. Since our committee marked up this bill, John Bolton has been announced as the President's nominee to be Ambassador to the U.N., and Secretary General Kofi Annan has put forward a sweeping U.N. reform plan.

Clearly, U.N. reform is going to be high on the agenda. The Helms-Biden legislation anticipates that the U.S. share of peacekeeping dues would decline to 25 percent of the world total. This remains a goal of U.S. policy toward the United Nations. I believe we should give the U.S. negotiators the most leverage possible to attain U.S. goals.

It has been suggested that the 27-percent agreement struck subsequent to the Helms-Biden legislation is the best we can do. Many Senators assert this is true, particularly since we are entering a period when substantial reform negotiations will take place at the U.N. But in the coming weeks, Congress will have further opportunities to work with President Bush to craft the most efficient means possible of reducing the U.S. share of peacekeeping assessments.

I believe defeating the Biden amendment at this time will facilitate these consultations and strengthen the hand of our negotiators.

I reserve the remainder of my time, Mr. President.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware is recognized.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, how much time do I have?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has 3 minutes.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, this amendment implements what President Bush is requesting. Specifically, the President requested that for the next 2 years we keep our assessment at 27 percent.

Mr. President, 10,000 forces are being sent to the Sudan under the auspices of the United Nations. They are responding as we are asking them to respond. We are in the process of making genuine progress. The last thing we need to do is start to build up arrearages again; it took years to work ourselves out of the hole, both politically and financially.

If my colleague from Indiana is correct that the administration wants room to negotiate, the President is going to be President for 3½ more years, God willing and the creek not rising, as my grandpop used to say. The truth is, this lasts for 2 years. It gives all the negotiating room possible. To now go ahead and change the deal in the minds of every Ambassador to the United Nations—here they go again—at the very time we are sending the worst person we can possibly send, not in terms of morality but in terms of his attitude to the U.N.—the double whammy of sending Bolton to the United Nations and cutting our commitment that we have kept to for the past years, and over the request of the President we cut by 2 percent our commitment, would be a very serious problem.

I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Biden amendment. I fully appreciate the position of my friend from Indiana, but I think he is mistaken on this point. We do not often disagree that much, but on this one we do disagree.

I urge my colleagues to vote yes on the Biden amendment to keep the President's request in this legislation.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, I rise in opposition to the Biden amendment and to second Chairman LUGAR's remarks. The chairman is looking to the future of the United Nations and not to the past. The negotiations at the U.N. regarding U.N. reform and the lowering of U.N. peacekeeping dues are underway. Let us ensure that our next Ambassador to the United Nations has an opportunity to go to New York and to work on this issue.

Our Ambassador will be working to lower U.S. dues. By adopting Senator BIDEN's amendment, we will make that job more difficult by conceding our willingness to live with the status quo. We have an opportunity to lower the U.S. rate to serve the U.S. taxpayers better and to make the U.N. more efficient if Congress does not send mixed signals to the U.N.

Next week, the Foreign Relations Committee will have its hearing on John Bolton to be Ambassador to the U.N. We will have the opportunity to discuss this issue at length with him. Do we want to make his job that much harder by adopting this amendment? If we adopt this amendment, we undercut him before he gets there.

It is time for real reform at the U.N. Achieving a sustainable level for peacekeeping assessments is an important first step.

The Congress has spoken to this issue in the past. Let us give our Ambassador to the U.N. an opportunity to get up there and to lower our rates. Let us also not let this issue be the one item that threatens passage of this important legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. BIDEN. Does the Senator from Delaware have any time remaining?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware has 58 seconds remaining.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, the leader has much better access to the President than I do, but to the best of my knowledge there is no negotiation, has been no negotiation, no discussion, no comment whatsoever about changing the U.S. provision from 27 percent to 25 percent. I know of nothing. The State Department has never said anything to me. The Defense Department, the White House, Kofi Annan, nobody has raised this, except my friends on the conservative right in the Republican Party.

If we do not want to send a mixed signal, do not vote against the President. The President of the United States, not our conservative friends on the right side of the aisle, says 27 percent. Do not undercut the President and send a mixed signal.

I yield whatever time I have remaining, and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to amendment No. 286.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. The following Senator was necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. ROCKEFELLER) are necessarily absent.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 40, nays 57, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 84 Leg.]

YEAS—40

Akaka	Feinstein	Mikulski
Bayh	Harkin	Murray
Biden	Inouye	Nelson (FL)
Bingaman	Jeffords	Obama
Boxer	Johnson	Pryor
Cantwell	Kennedy	Reed
Carper	Kerry	Reid
Clinton	Kohl	Salazar
Conrad	Landrieu	Sarbanes
Corzine	Lautenberg	Schumer
Dodd	Leahy	Stabenow
Dorgan	Levin	Wyden
Durbin	Lieberman	
Feingold	Lincoln	

NAYS—57

Alexander	Coburn	Graham
Allard	Cochran	Grassley
Allen	Coleman	Gregg
Baucus	Collins	Hagel
Bennett	Cornyn	Hatch
Bond	Craig	Hutchison
Brownback	DeMint	Inhofe
Bunning	DeWine	Isakson
Burns	Dole	Kyl
Burr	Domenici	Lott
Byrd	Ensign	Lugar
Chafee	Enzi	Martinez
Chambliss	Frist	McCain
McConnell	Shelby	Talent
Murkowski	Smith	Thomas
Nelson (NE)	Snowe	Thune
Roberts	Specter	Vitter
Santorum	Stevens	Voinovich
Sessions	Sununu	Warner

NOT VOTING—3

Crapo	Dayton	Rockefeller

The amendment (No. 286) was rejected.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 266

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the Lugar amendment No. 266.

The amendment (No. 266) was agreed to.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 12 noon.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 10:38 a.m., recessed until 12 noon and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mr. MURKOWSKI).

FOREIGN AFFAIRS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 and 2007

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Colorado.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent to lay aside the pending amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENT NO. 308

Mr. SALAZAR. I send an amendment to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Colorado [Mr. SALAZAR] proposes an amendment numbered 308.

Mr. SALAZAR. I ask unanimous consent further reading be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To increase the accountability and effectiveness of international police training)

At the end of title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 812. INTERNATIONAL POLICE TRAINING.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTRUCTORS.—Prior to carrying out any program of training for police or security forces through the Bureau that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) such training is provided by instructors who have proven records of experience in training law enforcement or security personnel;

(2) the Bureau has established procedures to ensure that the individuals who receive such training—

(A) do not have a criminal background;

(B) are not connected to any criminal or insurgent group;

(C) are not connected to drug traffickers; and

(D) meet the minimum age and experience standards set out in appropriate international agreements; and

(3) the Bureau has established procedures that—

(A) clearly establish the standards an individual who will receive such training must meet;

(B) clearly establish the training courses that will permit the individual to meet such standards; and

(C) provide for certification of an individual who meets such standards.

(b) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory board of 10 experts to advise the Bureau on issues related to cost efficiency and professional efficacy of police and security training programs. The board shall have not less than 5 members who are experienced United States law enforcement personnel.

(c) BUREAU DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Bureau'' means the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than September 30 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the training for international police or security forces conducted by the Bureau. Such report shall include the attrition rates of the instructors of such training and indicators of job performance of such instructors.

Mr. SALAZAR. Madam President, I rise in support of this amendment to document the importance of making sure we have the right standards and certifications with respect to training law enforcement and security officers on missions around the world.

I speak to this amendment based on my experience as Colorado attorney general where I sat as chairman of the peace officers standards and training board for a period of 6 years. Working with my colleagues in law enforcement, we developed a set of standards that made sure the people we were recruiting into our police forces in the State of Colorado were people who had been checked for criminal backgrounds and would be able to serve. We also developed a set of standards with respect to the training of these law enforcement officers. This amendment creates those same standards and background checks with respect to people being recruited into security forces to help with our efforts around the world.

I understand the amendment I have offered will be considered by Senator LUGAR and others as we return to the Senate.

I yield the floor and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

AMENDMENT NO. 284

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, yesterday I offered an amendment on behalf of myself and Senator WYDEN from

Oregon. I will now describe that amendment in some greater detail. I know others, including my colleague from Oregon, will be here.

It is an amendment to terminate something called TV Martí, Television Martí. It is spending money on something that does not work, spending money we do not have on something that is not needed. Even waste, of course, has a constituency in this town, so there will be those who will oppose this amendment. I will describe why this is a tragic waste of the American taxpayers' money.

This is a picture of an aerostat balloon called Fat Albert. Fat Albert has a great history. Fat Albert has been used for a number of things. At one point we had an aerostat balloon, Fat Albert, that got loose of its mooring in Florida. Eventually, it lifted fishing boats from the sea. They had to shoot it down. The Air Force had to shoot down Fat Albert.

This is the aerostat balloon, along with a 20,000-foot tether cable that broadcasts television signals into the country of Cuba to tell the Cubans how good life is in America and to give the Cubans a straight story.

We have spent $189 million on this program over a number of years since 1989. Over 16 years we have spent nearly $200 million.

We have another program called Radio Martí. I don't propose that we terminate funding for that because by and large the Cubans are receiving signals from Radio Martí. Radio Martí is beneficial. I have been to Cuba and talked to the Cubans. They can listen to commercial stations from Miami, as well, and do. But Radio Martí gets its signals to the Cuban people.

TV Martí, by contrast, has cost the American taxpayer since 1989 $189 million to broadcast television signals into Cuba that the Cuban people cannot see because the Castro Government routinely jammed those signals. In fact, for much of its existence, Television Martí was broadcasting signals from 3 a.m. until 8 in the morning—again, broadcasting signals the Cuban people could not see.

That, of course, is no barrier in this country. The 20,000-foot tether on the aerostat balloon called Fat Albert sits up there in the sky with the technicians. By the way, since they had to shoot one down and since another one got loose and went over to the Everglades and they had to round up this aerostat balloon and figure out a way to catch it, since then they now have three different ways of communicating with and controlling Fat Albert which I am sure is of great comfort to the people who might be in the way of an aerostat balloon that gets loose in this country.

Fat Albert is up there every day on the case, broadcasting television signals to the Cuban people. And every day, the Cuban people see this—this is a television screen in Cuba—they see snow, because Castro jams the signals. So we have a program we pay for that doesn't work, that is not needed, and we keep doing it year after year.

And this year, guess what. The President wants to double the funding. Yes, that is true, a program that does not work, is unneeded, is wasting the taxpayers' money, and the President's budget says, let's double the funding.

Let me tell you what they did after they had this introduction of Fat Albert. Fat Albert gets loose, goes over to the Everglades, it is kind of a problem, and everyone is embarrassed about it. It is a worthless program that sends signals no one can receive to the Cuban people, and then they lose a balloon and they have all these embarrassing anecdotes of the fact that they are spending money to broadcast a television signal no one can receive, and so they decide they will do something different.

October 10, 2003, in the Rose Garden, the administration announced new ''get tough'' measures with Cuba which, among other things, said we will stop using Fat Albert; we are not going to use an aerostat balloon anymore. Now we are going to take Commando Solo, a C–130 Air National Guard plane, special operations C–130 airplane called Commando Solo. They are going to now broadcast television signals from Commando Solo.

The broadcast of TV Martí from Commando Solo commenced once a week for a 4½ hour broadcast. They use the same technology the current Fat Albert blimp uses. It broadcasts a signal from a high altitude which then is jammed by the Castro Government. The Commando Solo cannot overcome jammers in Havana, either. It can only reach areas if there are areas where the Castro Government is not jamming.

Commando Solo is operated by the 193rd Special Operations Wing of the Pennsylvania National Guard. It was designed for psychological warfare in military situations. It has been used to broadcast television messages in Panama, Desert Shield, Grenada, Desert Storm, Afghanistan, and Iraq, largely areas where there has been combat that has occurred. There are half a dozen of these airplanes that exist. They are a precious military resource that is being used for what is now a nonmilitary operation. So now instead of Fat Albert, or in addition to Fat Albert, we have Commando Solo. There is no evidence, of course, that the Cubans can receive a signal from Commando Solo, but we are still pumping taxpayers' money into this folly.

The President's budget says we are spending $10 million a year. We have been doing that for 16 years, and we understand this is a program we do not need, a program that does not work, but we still want to keep funding it and we want to actually enhance it. Now what we want to do is go purchase a new airplane, go buy a new airplane for $8 million so that it becomes the TV Martí airplane to broadcast signals the Castro Government will jam and that the Cuban people cannot see.

If you sat around a smalltown café and talked about this, you would not get one person in a million who would say, well, if we have something that doesn't work, let's keep doing it; in fact, let's double it. Let's do more of it. Almost everyone would say: Are you out of your mind? What are you thinking about, funding something that does not work? If it is clear it does not work, why does it take you 16 years to decide it does not work? And if it does not work, why on Earth would you suggest doubling the funding? Yet that is exactly what we have.

Now, we have people who will, I am sure, defend this, and they will say: Well, do you know something? There are some Cubans who say they have seen it. We have 19 million people in Cuba, somewhere in that neighborhood. I think when the State Department talks about this, they say: We have 250 sitings of people who actually have seen Television Martí.

What they were doing is, they were interviewing people off the boats coming from Cuba in order to see if they could get some evidence that somebody was actually able to see something more than the snow on this screen. They got such an embarrassingly small amount of testimony from people who have said they could see this, they finally stopped asking people. So now there are no surveys because it was too embarrassing to get a survey completed that said this is a tragic, complete, total, thorough waste of taxpayer money.

What we have is a bill on the floor of the Senate that promotes the President's budget that says we will double funding for this program that is a total waste from $10.3 million to $21.1 million in fiscal year 2006. And the $10 million increase would go toward buying an airplane that would transmit 4 hours of TV broadcast to Cuba each day that would be jammed by the Castro Government and that would not be able to be received by the Cuban people.

TV Martí says it could operate a secondhand, modest twin engine plane for about $8 million. They would buy it for $8 million, and spend $2 million a year on the plane. There is not a shred of evidence—not a shred of evidence—anywhere that this would put us in a different position than now exists. The desire to use, for 16 years, an aerostat balloon called Fat Albert, and then the desire to expropriate military assets to send a highly specialized military plane, designed for psychological warfare, up in the air to broadcast for 4 hours a week signals the Cuban people cannot see—it is unbelievable.

It is one of these things that leads me to say, as I have from time to time, that even waste has a strong constituency here in the Congress. But from time to time you can see waste for what it is. This is evident. It is clear. It is not about Republicans or Democrats. It is about whether we want to spend money on something that does not

work. Do we want to continue to do that?

My colleague, Senator WYDEN, and I say absolutely not. Let's finally, finally, finally—after 16 years—have the courage to shut down a program that is a total waste of the American taxpayers' money.

My colleague from New York wishes to, I think at this time, set aside and offer his own amendment; and then we will continue the debate with my colleague from Oregon immediately after the offering of the amendment.

Let me at this time yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

AMENDMENT NO. 309

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the pending amendments be laid aside and that amendment No. 309, offered by myself and the Senator from South Carolina, be called up.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the amendment.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. STABENOW, and Mr. KOHL, proposes an amendment numbered 309.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To authorize appropriate action if the negotiations with the People's Republic of China regarding China's undervalued currency are not successful)

On page 277, after line 8, add the following:

TITLE XXIX—CURRENCY VALUATION

SEC. 2901. NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING CURRENCY VALUATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The currency of the People's Republic of China, known as the yuan or renminbi, is artificially pegged at a level significantly below its market value. Economists estimate the yuan to be undervalued by between 15 percent and 40 percent or an average of 27.5 percent.

(2) The undervaluation of the yuan provides the People's Republic of China with a significant trade advantage by making exports less expensive for foreign consumers and by making foreign products more expensive for Chinese consumers. The effective result is a significant subsidization of China's exports and a virtual tariff on foreign imports.

(3) The Government of the People's Republic of China has intervened in the foreign exchange markets to hold the value of the yuan within an artificial trading range. China's foreign reserves are estimated to be over $609,900,000,000 as of January 12, 2005, and have increased by over $206,700,000,000 in the last 12 months.

(4) China's undervalued currency, China's trade advantage from that undervaluation, and the Chinese Government's intervention in the value of its currency violates the spirit and letter of the world trading system of which the People's Republic of China is now a member.

(5) The Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to promptly address concerns or to provide a definitive timetable for resolution of these concerns raised by the United States and the international community regarding the value of its currency.

(6) Article XXI of the GATT 1994 (as defined in section 2(1)(B) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(1)(B))) allows a member of the World Trade Organization to take any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests. Protecting the United States manufacturing sector is essential to the interests of the United States.

(b) NEGOTIATIONS AND CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE CURRENCY VALUATION POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions of title I of Public Law 106–286 (19 U.S.C. 2431 note), on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, unless a certification described in paragraph (2) has been made to Congress, in addition to any other duty, there shall be imposed a rate of duty of 27.5 percent ad valorem on any article that is the growth, product, or manufacture of the People's Republic of China, imported directly or indirectly into the United States.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—The certification described in this paragraph means a certification by the President to Congress that the People's Republic of China is no longer acquiring foreign exchange reserves to prevent the appreciation of the rate of exchange between its currency and the United States dollar for purposes of gaining an unfair competitive advantage in international trade. The certification shall also include a determination that the currency of the People's Republic of China has undergone a substantial upward revaluation placing it at or near its fair market value.

(3) ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION.—If the President certifies to Congress 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that the People's Republic of China has made a good faith effort to revalue its currency upward placing it at or near its fair market value, the President may delay the imposition of the tariffs described in paragraph (1) for an additional 180 days. If at the end of the 180-day period the President determines that China has developed and started actual implementation of a plan to revalue its currency, the President may delay imposition of the tariffs for an additional 12 months, so that the People's Republic of China shall have time to implement the plan.

(4) NEGOTIATIONS.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall begin negotiations with the People's Republic of China to ensure that the People's Republic of China adopts a process that leads to a substantial upward currency revaluation within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Because various Asian governments have also been acquiring substantial foreign exchange reserves in an effort to prevent appreciation of their currencies for purposes of gaining an unfair competitive advantage in international trade, and because the People's Republic of China has concerns about the value of those currencies, the Secretary shall also seek to convene a multilateral summit to discuss exchange rates with representatives of various Asian governments and other interested parties, including representatives of other G–7 nations.

AMENDMENT NO. 284

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be laid aside and we return to the Dorgan amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I said 19 million Cuban people. I meant 11 million people who live in the country of Cuba.

Madam President, before I yield the floor so my colleague from Oregon can have the floor, let me say again, I think we will have people come to the floor and say: What do you mean ''a waste of money''? We have to deal with the Castro government. We have to get tough. We cannot back away.

I do not come to the floor to say anything good about the Castro government. The Cuban people deserve to be free and deserve to have the boot removed from their neck, the boot of oppression from a government that does not allow that kind of freedom.

But let me say this: This country has stated as its purpose for a long while with respect to China and Vietnam, both Communist countries, that the road to progress toward democratic reform in those countries is through trade and travel and engagement. We have believed that fervently, Republicans and Democrats. We trade with Vietnam. We trade with China. We travel to both countries. We believe that advances both countries toward more human rights and better human rights.

It is only with Cuba we have this obsession—believing if we can track down Americans who attempt to travel in Cuba, and slap them with big fines, restrict travel, restrict trade, and somehow waste money on things like TV Martí—it is only with Cuba we are obsessed with a policy that does not work.

Fidel Castro has lived through 10 Presidents. The fact is, the embargo this country slapped on Cuba is the best weapon he has to continue in office, to continue his power in the Cuban government. He says it is the 500-pound gorilla up North that has its fist around the throat of the Cuban people. It would be much smarter, in my judgment, to remove the travel restrictions and all the trade restrictions from Cuba and do with Cuba as we do with China and Vietnam. The quickest way to move Castro out of Cuba is through trade and travel and engagement, and I believe that strongly.

But this amendment of ours does not address that. It addresses one piece of this obsession with Cuba; and that is, the continued spending of money for TV signals into the Cuban country that the Cubans cannot see. It is one thing to do things that are wrong; it is another thing to do things that are dumb. I understand somebody shooting themselves in the foot. But after you have done it the first time, to take aim at your foot the second time—there is something fundamentally wrong and unsound about the thinking that allows you to do that. That is exactly what we are doing.

I will yield the floor so my colleague from Oregon, who is a cosponsor of this amendment, can speak.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I tell my colleague, I am pleased to be able to team up with him on this effort. Over the last few months, we have been digging into a variety of areas where waste of taxpayers' dollars has occurred.

I think Senator DORGAN has made the central argument with respect to our amendment; that is, you do not get tough with somebody by wasting money. In other words, we are going to have a fair amount of discussion, I suspect, on this amendment about whether you are being soft minded on Castro, or something of that nature, whether you agree with Castro's political agenda.

What we are talking about is stopping foolishness with respect to frittering away taxpayer dollars. As my colleague has said, what we are faced with is a situation where Fidel Castro has jammed TV Martí's airwaves since their conception. As a result, instead of feeding the Cuban people a glimpse of honest television, what we have been feeding the Cuban people is static and snow. Now, the snow on Cubans' TV screens may be the only snow they get in Cuba, but I can assure you this is about the most expensive snow we have seen on the planet.

What we want to do is protect the interests of taxpayers. We have gone through Fat Albert. Now you have the question of the sequel to Fat Albert, with the President having proposed slashing other programs, particularly programs here at home. How do you argue that something such as this ought to be preserved, that the use of taxpayers' dollars in this area ought to be preserved, where everything here at home is on the chopping block during a belt-tightening environment in Government?

TV Martí was intended to follow in the footsteps of Radio Martí, providing Cubans access to balanced information from the outside world so that Cubans living under Fidel Castro's regime would have a taste of the freedom that Americans enjoy here at home.

We are willing to stipulate for purposes of this discussion and debate we are having on the floor of the Senate that Radio Martí enjoys a strong listening audience and successfully transmits news to Cubans from the outside world. But the bottom line is, TV Martí has never come close—never come close—to meeting the standards of Radio Martí. I defy anybody to find a significant group of people in Cuba who see this television.

As Senator DORGAN has mentioned, the process of surveying people, which under normal circumstances would be a good way to determine the extent of use, has now been hot wired so they do not even do the surveys anymore because they are not going to get the results they want to have. They want to have surveys that show a significant number of people are getting this, and they cannot prove it. So if you cannot prove it, you do not put out a survey that says: Oh, no viewers. You sort of figure out a way to make the surveys disappear. That is essentially what has happened.

Our discussions and examination, as we have pursued this issue over the last few months in an effort to root out this waste, indicates virtually nobody sees this. That is where we are now. So we are looking at the prospect, after all of this waste of money—well over $100 million sunk into this static, this static and snow over the years—of spending still more money.

Senator DORGAN and I believe it is time to draw a line in the sand and say: Halt this waste. Halt this frittering away of the American people's scarce dollars.

The President does have a new plan to circumvent the jamming. His idea is to use military aircraft to broadcast TV Martí that way. We have our folks, men and women from Alaska and North Dakota and Oregon, and they are in harm's way today. So at a time when our troops are in harm's way and face great peril around the world, we are talking about transferring military assets that we need to protect their well-being and the well-being of this country. I do not see how you can make the case again that that is a wise expenditure at this time.

So I hope as the Senate debates the Dorgan-Wyden amendment, we can make it clear that when programs such as Radio Martí work, we are willing to make sure the United States plays an active role in trying to make sure people have information, accurate, objective information, on what freedom is all about. But where you are talking about waste, where you are talking about funding programs that may make people say, ''oh, you're getting tough, you're getting tough on Castro,'' when in fact you are wasting money, that is where the two of us are trying to blow the whistle and prevent further efforts to throw taxpayers' money at TV Martí, when there is no evidence it will work.

The money we have spent year after year goes, as I have said, to finance some of the most expensive static, the most expensive snow in the history of television screens. What we ought to be doing is making sure that taxpayers' dollars are spent wisely. Here it could be used in a whole host of other areas. It is our hope, and the purpose of this amendment, to pull the plug on a program that does not work now, has not worked in the past, and is not going to work in the future.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I wonder if the Senator from Oregon will yield for a question?

Mr. WYDEN. I am happy to yield.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I used a picture of Fat Albert, the aerostat balloon. I will show that once again. Fat Albert was fearlessly broadcasting television signals that no one could receive, doing it for 16 years or so. And now, in order to continue broadcasting signals no one can receive, we have expropriated the use of the Pennsylvania Air National Guard's airplane called Commando Solo, one of only a half a dozen ever made, used in Bosnia, used in Iraq, used in Afghanistan, for very sophisticated electronic psychological warfare purposes. That has been flying now for 4 hours a week, broadcasting signals, without any evidence at all that the Cuban people can see those signals.

So we have gone from Fat Albert to Commando Solo and now the next step, to purchase a new airplane, to purchase a new airplane so TV Martí has its own airplane to broadcast signals no one can see. Does it sound a little goofy? It would in my hometown, if you told this story. Sometimes there are people who serve here who think they know more than anybody else, they can see over the horizon things others cannot see.

There is a broad common sense in this country that takes a look at things like this. And wouldn't it be the case that in a small town café in Oregon or a small town café in North Dakota or Alaska, people would take a look at this and say: What on Earth are you thinking about, spending money on something we don't need and doubling the funding for something that doesn't work? Where have you been? What planet are you living on?

Mr. WYDEN. I appreciate the Senator's question. It seems to me that this is Government Waste 101. This is not complicated. Since its inception in 1980, it appears that this particular program, TV Martí, has had essentially no real Cuban viewership. We have been doing everything we can to find anything resembling a current study, a current report, any body of evidence which would indicate that there is an actual market, a group of Cubans who see this.

As the Senator from North Dakota has indicated in his question, if you go into a coffee shop in Alaska or North Dakota or Oregon, this program doesn't pass the smell test. People are going to say: Look, we don't like Castro. And this isn't a debate about whether you like Castro. I have been studying this issue since my dad wrote a book about the Bay of Pigs, the untold story. So like many of my colleagues, I have been studying this issue for a long time. This is not a referendum on whether you are going to be tough on Castro or whether you like Castro. This is a referendum on whether we are going to allow millions of dollars of Government waste to go forward. We have been doing it for years. We should have pulled the plug some time ago. And yet, because this program sort of masquerades under the title of being tough on Castro, we just keep shoveling money at it.

I thank the Senator from North Dakota, who has spent a great deal of time on it. I also want to come back to

a point the Senator from North Dakota touched on that is very important. Personally, a lot of us would like to reexamine our policy with respect to Cuba. That is not what this amendment is about. This amendment is about one thing: whether we are going to sanction more waste. This program doesn't pass the smell test. You wouldn't possibly be able to explain it in a coffee shop.

My hope is that we support real programs, such as Radio Martí, that are going to make a difference in terms of getting information to the Cuban people about areas where there is waste and not continue to fritter away scarce taxpayer resources.

I thank my colleague for giving me the time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. The point I have not made is, we don't propose to spend this money in other ways; we simply propose that we strike the funding for TV Martí, a program that doesn't work, and thereby reduce the Federal indebtedness. So we are not suggesting taking this money and spending it in some other way. Get rid of this program that doesn't work, that is unneeded, and thereby eliminate at least this small amount of Federal indebtedness.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Mr. President, I rise to speak in opposition to the amendment. It is interesting that just a few minutes ago we were at the other end of this building in the House of Representatives in a joint session of Congress hearing from President Yushchenko speaking of freedom and the value of freedom and the unique opportunity freedom presents to a people. In order to ensure the ability of folks to raise a family, to conduct their lives, to conduct free commerce, all of these exciting things spark and begin with a flame of freedom. There is no more important way in which the flame of freedom can be conveyed than by information and communication.

We know that today the world of information transforms lives, transforms people around this Earth. We also know that there are still people across the world who do not have the opportunity to hear the free and unfettered bits of information that we so take for granted.

Let me take a moment to describe for you a little bit about what Cuba is like. Cuba is a country today where there is only one source of information: the Cuban Government. Cuba is a country where anyone who would dare to use the Internet without authorization from the Cuban Government, without oversight by the Cuban Government, would have their freedom threatened and taken away. In addition, we also know there is within Cuba a tremendous and growing movement of folks who believe that it is time for Cuba to be free as well and a dissident movement within Cuba. Those people who dare to risk their lives and freedom each and every day, those people who today suffer in Cuba's prison camps because of their desire to seek freedom, those people are emboldened and encouraged by what they can hear and see in the voices and sounds of freedom.

For a long time the United States has had a long and valued tradition of standing with people who are oppressed and suppressed. Mr. Yushchenko spoke this morning eloquently of the words of Ronald Reagan when he said ''tear down this wall'' and what a profound impact that had in beginning the change that occurred in the eastern European nations.

In addition to that, we know the words of Vaclav Havel, other leaders of the ''Velvet Revolution,'' and also the people of Poland, Lech Walesa. And they have said that without a doubt, the thing that made a difference in their lives was Radio Free Europe. I have never heard any one of these patriots of liberty of the modern day say in any public setting that the difference was made for them in seeking freedom when more tourists came and drank rum in their country or when they had the opportunity to see foodstuff in stores that they couldn't buy. But I have heard repeatedly said how valuable was the information and the opportunity to pierce that government control over the people.

You see the control of information is not just about the exchange of news and information, valuable as that is. It is about showing the people who dare to rise in opposition to tyranny that the tyrannical regime that controls their lives is not all powerful, is not omnipresent, but that they, in fact, have the right and opportunity to hear the message of freedom and liberty.

Let me talk specifically about TV Marti. The fact is that while we might mock in commentary what happens with the TV Martí broadcast to Cuba, I have a little different story. Around the time of my ascension to the U.S. Senate, when I had this awesome and unique privilege, the first Cuban American, the first person born in the island of Cuba to ever have the honor to speak from this floor, to be a part of this longest serving democratic institution in the history of mankind, the people of Cuba were rightfully proud and excited by that moment.

I want to tell you that about the time of my taking my oath, I did an interview for TV Martí. I spoke of my thrill and my pride and my hopes and aspirations as I came to the Senate. That interview was broadcast by Commando Solo. That interview was broadcast in the only way in which they can pierce Castro's control over his people about information: by flying this airplane over international waters in a way that can and does, in fact, pierce Castro's blockade and jamming.

That information that got through that night, that interview was seen by people in the hometown where I grew up, Sagua La Grande, Cuba. It is a small city on the northern coast of Cuba where I had the joy of growing up as a small child and where today there are people who still remember me and my family, and where there were people who, unbelievably to me, heard the broadcast and were able to communicate through telephone and otherwise about what they had seen and heard on TV that day, about the images of me taking my oath on this very floor, about the images of me celebrating with other people who supported my candidacy, who came from Florida, many of them Cuban Americans who rode on a bus for 18 hours to come here and join with me and celebrate.

They joined with me here, but those people in Cuba had the opportunity to see those images in my very hometown where I was born, to see me take the oath of office from Vice President CHENEY, President of the Senate. That happened because of the Commando Solo flights. It was a moving experience to the people in this little town, the people who I know sometimes seem unimportant and are not very well known but who, in fact, have the rare opportunity to see that blockade pierced.

So what is our hope? Our hope is we can expand that, that we can do more of it, that we can transfer the technology we now have and the ability to pierce the information blockade so that more and more people can have this information. Too often we talk about an economic blockade with Cuba. The greatest blockade that exists in Cuba, in the words of some of Cuba's dissidents, is the blockade of the Cuban Government against its own people, whether it be for economic opportunity, the rights of the individual, or just to perceive and hear information that comes across the airwaves.

I believe that while imperfect and while still a work in progress, for us to turn our backs on those people in Cuba who depend today on the little bit of information they can get through Radio and TV Martí would be a step away from the long and proud tradition of this country to stand by people who are oppressed. To harken back to the words of President Bush, to the words he gave upon taking office for his second term, if you are oppressed, we stand with you. If you seek freedom, we will be by your side. That wave of democracy that President Bush has begun in places such as the Middle East, that is the very hope that we have.

The President's policy toward Cuba began on May 10 of last year. It is a dynamic policy. It is not just about what we don't do; it is about what we do, about the proactive measures such as the Commando Solo flights, the opportunity for TV Martí to, in fact, be seen by the Cuban people, the opportunity for us to help the dissident movements, for us to proactively help the people of Cuba to remove the yoke of tyranny from their backs.

I believe that when the facts are examined, we would also know that the Interests Section Survey in Havana monitors the ability of the Commando Solo flights to be seen by the Cuban people. There is no such thing in Cuba as a Gallup poll or the ability to even speak freely about what you watch on TV, but 16 percent of those surveyed responded in the affirmative to the U.S. Interests Section in Havana that they were, in fact, seeing TV Martí and that it reached an audience. It does not cover the entire island. It doesn't cover as much as we would like. But each and every day, we make more happen with it.

I am proud to be a supporter of the efforts of TV Martí, and I urge my colleagues to defeat this amendment which would end the little glimmer of light that is available to the people of Cuba today and that otherwise would not be there for them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent to yield myself such time as I may consume on this amendment by the Senator from North Dakota.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator has that right.

Mr. ALLEN. Madam President, I rise to urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and continue to support our country's investment in television broadcasting into Cuba. Otherwise known as TV Martí. The Senator from North Dakota may be exaggerating, and folks get carried away as well. He will say that this is not needed. This is needed. There may be a question as to how effective the TV Martí signal is getting in to Cuba.

Because we are talking about signals and broadcasts, let's make sure we are sending the right signal here. Whether it is my good friend from Oregon or whether my friend from North Dakota, we all, I would hope, want to make sure we are standing strong on the ability of people who are repressed and under the tyranny of Castro, to get information.

There are questions as to whether all the ways that we are trying to get around the jamming and scrambling of signals by Castro's regime are effective or not; however, it is a matter of our national interest that we try to get information, objective information, to the people of Cuba. It doesn't matter one's culture. All human beings, no matter their background or culture, if given the choice, the opportunity, will choose freedom. We have seen it with the Afghan people. We have seen it with the people in Iraq. We are seeing it with the Lebanese rising up to get the Syrian troops out. We have seen it with the Palestinians, with the death of the corrupt terrorist Arafat. The same applies to the people of Cuba, or anywhere else in the world. The Cuban people share the desire that all human beings have, and that is a need to have information and an opportunity to determine their own destiny.

I believe that Radio Martí and TV Martí can help promote freedom and justice in Cuba. We all know the United States has sponsored television and radio broadcasting in Cuba for almost 20 years. The effect of all of that—and we can all try to find measurements. It is not as if you can go around Cuba and do surveys. This is not allowed. Remember, this is Castro's regime. If I want some evidence of a probative witness, I am going to listen to the Senator from Florida, Mr. MARTINEZ, who made history, standing here as the first person ever born in Cuba to be elected to serve in the U.S. Senate. He understands the impact of our message to Cuba better than anybody or any statistics one would want to put forth.

So while we understand it is very difficult to get into Cuba and make sure of the effectiveness of TV or radio broadcasts, it is well known that Radio Martí—and to the extent we can get TV Martí in—is looked upon as an authoritative and reliable source of accurate, objective, and comprehensive news for the Cuban people.

If this Congress were to eliminate TV Martí, we would be sending the wrong message to the Cuban people. At a time when freedom is on the march around the world, eliminating TV Martí would tell the Cuban people—I suspect Castro would be getting his minions and fellow thugs of that regime out to say the United States isn't going to bother. We succeeded with jamming or scrambling the signals, saying the United States doesn't want to worry about this. It would be a signal for him to say that the United States is not committed to the cause of freedom in Cuba. Of course, with his long history of repressing free speech and the free flow of information and ideas in Cuba, this plays right into Castro's hands.

Thomas Jefferson once said:

> A free people [claim] their rights as derived from the laws of nature, and not as a gift of their chief magistrate.

The sharing of information and free flow of ideas, and the foundation of any free country is not to be something that is given or taken away by the machinations of a dictator like Castro.

In my view, there are four pillars of a free and just society. This is how I measure freedom myself for people if they are living in a free and just society. The first pillar is freedom of religion, where people's rights are not enhanced or diminished because of religious beliefs; second, freedom of expression; third, private ownership of property; fourth, the rule of law, where disputes are adjudicated fairly and God-given rights are protected. The second pillar, freedom of expression, is absolutely essential, where people are allowed to get information and to think for themselves. To communicate not in a way that is harmful, but the God-given rights of expression being protected.

We have to support the opportunity of the people of Cuba to get information. They are not going to get it from their Government. People will say, gosh, we are having to use airplanes. There are different ways you have to get at it. You cannot use balloons or a dirigible; you cannot do it off of broadcasting. Why can't we use it the way everybody else sees TV? It is because of that regime. Sometimes you have to be more clever than some of the reptilian cutthroats that we are dealing with. In my view, we ought to stand for the concept of freedom of expression. We have seen it work and we have seen it on Radio Martí. I hate wasting money, but there are certain things we need to do. This is actually a less expensive way of advocating freedom, by using technology—using extraordinary means, but still getting the message to the people of Cuba, regardless of the obstacles that are established by Castro's regime. I think we need to be providing news, commentary, and promoting the open exchange of information and ideas in Cuba and elsewhere to promote the cause of freedom.

To be effective in further opening communications and the sharing of ideas throughout Cuba, Radio and TV Martí must continue to be broadcast and should receive our country's support. I sincerely urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment and stand with the Senator from Florida, Mr. MARTINEZ, but, most importantly, stand for the advancement of freedom.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida, Mr. NELSON, is recognized.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, the business before us is the Dorgan amendment, which strikes $21 million from the President's budget and prevents the funds from being used for the broadcast of TV Martí.

You can say I have a parochial interest in this, being the senior Senator from Florida, joining my colleague, Senator MARTINEZ. Indeed, we do have a parochial interest because we have quite a few Cuban Americans who are citizens of our State. But the reason we should defeat this amendment goes far beyond parochial interests, or any interest of any particular group, for it strikes at what the heart of America stands for in our promotion of freedom—freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of the press—all of these freedoms that we are privileged to have, protected by our Constitution, which supposedly are protected under the Cuban Constitution, but have never been protected.

This amendment sends the wrong message to the Cuban people at a time when change is in the wind, when in fact change is occurring on the island. This amendment would cut the entire budget for TV Martí.

It would also prevent the Broadcast Board of Governors from purchasing a small aircraft that they will use to transmit the signals. The aircraft is

equipped to broadcast both television and radio signals. Eliminating this funding would also limit the U.S. radio broadcast operations. Current broadcasting operations, including radio, are conducted from a Department of Defense EC–130 Commando Solo aircraft. It is based, interestingly, in Harrisburg, PA. It has to fly every Saturday all the way from Pennsylvania down to the Florida Keys for its mission. It makes a lot more sense for the Broadcasting Board of Governors to have a smaller aircraft that is located close to Cuba, being more economical and still having the same equipment.

This station and this money shows our commitment to the Cuban people as they continue to suffer under a dictatorship that ignores human rights and imprisons political dissidents. We simply should not be turning our backs on Cubans at a time when the regime is beginning to crack and a fledgling civil society is emerging.

Look, for example, at what has happened in the last couple of years. The Senate has heard me speak many times on the floor about this very brave Cuban named Oswaldo Paya and the Varela Project; where Cuban citizens put their name on a petition to the Government. Interestingly, this is under a process of the Cuban Constitution that said if you get 10,000 signatures—and they got well over that—that automatically an issue goes to the Government. The petition calls for freedom of expression, freedom of association, free enterprise, electoral reform, and also calls for elections within 1 year.

Have those brave Cubans who stood up suffered reprisals and intimidation by the Cuban security forces? You bet they have, and some of them went to jail. And only because the international community raised Cain were some of the dissidents released when, in fact, others are still in jail. But they were brave, and they went ahead and signed that petition that was generated by Oswaldo Paya. This type of dissident action is supported and promoted through TV Martí.

Some say all of these signals have been jammed. They have been jammed because they were either being transmitted from a stationary tower or they were being jammed when they tried to start transmitting from a satellite in the eastern Atlantic. This new airplane has only been flying since the fall of last year. We have to give it a chance to see if the signals are getting through. Now we will do it more economically with the smaller aircraft.

I will give another example of what is happening on the island in addition to the Varela Project. There are others in Cuba who are coming together to create civil society groups advocating for basic human rights and changes in the Cuban Government's structure. On May 20, next month, these groups will come together for the first time ever in Havana for a historic meeting to openly discuss and debate the future of the island and a transition after the future death of Castro.

TV Martí has produced a series of TV programs, including a 10-part series in which experts discuss a possible transition to democracy. That needs to be out there to be received by the Cuban people.

These are just some of the historic changes that are occurring on the island. These are the reasons that, maintaining our commitment to the freedom-loving Cuban people, we need to continue to broadcast TV Martí to Cuba.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this amendment. Senators, we need your help. Senadores, necesitamos su ayuda.

I yield to my colleague from Florida.

Mr. MARTINEZ. Madam President, will the Senator yield for a question? I wonder if the Senator has considered why the Cuban Government would spend all the money and make all the effort that it takes for them to jam these broadcasts. If it is not insignificant, if it is not important, why does the Senator think the Cuban Government goes on day after day jamming at great cost and expense each and every time we have broadcasts to Cuba?

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Madam President, I say to my colleague from Florida, the proof is in the pudding. Absolutely, the Castro Government for years has continued to try to jam broadcasts, and the fact is that we know the broadcasts of Radio Martí get through to the island. Broadcasting by this airplane is a new means by which we can get the transmission of TV Martí into the island. This clearly is what America stands for.

I am going to close. I see the chairman of our Foreign Relations Committee wanting to be recognized. I say to Chairman LUGAR, when I was 17 years old, I was taken, representing the youth of America, to Germany to broadcast over Radio Free Europe behind the Iron Curtain on a broadcast that years later we found out, much beyond my little broadcast, had a profound effect in bringing information to people who were enslaved behind the Iron Curtain. That was effective.

I think this is going to be effective in Cuba behind that iron curtain that enslaves those people on the island of Cuba.

Therefore, it is my hope, my prayer, that we will continue this effort, particularly where there are the beginning signs of liberty striking out all over the island.

I thank the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee, the esteemed Senator from Indiana, for the opportunity to speak on this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Madam President, there has been a good debate on this amendment. It is an important amendment. I just wanted to make the point, however, that we have reached a point in our bill where we are going to have to move expeditiously; therefore, I move to table the amendment and I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

Mr. DORGAN. Will the Senator yield?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. At this moment there is not a sufficient second.

Mr. LUGAR. I yield to the distinguished Senator.

Mr. DORGAN. I simply wanted 5 minutes to respond to some of what has been said. I have no objection at all to the vote.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I would like an additional 5 minutes as coauthor of the amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. REID. Madam President, the motion to table has been made. If we did it 5 minutes, 5 minutes, and then the vote?

Mr. LUGAR. OK.

Mr. REID. I ask unanimous consent that the Senator from North Dakota be recognized for 5 minutes, the Senator from Oregon for 5 minutes, the Senator from Indiana for 1 minute, and then we vote on his motion to table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. DORGAN. Madam President, I regret that we have a disagreement on the Senate floor, but I am not surprised. I would like to make a couple of comments. First, those who have opposed this amendment apparently have tried to win a debate we are not having. This debate is not about nurturing the flame of freedom. It is not about resisting tyranny. All of that is wonderful. I could stand here and tell a story about Vaclav Havel on a late night on a street corner in Prague, Czechoslovakia, hearing the Declaration of Independence for this country being recited by someone in Czechoslovakia. I could tell a story about Lech Walesa and what he did to light the flame of freedom in Poland, but I will not do that. That is not what this debate is about.

My colleague from Florida, Senator MARTINEZ, talked about how important these television signals are and that is why the Castro Government jams them each and every day. That is the point he made. That is exactly the point I was making.

If, in fact, these are jammed—and they are—let me read the expert from the U.S. Government. He says: Even though TV Martí is jammed, it is well positioned to be an important instrument of U.S. foreign policy or a crisis will occur on the island. Transmission to Cuba ''has been consistently jammed by the Cuban government.'' That is a U.S. official saying that. So we spend $10 million a year to send television signals no one can receive in Cuba to a Fat Albert, the aerostat balloon, and

now we have decided we are going to Commando Solo, a C–130 specially equipped.

By the way, there is no new technology here. I know several people have said this is new technology. Nonsense. This is plain old-fashioned waste of the taxpayers' money by now using a C–130 airplane to send television signals into Cuba the Cubans cannot receive. This is the same technology that is used by Fat Albert, the aerostat balloon. We have been doing it for 16 years. We have wasted $189 million.

I support Radio Martí. I have been to Cuba. That gets through to the Cuban people. I believe we ought to remove the embargo and allow trade and travel to Cuba. That is the quickest way to get rid of Fidel Castro, but that is not even the subject. The subject is will this Congress, when they see colossal waste, fraud, and abuse, stand up and decide to stop the spending?

When we talk about freedom, the question is this: Is there freedom from waste, fraud, and abuse for the American taxpayer? Does that freedom exist? If it does, will we decide to take that step in this vote?

I started this morning by saying even waste has a constituency in the Congress. It seems to me quite clear that we have had our colleagues say: Well, this is not perfect. Not perfect? What do they mean, not perfect? We broadcast television signals that the receivers cannot get and spend $10 million a year, and now we are going to double funding with the ''purchase of a small airplane''? Eight million dollars to buy a new airplane now to broadcast signals the Cubans cannot receive? We are going to double the funding? I am sorry. This is simply wasting the taxpayers' money.

I am all for doing things that remove the boot of oppression from the necks of the Cuban people, but I am not for wasting the taxpayers' money. We have been told now by the opponents of this amendment that this would send a bad message if we cease TV Martí, sending signals they cannot receive. Stopping that would send a bad message. That is the point of all of this, is it not?

Are we sending a message or are we not? The point of it all is we are spending a lot of money believing we are sending a message that is never received. Sending a message to someone who does not receive it, sending a message by aerostat balloon or by a C–130 or by a new $8 million airplane to 11 million people who cannot see it is fundamentally foolish.

Where is the freedom from waste, fraud, and abuse that the American people ought to expect from this Congress? We will see whether that freedom exists in the next 5 or 10 minutes.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. ISAKSON). The Senator yields.

The Senator from Oregon.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, as we conclude with this amendment, I particularly thank the distinguished chairman of the committee for this extra time and get back to this question of what the amendment is really all about. I do not quibble at all with the fact that this is a laudable effort to promote freedom, as the Senator from Florida is talking about, but I believe it has to be about more than effort; it has to be about a result.

For example, something that strikes me as something that would be very useful is to set up Internet Martí. We have seen, for example, what happened in China. What really rattled the Chinese Government was the presence of the Internet. As far as I can tell, they have been struggling to block that out as well. They have not been able to do that. But that is the kind of investment that would make sense to me.

I would be thrilled to work with the distinguished Senator from Florida on wireless technology, for example. I have served on the Commerce Committee. I have a great interest in technology. I think there is a lot of potential as it relates to these kinds of concerns: wireless technology, Internet Martí.

What brings us to the floor today is that we talk about the flicker of freedom, which I am certainly for. As far as I can tell, the only thing the Cuban people see flickering is all that static on TV. So I hope we can save some money, which is the point of this amendment Senator DORGAN and I have offered, and then counsel together on a bipartisan basis through the chairman of the committee, Senator LUGAR, Senator MARTINEZ, our friend Senator NELSON, on something that would be practical. Sign me up for something like Internet Martí, something that would be a well-targeted investment, would allow us to build on the potential to cap other technologies, wireless technologies, Web-based technologies. That is something that seems to me makes sense.

I hope my colleagues will approve this money, allow us to start targeting these Government expenditures during a time of belt-tightening in a more cost-effective way.

I urge the passage of the amendment, and I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, the President of the United States has directed deployment of aircraft with capability of transmitting radio and television signals into Cuba. Thanks to the aircraft, plus Radio and TV Martí, they are reaching parts of the island that were previously unable to receive those signals. That is tremendously important.

As oppressive as that regime is, the state exerts extensive censorship. The Cubans are told only what the state wants them to know and are denied the right to obtain accurate information on Cuba and the world. We need to do all we can to open that up.

I appreciate the debate. It has offered avenues of constructive criticism of the program, but the program needs to continue. It is vital to our security and, we believe, the future of the Cuban people.

I renew my request for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The question is on agreeing to the motion to table amendment No. 284.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 65, nays 35, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 85 Leg.]

YEAS—65

Alexander	DeWine	Murkowski
Allard	Dole	Nelson (FL)
Allen	Domenici	Nelson (NE)
Bayh	Ensign	Reid
Bennett	Frist	Roberts
Biden	Graham	Salazar
Bond	Grassley	Santorum
Brownback	Gregg	Sarbanes
Bunning	Hagel	Schumer
Burns	Hatch	Sessions
Burr	Hutchison	Shelby
Chafee	Inhofe	Smith
Chambliss	Isakson	Snowe
Clinton	Kerry	Specter
Coburn	Kyl	Stevens
Cochran	Lautenberg	Talent
Coleman	Lieberman	Thomas
Collins	Lott	Thune
Cornyn	Lugar	Vitter
Craig	Martinez	Voinovich
Crapo	McCain	Warner
DeMint	McConnell	

NAYS—35

Akaka	Durbin	Levin
Baucus	Enzi	Lincoln
Bingaman	Feingold	Mikulski
Boxer	Feinstein	Murray
Byrd	Harkin	Obama
Cantwell	Inouye	Pryor
Carper	Jeffords	Reed
Conrad	Johnson	Rockefeller
Corzine	Kennedy	Stabenow
Dayton	Kohl	Sununu
Dodd	Landrieu	Wyden
Dorgan	Leahy	

The motion was agreed to.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote, and I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, in a moment I want to ask the Chair to recognize Senators SCHUMER and GRAHAM for an amendment on Chinese currency. Before I ask the Chair to do that, let me simply indicate that the status of our bill is such that amendments that clearly fall in the jurisdiction of the Finance Committee are going to be opposed not only by that committee but by the so-called blue-slip process, which means that our bill might not receive consideration on the floor of the Senate or ultimately on the floor of the House.

So leaving aside the substance of whatever may be the merits of an amendment, we are talking about an existential question for this bill itself as to whether it survives or has the hope of doing so.

For that reason, I just want to advise Senators why, at the end of about 40

minutes of debate, which I hope will be adequate for an exploration by the proponents of what they wish to do, I will be moving to table, to preserve really, this bill, the bill we are on. At that point I will ask the support of the body to table the Schumer-Graham amendment, whatever might be its merits, on the basis of jurisdiction.

We are going to have this problem two or three more times on amendments that have been suggested by Senators. So I make that point now, that will have to be the course of this chairman to preserve at least some hope we will have an authorization bill at all at the end of this process.

Having said all that, I am hopeful the Chair might recognize Senators SCHUMER and GRAHAM for a presentation of their amendment. And after about 40 minutes, we will come to a conclusion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, before that, will the Senator yield? I had spoken to the Senator from Indiana about perhaps taking 3 to 4 minutes before they start on another matter. I ask unanimous consent, if I might, to be recognized for not to exceed 4 minutes. I assure the Senator it will not be beyond that.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LUGAR. Proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator is recognized for 4 minutes.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, I thank the senior Senator from Indiana for his usual courtesy.

(The remarks of Mr. LEAHY are printed in today's RECORD under ''Morning Business.'')

AMENDMENT NO. 309

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SUNUNU). The Senator from Kentucky.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I call up amendment 309.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The amendment is pending.

Mr. BUNNING. Mr. President, I rise in strong support of the Schumer-Graham, et al., amendment that would authorize actions in currency negotiations with China. I have come before the Senate on a number of occasions to speak about how strongly I feel against providing permanent normal trade relations to China. The Chinese have been systematically devaluing their currency, and they have been buying up dollars. This is all done in a concerted effort to keep their goods cheaper than United States goods.

This should come as no surprise to anyone who has followed how the Chinese behaved over the years. China's human rights record, their antagonism toward Taiwan, and the threat they pose to our own national security have been well documented. These issues have been swept under the rug as the Senate has given away its voice on our trade relationship with the most populous nation on the globe. For me it looks as though we are simply putting profits over people. That is plain wrong.

Now we have a chance to correct that. The amendment before the Senate will give the administration a real tool to deal with the Chinese. The Chinese need our markets to sell their goods. If we take it away from them, we will have their attention. Hopefully this amendment will show the Chinese we are serious this time and that they need to play fair and let the market set the value on their currency.

Those opposed to the amendment will talk as if the American economy will be seriously harmed if we pass the amendment. I argue our economy is already being harmed. We are losing manufacturing jobs as a direct result of Chinese policies. The Chinese are killing what is left of our domestic textile industry. Hopefully, the U.S. Trade Representative's office will step in. It sounds as though they will. But we are dangerously close to losing what few textile jobs we have left in Kentucky, and I know other States are in the same boat.

For those who are not concerned about China's human rights, foreign policy, and trade record, let's take another cold, hard look at the facts. China operates one of the most oppressive regimes in the world, brutalizing its own people and persecuting people of faith. China ships weapons of mass destruction to terrorist states. China threatens other freedom advocates such as Taiwan and snubs its nose at the international community by occupying Tibet. China tried to buy access to our Government through illegal campaign contributions and to influence our elections.

The trade deficit with China has grown to record heights. For over a decade, the supporters of free trade with China have been making the arguments over and over again that China is changing, that things are getting better, and that we will soon reap the benefits of free trade with China. The facts prove them wrong. It has been over 10 years since Tiananmen Square and the Chinese are still oppressing their own people. They are still selling weapons to terrorists. They are still bullying other nations and threatening Taiwan and United States interests in the Pacific. Nothing is any different with China now. In fact, it might be worse.

Those who say otherwise are fooling themselves. We are seeing a march of freedom around the world—in Afghanistan, Iraq, the Orange Revolution in the Ukraine, whose President addressed Congress today, the Cedar Revolution in Lebanon, and other pro-democracy revolutions. We have seen that the time of the oppressive regimes is coming to an end. It is time to stop propping up the Communist government of Red China. Vote for the Schumer-Graham, et al. amendment and tell the Chinese our Government will no longer support tyranny. Vote for this amendment for the sake of America's economy and our workers. Vote for this amendment because it is the right thing to do.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. What is the status of the time?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is no time control.

Mr. GRAHAM. Will the Senator yield?

Mr. SCHUMER. I am happy to yield.

Mr. GRAHAM. We are trying to do the debate within 40 minutes. That was our goal.

Mr. SCHUMER. No time limit, but we will try to keep it to 40 minutes. Great.

I rise in strong support of this amendment of which my friend from Kentucky is a cosponsor. The lead sponsor of this legislation is Senator GRAHAM as well as myself. What this legislation does is simple. It says to the Chinese, enough already. It says to the Chinese that their unfair trade policies have got to end. It says to the Chinese, this is a shot across your bow. Reform because if you don't, there are going to be dramatic consequences throughout the world, in our country, and in your country as well.

The bottom line is very simple: The Chinese have enjoyed a huge trade surplus with the United States, as this chart shows. Every year it gets larger and larger and larger. Admittedly, some of that trade surplus is due to the rules of free trade. But much of that trade surplus is because the Chinese don't play fairly. They don't let our goods into their country. I can tell you of company after company in New York that cannot sell goods in China or can only sell the goods under certain conditions that make it impossible for them to sell them.

The Chinese make no effort to prevent the ripping off of our intellectual property. These are our crown jewels, the great creativity, the great entrepreneurialness of the American business community that is taken, and they shrug their shoulders. And worst of all, the Chinese, despite the fact that they have tremendous advantages by the rules of free trade, pile on unfair rules that violate free trade.

At the top of that list is the fact that the Chinese peg their currency abnormally low so that their exports get a 27-percent advantage in the United States; our imports get a 27-percent disadvantage when sold in China. Every tenet of free trade, if you believe in it, says they should not peg their currency.

Senator GRAHAM and I have foreborn. We were asked by the administration last year: Let us negotiate. I agreed. Negotiating would be better. But nothing happened. The Chinese give lip-service and don't change their trade policies a jot.

What does this mean for America? It means a huge job loss.

We have suffered dramatically in manufacturing jobs, and now service jobs and other jobs. It means we have a huge trade deficit. It means the dollar

sinks to abysmally low levels, threatening our wealth. It creates chaos in the whole world trading system. The euro and the yen bear the pressure of the Chinese currency evaluation against the dollar.

We are fed up. This is a measure that should not have to be on this floor. The Chinese should play by the rules once and for all. How can we stand by as millions of American workers lose their jobs, as thousands of American companies cannot compete fairly, as our country as a whole has wealth drained from it?

The U.S.-China Commission, set up by this and the other body to try to bring fair trade to China, believes this is the best way to go. The list of manufacturers, business leaders, and labor leaders who support this legislation is long and large. It is a bipartisan amendment. Senator GRAHAM and I have endeavored to pick up equal amounts of support from each side of the aisle. No one seeks political advantage. What we seek, rather, is fairness—fairness in trade, not in the sense of saying we don't want free trade, but in the sense of playing by the rules.

The Chinese do not play by the rules. We have talked and talked and talked, as a nation, to them, with other nations of the world. We have talked and talked to the Chinese until we are blue in the face. The time for action is now. If not now, when? If not us, who? Millions of American workers, thousands of American businesses, look to us to try to set things right. Today, by passing the Schumer-Graham amendment, we can do that. My guess is this would not have to become law. As soon as it passes this body, the Chinese will actually start to negotiate in earnest. But as long as they think all we do is wield words and do nothing to prevent these practices from continuing year after year after year, they will not budge. So it has come to this.

This amendment is probably one of the most important amendments we will vote on this year in this session of the Senate. I urge my colleagues to study it, to not put off the hour of decision, and to support the Schumer-Graham amendment.

I yield the floor and reserve the remainder of my time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina is recognized.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, first, I acknowledge that it has been a pleasure to work with Senator SCHUMER and others to develop this amendment. We have been involved in this effort for 2 years. We come from different ends of the political spectrum on many issues, but we found common ground here because we hear the comments, whether it is in South Carolina or New York, from manufacturing entities and other business people basically saying China has a business relationship that we cannot compete with. The political dynamic here is real.

Senator LUGAR explained how this amendment affects this bill. I want to let him know I totally understand that. We are now basically running out of options. As Senator SCHUMER said, whether this amendment becomes law is probably not the point. The point is that the Chinese need to understand where the Senate and House stand. The President spoke numerous times about trying to get China to change the value of the currency. Secretary Snow has been to China and brought up this topic. There has been a begrudging movement in words but none in deeds. Talk is literally cheap with the Chinese. Their money is cheaper and it is having an effect on our economy and world relationships that need to be met with decisive political action, because the truth is, for the last decade we have had a very mixed message when it comes to China—both Republicans and Democrats. The only thing the Chinese understand is resolve. The one thing this country has had, when it comes to China in terms of trade, is the lack of resolve.

No one is advocating building a wall around our country. China presents a great opportunity for American business. What we are advocating is allowing China to become part of the world community under the same set of rules we all abide by. They are missing the mark by miles. The money they are making off these trade agreements, where they cheat, is not going into the hands of the everyday Chinese worker; it is going into their military. If we had the same approach during the Soviet Union era by having trade deals with the Soviet Union that would be constantly violated, enriching the government, the Soviet Union would never have collapsed.

China's Communist government is taking the benefit of these trade deals and enriching their military and growing in economic and military strength in the way that I think hampers freedom. It doesn't help spread it. Here are the facts. Since March, 2002, the U.S. dollar has fallen 30 percent against the euro. You know what that has done against the yuan? Not one change. Thirty percent against the euro, but no change against the yuan. They always create an advantage. When we passed normal trading relations with China in 2001, the trade deficit was $100 billion; today it is $160 billion—a 60-percent increase of a trade imbalance since PNTR was passed.

Now, is our market access improving? There is a 5-percent increase of American goods going to China. If you don't believe me and Senator SCHUMER, and you think we are advocating a protectionist philosophy that is antiquated and outdated in the 21st century, maybe you will believe the U.S.-China Commission, which was authorized and empowered by the Congress, the Senate and the House, to investigate China's business dealings, their trade policies.

I ask unanimous consent to have this document printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S.-CHINA COMMISSION RELEASES FINDINGS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON CHINA'S WTO RECORD

The U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission has released the official record of its two-day public hearing held on February 3 and 4, 2005 in Washington, DC examining China and the WTO: Assessing and Enforcing Compliance.

The hearing examined China's record of compliance to date with its WTO commitments and explored options for using U.S. trade laws and WTO mechanisms to address continuing trade problems, including China's undervalued currency and weak enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPR) protections. The Commission heard testimony from senior Administration officials, industry groups, labor organizations, economists, and trade law experts, as well as a bipartisan group of Members of Congress from both the House of Representatives and the Senate.

There was a general consensus among the witnesses that China remains in violation of its WTO obligations in a number of areas impacting vital U.S. economic interests. Witnesses highlighted China's undervalued currency and lack of IPR protections and expressed the view that U.S. government efforts to move China to address these serious problems have not achieved satisfactory results. The hearing also dealt with the application of U.S. trade remedies. The Commission heard testimony that the Administration has not effectively utilized available U.S. anti-dumping laws and China-specific import safeguards to counter China's unfair trade practices.

''It has become increasingly clear that China is not meeting key commitments it made when joining the WTO and that our trade laws have to date been insufficient in addressing these problems,'' said Commission Chairman C. Richard D'Amato. ''In some cases our trade remedies need to be enhanced, in other cases they have been woefully underutilized. The end result has been a trading relationship that is undermining important U.S. economic interests.''

In response to these concerns, the Commission has developed a comprehensive set of recommendations to the Congress designed to improve the use of U.S. trade remedies and to move China toward more effective compliance with its WTO commitments. A list of the Commission's recommendations is attached.

The complete hearing record is available on the Commission's web site at www.uscc.gov. Copies may be obtained by calling the Commission at (202) 624–1407.

ADDRESSING CHINA'S CURRENCY MANIPULATION

The Commission recommends that Congress pursue the following measures to move China toward a significant near-term upward revaluation of the yuan by at least 25 percent.

Press the Administration to file a WTO dispute regarding China's exchange rate practices. China's exchange rate practices violate a number of its WTO and IMF membership obligations, including the WTO prohibition on export subsidies and the IMF proscription of currency manipulation.

Consider imposing an immediate, across-the-board tariff on Chinese imports unless China significantly strengthens the value of its currency against the dollar or against a basket of currencies. The tariff should be set at a level approximating the impact of the undervalued yuan. The United States can justify such an action under WTO Article

XXI, which allows members to take necessary actions to protect their national security. China's undervalued currency has contributed to a loss of U.S. manufacturing, which is a national security concern for the United States.

Reduce the ability of the Treasury Department to use technical definitions to avoid classifying China as a currency manipulator by amending the 1988 Omnibus Trade Act to (i) include a clear definition of currency manipulation, and (ii) eliminate the requirement that a country must be running a material global trade surplus in order for the Secretary of the Treasury to determine that the country is manipulating its currency to gain a trade advantage.

ADDRESSING INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS (IPR) VIOLATIONS

The Commission recommends that Congress urge USTR to immediately file one or more WTO disputes pertaining to China's violation of its WTO IPR obligations, particularly China's failure to meet the requisite standards of effective enforcement, including criminal enforcement.

TREATING CHINA AS A NONMARKET ECONOMY

The Commission recommends that Congress require that the Department of Commerce obtain Congressional approval before implementing any determination that a nonmarket economy such as China has achieved market economy status. Congress should ensure that China continues to be treated as a nonmarket economy in the application of antidumping and countervailing duties through 2016, as is explicitly permitted by China's WTO accession agreement, unless China clearly meets the statutory requirements for market economy status.

WTO DISPUTE RESOLUTION

The Commission recommends that Congress establish a review body of distinguished, retired U.S. jurists and legal experts to evaluate the dispute resolution mechanism at the WTO. The review body would consider all decisions made by a WTO dispute settlement panel or appellate body that are contrary to the U.S. position taken in the case. In each instance, a finding would be made as to whether the WTO ruling exceeded the WTO's authority by placing new international obligations on the United States that it did not assent to in joining the WTO. If three affirmative findings were made in five years, Congress would be prompted to reconsider the relationship between the United States and the WTO.

ENHANCING THE EFFECTIVENESS OF U.S. TRADE REMEDIES

The Commission recommends that Congress authorize compensation to petitioners in the Section 421 safeguard process for legal fees incurred in cases where the ITC finds that market disruption has occurred but the President has denied relief. Congress should also consider eliminating presidential discretion in the application of relief through Section 421 petitions or limiting discretion to the consideration of non-economic national security factors.

The Commission recommends that Congress maintain the Continued Dumping and Subsidies Offset Act of 2000 (CDSOA or the ''Byrd Amendment''), notwithstanding the WTO's ruling that the law is inconsistent with WTO requirements, and accept any retaliatory tariffs that may ensue as the U.S. is permitted to do under its WTO obligations. Congress should press the Administration to seek explicit recognition during the WTO's Doha Round negotiations of the right of WTO members to distribute monies collected from antidumping and countervailing duties to injured parties.

The Commission recommends that Congress clarify without delay the authority of the Committee on the Implementation of Textile Agreements (CITA) to consider threat-based petitions for use of the China-specific textile safeguard negotiated as part of China's WTO agreement.

The Commission recommends that Congress direct the Department of Commerce to make countervailing duties applicable to nonmarket economies to provide an additional tool to combat China's use of government subsidies for its exporters.

The Commission recommends that Congress repeal the ''new shipper bonding privilege'' that has allowed many importers of Chinese goods to avoid payment of antidumping duties. Importers of goods subject to anti-dumping or countervailing duties should be required to deposit in cash the amount of any estimated applicable duty.

COUNTERING CHINA'S GOVERNMENT SUBSIDIES

The Commission recommends that Congress direct USTR and Commerce to investigate China's system of government subsidies for manufacturing, including tax incentives, preferential access to credit and capital from financial institutions owned or influenced by the state, subsidized utilities, and investment conditions requiring technology transfers. The investigation should also examine discriminatory consumption credits that shift demand toward Chinese goods, particularly as a tactic of import substitution for steel, Chinese state-owned banks' practice of noncommercial-based policy lending to state-owned and other enterprises, and China's dual pricing system for coal and other energy resources. USTR and Commerce should provide the results of this investigation in a report to Congress that assesses whether any of these practices may be actionable subsidies under the WTO.

Mr. GRAHAM. What do they tell us? There was a general consensus among the witnesses—they held 2 days of hearings—that China remains in violation of its WTO obligations in a number of areas impacting vital U.S. economic interests:

It has become increasingly clear that China is not meeting key commitments it made when joining the WTO and that our trade laws have to date been insufficient in addressing these problems.

They lay out the problems: China currency manipulation, intellectual property theft; treating China as a nonmarket economy; lack of enforcement of U.S. trade remedies that are on the books; China subsidies to businesses that are in violation to WTO.

We have had a very tepid response to China's cheating across the board and we are paying a huge price. Many Americans are losing jobs not because they are being outworked, or because the Chinese are smarter, but because they are being cheated out of their jobs. One way is that the Chinese have taken the value of their currency and artificially suppressed it, creating a discount on every product coming out of China to the detriment of American manufacturing and the world community at large, and all we do is talk to China.

A lot of people are depending on us to do something about China in a constructive fashion. Is this the best way to have done it? No. This is the only way I know of, after 2 years, to get anybody's attention, our attention or China's attention. We passed a sense-of-the-Senate resolution in 2003 that was a compromise that Senator SCHUMER and I made. OK, let's get the Senate on record. It was a sense of the Senate, and no one objected that China is manipulating its currency in violation of international norms and it costs Americans jobs. That was 2 years ago.

Last year, we were going to put it on the FSC/ETI bill. Everybody said you are going to mess up the bill. So we had a colloquy with Senator GRASSLEY, who is a good friend, and we talked about holding hearings and we talked about engaging China anew, because we didn't want to mess up the bill by bringing this bill forward. That was over a year ago. Not one thing has changed—not one hearing—and the problem gets worse and worse. The balance of trade between us and China is absolutely shameful. We are doing nothing about it other than talking.

Well, this amendment does something about it other than talking. Let me tell you what the U.S.-China Commission said about currency manipulation.

The commission recommends that Congress pursue the following measures to move China toward a significant near-term upward reevaluation of the yuan by at least 25 percent.

We look moderate compared to the United States-China Economic Security Review Commission.

Consider imposing an immediate, across-the-board tariff on Chinese imports unless China significantly strengthens the value of its currency against the dollar or against a basket of currencies.

The experts tell us the yuan is 15 to 40 percent below its true market, causing havoc on American manufacturing.

Reduce the ability of the Treasury Department to use technical definitions to avoid classifying China as a currency manipulator. . . .

They have a list things for us to do. One is imposing an across-the-board tariff. What I and Senators SCHUMER, BUNNING, and others are suggesting we do is put China on notice: In the next 6 months, allow China to move toward reevaluation in a way that will help the American economy, will make China a true, fair member of nations, and if they do not act in the next 6 months in some significant way, then we will look at the ability of this country to protect ourselves against a Communist dictatorship that cheats. And if the Senate is not here to protect the American worker against a Communist dictatorship that cheats, what the heck are we here for?

I hope we will send a message to China they can understand because apparently they do not understand what we are saying any other way.

I have enjoyed this experience working in a bipartisan fashion to stand up for American business interests that are being cheated out of jobs because of a Communist dictatorship that cheats and is building up their military at our expense.

To the American manufacturing community, there are a million other ways we can help. I talked with Governor Engler today. We are going to do more domestically and internationally to level the playing field, but this is a significant start. Will it solve all the problems? No. Will this put China on notice as they have never been put on notice before? Yes. And if we fail to adopt this message, we are also sending a message to China. I am not sure that is a message the American worker can stand having sent to China.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that all the sponsors of the bill, S. 600—the amendment is identical to the bill—be added to amendment No. 309.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Further, I ask unanimous consent that Senator DURBIN's name be added as a cosponsor to this amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that Senator BURR be added as a cosponsor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. Senator BURR will be added as a cosponsor.

The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I would like a followup to some of the comments the Senator from South Carolina has made in reference to our legislation.

First, I will mention the cosponsors of this bill, in addition to Senator GRAHAM and myself, as well as Senator BUNNING. They are: Senator REID, the minority leader, Senator BAYH, Senator DODD, Senator BURR, Senator DEWINE, Senator STABENOW, Senator MIKULSKI, Senator JOHNSON, Senator KOHL, and Senator FEINGOLD, and there are others as well. Senator DOLE I know is a cosponsor as well on the main bill. Now she is added to this amendment as well.

Mr. President, we have asked over and over again those who have said, Don't do this amendment, we know your intention is good, but don't do it, we have asked them over and over, What do we do? Secretary Snow called Senator GRAHAM and me and asked us not to do the amendment, give them a chance to negotiate with the Chinese. That was over a year ago.

You may recall before he even set foot in China, as his plane was in the air, the Chinese Government announced: Do not even try to negotiate on this; we are not changing. We are going to keep pegging our currency—which devalues our currency.

I sat down with a group of leading New York business people. It was at the invitation of one of them who gathered the group of very bright men in an effort to persuade me not to be for this amendment. After an hour and a half, they all agreed it was the right thing to do because we made the argument to them that day that if you believe in free trade, you cannot have one of the largest trading countries abjectly violating the rules. It does not work. It does not work for China, it does not work for America, and it does not work for the rest of the world.

If anyone doubts that the Chinese really play fair, let me mention one little story, and this is the kind of thing that drives us crazy. There is a company in Cortland, NY, called Marietta. Cortland has had tough times. It is an industrial town. Smith Corona used to make typewriters there. It obviously does not do that anymore. Buckbee-Mears had a big ball bearing plant, and that closed. The one saving grace of Cortland was Marietta, which kept growing.

Marietta makes a product we all use. They are the manufacturer of the little soaps and little shampoos that you get when you go to hotels and motels. The way Marietta gets its business, the chairman told me, is that they go to the big hotel companies, such as Hilton, and they say: You pick the color of the soap and the smell of the soap, and we will make sure it is in every room. That is how they have Hilton and other big companies as their customers.

Only one country does not allow Marietta to import its soap and its shampoo—China. When the president called me and I visited the plant up in Cortland, NY, 30 miles south of Syracuse, he told me that the Chinese now do their own business in China. They are using that protected market in China to compete with Marietta now in Southeast Asia, in Europe, and soon in America.

I said: Why don't you file with the WTO?

He said: I will get an answer in about 8 years, and I will be out of business.

Mr. President, I say to my colleagues, I could not agree more with what Senator GRAHAM said. We must do something. This is the best thing to do. It is certainly a lot better than what we have been doing over the last 2 years, which is absolutely nothing.

I urge, on behalf of free trade, on behalf of the world system that really works, and on behalf of saying to countries, You have to play by the rules to gain the benefits, you should not have a $162 billion trade surplus and not play by the rules, I urge them to support the amendment on which Senator GRAHAM and I have worked so long and hard.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I, too, believe in free trade, but I share Senator SCHUMER's thoughts and Senator GRAHAM's ideas. A great nation such as China needs to understand it has moved to a different level, that it sells an incredible amount of products to the United States of America, and what they do with the value of their currency impacts that trade.

What they have done is not sound policy. Because I believe in free trade, I believe it is not even going to be good for China. It is certainly not good for the United States today.

I do not want to be involved in telling a nation what their currency ought to be. I know the Senator from New York and the Senator from South Carolina do not believe they should, but this is reality.

We are not talking about theory. We moved beyond theory. It is jobs. It is trade. It is a deficit trade that we have with China to an extraordinary degree that continues to grow. So I thank the Senators for their efforts, and I would be pleased to support their amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Who seeks time?

The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. I do not believe we have any more speakers on deck.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, as I indicated at the outset of the debate, as we asked recognition of the Senators who have spoken so eloquently on this amendment, the issue before the Senate is the preservation of the authorization bill itself that we are debating. The issue has been often expressed, but let me mention it again, that the Finance Committee claims jurisdiction of this item. They also have indicated, both on the Senate and House sides, that they will prevent passage of the authorization bill for the State Department and foreign assistance if this item and, for that matter, several others that have been included in prospective amendments are adopted as a part of this bill.

I will not debate the merits of the amendment on China. We have had a hearing before our Foreign Relations Committee and delved into what is clearly a very complex and important issue. I do know, however, that even as we had the hearing for our own information and that of the public, we understood the jurisdictional question. We have tried to respect that. Therefore, on this amendment and on others that also are clearly in the jurisdiction of the Finance or of other committees, I feel compelled, for the sake of preserving this bill, to move to table the amendment.

I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is on agreeing to the motion. The yeas and nays have been ordered. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 33, nays 67, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 86 Leg.]

YEAS—33

Alexander	Coleman	Lugar
Allard	Collins	McCain
Baucus	DeMint	McConnell
Bennett	Ensign	Murkowski
Bond	Feinstein	Murray
Brownback	Frist	Nelson (NE)
Burns	Grassley	Roberts
Cantwell	Gregg	Smith (OR)
Carper	Hagel	Stevens
Chafee	Kyl	Sununu
Cochran	Lott	Wyden

NAYS—67

Akaka	Durbin	Nelson (FL)
Allen	Enzi	Obama
Bayh	Feingold	Pryor
Biden	Graham	Reed
Bingaman	Harkin	Reid
Boxer	Hatch	Rockefeller
Bunning	Hutchison	Salazar
Burr	Inhofe	Santorum
Byrd	Inouye	Sarbanes
Chambliss	Isakson	Schumer
Clinton	Jeffords	Sessions
Coburn	Johnson	Shelby
Conrad	Kennedy	Snowe
Cornyn	Kerry	Specter
Corzine	Kohl	Stabenow
Craig	Landrieu	Talent
Crapo	Lautenberg	Thomas
Dayton	Leahy	Thune
DeWine	Levin	Vitter
Dodd	Lieberman	Voinovich
Dole	Lincoln	Warner
Domenici	Martinez	
Dorgan	Mikulski	

The motion was rejected.

Mr. LIEBERMAN. Mr. President, I voted for Senator SCHUMER's and Senator GRAHAM's China currency amendment even though I prefer my own legislation, S. 377, on this issue, which is consistent with our international obligations. Nonetheless, I supported this amendment to send a message to the administration that the time for action on currency manipulation has come.

I acknowledge that if passed, this legislation may be disruptive to our trade obligations. But as noted economist Fred Bergsten wrote in the Financial Times on March 15, the world economy would suffer from a rapid and precipitous decline in the U.S. currency. Such a shock could drive up interest rates and curb U.S. growth to the detriment of all our trading partners.

These risks are greatly exacerbated by the growing U.S. current account deficit and the connected actions by some countries, including China, that are blocking the orderly adjustment of the U.S. dollar by their direct currency intervention. It is long past time for market forces to be allowed to work and time for the administration to press this issue. I note that if national security problems arise, the President under the amendment has waiver authority.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MARTINEZ). The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. LUGAR. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will continue the call of the roll.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. LUGAR. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There is objection. The clerk will continue calling the roll.

The legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask the Senator from Massachusetts and the Senator from New Jersey would they be in agreement that a 15-minute presentation at this point would be possible, and then they would yield to me? I make this request because we have an existential crisis with the bill. Unless we solve it, we will probably not be continuing. This is serious. I understand you have an important colloquy. If it can be contained in 15 minutes, that would be fine.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. We appreciate the opportunity that the Senator has given us.

Mr. KENNEDY. Could we ask then that the Senator from Indiana be recognized after 15 minutes to take whatever action is necessary?

Mr. LUGAR. Yes. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to proceed as has been mentioned.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Jersey is recognized.

INDEPENDENCE OF THE JUDICIARY

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I want to discuss the situation that is developing, questioning the value of the separation of powers, about whether one of the powers has rights that succeed the powers of the other. Particularly, my subject now regards the judiciary and whether it is a free, unencumbered judiciary, as it ought to be.

Mr. KENNEDY. Will the Senator from New Jersey be kind enough to yield for a brief observation and question?

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Yes.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, the Senator from New Jersey is addressing the Senate on a very important issue, the independence of the judiciary. I think this is an important statement. Many of us have been deeply concerned by statements that have been made recently by Congressman TOM DELAY, who used the words, ''The time will come for men responsible for this to answer for their behavior,'' in relationship to the decision of the courts in the Schiavo case. The Senator from Texas has also mentioned and talked about the judiciary in a similar vein this week..

I ask unanimous consent that a New York Times editorial, regarding these statements be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the New York Times, Apr. 6, 2005]

THE JUDGES MADE THEM DO IT

It was appalling when the House majority leader threatened political retribution against judges who did not toe his extremist political line. But when a second important Republican stands up and excuses murderous violence against judges as an understandable reaction to their decisions, then it is time to get really scared.

It happened on Monday, in a moment that was horrifying even by the rock-bottom standards of the campaign that Republican zealots are conducting against the nation's judiciary. Senator John Cornyn, a Texas Republican, rose in the chamber and dared to argue that recent courthouse violence might be explained by distress about judges who ''are making political decisions yet are unaccountable to the public.'' The frustration ''builds up and builds up to the point where some people engage in'' violence, said Mr. Cornyn, a former member of the Texas Supreme Court who is on the Senate Judiciary Committee, which supposedly protects the Constitution and its guarantee of an independent judiciary.

Listeners could only cringe at the events behind Mr. Cornyn's fulminating: an Atlanta judge was murdered in his courtroom by a career criminal who wanted only to shoot his way out of a trial, and a Chicago judge's mother and husband were executed by a deranged man who was furious that she had dismissed a wild lawsuit. It was sickening that an elected official would publicly offer these sociopaths as examples of any democratic value, let alone as holders of legitimate concerns about the judiciary.

The need to shield judges from outside threats—including those from elected officials like Senator Cornyn—is a priceless principle of our democracy. Senator Cornyn offered a smarmy proclamation of ''great distress'' at courthouse thuggery. Then he rationalized it with broadside accusations that judges ''make raw political or ideological decisions.'' He thumbed his nose at the separation of powers, suggesting that the Supreme Court be ''an enforcer of political decisions made by elected representatives of the people.'' Avoiding that nightmare is precisely why the founders made federal judgeships lifetime jobs and created a nomination process that requires presidents to seek bipartisan support.

Echoes of the political hijacking of the Terri Schiavo case hung in the air as Mr. Cornyn spoke, just days after the House majority leader, Tom DeLay, vengefully vowed that ''the time will come'' to make the judges who resisted the Congressional Republicans' gruesome deathbed intrusion ''answer for their behavior.'' Trying to intimidate judges used to be a crime, not a bombastic cudgel for cynical politicians.

The public's hope must be that Senator Cornyn's shameful outburst gives further

pause to Senate moderates about the threats of the majority leader, Senator Bill Frist, to scrap the filibuster to ensure the confirmation of President Bush's most extremist judicial nominees. Dr. Frist tried to distance himself yesterday from Mr. DeLay's attack on the judiciary. But Dr. Frist must carry the militants' baggage if he is ever to run for president, and he complained yesterday of ''a real fire lighted by Democrats around judges over the last few days.''

By Democrats? The senator should listen to what's being said on his side of the aisle, if he can bear it.

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I draw to the attention of the Senate that today the Judicial Conference has asked the White House and the Senate for $12 million to help protect judges from violence. When we see leaders in Congress making statements which clearly have incited, or threaten to incite, violence against judges, the same judges, honorable men and women appointed to uphold America's laws and ideals, who are living in fear of violence, we must be concerned.

The Judicial Conference is requesting $12 million to provide protection for the American judiciary. What in the world is this Congress and this Senate coming to? I think it is appropriate for the leaders and other members in this body and the House to tone down their rhetoric, and avoid the threats to the American judiciary. I think that is absolutely unconscionable.

When you have the Judicial Conference asking for this, that indicates where the judges themselves—made up of Republicans and Democrats—are coming from. I intend to offer an amendment on the supplemental to positively respond to their request and to get the $12 million. I am interested if my friend from New Jersey would cosponsor that.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Yes, I would be pleased to. Mr. President, I ask the Senator from Massachusetts, why should we be surprised they ask for more protection? We have seen atrocious assaults on members of the bench and their families.

What we see is, I think, the beginning of a firestorm, and the problem is that the fuel is being provided by comments made here and in the other body.

I start off by reading from article III, section 1 of the U.S. Constitution. It says:

The judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.

It is pretty clear to me. It says judicial power is vested in our courts, not in the Congress. The Constitution gives the Senate a role in the appointment of judges, and we are supposed to provide advice and consent, not direction. But once a judge is seated on the bench, his or her decisions are not subject to our approval.

The Founding Fathers, in their brilliance, set it up that way on purpose. They wanted to make sure that court decisions would be based on legal grounds, not political grounds. But today there is an orchestrated effort to smear the reputation of the judiciary, especially Federal judges. And the effort is being waged by Republicans in Congress as a prelude to an attempt to change the rules for confirming judicial nominations.

In order to justify this nuclear option, they are trying to paint judges as ''activists'' and ''out of control.''

In reality, it is the leadership of this Congress that is out of control and endangering the future of a fair court system.

In this Chamber on Monday, one of our colleagues said Americans are becoming frustrated by the rulings of the judges—so be it; that is all right, you can be frustrated as much as you want—but then he accused the judges of making ''raw political or ideological decisions.'' That was in the quote from our colleague's statement.

He went on to say:

I wonder whether there may be some connection between the perception in some quarters, on some occasions, where judges are making political decisions yet are unaccountable to the public . . . that it builds up and builds up and builds up to the point where—

Listen to this—

where some people engage in violence.

These are comments made by a Senator. The remarks are almost unbelievable. Yet they echo the words last week of the House majority leader. Speaking of the judges in the Schiavo case, the House majority leader said:

The time will come for the men responsible for this to answer for their behavior.

What does that imply? These are inflammatory words. They ignore the fact that our Founding Fathers wanted judges to be insulated from political pressure, and they are words that could easily incite violence against judges.

On this past Sunday, a columnist in the hometown newspaper of the House majority leader, the Houston Chronicle, wrote:

It is time for him to stop sputtering ill-tempered threats, not only at the judiciary but also at the U.S. Constitution, which he repeatedly has sworn to uphold.

There were two matters that made things worse, two recent episodes to which the Senator from Massachusetts made reference involving violence against judges and their families. In Chicago, a man fatally shot the husband and the mother of a Federal judge who had ruled against him in a medical malpractice suit. And in Atlanta last month, a man broke away from a deputy, killed four people, including the judge presiding over his rape trial. Is that what these people see? Is that what our colleagues saw? Is that what the House majority leader saw, an opportunity to take revenge on judges who make decisions with which they disagree? What are we, some lawless nation where if you do not like it, you kill the person who did it?

Were these judges who suffered terribly while performing their official duties activists? Were they out of control?

The message being sent to the American people by the other side of the aisle is not only irresponsible, but downright dangerous to our Nation's judges.

Like the nuclear option, the goal here is to have judges make political decisions rather than legal decisions. They are trying to intimidate sitting judges, and they are trying to change Senate rules to get bad judges on the bench.

I vow to fight this nuclear option, as well as these irresponsible threatening statements. I do that for my family and for American families across this country.

In my view, the true measure of democracy is how it dispenses justice. In this country, any attempt to intimidate judges not only threatens our courts but our fundamental democracy as well.

I note that a letter was sent out most recently by the distinguished majority leader. It is dated March 31, 2005. He invites colleagues—it says: ''Get a Fresh Perspective on Our Nation's''—this is on the majority leader's stationery—''Get a Fresh Perspective on Our Nation's Religious Heritage with a Special Tour of the U.S. Capitol'':

Dear Colleague: I am writing to invite you and your family to a private tour of the U.S. Capitol Building with WallBuilders' President, David Barton, on Monday, April 11, 2005. The walking tour will commence at my office—

And he identifies the location of his office and the time, and then adds:

David Barton is the founder and President of WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization which distributes historical, legal, and statistical information, and helps citizens become active in their local schools and communities. He is an historian noted for his detailed research into the studied the religious heritage of our nation. Among some of the interesting facts made by Mr. Barton:

The U.S. Capitol served as a church building for decades.

The first English-language Bible in America was printed and endorsed by the United States Congress.

The original Supreme Court—composed of numerous signers of the Constitution—began their sessions with ministers coming in and praying for the Court, the jury, and their deliberations.

The majority leader goes on to say:

You will also learn inspiring stories behind the faces, paintings, and statues in the U.S. Capitol Building and view original documents from George Washington and others . . . which are depicted in artwork. . . .

I have read something of Mr. Barton's biography:

Mr. Barton intends to prove that the separation of church and state is a myth, and that America's Founders intended for the United States to be a Christian nation.

Does that mean those of us who are not Christian—whether Muslim, Jewish, or some other religion—are not part of this great nation?

The majority leader is the one making this suggestion. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that this letter be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. SENATE,
Washington, DC, March 31, 2005.

GET A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON OUR NATION'S RELIGIOUS HERITAGE WITH A SPECIAL TOUR OF THE U.S. CAPITOL

DEAR COLLEAGUE: I am writing to invite you and your family to a private tour of the U.S. Capitol Building with WallBuilders' President, David Barton on Monday, April 11, 2005. The walking tour will commence at my office, S–230 of the U.S. Capitol at 6:00 p.m. and conclude at 7:00 p.m.

David Barton is the founder and President of WallBuilders, a national pro-family organization which distributes historical,legal, and statistical information, and helps citizens become active in their local schools and communities. he is an historian noted for his detailed research into the religious heritage of our nation. Among some of the interesting facts covered by Mr. Barton:

The U.S. Capitol Building served as a church building for decades.

The first English-language Bible in America was printed and endorsed by the United States Congress.

The original Supreme Court—composed of numerous signers of the Consititution—began their sessions with ministers coming in and praying over the Court, the jury, and their deliberations.

You will also learn inspiring stories behind the faces, paintings, and statues in the U.S. Capitol Building and view original documents from George Washington and others (some that are over 400 years old) which are depicted in artwork throughout the Capitol.

If you and your family would like to participate, contact Brook Whitfield in my office at 202–224–0948 or brook_whitfield@first.senate.gov to RSVP. I look forward to seeing you then.

Sincerely,

WILLIAM H. FRIST M.D.,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I quote from this report:

Now Barton appears to be angling for a spot on the national stage. He is touring the nation again, this time with financial support from the Republican National Committee as part of what is described as a larger get-out-the-vote effort.

As he tours the country, Barton leads pastors in sessions examining the role Christianity played in America's founding and puts forth his usual shaky thesis. But Barton doesn't stop there. Barton's not-so-subtle message is that America's Christian heritage is at risk—and only voting Republican can save it.

I want those who hear me across America to pay attention: ''Christian heritage is at risk.'' That means that all the outsiders, all of those who approach God differently but are people who believe in a supreme being; people who behave and live peacefully with their neighbors and their friends. No, this is being put forward as an attempt—a not too subtle attempt—to make sure people understand that America is a Christian country. Therefore, we ought to take the time the majority leader offers us, as Members of the Senate, for a chance to learn more about how invalid the principle of separation between church and state is.

I hope the American public sees this plan as the spurious attempt it is.

I ask my colleagues if they want to go to a Christian-only spokesman who will tell us about how insignificant the separation between church and state is. The question is fundamental to the Constitution. Are we a country of laws? If we are, then we must respect the law and we must hold the law free from threats.

How does it feel when one looks at the Federal judge in Chicago who had her husband and her mother murdered because someone disagreed with her legal decision? How do we feel about seeing this guy break loose in Atlanta and kill the judge and a deputy? Senator KENNEDY just mentioned the fact that there was a $12 million request for security for judges and courtrooms. I do not blame them. This is not some lawless country where if a judge makes a decision he better run for his life; nor is it Iraq, where those who are upholding the law are getting killed because other people disagree with them. We should not stand for this.

I ask the majority leader to withdraw that invitation to tour the U.S. Capitol with this man who says that this should be a Christian-only country. How can he dare undermine the principles that are in our brilliant Constitution that was written so many years ago? We are entering a dangerous period, in my view.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The time of the Senator has expired.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, work continues among a number of Senators who are deeply interested, as I am, in the resolution and the amendment ahead of us. For the moment it appears we ought to give more time to this discussion. So I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. LUGAR. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard. The quorum call will be continued.

The legislative clerk continued to call the roll.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, in a moment I am hopeful the Chair may recognize the distinguished Senator from Connecticut, Mr. DODD, for 10 minutes in which he will offer an amendment. On our side, we are prepared to accept the amendment. Therefore, we will at least make some progress while the other discussion continues.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut is recognized.

AMENDMENT NO. 318

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I send an amendment to the desk and ask for its consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, the pending amendment is set aside.

The clerk will report.

The bill clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Connecticut [Mr. DODD], for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN, proposes an amendment numbered 318.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the reading of the amendment be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment is as follows:

(Purpose: To specify requirements under the Arms Export Control Act applicable to the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program (also known as the Marine One Presidential Helicopter Program).

At the end of subtitle B of title XXII, add the following:

SEC. 2239. APPLICABILITY OF ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT REQUIREMENTS TO VHXX EXECUTIVE HELICOPTER PROGRAM.

(a) TREATMENT AS COOPERATIVE PROJECT.—The VHXX Executive Helicopter Program (also known as the Marine One Presidential Helicopter Program) shall be treated as a cooperative project for purposes of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) as authorized under section 27 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2767).

(b) LICENSING AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any licensing and notice to Congress requirements that apply to the sale of defense articles and services under the Arms Export Control Act shall apply to any foreign production (including the export of technical data related thereto) under the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program without regard to any dollar threshold or limitation that would otherwise limit the applicability of such requirements to such production under that Act.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding the treatment of the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program as a cooperative project for purposes of the Arms Export Control Act under subsection (a), section 27(g) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2767(g)) shall not be applicable to the program, and the notice requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of section 36 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2776) shall be complied with in the issuance of any letters of offer or licenses for the program as required by paragraph (1).

(c) LIMITATION ON ISSUANCE OF LICENSES.—No license may be issued under the Arms Export Control Act for any portion of the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program, including research and development and the sharing of technical data relating to the program, until each participant in the program agrees, in writing, not to enter into any contract, or otherwise do any business, with any party who is subject to the jurisdiction of a country that supports international terrorism for five years after the date of the completion of the participation of such participant in the program.

(d) COUNTRY THAT SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''country that supports international terrorism'' means any country whose government has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of either of the provisions of law as follows:

(1) Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)).

(2) Section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371).

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, in order to move things along in time, I appreciate the willingness of the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee to accept the amendment. It is very simple amendment.

It says that foreign companies involved in developing the President's Marine One helicopter must pledge in writing that they will not conduct business with state-sponsors of terrorism during the contract and 5 years after it has been completed. Moreover, it provides that those involved in building such technologies will be subject to at least the same export licensing requirements as other defense projects built jointly by the U.S. and foreign manufacturers, as governed by the U.S. Arms Export Control Act.

The principle is clear, and hardly controversial. I am sure my colleagues will agree that there are few more sensitive and more important national security concerns than the safe transport of our country's chief executive. But the aircraft we are talking about today is far more than a mode of transportation. It will be outfitted with some of the most advanced technology available to ensure secure communications and easy maneuvering to avoid any possible threats from the ground and air. As long as the President is in flight, this aircraft will be a global nerve center, with critical information constantly flowing in and essential decisions flowing out. This aircraft needs to be safe and secure, and well-equipped to ensure secure communications. For obvious reasons, the technology making this happen needs to be protected at all costs.

We cannot afford to let America's enemies gain access to any of this critically important technology. That is why companies involved in developing Marine One cannot be allowed to have any relations with our most dangerous adversaries. Such relations might present opportunities for the sharing of designs or materials with state-sponsors of terrorism.

Armed with such information, terrorists could learn about the vulnerabilities of the Presidential helicopter, and attempt to intercept critical communications or effectively target our President from the air or from the ground.

My amendment also says that when it comes to this critically important technology, there should be no chance that anyone wishing America harm could gain access to our most sensitive secrets. When it comes to this critical defense system, there should be no exceptions to our export licensing.

It may come as a surprise to some that this amendment would even be necessary, but it should not come as a surprise that Senator LIEBERMAN, my cosponsor on this amendment, and I are deeply concerned about what could happen. But I am afraid that troubling reports have surfaced about a European partner in the manufacturing team recently awarded the contract to build Marine One. As many of my colleagues know, Agusta Westland, an Italian-British consortium, was tasked with building this helicopter's basic design as well as manufacturing approximately 30 percent of the aircraft's components, including the rotor blades to be built in Yeovil, England, and the main transmission, to be constructed in Cascina Costa, Italy.

Obviously, I have some local interests in this case. The Navy selected the European/American team over the Connecticut-based, All-American Sikorsky team which has administered the Marine One contract for about 50 years. Truth be told, I believe that Sikorsky has a better performing, more experienced aircraft team as well as a superior design. But my concerns go beyond parochial interests, and even the technical merits of the aircraft. I am gravely troubled about the impact this contract award will have on the United States' ability to stay competitive in the global helicopter industry. But more importantly, I am deeply troubled that the European partner in the winning contractor team is currently considering conducting business with a sworn enemy of the United States—the Islamic Republic of Iran.

I have here a list of companies who recently attended an air show in Kish, Iran, exhibiting their wares, and soliciting business from the Iranian Government. Listed at number 50 on this list is Agusta Westland as well as its parent company Finneccanica at number 52. We do not know what they were marketing at their exhibits during the January 18–21 trade show, but it is surely the view of this Senator that no government manufacturer of such sensitive technology as the U.S. Presidential helicopter has any business even entertaining the idea of doing business with state sponsors of terrorism such as Iran.

How can we allow the chance that a sworn adversary of the United States like Iran could gain access to America's most sensitive defense technologies? I know that my colleagues are keenly aware of the history of Iran's government, dating back to the taking of American hostages in 1979 and the installation of a brutal fundamentalist dictatorship. But let me be utterly clear about the threat that we are dealing with here. We are talking about one of the three members of what President Bush referred to as "the Axis of Evil." This is how the State Department described U.S. relations with Iran in its most recent Iran country report:

> As a state sponsor of terrorism Iran remains an impediment to international efforts to locate and prosecute terrorists . . . The U.S. Government defines its areas of objectionable Iranian behavior as the following: Iranian efforts to acquire nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction; Its support for and involvement in international terrorism; Its support for violent opposition to the Middle East peace process; and Its dismal human rights record.

President Bush himself referred to the threat posed by Iran in his most recent State of the Union address, stating:

> Today, Iran remains the world's primary state sponsor of terror, pursuing nuclear weapons while depriving its people of the freedom they seek and deserve.

Unclassified intelligence reports have attributed dozens of acts of international terrorism to the Iranian government or surrogate terrorist groups since the 1990s. One such Iranian surrogate is Islamic Jihad, also known as Hezbollah, which publicly has claimed responsibility for a number of attacks on innocent civilians throughout the world from Argentina to Israel. And they continue to prosecute attacks in Israel, and threaten instability in Lebanon.

Meanwhile, terrorists are moving in and out of Iraq and Afghanistan across Iranian borders, attacking U.S. troops with either Tehran's support or outright sponsorship. And today, as we entrust the security of our President and our most sensitive national security secrets to a major European subcontractor, we are facing the prospect of having such a critical U.S. defense system shared with one of the America's gravest adversaries.

The stakes could not be any higher. We cannot afford to allow critical American technology to fall into the hands of terrorist states. And we cannot allow those who wish us harm access to information on any aircraft that would be carrying the President of the United States.

For these reasons, I am offering this amendment which, I repeat, addresses two critical concerns that I have raised here today:

First, my amendment forbids any company involved in building the Marine One aircraft from conducting business with a state sponsor of terrorism; second, it subjects the Marine One contract to standard export controls governing joint U.S.-foreign defense programs, waiving exemptions provided to companies from NATO countries.

I know that there are some who might object to this provision as being too harsh on our allies, particularly since it eliminates waiver protections pertaining to companies in NATO countries. But the honest and sobering reality is that I am not proposing anything nearly as drastic as what our NATO allies are currently doing in the conduct of their own defense contracts.

Unlike the legitimate security concerns I have voiced here on the floor today, our European friends are currently banning non-European helicopter manufacturers from even competing for bids in their countries, simply in order to protect their domestic defense industry. As this chart demonstrates—in the market for medium lift helicopters, the U.S. has been banned from even bidding for contracts with the governments of the United Kingdom, France, Portugal, Norway, the Netherlands, Sweden, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Italy, and Greece.

My amendment does not attempt to impose the same protectionist measures that these countries have imposed. This measure is critically important in safeguarding secrets that are fundamental to our Nation's government. It will ensure that no person with access to our most sensitive national security technologies has the opportunity to share these critical secrets with those who would wish us harm. We are simply standing up for the most sensitive security interests of our nation and the safety of our President.

Anything less would be reckless and a dereliction of our duty as Americans.

I merely point to this fact. Nothing in this amendment would suggest we ought to keep them out of our own country, but we ought to be aware that, while we are talking about free trade, in the European nations themselves a United States firm cannot even get in the bidding process. So there are other reasons why this amendment ought to be adopted.

I urge my colleagues to do so, and I thank the chairman of the committee for supporting the amendment.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, as I indicated at the outset, we are prepared on our side to accept the amendment. Therefore, I urge its adoption.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. COBURN). Is there further debate?

Without objection, the amendment is agreed to.

The amendment (No. 318) was agreed to.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I move to reconsider the vote.

Mr. LUGAR. I move to lay that motion on the table.

The motion to lay on the table was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Virginia.

Mr. WARNER. Mr. President, this amendment has the effect of placing a serious impediment, if not an absolute block, against the United States proceeding to fulfillment of a contract entered into by the Department of Defense—more specifically, the Navy Department having been the executive agent on this contract—for the procurement of the replacement helicopters commonly referred to as marine I. It is the fleet that serves the President primarily and others associated with the White House.

This contract was in negotiation for over a year. It was an open and free competition. So far as I know there was no question raised against the contract being awarded to the winning company, a U.S. company, together with a consortium of overseas participants with, nevertheless, the U.S. company being the lead company.

The amendment was drafted to the Arms Export Control Act and it is intended to prevent the Navy from going forward with this acquisition program. This is a matter that is clearly within the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee. Normally, we consult committees before acting.

I do not fault the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee. I think at the time this was done very hastily, it was not clear to the staff and the chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee that it was within the jurisdiction of the Armed Services Committee. Otherwise, I would have come over to the floor earlier.

Now, the amendment having been adopted, I, together with my two distinguished colleagues from New York, Senators CLINTON and SCHUMER, will address this matter tomorrow or during the course of the further consideration of the Foreign Affairs Authorization Act. But I can assure you, we will employ every parliamentary device available to us to see that this matter is rectified because I think it was not done in a manner that is consistent with what we normally do around here by way of procedures. Secondly, I think it is detrimental to the whole performance of the contracting and procurement responsibilities of the Secretary of Defense.

So for the moment, for those interested in this contract, let it be known there is a group of us who are going to have this reexamined and, if necessary, take it to the full Senate for consideration before this bill is finally acted upon.

I thank the Chair.

Mr. LUGAR. I am advised the distinguished Senator from Illinois has a statement he would like to make at this time. I ask the Chair to allocate 5 minutes to the Senator and then to recognize me following that statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I wonder if I might be recognized after the distinguished chairman, Chairman LUGAR.

Mr. LUGAR. I amend my request that after I am recognized, the distinguished Senator from Alabama be recognized.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Illinois.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN are printed in today's RECORD under "Morning Business.")

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President I ask that the Chair now recognize the distinguished Senator from Alabama. I understand he will discuss amendments but not offer them at this time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered. The Senator from Alabama is recognized.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I want to share some comments about a matter which I became aware of recently. I think it is rather dramatic, and it is a matter which this Senate should deal with.

The United Nations is planning to renovate the United Nations Headquarters Building in New York. The New York Sun reports that they are projecting to spend $1.2 billion to renovate that building. That is a lot of money! But, frankly, I don't know what it takes to build a building in New York, and neither do most folks. But there are some people who do and we'll look to their opinions later.

It is a 30-story building. We own the real estate. It was modern once, when it was built in 1953, and people thought it was avant garde at the time. I have never been impressed with it, but it is an imposing structure. The fact that we need to renovate that building may not be disputable. It probably does need it, although it was renovated pretty substantially in the 1970's. Equivalent in today's dollars, over $150 million was spent on it.

The current plan is for the United States to loan the money at a 5.5 percent interest, a somewhat realistic interest rate, whereas the U.N. is holding out on accepting the offer. They probably would like a loan at no cost. The GAO reported that was Annan's initial desire.

The United Nations, as we know, is notoriously wasteful in the spending of its money. I wish that it weren't so, but it is a plain fact. Their cost controls have never been good. The Oil-For-Food Program that has been discussed so much lately is the biggest boondoggle—fraud, really—in the history of the world. This U.N. program is out of control. Waste of money under any circumstances is not acceptable.

The United States, of course, pays about 20 percent of U.N. dues. We are the largest dues-paying member of the United Nations. I believe we pay a total of 22 percent of those dues. But regardless of that, UN dues are funds that have been sent to the United Nations by nations all over the world, and that money ought to be spent for good things with good purposes, purposes consistent with the ideals and principles on which the United Nations was founded—feeding the poor, improved medical care around the world, aid for research and treatment, river blindness, and peacekeeping missions.

We don't have enough money to handle all the missions we need to do in the world, and the U.N. ought to do more. They do economic development, infrastructure improvements, and democracy building, but there is never enough money to do all of those things we should. Surely, with all the potential beneficial projects in the world, there is no room to waste money on a project, much less a project that would build offices for bureaucrats.

Let me share this story with you, which is pretty shocking to me. The $1.2 billion loan the United Nations wants is to renovate a building. Some member of the United Nations, a delegate, apparently, from Europe, had read in the newspaper in New York that Mr. Donald Trump, the premier real estate developer in New York, the largest in New York by far, who has his own television show now—had just completed the Trump World Tower—not a 30-story building like the United Nations, but a 90-story building, for a

mere $350 million, less than one-third of that cost. So the European United Nations delegate was curious about the $1.2 billion they were spending on the United Nations.

He knew he didn't know what the real estate costs are in New York. So, he called Mr. Trump and they discussed it. Mr. Trump told him that building he built for $350 million was the top of the line. It has the highest quality of anything you would need in it.

They discussed the matter, and an arrangement was made for Mr. Trump to meet Kofi Annan, Secretary-General, to discuss the concerns. The European delegate was somewhat taken back at Trump's reaction because he just didn't know how much it would cost. He had originally thought Mr. Trump's figures that were printed in the paper were in error.

So according to Mr. Trump, who I talked to personally this morning, they go meet with Mr. Annan, who had asked some staff member to be there, and Mr. Trump is very outraged about this staffer. When the European asked how these numbers could happen, Mr. Trump said the only way would be because of incompetence, or fraud. That is how strongly he felt about this price tag because he pointed out to me that renovation costs much less than building an entirely new building. So he has a meeting with Mr. Annan, and they have some discussion. And Mr. Trump says these figures can't be acceptable.

He told me in my conversation this morning, he said: You can quote me. You can say what I am saying. It has already been reported in the newspapers. He said they don't know. The person who had been working on this project for 4 years couldn't answer basic questions about what was involved in renovating a major building. He was not capable nor competent to do the job.

He was further concerned. He went and worked on it, and talked about it, and eventually made an offer. He said he would manage the refurbishment, the renovation, of the United Nations Building, and he would not charge personally for his fee in managing it. He would bring it in at $500 billion, less than half of what they were expecting to spend, and it would be better.

He told me: I know something about refurbishment and renovations. I do a lot of that, also. I know how to do that. Yet he never received a response from the United Nations, which raised very serious concerns in his mind about what was going on there.

Let me further note some comments in the New York Sun article of February 4 of this year dealing with this subject. It starts off quoting Mr. Trump in this fashion:

> ''The United Nations is a mess, and they're spending hundreds of millions of dollars unnecessarily on this project.'' And several other Manhattan real estate experts agreed, saying that the space should cost a fraction of what is being projected on a square foot basis.

In addition to this, by the way, after refurbishing their existing building, there are plans to construct a 35-story, 900,000-square-foot swing space over Robert Moses Park, plus a 100,000-square-foot esplanade park, which the United Nations Development Corporation says will be built into the East River. That has an additional price tag of $650 million. But that is a separate issue because they are having some additional problems with that, I understand, at this point.

> An executive managing director at the commercial real-estate firm Julien J. Studley Inc., Woody Heller, said a thorough renovation of an office building would probably cost between $85 and $160 per square foot.

I am still reading from that newspaper article.

> Also from there, an executive vice president at Newmark, Scott Panzer, said renovation prices could range between $120 and $200 per square foot.

From the article:

> Mr. Panzer, who works with many corporations to redevelop their buildings for future efficiency and energy cost savings, put a price of $70 to $100 per square foot on infrastructure upgrades. Those would include heating; ventilation; air conditioning; replacing the central plant; fenestration (specifically, switching from single-pane to thermal-pane windows); upgrading elevator switch gears, mechanicals, and vertical transportation; improving air quality, and making security upgrades. On top of that amount, another $50 to $100 per square foot would take care of the inside office improvements.

Fifty dollars is a lot of money to renovate a room. Remember, this is renovation, not building. You can probably build a building in Alabama for $100 a square foot.

> The chairman of the global brokerage at commercial real-estate firm CB Richard Ellis, Stephen Siegel, said high-end commercial renovation usually runs from $50 to $100 per square foot. For a renovation that does not include new furniture . . . [and this plan does not] but does provide for improved heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning equipment, as well as work on the building exterior, the cost would be closer to the $100 end of the range, Mr. Siegel said. Even accounting generously for upgrades that might be peculiar to the U.N., Mr. Siegel added he would set $250 per square foot as the absolute maximum.

Some in the industry have estimated, however, that the dimensions of the U.N. headquarters building and total square footage in need of refurbishment is probably actually less than 1.1 million square feet ,less than what they are saying, because it has been suggested that they were counting the parking deck in the renovation and other parts of the building that are not occupied. If you take out the parking deck and these other areas, you get a different figure than the 2.5 million they give you.

Using the U.N. figures, the capital master plan yields a square foot cost of $452.71 for the renovation per square foot. That is breathtaking and completely out of common sense. It is almost twice what Mr. Siegel said would be the absolute maximum.

But that is not all. If you go back and take out the parking deck and some of these other areas of the building that would not normally be considered when you think of the square foot of renovation, let me tell you what the figure comes to, and hold on to your hat: $1,100 per square foot. According to Mr. Trump, this is three, four, maybe five times the cost of this renovation, making this the most expensive renovation in history. Mr. Siegel said the $1.2 billion cost estimate was ''outrageous.'' This is a professional real estate man in New York City. He said the cost of renovation would be nearly as much as the price of putting up a new building, including the cost of land, and he would set the cost of the land at $500 per square foot, but that is already paid for in this case.

This is a big deal. A GAO report has looked at it. It assumes that our Government will pay 22 percent of the $1.2 billion loan principal. In other words, because we pay about that much percentage in our dues to the U.N., we will pay 22 percent of the $1.2 billion paying the principal back. The American taxpayers have a real interest in this.

There are some negotiations now. The administration is saying, you ought to pay some interest. We want to be paid 5.5 percent. We will loan you the money, but we want to be paid 5.5 interest. The U.N. is holding out to accept our loan, perhaps Mr. Annan is holding out for a loan with zero-interest.

We would like the U.N. to have good quarters. We would like them to renovate if that is the right thing to do. However, the United Nations has a responsibility not only to the United States, the largest contributor, but to every single country that contributes to that organization. Many of them are not wealthy. Many of them contribute significantly to the U.N. They have a responsibility to use that money wisely.

I am very concerned in light of the oil-for-food scandal and other problems we have seen at the U.N. that we are heading down the road to an incredibly wasteful adventure in New York. The U.S. Government ought to do everything it can not only to protect our own treasury, but to protect the U.N. Secretary, to make sure this boondoggle does not go forward.

At some point legislation by this Congress needs to be passed to allow, encourage, or require our leadership to demand strict accounting of what is being spent, to demand that any construction or renovation be done in a cost-effective way, to make sure there is no fraud, there is no corruption, no kickbacks, and no abuses whatsoever in building this building, and that every dollar of the U.N. is spent wisely and carefully.

Those are my concerns. I thank the New York Sun for making a point in this article. I thank Mr. Trump for his willingness to speak publicly. He is pretty frank about it. Obviously, he is very concerned. He felt this was not being handled in a wise way. He saw a

disaster on the horizon, and he was willing to speak out about it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the pending amendment be temporarily set aside.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 319, 320, 321, AND 322, EN BLOC

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent I be permitted to offer four amendments en bloc, and I send those four amendments to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection to considering the amendments en bloc?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report.

The assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from Nevada [Mr. ENSIGN] proposes amendments numbered 319 through 322, en bloc.

Mr. ENSIGN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the reading of the amendments be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 319

(Purpose: To encourage multilateral cooperation and authorize a program of assistance to facilitate a peaceful transition in Cuba, and for other purposes)

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE XXIX—PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN CUBA

SEC. 2901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Cuba Transition Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2902. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Cuban people are seeking change in their country, including through the Varela Project, independent journalist activity, and other civil society initiatives.

(2) Civil society groups and independent, self-employed Cuban citizens will be essential to the consolidation of a genuine and effective transition to democracy from an authoritarian, communist government in Cuba, and therefore merit increased international assistance.

(3) The people of the United States support a policy of proactively helping the Cuban people to establish a democratic system of government, including supporting Cuban citizen efforts to prepare for transition to a better and more prosperous future.

(4) The Inter-American Democratic Charter adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) provides both guidance and mechanisms for response by OAS members to the governmental transition in Cuba and that country's eventual reintegration into the inter-American system.

(5) United States Government support of pro-democracy elements in Cuba and planning for the transition in Cuba is essential for the identification of resources and mechanisms that can be made available immediately in response to profound political and economic changes on the island.

(6) Consultations with democratic development institutions and international development agencies regarding Cuba are a critical element in the preparation of an effective multilateral response to the transition in Cuba.

SEC. 2903. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To support multilateral efforts by the countries of the Western Hemisphere in planning for a transition of the government in Cuba and the return of that country to the Western Hemisphere community of democracies.

(2) To encourage the development of an international group to coordinate multilateral planning to a transition of the government in Cuba.

(3) To authorize funding for programs to assist the Cuban people and independent nongovernmental organizations in Cuba in preparing the groundwork for a peaceful transition of government in Cuba.

(4) To provide the President with funding to implement assistance programs essential to the development of a democratic government in Cuba.

SEC. 2904. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.—The term ''democratically elected government in Cuba'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023).

(2) TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.—The term ''transition government in Cuba'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023).

SEC. 2905. DESIGNATION OF COORDINATOR FOR CUBA TRANSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall designate, within the Department of State, a coordinator who shall be responsible for—

(1) designing an overall strategy to coordinate preparations for, and a response to, a transition in Cuba;

(2) coordinating assistance provided to the Cuban people in preparation for a transition in Cuba;

(3) coordinating strategic support for the consolidation of a political and economic transition in Cuba;

(4) ensuring program and policy coordination among agencies of the United States Government in carrying out the policies set forth in this title; and

(5) pursuing coordination with other countries and international organizations, including international financial institutions, with respect to assisting a transition in Cuba.

(b) RANK AND STATUS OF THE TRANSITION COORDINATOR.—The coordinator designated in subsection (a) shall have the rank and status of ambassador.

SEC. 2906. MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO CUBA.

The Secretary of State is authorized to designate up to $5,000,000 of total amounts made available for contributions to international organizations to be provided to the Organization of American States for—

(1) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights activities relating to the situation of human rights in Cuba; and

(2) the funding of an OAS emergency fund for the deployment of human rights observers, election support, and election observation in Cuba as described in section 109(b) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6039(b)(1)).

SEC. 2907. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONSULTATION WITH WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should begin consultation, as appropriate, with governments of other Western Hemisphere countries regarding a transition in Cuba.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING OTHER CONSULTATIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should begin consultations with appropriate international partners and governments regarding a multilateral diplomatic and financial support program for response to a transition in Cuba.

SEC. 2908. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE IN PREPARATION FOR A TRANSITION IN CUBA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law other than section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1) and comparable notification requirements contained in any Act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, the President is authorized to furnish an amount not to exceed $15,000,000 in assistance and provide other support for individuals and independent nongovernmental organizations to support democracy-building efforts for Cuba, including assistance for—

(1) political prisoners and members of their families;

(2) persons persecuted or harassed for dissident activities;

(3) independent libraries;

(4) independent workers' rights activists;

(5) independent agricultural cooperatives;

(6) independent associations of self-employed Cubans;

(7) independent journalists;

(8) independent youth organizations;

(9) independent environmental groups;

(10) independent economists, medical doctors, and other professionals;

(11) establishing and maintaining an information and resources center to be in the United States interests section in Havana, Cuba;

(12) prodemocracy programs of the National Endowment for Democracy related to Cuba;

(13) nongovernmental programs to facilitate access to the Internet, subject to section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6032(g));

(14) nongovernmental charitable programs that provide nutrition and basic medical care to persons most at risk, including children and elderly persons; and

(15) nongovernmental charitable programs to reintegrate into civilian life persons who have abandoned, resigned, or been expelled from the Cuban armed forces for ideological reasons.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDEPENDENT NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''independent nongovernmental organization'' means an organization that the Secretary of State determines, not less than 15 days before any obligation of funds to the organization, is a charitable or nonprofit nongovernmental organization that is not an agency or instrumentality of the Cuban Government.

(2) ELIGIBLE CUBAN RECIPIENTS.—The term ''eligible Cuban recipients'' is limited to any Cuban national in Cuba, including political prisoners and their families, who are not officials of the Cuban Government or of the ruling political party in Cuba, as defined in section 4(10) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023(10)).

SEC. 2909. SUPPORT FOR A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to the President to establish a fund to provide assistance to a transition government in Cuba as defined in section 4(14) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023(14)).

(b) DESIGNATION OF FUND.—The fund authorized in subsection (a) shall be known as the ''Fund for a Free Cuba''.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

AMENDMENT NO. 320

(Purpose: To amend chapter 118 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit foreign war crimes prosecutions of Americans)

At the end of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 405. PROHIBITION OF WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 118 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2442. International criminal court

''(a) OFFENSE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall be unlawful for any person, acting under the authority of the International Criminal Court, another international organization, or a foreign government, to knowingly indict, apprehend, detain, prosecute, convict, or participate in the imposition or carrying out of any sentence or other penalty on, any American in connection with any proceeding by or before the International Criminal Court, another international organization, or a foreign government in which that American is accused of a war crime.

''(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply in connection with a criminal proceeding instituted by the government of a foreign country within the courts of such country with respect to a war crime allegedly committed—

''(1) on territory subject to the sovereign jurisdiction of such government; or

''(2) against persons who were nationals of such country at the time that the war crime is alleged to have been committed.

''(c) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined not more than $5,000,000, imprisoned as provided in paragraph (2), or both.

''(2) PRISON SENTENCE.—The maximum term of imprisonment for an offense under this section is the greater of—

''(A) 5 years; or

''(B) the maximum term that could be imposed on the American in the criminal proceeding described in subsection (a) with respect to which the violation took place.

''(d) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—There is extraterritorial jurisdiction over an offense under this section.

''(e) CIVIL REMEDY.—Any person who is aggrieved by a violation under subsection (a) may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate relief, including—

''(1) punitive damages; and

''(2) a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'American' means any citizen or national of the United States, or any other person employed by or working under the direction of the United States Government;

''(2) the term 'indict' includes—

''(A) the formal submission of an order or request for the prosecution or arrest of a person; and

''(B) the issuance of a warrant or other order for the arrest of a person,

by an official of the International Criminal Court, another international organization, or a foreign government;

''(3) the term 'International Criminal Court' means the court established by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court adopted by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of and International Criminal Court on July 17, 1998; and

''(4) the term 'war crime' means—

''(A) any offense now cognizable before the International Criminal Court; and

''(B) any offense hereafter cognizable before the International Criminal Court, effective on the date such offense becomes cognizable before such court.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in chapter 118 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Sec. 2442. International criminal court.''.

AMENDMENT NO. 321

(Purpose: To ensure the independence of the Inspector General of the United Nations)

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following new section:

SEC. 405. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) WITHHOLDING OF PORTION OF CERTAIN ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.—Twenty percent of the funds made available in each fiscal year under section 102(a) for the assessed contribution of the United States to the United Nations shall be withheld from obligation and expenditure until a certification is made under subsection (b).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification under this subsection is a certification by the Secretary in the fiscal year concerned that the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) ACTIONS BY THE UNITED NATIONS.—

(A) The United Nations has met the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 401(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236; 108 Stat. 446).

(B) The Office of Internal Oversight Services has fulfilled the directive in General Assembly Resolution 48/218B to make all of its reports available to the General Assembly, with modifications to those reports that would violate confidentiality or the due process rights of individuals involved in any investigation.

(C) The Office of Internal Oversight Services has an independent budget that does not require the approval of the United Nations Budget Office.

(2) ACTIONS BY THE OIOS.—The Office of Internal Oversight Service has authority to audit, inspect, or investigate each program, project, or activity funded by the United Nations, and each executive board created under the United Nations has been notified in writing of that authority.

AMENDMENT NO. 322

(Purpose: To ensure the United Nations maintains a no growth budget)

On page 11, line 15, striking ''There'' and insert the following:

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

On page 11, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(2) NO GROWTH BUDGET.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1), $80,000,000 shall be withheld for each of the calendar years 2006 and 2007 unless the Secretary submits a certification to the appropriate congressional committees for each such calendar year that states that the United Nations has taken no action during the preceding calendar year to increase funding for any United Nations program without identifying an offsetting decrease elsewhere in the United Nations budget during that calendar year and that for such calendar years the United Nations will not exceed the spending limits of the initial 2004–2005 United Nations biennium budget adopted in December, 2003.

Mr. ENSIGN. I yield the floor.

AMENDMENTS NOS. 290, 291, AND 317, EN BLOC

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the pending amendments be set aside in order to offer three amendments en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SESSIONS. I call up amendments numbered 290, 291, and 317.

The amendments are as follows:

AMENDMENT NO. 290

(Purpose: To require aliens to affirm certain oaths prior to admission to the United States)

On page 110, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 812. REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE UNITED STATES.

(a) REQUIREMENT FOR OATH PRIOR TO OBTAINING VISA.—Section 222 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1202) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(i) Every alien applying for a nonimmigrant visa shall, prior to obtaining such visa, swear or affirm an oath stating that—

''(1) the alien shall adhere to the laws and to the Constitution of the United States;

''(2) the alien will not attempt to develop information for the purpose of threatening the national security of the United States or to bring harm to any citizen of the United States;

''(3) the alien is not associated with a terrorist organization;

''(4) the alien has not and will not receive any funds or other support to visit the United States from a terrorist organization;

''(5) all documents submitted to support the alien's application are valid and contain truthful information;

''(6) the alien will inform the appropriate authorities if the alien is approached or contacted by a member of a terrorist organization; and

''(7) the alien understands that the alien's visa shall be revoked and the alien shall be removed from the United States if the alien is found—

''(A) to have acted in a manner that is inconsistent with this oath; or

''(B) provided fraudulent information in order to obtain a visa.''.

(b) REQUIREMENT FOR OATH PRIOR TO ADMISSION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or an individual designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security shall require an alien seeking admission to the United States pursuant to a nonimmigrant visa to swear or affirm an oath reaffirming all the information provided by the alien for the purpose of obtaining the nonimmigrant visa.

(2) ADMINISTRATION OF OATH.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall administer the oath required by paragraph (1) to an alien in the United States prior to the admission of such alien.

(3) FALSE STATEMENTS.—An alien who knowingly and willfully makes a false statement in swearing or affirming the oath required by paragraph (1) shall be subject to the penalties imposed for making a false statement under section 1001 of title 18, United States Code.

(4) ADMISSION DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ''admission'' shall have the meaning given that term in section 101(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)).

AMENDMENT NO. 291

(Purpose: To strike the authority to provide living quarters and allowances to the United States Representative to the United Nations)

Strike section 318.

AMENDMENT NO. 317

(Purpose: To provide for accountability in the United Nations Headquarters renovation project)

SEC. ___. UN HEADQUARTERS RENOVATION.

(a) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no loan in excess of $600,000,000 may be made available by the United States for renovation of the United Nations headquarters building, located in New York, New York.

''(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Any such loan shall be contingent upon the satisfactory submission, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of a report to Congress containing a detailed analysis of the United Nations headquarters renovation.

Mr. LUGAR. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I will send a copy of an amendment to the desk, but I am not going to offer the amendment right now. I would like to discuss what I would like to do at some point on a matter of significance. I will send the amendment up to the desk and ask unanimous consent to lay aside the pending amendment.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, very briefly, I know we are about to maybe have a more important matter come to the floor. I am going to keep my eye on the chairman of the committee so he can let me know when I should wrap up these comments.

The amendment that at some point I would like to offer, either on this bill or another piece of legislation, deals with what I believe is an extremely important issue about enhancing U.S. diplomatic and strategic influence in the Western Hemisphere.

As many of my colleagues know, I have been a member of the Foreign Relations Committee on the subcommittee dealing with Latin America for the 24 years I have been in the Senate, either as the ranking member or as the chairman of the subcommittee.

I am deeply concerned, as I know many of my colleagues are, that while our attention is focused on other parts of the world, for obvious reasons, there is a serious condition developing in Latin America that deserves our attention.

The amendment I would be offering is quite simple. It would permit nations in this hemisphere to receive international military and educational training, so-called IMET training, assistance from the United States.

My colleagues might say: Well, don't we do that? Haven't we been doing that for years? The answer is yes. But it has been stopped in 11 countries in Latin America, along with economic support funds. The reason is because these nations have not signed on to the so-called article 98 agreement with the United States. The article 98 agreement has to do with the American Service Members Protection Act. That is because the administration is vehemently opposed to the International Criminal Court, and any nation that does not protect American servicemen from potentially being prosecuted under that act would have the international military and educational training funds, along with economic support funds, cut off entirely.

Now, again, I am not arguing at all about whether we ought to have the American Service Members Protection Act. My colleagues have voted for that. That is the law of the land. My concern is linking that legislation with the international military and educational training funds and economic assistance funds.

Let me tell you what has happened as a result of linking these up. We used to have as many as 800 junior officers or senior officers from Latin America come to the United States each year to go to our schools, to learn about how we would conduct our military operations, to receive the critical training that would make them more in tune with our ideals, our values, as military officers.

As a result of this linkage we have now adopted, we now have zero military personnel coming from these countries that I have already mentioned, the 11 countries affected; the countries being Bolivia, Ecuador, Peru, Venezuela, Brazil, Costa Rica, Paraguay, Uruguay, Barbados, St. Vincent and the Grenadines, Trinidad, and Tobago.

To give you some idea, we used to have from Peru 172 young officers come to the United States. Because of the linkage, we now have zero. Uruguay sent 202. We now have zero. Venezuela, 73; Ecuador, 85—to give you some idea in the last year or so, and on down the list.

I ask unanimous consent that the list of the number of people coming from these countries on a roughly annual basis be printed in the RECORD, if I may.

Mr. SCHUMER. Reserving the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New York.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, an amendment just passed without notice to any of us that involves a dispute about a helicopter between New York and Connecticut. I did not know of that amendment. Neither did Senator CLINTON. Neither did anybody else. So I have to object to this until I see what it is. It was offered by my good friend from Connecticut. I will serve notice, I will hold up this bill and sit here until we deal with this in a fair way. This was a sneak attack. We knew nothing about it. It was not debated. And it is not the right way to do business around here.

Mr. DODD. Well, Mr. President——

Mr. SCHUMER. So I object to whatever the unanimous consent request was until I see what it is.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, my point on this amendment is that with the significant deterioration in the connections between our country and these nations that have received in the past the international military and educational training funds and the economic support funds, that we find ourselves in a very precarious position with these countries and the junior officers and senior officers who have come here for their training. So the amendment, in effect, would delink these issues. It does not overturn the American Service Members Protection Act; it just delinks it.

Who is advocating this? SOUTHCOM, which is the military structure and organization that has the responsibility for dealing with Latin America, is a strong advocate of delinking these issues. In fact, in today's Washington Times, the headline is ''U.S. 'hands tied' in South America.'' I will quote from the article:

> As the Bush administration tries to craft a new foreign policy toward an increasingly belligerent Venezuela, Pentagon and military officials say they cannot blunt that nation's regional influence unless a law meant to protect U.S. personnel from prosecution in the International Criminal Court is changed.

The article goes on:

> That law, the American Service Members Protection Act, prohibits U.S. security assistance funds and most military cooperation unless a country rejects the U.N.-backed ICC or signs a bilateral immunity agreement with the United States. . . .
>
> Of the 22 nations in the world that are on the black list [so-called]—they have ratified the ICC agreement and have refused to grant the United States bilateral immunity—11 of them are in Latin America.

I have listed them already.

So again, I will not go on at great length. I know there is a possibility here of reaching an agreement on a matter that has held up this bill. This amendment would delink these issues. I do not need to emphasize the point. My colleagues should be aware of this.

There was a growing influence from the People's Republic of China in Latin America, offering to spend billions of dollars in the region and I presume, willing as well, to train military personnel. We do not want to lose the tremendous opportunity we have had over the years to maintain these relationships.

Again, I am not here to argue today the wisdom or lack of wisdom of the American Service Members Protection Act. The only case I want to make to my colleagues is, Should we be linking these IMET funds—that is, the international military and educational training funds—and economic support funds, which are critically important in Latin America, with that legislation? I do not think we should. SOUTHCOM, our military leaders, do

not think we should. Roger Noriega, with whom I do not always agree on Latin American issues, thinks it is wrong to link the economic support fund issues as well. So people who have strong credentials, if you will, in opposing the International Criminal Court believe that linking these issues in this region is not serving the interests of the United States well at all.

At an appropriate time, in consultation with the chairman of the committee and others, I would like to pursue this matter to see whether my colleagues might agree that we might delink these issues. With that, again, knowing there are other matters that can be dealt with, I won't belabor the point.

I have some further comments I will make, but I will wait for the appropriate time to do that so that my full statement can be read by those who may be interested in this particular proposal.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, let me respond briefly to the distinguished Senator from New York. The amendment that was offered by the distinguished Senator from Connecticut, as I indicated before he was on the floor, we were prepared to accept. We presumed there was not Democratic Party opposition to that; there were not members of the committee on the floor. Senator DODD is a member of the committee, and, therefore, we acted in good faith, as we have to. We are trying very hard to proceed amendment by amendment, depending upon Senators to be on the floor, to be represented by their party officials and by their staffs. So I am hopeful the distinguished Senator from New York and the Senator from Connecticut may be able to agree on a course of action, but from our standpoint, we believe the amendment was offered and accepted legitimately and in due course.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. CLINTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

Mr. LUGAR. I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The clerk will continue calling the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk continued with the call of the roll.

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that there now be a period for morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each. I also ask unanimous consent that I be recognized for 20 minutes as the initial speaker.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from New Hampshire is recognized.

THREAT OF BIOLOGICAL ATTACKS

Mr. GREGG. Mr. President, I appreciate the courtesy of the Members who are in the Chamber and who are dealing with the State Department authorization bill and allowing me to proceed as in morning business as they address the issues surrounding that bill.

I wanted to raise an issue which I believe is of very high significance of how we deal with the threat of biological attacks. This has been an issue I have been involved in for a considerable amount of time, having authored the first bioshield bill as the chairman of the HELP Committee at the time.

Just weeks after September 11, anthrax attacks occurred in Florida, New York, and Washington. They killed five people, and they crippled the mail delivery system in several cities and required a cleanup that cost more than $1 billion. For all that, the President's Commission which just reported on weapons of mass destruction says we were lucky.

We cannot really know whether we were exclusively lucky or whether this was the result of responsible effort to prepare ourselves for the next attack that we have not been attacked again or in a worse way, but the facts remain that the threat continues. The President's Commission makes obvious the finding that biological weapons are cheaper and easier to acquire than nuclear weapons, and they could be even more deadly.

There is no question that if terrorists are able to get their hands on a weaponized biological agent, whether it is anthrax, small pox, botulism, or ebola, they will use it in a place where Americans gather in their daily lives. Whether it is a subway system as occurred in Japan or a building as occurred in the Capitol, it is these types of attacks—biological, chemical, and dirty bombs—that pose the greatest threat to our Nation.

The President's Commission, which released its report last Thursday, exposed the stark reality that our intelligence community may have underestimated the progress of terrorists and others in developing biological weapons. For example, in Afghanistan, investigators found evidence that after the war, al-Qaida had the capability to produce a virulent biological weapon identified only as ''agent X,'' which documents suggest was anthrax.

Much of the information we have on the development of biological weapons by terrorist groups and rogue nations is classified; however, it is no secret that Soviet scientists were working on engineering biological agents before the fall of the Soviet Union, including smallpox engineered to be totally lethal, a hybrid plague that is more resistant to vaccine, and a strain of anthrax resistant to seven different antibodies. Unfortunately, we have no assurance that all of these products which they were trying to develop have been destroyed. We are aware of some rogue countries that developed delivery systems such as anthrax-laced cigarettes and botulism-contaminated beer.

While the President's Commission finds the threat deeply troubling today, they foretell that it will be more tomorrow, when genetics modification techniques will allow creation of even worse biological weapons. These findings underscore that the threat posed to our national security from biological, chemical, radiological, and nuclear weapons is truly real and significant.

Even before the anthrax attacks here, we as a Congress recognized the need to enhance three critical enterprises or sectors in our country to better protect our people from attacks by biological agents: No. 1 the research enterprise, led by NIH and private researchers; No. 2 the biotechnology development and manufacturing sector, particularly vaccines but also other countermeasures such as drugs and devices; and No. 3 the broader health care delivery system, including physicians, hospitals, and public health departments here and abroad.

The first substantial effort, started before the anthrax attacks and completed in 2002, was the Bioterrorism Act of 2002, which dramatically increased funding for the Strategic National Stockpile so that a national pool of countermeasures, including those to protect against smallpox, could be maintained. It also dramatically improved our border protection authorities, particularly for food imports; protected our water supply; dramatically increased oversight of research labs that handled agents that could potentially be used in an attack; and committed substantial new resources to our state public health systems and hospitals to ensure improved surveillance and surge capacity. Institutionally, it also created a number of new Federal authorities to identify and develop and coordinate our response to a threat.

In 2003 and 2004, following the President's call and leadership, we passed the bipartisan Project BioShield Act to confront weaknesses in our ability to have the research enterprise speed results to us and to have FDA speed products to potential victims. Notably, we pre-funded a $5.6 billion account to assure the developers of countermeasures that if they delivered a product that protected this country from a biological attack then the Government would in fact have the resources to purchase that product and recognize their work.

Project BioShield recognized that we had very little on hand to address even

the handful of agents that pose the greatest threat, such as smallpox, anthrax, botulism and plague. As a result, we have made valuable progress.

Our smallpox stockpile has grown from 90,000 doses of smallpox vaccine ready for use in 2001 to 300 million doses today. We have modified vaccinia Ankara, a next-generation smallpox vaccine that promises greater safety, in clinical testing and others in predevelopment. In addition, we have a new oral form of an antiviral drug cidofovir in advanced product development for use in the event of a smallpox attack and to treat the rare complications from the smallpox vaccine.

To combat anthrax, a new recombinant vaccine is in clinical testing and may need fewer doses than the classic vaccine, and the Department of Health and Human Services has contracted with VaxGen to purchase 75 million vaccine doses under BioShield. New anthrax therapies that can neutralize the anthrax toxin are also being developed, such as monoclonal and polyclonal antibodies.

To combat botulism, treatments for the toxin and a vaccine to prevent the disease are in development. And finally for Ebola a new vaccine is in development.

Project BioShield was a good start, but we must do more. As the authors of the Center for Biosecurity report note: The legislation represents a significant step for the government and demonstrates [its] seriousness [but] is only a necessary first step.

We have identified dozens of agents that could be used against our people, yet we still lack vaccines and treatments for some of the gravest biological and chemical threats, such as ricin, plague, and viral hemorrhagic fever. We still lack an antidote to sulfur mustard and nitrogen mustard—and those available for sarin and VX have significant limitations in their practical utility given the speed with which they need to be applied.

We are also not prepared to fight naturally occurring infectious diseases—such as avian flu—that could be equally as deadly and could be weaponized in the future. And experts in HELP testimony, as well as those responding to a comprehensive survey by the University of Pittsburgh Center for Biosecurity, note the increasing threat of new bio-engineered and genetically modified pathogens. A 2003 CIA review confirms that these strains could be ''worse than any disease known to man.'' Many have observed that we in fact need to move beyond the product-by-product and bug-by-bug approach of BioShield and address solutions more comprehensively and innovatively.

And we have seen a very anemic response within the research and manufacturing sectors to engage in biodefense work. Fewer than 100 companies have come forward with even a modest interest in developing countermeasures for bioterrorism and other agents. The profile of these companies is in many ways positive—they are entrepreneurial, often have crucial insights into a bioterrorism agent or product, can move quickly, and many have strong venture capital connections. However, in other critical ways they lack the ability in our current environment to deliver a finished, effective product to potential victims. These same companies tend to be small, often work on only a single product, rarely have the capital required to bring a product to market, and typically have limited ability to manufacture a product at the level and with the speed required to respond fully to an emergency. BioShield has done little to address these latter concerns.

The President's Commission stated that to combat this continuing threat, the Intelligence community, and the government as a whole, needs to approach the problem with a new urgency and new strategies. We are in fact pushing our luck.

This is precisely why BioShield II—a bill that I introduced as part of S. 3—is critical to our efforts in the war against terrorism. S. 3 clearly indicates that the Senate Republican leadership puts a very high priority on invigorating our biodefense capability. The people and 10 organizations that will be on the front lines of national defense will no longer be just traditional defense industries—providing arms and artillery—but will now include biomedical research and biotechnology manufacturing sectors, as well as health care delivery systems.

Building this biodefense sector is the first step in winning what could be the arms race of the 21st century. We must be secure in the ability of this sector to prevent and defend the United States against biological weapons. If we are capable of developing a vaccine or some other treatment that will neutralize the effect of these types of biological agents, including genetically modified pathogens, then they are less likely to be used against us. This same sector must also be positioned to fight new natural threats, such as a pandemic of avian flu. And, as highlighted by a recent GAO report on Anthrax Detection, we need improved detection and testing methods to accurately determine when an agent has been released and when an area has been decontaminated and is safe. Similarly, as the Washington Post helped uncover, BioWatch style technologies need to be dramatically improved, so that we have confidence in the detection of airborne pathogens affecting our key cities. Currently, lab analysis, even when it is correct, requires days to return results on only 10 agents to date.

A range of experts, including researchers, government officials, and manufacturers, told us in hearings that they need greater Federal assistance for them to bear the risk of developing products to counter biological threats or infectious disease that also divert capital away from the development of other important and often more profitable drugs. Many of the measures in BioShield II legislation, including financial incentives, intellectual property protection, and liability protection were recommended during those hearings.

A key point here is that we need to ensure the participation in this enterprise of not just small, fleet, and innovative biotechnology companies. We need to broaden our attention to large, experienced companies, with multiple sources of financing, the ability to manufacture, license, and bring to market a product, and do so on a large scale in an emergency. Additional measures are needed to encourage potential research, manufacturing, and health care delivery partners to commit substantial resources and take the risks necessary to bring innovative new products to market.

The number-one threat cited by experts in our hearings and experts in a range of forums and publications is the almost boundless liability exposure associated with developing these products—and the resulting massive cost of product liability law suits. The unfortunate liability experience of Bayer, manufacturer of Cipro, bears witness to the exposure a biodefense manufacturer faces—and the litigation costs that will be incurred even when, as in the Bayer case, the manufacturer is eventually absolved.

Manufacturers of biodefense countermeasures typically risk exposure to devastating product liability lawsuits to a far greater degree than typical drug companies and for this reason are unlikely to get commercial liability insurance for countermeasure products. There are a number of reasons. For example, as Project BioShield specifically contemplates, such countermeasures may be made available without the usual battery of clinical trials required for other FDA-approved products. Safety and efficacy data often must be derived, for the most part, from animal trials because healthy humans cannot be exposed to toxic agents during testing for obvious reasons.

Further, the scope of distribution of biodefense products and their method of distribution heightens the risk of a lawsuit—even if the product is otherwise safe and effective. For example, when distributed to large numbers of potential victims, perhaps millions of Americans in an emergency, there will inevitably be harm or injuries that occur around the time of the use of the product but that are in fact associated with the inevitable pre-existing health conditions in that large population. Determining the cause of the harm and distinguishing between the product and other factors will be nearly impossible—and yet liability exposure is evident. Methods of distribution in an emergency, perhaps using less trained persons as a last resort, also increase risk of liability.

Large, responsible, successful companies are—without liability protection—

the most likely to remain on the sidelines for fear of risking corporate assets in defending lawsuits. And with other sources of revenue, other successful products, and products generally with higher profit margins, these same companies in fact act prudently in protecting their general corporate assets from unnecessary litigation associated with lower-margin biodefense products.

Even as Government has begun to purchase BioShield countermeasures, the Government's ability to limit liability has significant limitations. Under current law there are only two legal authorities that allow the Federal Government to mitigate the liability concerns of producers of countermeasures other than small pox vaccine.

The first is through Federal indemnification under Public Law 85–804. The second is through designation/certification under the SAFETY Act. Both of these measures are woefully inadequate to address the practical realities of potential litigation facing providers of countermeasures and the fiscal realities facing the Federal Government.

Protection under Public Law 85–804 and its executive order extension to biodefense products is not frequently granted. When it is, the primary limitation is that the administration typically will not address indemnification prior to award of a contract for a countermeasure—unlike the Department of Defense, which typically does address liability earlier in the process. As a result, potential providers must expend resources to compete for a contract that they may have to refuse due to the lack of liability protection. More often companies simply refuse to bid at all due to lack of certainty on the issue of liability. Numerous technical and definitional limitations on the scope of the indemnification also exist—Is the product inherently dangerous? Is it involved in national defense?—not to mention the nature of indemnification may expose the Federal Government to enormous liability exposure as awards and liability is not structured or limited in any way.

The practical utility of SAFETY Act protections to biodefense products is limited. For example, the potential liability of a provider of a vaccine that is administered prior to a bioterror attack is not addressed—leaving producers of vaccines in particular, as they are typically dispensed prior to an attack, at great risk of liability exposure. Protection also requires a burdensome pre-certification process that has not resulted yet in designation of any biotechnology products. Clearly dramatic improvements on this model are required.

The net impact of this atmosphere results in needed countermeasures not being developed and deployed, thereby exposing the economy, and the Nation as a whole, to far greater potential liability due to the lack of available effective countermeasures in the event of attack. Either way, the Federal Government is likely to bear both the human and financial cost of such an attack as it did on September 11th. But by failing to account for these costs before an attack, countermeasures will not be developed and the Nation will be more exposed to attack, costing America both lives and economic stability.

S. 3, which contains liability protections based on the SAFETY Act, attempts to address these liability concerns not only for terrorism, but also countermeasures developed and deployed to protect the Nation against naturally occurring epidemics such as SARS and pandemics such as Avian influenza. Further, liability protections would be extended to ensure that those delivering health care in an emergency, including biodefense products, receive due protection for 19 stepping up and protecting our country when it is under attack. Further, S. 3 puts some limits on the almost boundless liability exposure.

The second most significant barrier to investment in biodefense technology, according to experts testifying before the HELP committee and other public documents is the failure of current intellectual property law to adequately recognize and protect a researcher or manufacturer's investment in a technology.

The current law mechanism for this involves a combination of patent term extensions and grants of market exclusivity for a product, which permit a patent term essentially to be extended to compensate for periods of time while a countermeasure is in the regulatory review or other process.

Under current law, there are several arbitrary limits placed on the duration and nature of the patent extensions that may be granted on a pharmaceutical product. First, the total effective period of the patent from the date the drug is approved until the patent expires cannot exceed 14 years. Second, no patent extension can exceed 5 years. In addition, only partial credit for a patent extension is granted for the lengthy time the product undergoes research and development before an application is reviewed by the FDA. S. 3 would create a patent term extension authority that is not subject to these arbitrary limits. This type of incentive is also important to recoup some of the innovator or manufacturer's investment in developing the product and for diverting resources from manufacturing other more profitable drugs.

As an alternative, S. 3 provides a second type of patent provision to permit the Government to reward manufacturers who work to develop a new countermeasure use from an existing product or technology during an emergency. This provision could, for example, have been useful with the drug Cipro, used as a therapeutic for a number of reasons, but at that time not otherwise studied for use as a treatment for anthrax exposure. During the anthrax attacks, the government asked the company to step forward—the company responded by researching and developing considerable evidence that their product was indeed safe and effective for treatment following anthrax exposure. Under current law, Americans can only rely on the unselfish generosity of a company to expend these resources to provide the safety and effectiveness data we need. Under my legislation, depending on circumstances, additional incentives involving market exclusivity could be granted for up to two years for the product that was used as a countermeasure. This is an important distinction from the so-called ''wild card'' exclusivity idea, which would allow a company to extend the patent protection of a different product as a reward for stepping forward. Again, this type of incentive will encourage manufacturers to step forward in a crisis and will help them recoup their losses from diverting their research and manufacturing efforts from more profitable products.

We've heard resoundingly that our research, manufacturing, and health care delivery sectors need reasonable assurances that a market for these products will in fact exist should they invest the resources necessary to fully develop them. Under the BioShield approach the manufacturer takes the gamble for product development—the government as the sole purchaser needs to be a reliable partner. I look forward to continuing to discuss viable approaches in this area. In my view, however, it is not politically viable to have that basket of options or incentives include ''wild-card'' exclusivity—or the ability to apply a patent extension or market exclusivity to any product in a company's portfolio, regardless of whether it has any use for biodefense purposes. Today, politically, the reality is that this approach is not sustainable—even if it would serve as a powerful incentive to companies to step up and deliver much-needed biodefense products.

The role of the government in facilitating research, development, and delivery of biodefense products can be great. Unfortunately, all too often, government gets in the way. Accordingly, S. 3 also contains important regulatory reform initiatives for protecting Americans against bioterrorism. First, it has provisions that will improve the international harmonization of U.S. Food and Drug Administration regulations with those of the regulatory bodies of our allies in Europe, Canada, and other developed countries. This will help facilitate the development and approval of biodefense products, and will reduce the costs of regulation by the United States and these countries of biodefense countermeasures such as drugs, vaccines and medical devices. Streamlining and making truly effective the regulatory approaches from these developed countries will also assure the continued safety and effectiveness of these medical countermeasures. S. 3

also requires additional reviews by experts on how to improve regulation of these products.

Second, the bill includes important provisions to assure uniformity throughout the United States of biodefense product labeling and other FDA-regulatory requirements. We urgently need this provision to respond in a uniform and united way to a potential bioterrorist attack or other deadly epidemic.

Dramatically conflicting or confusing state and local labeling and composition requirements will limit the ability of Americans across the country to respond adequately and quickly. It is important to note that the provision includes language for exempting purely local matters such as pharmacy practice laws from national uniformity requirements and unique local conditions.

The Bioterror Act of 2002 took significant steps forward to address public health infrastructure needs of the country. BioShield II builds on these authorities in an effort to prioritize resources to those areas faced with the greatest threat—to build the technical expertise of the federal workforce, particularly at our premier biomedical and health organizations at NIH, FDA, and CDC—and to build private sector response capacity in various private-public arrangements designed to have credentialed, expert, and trained teams on hand to respond quickly to a crisis. Surveillance authorities here and abroad also need to be strengthened and developed—using innovative private sector analysis of prescription drug, hospital emergency room and doctor visits and other ''leading indicators.'' In short, as Richard Falkenrath of the Brookings Institution notes, ''there's no area of homeland security in which the administration has made more progress than bioterrorism, and none where we have further to go. But, it is critical to agree with Elin Gursky with the Anser Institute for Homeland Security, ''This problem won't be solved by money alone.''

We have an obligation to be prepared for the worst threat. Maybe that ''next'' attack will never come. Or maybe it will come tomorrow.

We can't know where or when it will come or what our enemies will try to do. We have to be prepared for all possibilities. Therefore, we have to have a vibrant and strong biotechnical industry, a biomedical industry, and an atmosphere here in the Federal Government which encourages the development of the vaccines and other antibodies which will allow us to address these type of threats.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be dispensed with.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 2006 AND 2007—Continued

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about an amendment my colleague Senator LINDSEY GRAHAM and I have submitted that would create a special trade prosecutor within the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

It is my understanding, working with our leader and the chairman of the Finance Committee, that we are not going to proceed with this amendment and instead will be entering into a colloquy with the chairman of the Finance Committee about his willingness to work with us to add language to create a special trade prosecutor on appropriate legislation coming to the Finance Committee to reauthorize trade laws. We look forward to working with him. I look forward to the colloquy we will be submitting for the RECORD shortly.

I thought it was important to be able to speak about this issue for a moment because I know there are many of us on both sides of the aisle who are deeply concerned about what is happening as it relates to unfair trade practices by other countries. We want to work together on a bipartisan basis in order to address this, and address this as quickly as possible. That is why I am so pleased Senator GRAHAM has joined with me as an author of this amendment. We also have a separate bill as well to do the same thing. We look forward to working with the Finance Committee in order to be able to create the prosecutor and to include legislation in a future bill coming to the Senate.

This amendment is based on the concept by Senator BAYH from Indiana. I thank him for being a serious and thoughtful voice in this debate, for his ongoing advocacy, and for providing the Senate with solutions to fix our growing trade deficit. I congratulate Senator BAYH as well.

This amendment would create a special trade prosecutor appointed by the President and confirmed by the Senate with authority to ensure compliance with trade agreements and to protect our manufacturers as well as our farmers against unfair trade practices. This prosecutor will have the authority to investigate and recommend the prosecution of cases before the WTO, as well as those under trade agreements to which the United States is a party.

Currently, we have an executive branch that is organized in such a way as to make prosecution of unfair trade cases unlikely, at best. This trade prosecutor would allow us to fix that. Coupled with the fact that our domestic manufacturing base has eroded due to unfair trade practices, and we have put our manufacturers and others in our economy in an impossible situation, we are asking our U.S. Trade Representative to do too much and the office is not able to deliver. We ask that they negotiate trade agreements with foreign nations at one moment and then turn around and enforce agreements the next, all without damaging the ability of the United States to negotiate the next trade deal. It is not working. While significant portions of our trade imbalances are not caused by lax enforcement, many of them are.

In February, the Department of Commerce reported that the merchandise trade deficit reached a record level of $666.2 billion in 2004, a 21.7-percent increase since 2003. That translates into job loss. The aggregate U.S. trade deficit, which includes both goods and services, was $617.7 billion dollars, a 24-percent increase over 2003. We have many trading partners that fulfill their obligations under our agreements, but we also have many that do not. We should address this problem with a straightforward solution, a special trade prosecutor.

Yesterday, we finally saw a glimmer of hope on the trade front as the administration began the process of imposing import quotas on shirts, trousers, and underwear. But it could have come much sooner if we had someone in the Government whose job it was to look for these violations and to recommend action.

Commerce Secretary Gutierrez, a man whom I respect and strongly supported as Secretary of Commerce, coming from the great State of Michigan, is already having a positive impact. I hope he will pursue this case until our textile industry finally gets the relief it deserves.

That is not enough. There are more U.S. industries facing similar unfair trade practices. We are proposing an institutional change that will allow us to thoroughly and vigorously investigate and prosecute these cases.

For instance, China is a textbook case of how a foreign government has used a network of illegal subsidies and government interventions in order to destroy foreign competition both in the United States as well as in many other countries.

According to the United States-China Economic and Security Commission, these actions have gone virtually unchallenged by the U.S. Government, despite the fact that China's actions are in clear violation of both U.S. trade law and WTO rules.

These anticompetitiveness actions by the Chinese Government include currency manipulation. I am very proud to have been a cosponsor of the amendment that overwhelmingly passed earlier today, bipartisan amendment, to send a very strong message to China regarding the fact we will no longer tolerate the manipulation of their currency. It is causing job loss. It is causing pressure on our American businesses. I am pleased we were able to address that.

It is estimated that currency manipulation provides as much as a 40-percent subsidy for Chinese exporters. In addition, the Chinese Government also has illegal direct Government subsidies of its state-owned textile and apparel sectors, illegal export tax rebates of about 13 percent, and the deliberate extension of billions of dollars in nonperforming or free money loans by China's central banks in order to award a competitive advantage against foreign competition.

The Commission goes on to say that in the case of China, the dramatic increase in subsidies has caused Chinese prices to drop by an average of 58 percent over the past 2 years in those product areas where the quotas have been removed.

As a result, China has begun a near monopoly share in these products over the last 24 months, gaining 60 percent of the market.

Our businesses in Michigan just ask for a level playing field. They just ask the rules be fair. It is our job to make sure they are. However, our Government has failed to file any complaints at the WTO despite the Chinese Government's repeated and widespread violations of WTO rules. This is of grave concern to colleagues on both sides of the aisle and was reflected again in the vote earlier today as it relates to China's manipulation of their currency.

Last year, as is widely reported, our Government refused to criticize China's human rights and labor rights record before the United Nations Human Rights Commission despite overwhelming evidence of human rights violations.

Our Government's inaction is costing hundreds of thousands of American jobs—I argue that is rapidly becoming millions crippling our manufacturing sector, distorting trade and investment patterns globally, and leaving hundreds of millions of Chinese workers vulnerable and mistreated, as well.

Let me give a few examples of the violations occurring. Counterfeit automotive products are a big problem in my home State of Michigan. Not only does it kill American jobs, but it has the potential to kill Americans as cheap, shoddy automotive products replace legitimate ones of higher quality. The American automotive part and components industry loses an estimated $12 billion in sales on a global basis to counterfeiting. We do not even keep statistics on the potential loss of life. We should understand if left unchecked, this penetration of counterfeit automotive products jobs has the potential to undermine the public's confidence and trust in what they are buying. We cannot let that happen.

Our amendment, the effort we will work on with the Finance Committee, will give us a voice and a watchdog so we can take appropriate action sooner, more aggressively, more appropriately.

In Michigan, we lost 51,000 manufacturing jobs from 1989–2003 due to China's unfair trade practices, according to the Economic Policy Institute.

Unfortunately, the plant closings continue in Michigan and around the Nation. Over the past three months we see example after example of the damage a ''wait and see'' attitude has on workers in this country.

Lear Corporation continues to cut jobs in Grand Rapids, a total of 300 to date, and the company promises more layoffs this summer. Also, in Grand Rapids, Steelcase will cut 600 jobs. The ripple effect of Lear Corporation's decision will lead Advanced Plastics in Schoolcraft, MI, to layoff more than 100 employees this spring.

The City of Edmore recently lost 120 high paying manufacturing jobs at the local Hitachi plant. Those jobs are moving to China.

In Alma, 260 employees at Oxford Automotive are now unemployed due to the competitive pressures in the automotive industry, a large part of which is due to current manipulation by Japan and China.

And the examples don't end there as we all know. We should not be shirking our responsibilities to enforce trade rules. This amendment helps us do that. And it helps us save American jobs.

I believe in trade and the benefits it can have for our manufacturers, farmers, and other industries. But, we need to have fair trade first and foremost.

A Special Trade Prosecutor would have the power to stand up for our manufacturers and farmers and make sure that other countries are holding up their end of their trade agreements.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

(The remarks of Mr. ALEXANDER pertaining to the introduction of S. 726 and S. 727 are printed in today's RECORD under ''Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.'')

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. DEMINT). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise to discuss an amendment that I have filed and will offer formally. It is a sense-of-the-Senate resolution that calls for the United Nations to give full nation membership status to Israel.

Unfortunately, and wrongly, Israel has not been granted the full status that other 190-nation members enjoy, ever since it became a nation state in 1948 and formally became a member of the United Nations in 1949. For over 50 years, until the year 2000, Israel was the only member state that was consistently denied admission into a regional group.

Even now, it is still limited to the Western European and others group in New York but not in Geneva and elsewhere. As a result, for example, Israel cannot participate in the voting for the composition of the International Court of Justice in The Hague, nor can an Israeli judge serve on that court. Yet the court is called upon, and was recently, by other nations and the General Assembly to pass judgment on the actions of Israel to protect its national borders and to secure the lives and the safety of its citizens.

Also, as a result of the denial of full status, Israel is not allowed to participate in United Nations conferences on human rights, racism, and other issues held in world locations, which is particularly important since some of those conferences unfairly discriminate against Israel in their consideration of issues they do not consider to the same extent or at all as they affect other member nation states.

My amendment says it is the sense of Congress that President Bush should direct the U.S. permanent representative to the United Nations to seek an immediate end to the persistent and deplorable inequality that is experienced by Israel in the United Nations; that Israel should be afforded the benefits of full membership in Western European and other groups in the United Nations to achieve that full participation, and that the U.S. Secretary of State should report to Congress on a regular basis on the actions of the administration to encourage Israel's full acceptance by other member states in the United Nations. Obviously this law and those requirements would apply equally to future administrations of our Government as well.

It is ironic because the United Nations created the State of Israel back in 1948, and yet it has been the body where some of the most anti-Semitic and discriminatory attacks against the democratically elected Government of the people of Israel have taken place. There have been some improvements. There have been recognitions most recently by Secretary Kofi Annan of the anti-Semitic and anti-Israel bias historically in the United Nations. Some progress has been made, but some is not full progress or acceptance, and some is not enough.

The United Nations was founded upon the principle that all member nations of the world, all of which may be engaged to some or another extent in practices or activities that other nations may disagree with, are equal members there for the purpose of resolving the differences among nations and among the peoples of the world peacefully, equitably, and hopefully in the ultimate best interests of all concerned. So by denying this great nation, a democratic government and the people of Israel, the full rights of citizenship in that world body runs contrary to the founding principles and the purpose of the United Nations. It is destructive to the attempt to resolve the differences in the Middle East peacefully, equitably, and hopefully permanently for the benefit of all concerned.

I yield the floor, and I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO TWO GREAT AMERICANS: FRED KOREMATSU AND ERNEST CHILDERS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, It is said that Pope John Paul II was probably the most widely recognized person in the entire world. We have heard many inspiring tributes to this great man, and rightly so.

I would like to take a few minutes to pay tribute to two other great men who died recently. Unlike the Pope, their names and their faces were not instantly recognizable. But they shared some of his finest qualities. They were remarkably brave men who risked much to protect transcendent truths, and who continued to defend those truths even in the twilight of their lives. In their cases, the truths were the principles that are the essence of America.

Both of these men first made their marks on American history during World War II.

Ernest Childers was a Native American, a member of the Creek Nation from Oklahoma, and a recipient of the Medal of Honor.

He was a lieutenant in the Army National Guard when he arrived on the beaches of Salerno, Italy, in September 1943. Hearing that many in his division were pinned down by enemy fire in nearby hills, he organized a group of eight soldiers to help clear a path to rescue the endangered soldiers.

An exploding enemy shell threw Lt. Childers to the ground, breaking his ankle, but he continued to advance. Ordering his soldiers to lay down a base of fire to protect him, he crawled—with his shattered ankle—toward an enemy sniper's nest.

Almost out of ammunition, he reached down and threw a rock at the snipers guessing correctly that they would mistake it for a hand grenade. He was right. When the snipers stood to run, Lt. Childers shot and killed one of them; one of his soldiers killed the other. Later that day, he single-handedly captured an enemy soldier.

After recovering from his wounds, he was sent back into combat and fought at the Battle of Anzio, where he was wounded again. He was recovering in a military hospital when he learned that he was to receive the Medal of Honor.

He retired from the Army as a lieutenant colonel in 1965, worked briefly in Washington, then returned home to Oklahoma.

After September 11, he wrote a widely circulated column criticizing the attacks on some Arab-Americans. He wrote:

> Even though I have darker skin than some Americans, that doesn't mean I'm any less patriotic than any other American. I am appalled that people who call themselves ''Americans'' are attacking and killing other Americans simply because of their skin color.

Now let me speak of another recently lost. Fred Korematsu also suffered a great injury in World War II. In his case, however, the injury wasn't physical, and it wasn't inflicted by enemy soldiers. It was inflicted by the United States government in one of the most shameful chapters in our Nation's history.

In 1942, Mr. Korematsu was 22 years old, living in California, when the U.S. government declared 120,000 Japanese-American citizens and immigrants ''enemy aliens'' and ordered that they be forced from their homes into internment camps—prison camps.

Mr. Korematsu—who was born in California to immigrant parents—had tried twice to enlist in the military after Pearl Harbor, but was rejected for health reasons. He did everything he could think of to be accepted as American. He changed his name, and even had an operation to try to make his eyes appear rounder. Still, he was still ordered to be imprisoned at Tule Lake, an infamous internment camp in California.

His family and friends complied with the order. But Fred Korematsu resisted because, he said, he was an American, and he believed that the internments were unconstitutional.

He challenged the order all the way to the United States Supreme Court. In a decision that remains one of the most infamous decisions in its history, the Court ruled in 1944 that the internment of American citizens of Japanese descent was justified by the need to combat sabotage and espionage.

It took nearly 40 years for Fred Korematsu's conviction for opposing internment to be overturned by a U.S. District Court.

In 1988, Mr. Korematsu helped win an apology and reparations from the United States Government for internment camp survivors. A decade later, he was awarded the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

In November 2003, Mr. Korematsu did something he never expected he would have to do again in his life. He filed another brief before the Supreme Court protesting what he believed to be unconstitutional internments by our Government only this time, the detainees were being held at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba.

Mr. Korematsu's brief contained a simple plea.

> . . . to avoid repeating the mistakes of the past, this court should make clear that the United States respects constitutional and human rights, even in times of war.

Fred Korematsu died on March 30 at his home in Larkspur, CA after a long respiratory illness. He leaves his wife, Katherine, and their son and daughter.

Ernest Childers, a courageous warrior to the end, died March 17 at a hospice in Tulsa after suffering a number of strokes. He leaves his wife of 59 years, Yolanda, and their three children.

These men were recipients of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the highest civilian honor our Nation can bestow on an individual; and the Medal of Honor, the highest military honor our Government grants.

They risked everything as young men to defend the great principles on which our Nation is based, and they continued to speak out for those principles until they died. They were truly American heroes.

Our thoughts and prayers go out to their family and friends.

THE NUCLEAR OPTION

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, we heard a distinguished leader of a country pushing into democracy this morning, addressing a joint meeting of the Congress over in the other body. I think every time a country moves into democracy, and its leaders and citizens come to this country, one of the things they are thrilled about is the independence of our Federal judiciary and our judiciary overall. They say in their country, if they ever want to have democracy, they have to have the independence of the judiciary.

I mention this because in recent weeks there seems to have been this escalating verbal attack by political leaders—and I must say, with all due respect, Republican political leaders—against Federal judges, including those who have been appointed by Republican Presidents, and against the Supreme Court, where most of the justices have been appointed by Republican Presidents.

The Republican leader of the House has spoken seeking vengeance against judges involved in the Terri Schiavo matter. A Senate Republican has referenced the brutal murders in the State court in Georgia and of Judge Lefkow's family in Illinois as if they were somehow connected to judicial decisions that some people do not like and which lead to pressures that explode in violence.

Now, I know all Senators, Republicans and Democrats, including the Senator who made those remarks, strongly agree there can be no justification for violence against judges or their families. In Iraq, judges are being attacked by insurgents. In Columbia, honest judges were murdered by drug-dealing thugs. That is not a circumstance we want to see anywhere in the world, especially here. We cannot tolerate or excuse or justify it here in the United States.

When I chaired the Judiciary Committee in 2001, one of the first things I did was push for passage of the Judicial Protection Act, which toughened criminal penalties for assaults against judges and their families. I sponsored it

with Senator GORDON SMITH. We enacted it. We were right to do so. Protecting our judges and Federal law enforcement officers should be a top priority for us. I think sometimes the focus on terrorism distracts us from the day-to-day dangers for judges.

I remember the autumn of 2001, when Senator Daschle and I were each sent anthrax-laced letters in an environment in which high-ranking Republican leaders had criticized us unfairly during the sensitive weeks leading up to that. People who touched the outside of the envelope addressed to me—the envelope I was supposed to open—people who simply touched it, doing their job, died as a result of that. And no perpetrator was ever arrested or convicted for these anthrax attacks by someone who may have thought himself a ''super patriot'' willing to will to make his point.

I do not want to see more attacks on our Federal and State judges. So I urge those members of the other party who are making these attacks to disavow the rhetoric and those attacks. They should not be creating an atmosphere in which anyone will feel encouraged or justified in attacking our judiciary if they do not like a particular decision.

In this regard, I thank the Senator from Texas for the comments he made Tuesday afternoon in which he expressed his regrets with regard to certain remarks he made on Monday that he says were taken out of context and misinterpreted. He has urged that the overheated rhetoric about the judiciary be toned down and acknowledged that ''[o]ur judiciary must not be politicized.''

Mr. President, I became a Member of the Senate more than 30 years ago at a time when the country was recovering from an abuse of power by President Nixon. In the wake of the Watergate scandal, many of us were elected to be a forceful check on executive power. It was a mindfulness of the danger that absolute power corrupts that the Founders designed our Constitution to contain a vital set of checks and balances among the three branches of our Federal Government. Those checks and balances have served to guarantee our freedoms for more than 200 years.

Today, Republicans are threatening to take away one of the few remaining checks on the power of the executive branch by their use of what has become known as their ''nuclear option.'' This assault on our tradition of checks and balances and on the protection of minority rights in the Senate and in our democracy should be abandoned.

The American people have begun to see this threatened partisan power grab for what it is and to realize that the threat and the potential harm are aimed at our democracy, at the independent Federal judiciary and, ultimately, at their rights and freedoms. A thoughtful editorial appeared in one of my home State's newspapers today. In that editorial, The Barre-Montpelier Times Argus observed: ''Abolishing the filibuster for judicial nominees is another, more extreme, form of intimidation.'' I ask that a copy of that editorial be included in the RECORD at the end of my statement.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(See exhibit 1.)

Mr. LEAHY. Eliminating the filibuster by the nuclear option would violate and destroy the Constitution's design of the Senate as an effective check on the executive. The elimination of the filibuster would reduce any incentive for a President to consult with home-State Senators or seek the advice of the Senate on lifetime appointments to the Federal judiciary. It is a leap not only toward one-party rule and absolute majoritarianism in the Senate but to an unchecked executive.

Recently Republican partisans have ratcheted up the vitriol even further with their direct threats upon the judiciary. They spare no one, neither State court judges, nor Federal judges, nor Federal judges appointed by Republican Presidents, nor the Supreme Court Justices themselves. Their goal is intimidation and subservience to an ideological agenda, rather than adherence to the rule of law. Worst of all, some Republican leaders have taken their rhetoric to a level that should concern all Americans, at a time when violence against judges, their families and courtroom personnel has shocked the nation. The Republican leader of the House has recently spoken of seeking vengeance against judges involved in the Terri Schiavo matter. I recall a similar call by that House leader in 1997 in which he called for the intimidation of judges. I spoke against it then and do so again today. It is essential that we preserve the independence of our judiciary and protect it from intimidation.

In my time in the Senate we have often faced issues directly relevant to the separation of powers and the role this body plays as a check on executive power. As ranking Democratic member of the Judiciary Committee and as a former chairman of the committee, I have invested significant time and energy on providing resources to our third branch of Government. During the 17 months I chaired the committee, the Senate confirmed 100 of President Bush's judicial nominees. In the other 34 months of the Bush administration, the Senate has confirmed but 104.

The independent, nonpartisan role that judges play in our democracy is vital. I agree with Chief Justice Rehnquist when he called the independent judiciary the ''crown jewel'' of our democracy. It is the envy of and the model for the world. In order to keep this branch of Government independent and above politics, these nominations to lifetime appointments should be of the caliber to garner wide consensus, not political divisiveness. The goal should not consistently to be to see how many controversial nominees can be confirmed by the narrowest of partisan margins. Partisan passions must be kept in check when we are addressing an independent branch of Government, and no President should seek to pack the bench with unalloyed partisans or narrow ideologues.

It is the Federal judiciary that is called upon to rein in the political branches when their actions contravene the Constitution's limits on governmental authority and restrict individual rights. It is the Federal judiciary that has stood up to the overreaching of this administration in the aftermath of the September 11 attacks. It is more and more the Federal judiciary that is being called upon to protect Americans' rights and liberties, our environment and to uphold the rule of law as the political branches under the control of one party have overreached. Federal judges should protect the rights of all Americans, not be selected to advance a partisan or personal agenda. Once the judiciary is filled with partisans beholden to the administration and willing to reinterpret the Constitution in line with the administration's demands, who will be left to protect American values and the rights of the American people? The Constitution establishes the Senate as a check and a balance on the choices of a powerful President who might seek to make the Federal judiciary an extension of his administration or a wholly-owned subsidiary of any political party.

The Senate's role in advising the executive and determining whether to consent to confirmation of particular nominees is a fundamental check and balance on the executive. It is especially important with respect to lifetime appointments to the judiciary. The Senate's rules, already adopted and in place for this Congress, continue to provide for an orderly procedure to end debate on matters before the Senate and an orderly procedure for amending the Senate rules.

Just as amending our fundamental charter, the Constitution, requires supermajorities, so amending our Senate rules does, as well. When the Senate rule for ending debate in the Senate has been amended in the past, the rules for amending those rules have been followed. Previous Senate majorities have followed the rule of law by amending rule XXII only after a supermajority has agreed to end debate on amending the rule. The nuclear option would circumvent rule XXII and would destroy the equivalent of the rule of law in the Senate.

Even the Senate's Republican majority should not be above the law. The Senate has always protected minority rights. The nuclear option would bring an end to that tradition and to the comity and cooperation on which the Senate depends. The Senate and the House were designed by the Founders to serve different functions in our Government. The nuclear option destroys the fundamental character of the Senate. Breaking so fundamental a Senate rule by brute force is lawlessness. Over

the past 2 years, the Republican majority has already bent, broken or ignored the rules governing committee consideration of judicial nominees. This year they are moving to destroy the one Senate rule left that allows the minority any protection and any ability to protect the rights of the American people.

In political speeches we all talk about the importance of the rule of law. In Iraq over the last 2 years, young Americans have given the ultimate sacrifice seeking to help establish a democracy that upholds the rule of law. The governing transitional law that the Bush administration helped design for Iraq calls for a two-thirds vote of the Iraqi legislature to select the president and vice presidents. This was created to protect the minority and encourage consensus. Just today we hear that the long period of negotiations following the Iraqi elections has yielded an agreement on the presidency council, which is the next step in forming an Iraqi government, and that the Iraqi national assembly expects to have the two-thirds vote required to proceed to name a Kurdish leader, a prominent Shiite Arab politician and a Sunni Arab leader as the president and the two vice presidents of Iraq. While we recognize and fight for consensus-building and minority protection in Iraq, Republican partisans here at home are threatening the nuclear option to remove protection for the minority in the U.S. Senate. That is wrong.

When President Bush last met earlier this year with President Putin of Russia, he spoke eloquently about the fundamental requirements of a democratic society. President Bush acknowledged that democracy relies on the sharing of power, on checks and balances, on an independent court system, on the protection of minority rights and on safeguarding human rights and human dignity. What we preach to others we should practice. Destroying the protection of minority rights, removing the Senate as a check on the President's power to appoint lifetime judges and undermining our independent Federal judiciary are inconsistent with our democratic principles and values but that is precisely what the nuclear option would do.

Breaching the Senate rules to eliminate filibusters of nominations will only produce more division, bitterness and controversy. To date the Senate has proceeded to confirm 204 lifetime appointments to the Federal judiciary by President Bush. The Senate has refused to grant its consent to only a handful of his most controversial and divisive nominees and only after public debate and the votes of a substantial number of Senators. Those who now threaten the nuclear option were willing to forestall votes on more than 60 of President Clinton's moderate and qualified judicial nominees if only one anonymous Republican Senator had a secret objection.

The way to resolve this conflict is for the President and Senate Republicans to work with all Senators and engage in genuine, bipartisan consultation aimed at the appointment of consensus nominees with reputations for fairness who can gain wide support and join the more than 200 judges confirmed during President Bush's first term. By last December, we had reduced judicial vacancies to the lowest level, lowest rate and lowest number in decades, since President Ronald Reagan was in office.

There are currently 28 judicial vacancies for which the President has delayed sending a nominee. In fact, he has sent the Senate only one new judicial nominee all year. I wish he would work with all Senators to fill those remaining vacancies rather than through his inaction and unnecessarily confrontational approach manufacture longstanding vacancies.

There are currently two of his nominees, Michael Seabright of Hawaii and Paul Crotty of New York, who the Republican leadership refuses to schedule for consideration. I believe that those nominees can be debated and will be confirmed by overwhelming bipartisan votes, if the Republican leadership of the Senate would focus on making progress instead of seeking to manufacture a crisis. They can become the first judges confirmed this year. Let us join together to debate and confirm these consensus nominees.

Rather than blowing up the Senate, let us honor the constitutional design of our system of checks and balances and fill judicial vacancies with consensus nominees without unnecessary delay.

EXHIBIT 1

[From the Times Argus, Apr. 6, 2005]

TIME TO STAND UP

Republicans and Democrats are headed for a showdown in the Senate over the Democrats' insistence that, for a handful of extreme and ill-suited judicial nominees, it will use the filibuster to block action. Sen. Patrick Leahy, ranking Democrat on the Senate Judiciary Committee, will be in the center of the fight.

Republicans have responded to the prospect of Democratic filibusters by threatening to throw out the rule allowing filibusters for judicial nominees. Democrats say that if that happens they will halt all but the most essential Senate action.

The battle over the judiciary is a central political struggle of our time. The congressional effort to meddle in the Terri Shiavo case was a prelude to the battle over the courts, and it revealed the dangerous degree to which the nation's Republican leaders intend to twist the judiciary to their will.

The party line among Republicans is that they favor judges who interpret the law rather than making it. They don't want judges imposing outcomes or crafting decisions to carry out a personal agenda.

Yet the astonishing comments by Rep. Tom DeLay, House Republican leader, show the Republicans' true aim. DeLay revealed that, above all, he wants to impose outcomes. The outcome in the Schiavo case didn't go his way so he began talking of impeaching the judges involved. Judges whose independence is curbed by that kind of intimidation will be forced into outcomes demanded by politics, not by the law.

The Schiavo case passed before judges in state and federal courts, the federal appeals court, even the U.S. Supreme Court, and all those judges, liberal and conservative, ruled that Terri Schiavo's expressed wishes, as conveyed by her husband, should prevail. There has been much debate about whether the husband was reliable and whether the medical diagnosis was correct. But those questions went to judgment in the courts. That is what courts are for. The judiciary is independent so that courts can weigh facts in a calm and reasoned fashion, free of political pressures or the enthusiasms of enflamed groups. Sometimes we don't agree with the outcome, but citizens, like judges, are not supposed to impose outcomes.

Intimidation of the judiciary was also the approach of former Attorney General John Ashcroft, who sought to discipline judges who acted counter to his wishes. Abolishing the filibuster for judicial nominees is another, more extreme, form of intimidation.

The Republican critique of the judiciary suggests they believe judges are somehow outside the democratic system, that they have no business thwarting the workings of the legislative branch. But judges are an essential part of the democratic system. For one, they are appointed by the elected executive and confirmed by elected senators. And they exist to safeguard our democratic system when the legislative or executive branches try to ride roughshod over the law.

In the Schiavo case, the executive and legislative branches sought to abolish the constitutional role of the judiciary as an independent branch. In those cases where President Bush's judicial nominees exhibit similar lack of respect for the law, senators have the duty to oppose them and to stand up against the intimidating tactics of the Republican leadership.

HONORING POPE JOHN PAUL II

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I rise today with a heavy heart to express my sorrow on the passing of his Holiness, Pope John Paul II.

Karol Jozef Wojtyla, born in the village of Wadowice, Poland, grew up in a poor family, and was an orphan by the age of 21. But by the end of his long, energetic life, he had overseen a new outpouring of faith in the Catholic Church and a renewal of freedom around the world.

With his election in 1978, John Paul became the first non-Italian pope in over 450 years. How fitting that of all the countries to produce the next pope, he came from Poland. In 1978, Poland, like most of Eastern Europe, was straining under the yoke of Soviet domination. The Soviet Communists had dubbed religion ''the opiate of the masses,'' and purposefully destroyed churches, detained or murdered priests, and terrorized worshippers.

The last thing they wanted was a native son of Poland returning there to remind his people of the power of faith.

Despite the Polish Communist government's attempts to prevent his visit, John Paul journeyed to Poland in June 1979. When he arrived he knelt down and kissed the Earth. He made over three dozen public appearances, in Warsaw, in Krakow, even in Auschwitz, and millions of Polish Catholics defined their government to see him. John Paul reminded the world that the

power of faith was stronger than tanks. He told his listeners that Christ could not be removed from human history. He urged them, ''be not afraid.''

With his visit, John Paul reminded Eastern Europeans that no economic system was more powerful than the human spirit. Within months, the Polish solidarity movement began, and was the first crack in the Iron Curtain. Thanks to continuous pressure by the Pope and other Western leaders, the Soviet empire finally crumbled 12 years later.

John Paul knew something about the power of faith over totalitarianism. In 1944, while studying for the priesthood in Krakow, Poland, the Nazis began rounding up men to forestall an uprising against their brutal regime. They captured 8,000 in Krakow. But they missed 24-year-old Karol, by failing to look in the basement of the house he was staying in. He was down there praying.

John Paul was not a political leader, but a religious one. He was a champion of human freedom because he believed that freedom was a right granted by God. And he wanted to share that message with others. Through his travels, John Paul took the Christian faith to more people in more places than anyone else has ever done. In his 27 years as Pope, he made 104 foreign trips, the most in papal history. Fluent in seven languages, he spoke directly to people the world over.

More than any Pope before him, John Paul championed a brotherhood of faith between Christians, Jews and Muslims. He was the first pope to visit both a synagogue and a mosque. he referred to the Jewish people as 'our elder brothers.'' His goal was to establish trust and peace between the world's great religions.

In 1994, he established full diplomatic relations between the Vatican and Israel. And in the closing years of the 20th century, he issued the historic document, ''We Remember: A Reflection on the Shoah.'' In it he apologized for the Church's failure to stop the Nazi holocaust.

John Paul made history when, after so many years of working towards reconciliation, he became the first Pope to officially visit the Holy Land in 2000. He visited the sites of Jesus' birth, the Last Supper, crucifixion, burial and resurrection. In Jerusalem, he prayed at the Western Wall. Still in Jerusalem, he visited the al-Aqsa mosque, where Muslims hold that Muhammad ascended to Heaven.

John Paul recognized that worshipers of Judaism, Christianity and Islam, who all too often clash with raised fists, also share the same holy ground. By visiting these sites he reminded us that they belong to none, yet are holy to all.

John Paul was wonderful at delivering his message of love, hope and peace to millions at a time. He holds the record for having been seen, with the naked eye, by more people over his lifetime than anyone else in the world. As shepherd of the Catholic Church, he increased its number from 750 million to one billion over the globe. But he could also speak directly to just one man.

Take a man named Mehmet Ali Agca. On May 13, 1981, Agca shot the pope as he rode in a jeep driving through St. Peter's Square, and wounded him in the abdomen, right arm and left hand. John Paul was rushed to surgery and remained there for 5 hours. Part of his intestines had to be removed, and this man, a former skier, hiker and mountain climber, never fully recovered from this murderous attack.

But 2 years after the shooting, John Paul went to visit Agca in an Italian prison. The apostle and the assassin spoke face to face, and John Paul forgave Agca for attempting to kill him. In 1999, the Vatican endorsed clemency, and the Italian Government pardoned Agca a year later.

Right up until the end of his life, John Paul continued to teach us moral lessons. By continuing his duties through his ill health, he reminded us that all life has value and there is no such thing as a disposable human being.

We have lost a great moral leader, whose counsel will be missed as we continue to fight for freedom against the forces of violence, intolerance and hatred. it will be hard to fill the vacuum John Paul has left. His wisdom and fearlessness spoke not just to Catholics, but also to all Christians, Jews, Muslims, and the religions of the world. As we face a future without him, we must go forward as he did, with confidence in the human soul to find meaning amidst the chaos. And we must ''be not afraid.''

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, I rise to pay tribute to Pope John Paul II, who passed away on Saturday, April 2, 2005.

I certainly will not be able to capture Pope John Paul's entire legacy in these few words. He was a truly remarkable individual who led a truly remarkable life.

Pope John Paul II was a man who had a deep commitment to human freedom political freedom and economic freedom certainly, but more importantly, a freedom of the human soul from the bondage and burdenls of tyranny, oppression, and poverty. As a young man who came of age during World War II, he opposed Nazism. One of his first encyclicals as Pope was in support of workers' rights. During the 1980's, he was one of the leading world figures who helped bring about the end of communism. And he warned us all against the dangers of unbridled capitalism, particularly for those who are less fortunate.

Without a doubt, Pope John Paul II was the most ecumenical Pope the world has ever seen. It is fitting that his passing has sparked an outpouring of appreciation not simply from Catholics, but from people of all faiths.

John Paul II visited 129 countries outside of Italy by far the most of any Pope. He was the first Pope to visit a synagogue or a mosque. He visited the Western Wall in Israel and apologized for the Church's failure to resist and speak out against the Holocaust. Like no other Pope before him, he used his position to build bridges of understanding and respect between different faiths.

Pope John Paul II did not merely give sermons. He led by example. This was particularly evident when it came to the issue of forgiveness. Many of us often talk about forgiveness in an abstract sense. In January 1981, the Pope survived a bullet wound from a would-be assassin. Two years later, he visited and forgave the man who made an attempt on his life.

The Pope was an incredibly charismatic individual. A former actor, he used the skills he developed on stage to his advantage. I was fortunate enough to meet personally with him twice. Like so many, I was impressed not only by his thoughtfulness, and by the depth of his spiritual sentiment, but by his great human vitality, as well as his sense of humor.

In many ways, John Paul II was the first ''modern pope.'' Born in this century, he lived through a world war and saw the emergence of the new threat of terrorism. He witnessed the dawn of the space age, as well as the developments of modern air travel, the computer, and the internet. A great deal of his time was devoted to addressing the tensions that often exist between modern society and Church traditions and doctrines.

The world truly lost an extraordinary leader this past Saturday. His message of faith, hope, and peace inspired millions, even in his final days. I share in the mourning of his passing, and I add my words of tribute to those of so many who have offered them in recent days.

Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, I pay tribute to Pope John Paul II, not only as a leader of the world's 1.1 billion Catholics, but also someone who was a moral leader in our troubled world. I was privileged to have met this Pope twice in my life while representing the people of Florida. I will always remember his devotion to faith, his intellect and his charm but, mostly, I will remember his overwhelming humility.

I was struck by how a man in a position of such awesome power could be so humble. And I believe people around the world saw this, too, which is why millions came to see and hear him during his visits to 129 different countries. His words of freedom and peace penetrated the human heart.

John Paul II was also a man of great courage, who learned firsthand the suffering of the Polish people he later would come to serve. As a young man, he performed forced labor at the hands of the Nazis but challenged their rule. As the archbishop of Krakow, he defied communist rulers, telling his countrymen no one could take faith and hope from their hearts.

He used his 26-year papacy to spread the message of freedom and peace to all corners of the world, and did so with vigor. His international trips always served a higher purpose, for he always sought to bring people together as equals in God's eyes. At one large gathering of youth, the faithful chanted, ''We love you; we love you.'' When they quieted, the Pope humbly responded, ''I love you more.'' He also inspired open communication among the world's faiths, as the first Pope to enter the main Jewish synagogue in Rome and the first to enter a mosque.

When he was selected to be the church's 264th Pope, his first words to the public were: ''Be not afraid.'' Indeed, Pope John Paul II taught people around the world they need not fear those who try to oppress, nor fear those who might be different. As the world mourns his passing, we all should try to heed his words.

PRESIDENT VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO'S ADDRESS TO CONGRESS

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine, addressed a joint meeting of the United States Congress. I was honored to be part of the committee that escorted President Yushchenko into the House Chamber.

President Yushchenko's courage and commitment to democracy have inspired thousands of people in Illinois, and millions more in this country and throughout the world. In Illinois, we have a sizable Ukrainian-American population, particularly in Chicago. My son lives in a section of Chicago known as Ukrainian Village, and soon after President Yushchenko's election, the neighborhood was covered with orange ribbons in celebration.

Yesterday, President Yushchenko and his wife, Kathy Chumachenko-Yushchenko, a native of Chicago, visited the Windy City. I am glad they had the chance to experience our Illinois hospitality during their brief trip to the United States.

Just last month, I traveled to Ukraine as part of a bipartisan congressional delegation. There, I met with President Yushchenko and members of his government, and had the chance to see for myself a nation newly aglow in the light of democracy.

The story of President Yushchenko's election as the President of Ukraine is a story of great personal courage. It is a story of the power of democratic values and ideals. It is a story of what can be accomplished by individuals, united in peaceful protest against corruption, cronyism, and unfettered power.

President Yushchenko was elected as President of Ukraine despite a powerful array of opposing forces which, in pursuit of their ambitions, were willing to obstruct free assembly, free speech, and a free and fair democratic election. He ran for President at great risk to his own life. And he prevailed.

President Yushchenko spoke today with optimism and with hope for Ukraine's future as a democratic country. He said of his country, ''We want a government of the people, by the people, and for the people.'' This is a desire that we as Americans understand and share. I look forward to working with my colleagues in Congress and with President Yushchenko to help nurture the flame of democracy that has started to burn so brightly in Ukraine.

LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT ENHANCEMENT ACT OF 2005

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today to speak about the need for hate crimes legislation. Each Congress, Senator KENNEDY and I introduce hate crimes legislation that would add new categories to current hate crimes law, sending a signal that violence of any kind is unacceptable in our society. Likewise, each Congress I have come to the floor to highlight a separate hate crime that has occurred in our country.

On March 1, 2005, a man was found murdered in Daly City, CA. The victim, who was dressed in women's clothing, was found with multiple stab wounds to his chest and abdomen. Police have identified gender identity and sexual orientation as possible motives.

I believe that the Government's first duty is to defend its citizens, to defend them against the harms that come out of hate. The Local Law Enforcement Enhancement Act is a symbol that can become substance. I believe that by passing this legislation and changing current law, we can change hearts and minds as well.

ZIMBABWE ELECTIONS

Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, I rise to express my concern regarding the recent election in Zimbabwe, which secured sweeping powers for the ruling ZANU–PF party. These results come as no surprise. In addition to reported irregularities on voting day itself, the ruling party had waged a campaign of intimidation, coercion, and institutional manipulation well in advance of the balloting in order to ensure victory.

Last month I joined Senator MCCAIN in writing to Secretary Rice, urging her to reaffirm the United States commitment to supporting genuine democratic processes and institutions in that troubled country. The U.S. needs a post-election strategy in Zimbabwe for supporting civil society, encouraging respect for civil and political rights, and bolstering the forces fighting against corruption.

We also need to continue to plan for the future. Once Zimbabwe's corrupt leadership finally released its grasp on power, the country will require substantial international assistance to turn around its devastating economic decline and to rebuild institutions, such as the once-independent judiciary, so that the rule of law can be effectively restored. Too many Zimbabwean youths have been traumatized, pressed into service in brutal pro-ruling party militia forces, enduring serious abuse and then often becoming abusers themselves. These young men and women, too, will need support and assistance to find their way back on a path toward the futures they once dreamed of as children.

I hope that soon the people of Zimbabwe will be given a chance to freely express their will in a genuine democratic process that is free from manipulation, intimidation, and coercion. As we prepare ourselves to be good partners to the people of Zimbabwe when change finally does come, we must also take a hard look at the disappointing passivity of leaders in many southern African states who have failed to speak and act in support of basic human rights and the rule of law in their own neighborhood. These decisions raise real doubts about the commitment of these regional leaders to democracy, and over the long term, these failures threaten the prospects for stability and prosperity throughout the region. South Africa, with its painful history, its tremendous promise, and its special moral authority, might have been a powerful protector of the rights of the people of Zimbabwe. Instead, South Africa's leadership has chosen, time and again, to sweep repression and abuse in Zimbabwe under the rug and to lend support to a bullying President who would rather destroy his own country than accept the rule of law and let real power rest with the Zimbabwean people. This South African choice is perhaps one of the greatest disappointments of all.

The people of Zimbabwe have suffered through years of economic and political catastrophe. Those of us who have watched this decline feel tremendous frustration and real sadness as we observe what has happened to their country. But we must not surrender to hopelessness, and we must not give up. I continue to be deeply moved by the bravery and patriotism of Zimbabwean citizens who resist the state's repression, even at enormous personal cost. The United States must remain committed to working with them to ensure that the people of Zimbabwe succeed in their fight for freedom and genuine democracy.

BOY SCOUTS

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I rise today to honor an important institution in America that has contributed greatly to the quality of our youth and is very dear to my heart and the hearts of many here—the Boy Scouts of America.

For more than 90 years, the Scouts have supported our youth and helped produce some of the best and brightest leaders in our country—as many of my colleagues can attest—and I believe we

must reaffirm our support for the vital work they have done and continue to do. Like many of my friends here, I was a Boy Scout many years ago.

As a result of the great work they do, I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of S. 642, the ''Support Our Scouts Act of 2005'', a bill that reinforces our strong commitment to the Boy Scouts.

In fact, I had at one time considered introducing my own bill on this very important matter. However, I was so pleased with the substance of this bill that I was proud to add my name as a cosponsor, and I thank my leader, Senator FRIST, for his efforts on this issue.

This bill addresses efforts by some groups to prevent federal agencies from supporting our Scouts. This bill would remove any doubts that Federal agencies can welcome Scouts and the great work they do from camping on Federal property to hosting the national jamboree every 4 years at Fort A.P. Hill.

As Senator FRIST has said, this legislation will specifically ensure that the Department of Defense can and will continue to provide Scouts the type of support it has provided in the past. Moreover, the Scouts would be permitted equal access to public facilities, forums, and programs that are open to a variety of other youth or community organizations.

Regrettably, as we all know, in recent years, the Boy Scouts have come under attack from aggressive liberal groups blatantly pushing their own social agendas.

In particular, Scouts have been the target of lawsuits by organizations that are more concerned with pushing these liberal agendas than sincerely helping our youth.

For instance, the Federal government is currently defending a lawsuit aimed at severing traditional ties between the Boy Scouts and the Departments of Defense and Housing and Urban Development.

What is more, Scouts have been excluded by certain State and local governments from utilizing public facilities, forums and programs, which are open to other groups.

It is certainly disappointing and, frankly, frustrating that we have reached a point where groups like the ACLU are far more interested in tearing down great institutions like the Boy Scouts than helping foster character and values in our young men.

I am tired of these tactics. It is very disturbing to me that these groups unabashedly attack organizations, regardless of the good they do or the support they have from the vast majority of Americans, simply to further their own subjective social agendas.

I for one, am saddened that the Boy Scouts of America has been the most recent target of these frivolous lawsuits. I reject any arguments that the Boy Scouts is anything but one of the greatest programs for character development and values-based leadership training in America today.

We must coalesce around those values that are so important to our society. We should seek to aid, not impede, groups that promote values like duty to God and country, faith and family, and public service and sacrifice, which are deeply ingrained in the oath of every scout.

To fail to support such values would allow the very fabric of America, which has brought us to this great place in history, to be destroyed.

Today, with more than 3.2 million youth members, and more than 1.2 million adult volunteers, we can certainly say that the Boy Scouts of America has positively impacted the lives of generations of boys, preparing them to be men of great character and values. Remarkably, Boy Scout membership since 1910 totals more than 110 million.

I am proud to report that in Oklahoma we have a total youth participation of nearly 75,000 boys, and in Oklahoma City alone, we have about 7,000 adult volunteers.

These young men have helped serve communities all over our State with programs like Helping Hands for Heroes, program where Scouts help military families whose loved ones are serving overseas. These young men have cut grass, cleaned homes, taken out the garbage and walked dogs. What a great service for our soldiers, sailors, airmen, and marines and their families. Our Boy Scouts have also to served as ushers and first aid responders at the University of Oklahoma football games for more than 50 years.

Notably, Scouts in my State have also shared a long and proud history of cooperation and partnership with military installations in Oklahoma.

Given all this, I hope my colleagues will join me in defending this organization and others like it. We must not be afraid to support our youth and organizations like the Boy Scouts that support them.

LIVING STRONGER, LONGER

Mr. KOHL. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize National Public Health Week and its important theme of ''Living Stronger, Longer.'' Today, seniors are leading active and healthy lifestyles unmatched by previous generations. They are working longer, eating better, and utilizing medical advances that detect and treat illnesses before it is too late. But as our aging population doubles within the next decade, new challenges await us in ensuring that supply can meet an increasing demand.

This week marks the 10th Annual National Public Health Week, focusing on Living Stronger, Longer. I am proud to join the organizations involved that advocate for seniors every day and bring vital issues to the forefront during this week-long public information campaign promoting long and healthy lives for all Americans.

Public health advancements and new treatment options are enabling Americans to live longer and longer, but many older Americans still continue to suffer from preventable and treatable health problems such as diabetes, high blood pressure and heart disease. Americans can prevent and treat many of the common health problems that hinder the enjoyment of later years if they have access to affordable health care.

I know that as I travel throughout Wisconsin, speaking to seniors' groups and individuals, I often hear their concerns about the rising costs of health care and prescription drugs. As the lead Democrat on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, I am committed to protecting seniors' access to quality health care and I am committed to making sure that Medicare is preserved as a vital health program for seniors.

One of the key components to living longer, healthier lives is access to life-saving prescription drugs. I have long been concerned about the high cost of prescription drugs, which can make it hard for Wisconsinites to afford the medicines they need to stay healthy. Today, Americans pay substantially higher prices for the same medicines that are far less expensive in many other countries. It is not fair to ask Americans to pay higher prices for the same medicines that cost a fraction of the price in other countries. That is why I support legislation to allow Americans to take advantage of lower drug prices found in other countries by legalizing the importation of FDA-approved drugs from other countries. I also support legislation to change a troublesome feature of the new Medicare prescription drug law that prohibits the Government from utilizing the tremendous purchasing power of the Medicare Program to reduce prices.

I am also concerned about the rising premiums seniors are facing in the Medicare Program. In addition to lowering the cost of prescription drugs, I will also continue to fight inefficiencies in Medicare and work to make Medicare affordable and fair for all Wisconsin seniors.

But there also benefits that are available through Medicare that seniors simply are not utilizing. In fact, one in three older Americans do not get all recommended screenings. In Wisconsin, only 44.4 percent of men and 40.6 percent of women 65 and older are getting the selected preventive services provided, recommended, and covered by Medicare. We need to encourage seniors to take advantage of the opportunities that are available to take the steps necessary to stay strong and healthy longer.

We are lucky enough to live in the most medically and economically advanced country in the world, where we have the ability to protect our citizens, prevent illness and disease, and plan ahead for a more prosperous future. There is work to be done, but as long as we can work together, solutions can be obtained and Americans' quality of life improved for generations to come.

RETIREMENT OF PROFESSOR ALAN WERTHEIMER

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, Vermont is a State filled with extraordinary people who lead extraordinary lives. We take great pride that despite our modest geographical size, Vermont produces people whose voices, commitment and accomplishments transcend our borders and leave a lasting impact on the world in which we live.

Later this spring, one such Vermonter will be moving on to a new chapter in his life. Professor Alan Wertheimer, the John G. McCullough Professor of Political Science at the University of Vermont, will be retiring after over 35 years of teaching.

Professor Wertheimer is a distinguished scholar, having authored a number of highly acclaimed books. He has taught thousands of students over the years, including many members of my staff. He has been active in the affairs of the university and the community. His wife Susan and their children have been by his side every step of the way.

The role of scholars in shaping our society has been debated for thousands of years. Professor Wertheimer leaves in his wake a whole generation of students who he helped grapple with some of the most difficult and complex political and philosophical questions of our time, in a relevant, provocative and memorable style.

We in Vermont owe an enormous debt to Professor Wertheimer. He chose to grace our State university with his presence for his entire academic career. Thousands of Vermonters and students from all over the country and the world have had their lives enhanced by his dedication and scholarship.

I ask unanimous consent that a recent article in the Vermont Quarterly about Professor Wertheimer be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the article was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

WHAT DOES PROFESSOR WERTHEIMER THINK?

(By Kevin Foley)

Bright as they are, try as they will UVM's first class of Honors College students can't always figure that one out, but they just might learn to define and defend their own thoughts in the process. Inside the Honors Ethics Seminar, where a college's debut is sparked by a venerable professor's swan song.

Alan Wertheimer's method is the question, and right now, as a high-wattage October sun pours in and illuminates the buttery walls of his Allen House honors college seminar room, the question is this: ''Is Alan Wertheimer tall?''

Well, no, not in modern-day America. But in the 18th century? Among the diminutive Bayaka, a Central African pygmy tribe? Among political theorists, where Wertheimer cuts a large figure because of decades of work illuminating crucial concepts in ethics and law like coercion? Who is to say? Perhaps Wertheimer, who goes about five-seven in his teaching clogs, really is tall.

But there's no time for that now. The professor has moved on to another proposition, another question.

Wertheimer, who is the John G. McCullough Professor of Political Science to his colleagues and ''Big Al'' to his honors students (offering another data point on the contingency of height), is ending his 37-year career at the University with a beginning: Along with philosopher Don Loeb, Wertheimer, who is retiring at the end of this academic year, developed a two-semester course in ethics that all 90 students enrolled in the new Honors College are taking. (See ''Your Honor,'' below.) The idea is to provide these talented first-year students, a diverse group of future environmental engineers, doctors, English teachers, and software developers, a shared intellectual experience that cuts across every academic discipline and profession.

But the universal applicability of ethics—we all, after all, have strong notions of right and wrong, fair and unfair, whether to hand back the overpriced grocery store's miscounted change or keep it—is also a potential trap, at least if you've got a group of 15 very young, very bright, and very vocal students. Loeb puts it this way: ''When you teach particle physics, nobody tries to come in with equally valid opinions on whether mesons have mass.'' Ethics is different: whether or not protestors should mass inspires more passionate opinions than the properties of sub-atomic matter.

But in the Honors College, emoting is not thinking. Opinion is not analysis. Instructors need to spark a lively discussion (generally an easy task with this crowd, even when the subject is Plato's Crito), but also to manage it, keeping the conversation aligned with the readings, and helping members of the class interrogate their classmates' ideas, and their own. Voicing your thoughts is great; defending them well is something else entirely. Something better. And putting logic into opinions is where Wertheimer's teaching excels.

The professor proffers another statement to the class, ''It is not wrong to download music even if it violates the law.'' The students are supposed to reply true, false, or don't know, but once again, a statement quickly morphs into an interrogatory and the discussion surges. Passions rise—was that a telltale flash of porcelain iPod earbuds in the messenger bag across the table?—as the first-years come to a somewhat sheepish consensus: when it comes to illegally downloading music, fine, true, cool. Wertheimer winces. It is early in the semester, after all. (Or was that a smile?) The seminar soon rumbles on to categorizing a statement about the existence of God. The group opinion here, just barely, is ''don't know.''

Questions, questions, questions. But few answers from Wertheimer: none today, in fact. At a different time, in the more relaxed confines of his corner office on the top floor of Old Mill, the professor sits under a Chicago Art Institute poster depicting a bright horseracing scene, and explains why.

''The job is not to answer the question,'' he says. ''It's to get them to think about it more rigorously.''

AN ORDERLY MIND

The method is the question: Reading Consent to Sexual Intercourse, Wertheimer's most recent book and a tome far less racy than its title might imply, illustrates the power of carefully chosen, interlocking queries. With a characteristic intellectual flip, Wertheimer's discussion is not so much about the obvious ''when does no mean no?''—that's morally clear, he thinks, or should be—but when does yes really mean yes.

Think about that: when does yes really mean yes? It can make your skull vibrate, even before the professor launches into nearly 300 pages of tricky cases and complicated theories. Can a retarded person truly consent to sex? A coerced one? Someone deceived, egregiously or subtly? Someone drunk? And those scenarios are only the beginning.

Wertheimer doesn't present a grand theory, an overarching vision, a huge program for social change. That's not his style. Instead, he offers a lot of thorough discussion of complicated cases, and some focused theories for hashing through them. This is not to say that the book lacks moral vision, however. Wertheimer's philosophical peregrinations leave him convinced that sexual deception, a matter largely ignored by the law, needs to be taken more seriously. Why should the law say so much about commercial deceits, when dollars are at stake, and so little about sexual lies, which cost so much emotionally?

Lawyers like to say that ''hard cases make bad law,'' and they well may, but Wertheimer's gifts for sustained, precise and dispassionate analysis at least makes them into compelling theories. The books that Wertheimer built his intellectual reputation with, Coercion and Exploitation, take similarly knotty philosophical areas and methodically think through them in ways that are useful to political theorists, philosophers, and lawyers. More than useful: One reviewer said of Exploitation that ''no one interested in the topic will be able to ignore this classic work.'' Wertheimer's scholarly appeal, says his colleague Robert Pepperman Taylor, a fellow political science professor and dean of the Honors College, comes down to the clarity and rigor of his approach.

''These are issues which people tend to wax rhetorical about, but Al brings his extremely clear analytical mind to bear on problems that can raise a lot of heat, a lot of passion, a lot of rhetoric,'' Taylor says. ''He insists that we speak clearly about these things and understand them clearly.''

Wertheimer's career, unlike his writing and thinking, hasn't always taken the clearest and most logical path from point A to B. The professor, in fact, attributes many of his professional breakthroughs to good fortune; a fellowship at Princeton led to his first book, a semester spent teaching law at the University of San Diego contributed to his latest book. Now, after stepping down from his full-time duties at UVM, Wertheimer will spend a year at the National Institutes of Health, working on issues of coercion and consent in medical research.

''Things happen,'' he says. ''Truth be told, that's the story of a lot of my career—anybody's career—things happen. Each opportunity led to new opportunities. I suppose it's true that the rich get richer; and, while I'm not exactly rich, I have gotten intellectually richer.''

SHARING THE WEALTH

In casual conversation, Wertheimer is genial and amusing, fairly soft-spoken, prone to answer questions after one of the stretches of contemplation that make him a formidable bridge player. In the classroom, he's loud and kinetic (''I think he shocks the kids a little,'' a colleague says, ''because he is passionate—very passionate—about things that maybe they never know anyone cared about'') as he explores and tests his students' logic.

''To make a class of the kind I teach go well, you need at least four or five articulate, bright students,'' Wertheimer explains. ''One or two isn't enough: You need a critical mass. If you have that, you get the others going.''

In the honors seminar, Wertheimer has his requisite fluent five and then some, and while the discussions are lively, the conversation isn't always totally satisfying for

the students. As the class spent a fall semester wrestling with abortion, inheritance, Plato, and the war in Iraq, their frequent tendency was to try to gauge what Big Al, the compact seer in the front of the room, thought. But after nearly 40 years of undergraduate teaching, Wertheimer is wily about concealing his personal views behind a Socratic screen when it suits his pedagogical purposes.

First-year honors student Kevin Ohashi, an electric-haired computer jock who spent his last two years of high school in Kathmandu, says that sphinx-like quality drove some of his classmates nuts. ''Professor Wertheimer loves to play the devil's advocate,'' Ohashi says. ''In class he would take the side that most people weren't on and propose a hypothetical situation that started tilting things his way, and then he might switch again. I thought it was great.''

Ohashi says that the result of all those hours of discussion, at least for him, wasn't a messenger bag full of new ideas or a changed sense of moral purpose. Instead, in conversations with friends from the honors floor and elsewhere, he has over time found himself defending his old ideas with more confidence and care. Ohashi's experience echoes a theme common in letters from Wertheimer's former students: They often say things like ''I never knew what it meant to think through a problem before.''

INTELLECTUAL ATMOSPHERE

The professor got involved with creating the inaugural honors seminar (hardly a relaxed way to spend one's last year before retirement) because his experiences on the UVM faculty and as a UVM parent left him convinced that the campus needed a more intellectual culture.

If we're successful, we'll have created an intellectual environment,'' he says. ''We toyed with the idea of having some variation in content between sections of the first-year seminars, but we dropped that, precisely so that people can engage in a common experience.''

Honors students live together, study together, and play together. But the honors experience operates in quieter, more personal ways as well. Rahul Mudannayake, a first-year pre-med honors student from Sri Lanka, says that some of the class readings and discussions have haunted him, especially a particular essay by the famous Princeton philosopher Peter Singer. In the essay, ''Rich and Poor,'' Singer outlines the vast discrepancies between wealth and poverty in the world, and insists that the wealthy have an obligation to assist. (Singer also visited campus to speak and meet with students in the class.) After the end of the fall semester, Mudannayake went home to Sri Lanka, just before the tsunami struck and devastated the country's coastal areas. The student did what he could, helping to ferry food and medicine to affected regions in the days after the tragedy, but the calamity made the ethical arguments he heard in the seminar, especially Singer's, immediate.

''The class has stayed with me in my life,'' Mudannayake says. ''Spending a $1.50 here on a bottle of soda is difficult, considering what I read, what I saw in Sri Lanka. The way I spend my money now is totally different, and Wertheimer and Singer are part of that.''

And here is where Al Wertheimer's questions finally end with an answer: A student thinking through the issues and making a personal choice, arrived at with rigor.

SIDEBAR 1

Your Honor

Students at the University's newest college live and learn together and, proponents of the program say, their debates, excitement and activities will enrich the entire academic atmosphere of campus.

It works like this: The campus-wide Honors College accepts about 100 of the most gifted first-year students enrolling at the University, regardless of major, and throws them together for a intense program of social events, a two-semester in-depth seminar class (for now, the ethics course developed by Wertheimer and Loeb), special lectures from big-name intellectuals and, in most cases, living on an all-honors floor at Harris/Millis.

By 2007, as successive classes enroll, the program will grow to encompass about 700 students (sophomores can apply for admission; college organizers wanted to give students who don't catch fire academically until they reach UVM a chance to participate in the program, which includes perks like priority class scheduling), supporting and extending existing college-level honors programs. Down the line, honors students will live in the new $60 million University Heights Student Residential Learning Complex, creating a Harvard or Oxford-style ''residential college.''

SIDEBAR 2

A Teacher's Tribute

On April 15, a daylong symposium in Old Mill will celebrate Alan Wertheimer's intellectual life in a manner befitting the man. Instead of gold watches and encomiums, judges, politicians and scholars will gather for a program on ethics in public life. The event will feature former Vermont Gov. Madeleine Kunin; Vermont Supreme Court Associate Justice John Dooley; and Harvard University's Arthur Applebaum, Dennis Thompson, and Nancy Rosenbaum. The discussion will range from Iraq to judicial activism and gay relationships to presidential campaign ethics. All events are free and open to the public; and, of course, Professor Wertheimer will be there doing what he does, asking questions, listening closely, weighing arguments, thoughtfully negotiating the tricky philosophical waters of politics and life.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF THE COLLEGE OF ST. CATHERINE

• Mr. DAYTON. Mr. President, I rise today to offer my heartfelt congratulations to the College of St. Catherine, in St. Paul, MN, on the celebration of its centennial year. St. Catherine is our country's largest Catholic college for women. Its numerous academic achievements would be impressive for a college of any size, but for an institution with fewer than 5,000 students, such accomplishments are downright spectacular.

Since its founding 100 years ago, the College of St. Catherine has expanded its student body from high school and lower division college students to include associate, bachelor's and graduate degree candidates in more than 60 fields. In 1937, St. Catherine became the first Catholic college to be awarded a chapter of the national honor society, Phi Beta Kappa.

Today, the College of St. Catherine continues to distinguish itself as a leading institution for women's education. Its ''Women of Substance'' series features lectures and performances of theatre, music, and dance by female speakers and artists from around the world. In the classroom, the college's new ''Centers for Excellence'' focus on the role of women in such diverse fields as public policy, spirituality, and health.

Annually, the College of St. Catherine graduates more nurses than any other college or university in Minnesota. It is second only to the much larger University of Minnesota in the number of public school teachers it has educated and placed in the State's capital city of St. Paul.

Along with all of the Minnesotans whose lives have benefited from the talents, professionalism, and leadership of St. Catherine's outstanding graduates, I would like to say thank you. The College of St. Catherine's commitment to the highest standards of academic excellence and social responsibility have enriched the lives of its students and its State's citizens for a century. I congratulate the faculty, staff, alumnae, and students of the College of St. Catherine on their 100 years of excellence. I know that they will continue their great tradition for the next 100 years.•

IN HONOR OF THE MIRACLE LEAGUE

• Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, I take this opportunity to recognize the Miracle League, an organization dedicated to providing opportunities for all children to play baseball, regardless of their abilities.

In 1997, Coach Eddie Bagwell of the Rockdale Youth Baseball Association in Atlanta, GA, noticed a young boy in a wheelchair on the sidelines at all of the youth baseball team's practices and games. The enthusiasm and excitement that this boy had for baseball was inspiring and it was then that Coach Eddie realized that youth with disabilities ought to have the same opportunities as others to play ball.

In 1988, Coach Bagwell formed the Miracle League, a youth baseball league designed to allow children of all abilities to participate in our Nation's favorite pastime—baseball. The league started with 35 children. The following year, the number more than doubled, with 80 children clamoring to join a team. Since the Miracle League was breaking new ground, it came up with five rules to play by: every player bats once each inning; all base runners are safe; every player scores a run before the inning is over (last one up gets a home run); community volunteers serve as ''buddies'' to assist the players; and each team and each player wins every game.

As word spread quickly, Miracle League baseball teams were started across the country. In my home State of California, there are now four Miracle League teams: in Belmont, Westminster, Ventura County, and Visalia. Nationwide, there are more than 50 Miracle League teams.

I commend the Miracle League for its philosophy that ''Every Child Deserves

a Chance to Play Baseball.'' As the Miracle League begins its Spring 2005 season, I send my best wishes for a fun and exiting season. Play Ball!●

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM McWHORTER COCHRANE

● Mrs. DOLE. Mr. President, North Carolina lost a loyal son and a devoted public servant when William McWhorter Cochrane died in Charlotte at the end of December. Bill dearly loved his home State and was often referred to as ''North Carolina's third Senator.'' He was a man of great knowledge from whom I learned so much over the span of many years, and I feel certain that folks who knew him agree that his kindness was abundant and his accomplishments were endless.

Bill attended the University of North Carolina Chapel Hill, earning a bachelor's degree in journalism in 1938 and a law degree in 1941. Upon graduation, he served as the assistant director of the UNC Institute of Government. In 1941, he joined the U.S. Naval Reserve and in 1942, he was called to active duty and served aboard the minesweeper USS *Improve* off the Mediterranean coast. He then returned to the UNC Institute of Government. In 1950, he earned an advanced law degree from Yale University and became an associate research professor of public law and government at UNC.

In 1954, when Kerr Scott was elected to the Senate, Bill moved to Washington and served as Senator Scott's executive secretary and legal counsel until the Senator's death in 1957. Bill always insisted that he intended to return to North Carolina, having originally told Senator Scott that he would stay for only one year. But, B. Everett Jordan, appointed as Scott's successor, urged Bill to stay on in Washington. He did so and served as Senator Jordan's administrative assistant for the next 14 years.

Through the years, countless North Carolinians made their way to the Russell Building. Those seeking information, advice or a job, found Bill in his office piled high with documents, copies of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, mementos of presidential inaugurations, and thousands of index cards. At the service for Bill in Chapel Hill, many of those who spoke told of the wise counsel Bill provided and of his help in finding a position here in Washington. I count myself among those when, as a young woman, I first came to Washington and received Bill's advice and counsel.

During the summer of 1960, I worked in Senator Jordan's office as a summer employee. Knowing that first-hand historical experiences are much treasured by young people, Bill helped me get a front-row ticket to my first national campaign. Because of Bill, I was able to join onboard Democratic Vice-Presidential nominee Lyndon B. Johnson's whistle stop tour of the South.

Although my staunchly Republican father was concerned about my riding through the South, especially through my hometown on LBJ's train, I knew Bill was giving me, this political science major, an unmatchable learning experience and I was right. I took in every single moment, watching and learning as the Johnson campaign rolled along all over the South and through my hometown of Salisbury, NC.

On the train I met both LBJ and his gracious wife, Lady Bird. Those exciting days on the LBJ express were a blur of cheering crowds, speeches and yellow roses that surely ignited my already burning interest in politics. I will forever be grateful to Bill for that experience.

Senator Jordan chaired the Senate Rules Committee for many years, but when he lost his Senate seat in 1972, Bill was appointed staff director and majority counsel of the committee. He held that position from 1972–80; from 1981–86 he was minority staff director to the committee, and from 1987 to 1994 he served as senior advisor. For 20 years he was staff director of the Joint Committee on Presidential Inaugurals, directing the inaugurations of Presidents Richard Nixon, Jimmy Carter, and Ronald Reagan.

For 30 years he served on the staff of the Joint Committee on the Library, and in 1995, James Billington the Librarian of Congress, named Bill honorary historical consultant to the Library of Congress. Dr. Billington said of Bill's service to the library, ''Bill Cochrane was one of the most knowledgeable, wise and devoted public servants I have had the pleasure of knowing. In a career that spanned three decades, as the senior staffer, institutional memory, and conscience of the Joint Committee on the Library and the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration, Bill was involved in every major library initiative, including the construction of the Madison Building, the renovation of the Jefferson and Adams Buildings, and an architect of smooth transitions from one Librarian of Congress to the next. His affection for the library and his long record of support for its mission and programs were unparalleled and will be long remembered.''

Bill's long and valued service to this body and to his home State speak to a remarkable dedication and devotion for which Bill was admired and respected by all those who knew him. It is fitting that at this time, we in the Senate recognize and remember his service. We will surely miss this wise and caring man, wearing his bow tie and smoking his pipe.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his wife, Shirley, and sons, William Daniel Cochrane and Thomas McWhorter Cochrane.●

NEW MEXICAN CONTRIBUTION TO IED COUNTERMEASURES EQUIPMENT IN IRAQ

● Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I recognize and praise the outstanding contribution of Delta Group Electronics and Canberra Aqulia of Albuquerque, NM, and New Mexico State University to ongoing efforts to protect our service men and women from improvised explosive devices, IEDs, in Iraq.

One of the greatest threats to our military personal deployed in the global war on terrorism is the IED. These devices used by terrorists and insurgents in Iraq are the single greatest cause of American casualties. These remote controlled bombs are used to attack American forces individually and as part of larger assaults on patrols and convoys.

While the up-armoring of military vehicles has provided a partial solution to the problem of combating IEDs, a better solution is to prevent IEDs from exploding at all. The IED countermeasures equipment, ICE, being fielded by the U.S. Marine Corps in Iraq is designed to accomplish this goal. ICE will jam the radio signal which is used to detonate many of these devices.

Delta Group Electronics and Canberra Aquila are an integral part of making ICE available to our soldiers in Iraq. Aqulia Technologies Group Inc. has been located in New Mexico since 1971. Delta Group Electronics has been operating since 1987.

These companies have been instrumental in delivering ICE to our Armed Forces in Iraq at one-third the cost of previous IED countermeasure systems. I thank them for helping to insure that our brave soldiers fighting the global war on terror are safer from these kinds of attacks. I have no doubt that both of these companies in the future will continue to contribute significantly to the national security of our great Nation.●

RWANDAN GENOCIDE

● Mr. FEINGOLD. Mr. President, today marks the 11th anniversary of the start of the Rwandan genocide of 1994. Eleven years ago, a deliberate, centrally planned, and organized campaign of mass murder and rape was set in motion in Rwanda, and eventually it took the lives of some 800,000 men, women, and children. The victims were ethnic Tutsis and also moderate ethnic Hutus who believed in tolerance and resisted the call to participate in madness. In many ways, the entire country was victimized. Millions were displaced, and shattered state institutions are still recovering from the devastating loss of skilled personnel. Survivors have struggled to cope with their memories, and orphans have had to assume adult responsibilities in the wake of tragedy. The entire central African region has been violently unstable ever since.

As this horror unfolded, the international community, including the United States, failed the people of Rwanda, and failed to act in the face of true evil. The world had said ''never again'' to genocide. And then we abandoned the people of Rwanda to an unspeakable national nightmare.

Even as the world marks this solemn anniversary, we read ongoing reports of the crisis in Darfur, Sudan—a crisis that our President and this Congress has called a genocide. Once more, we confront a reality that exposes the inadequacy of our pledges of ''never again.'' And many will seize the anniversary of the Rwandan tragedy to rally support for more effective action in Darfur, where the international response has too often been sluggish and inadequate.

In the case of Darfur, the United States has spoken boldly. Our humanitarian response, though slow to gear up, is significant and commendable. The efforts of the African Union are laudable. But the bottom line is that neither the African Union nor the U.S. has taken effective action to protect the people of Darfur. While last week the United Nations Security Council made some progress on Darfur, much more remains to be done, and I do not believe that the United States has exerted adequate diplomatic and political effort on behalf of the people of Darfur. We ought to be able to do more—to be more forceful, more focused, more innovative, and more persuasive—to stop genocide.

So I applaud those who will work to refocus American attention on Darfur today, and I stand with them in their urgent call for a more effective response. But today, of all days, we must not forget Rwanda. We cannot pretend that Rwanda's struggles are simply in the past, or that the country exists simply to serve as a cautionary tale. The people of Rwanda still struggle today with efforts to rebuild their country, with the devastating HIV/AIDS pandemic, with the need for justice and accountability, and broadly, with fear. And though it is true that even the most conscientious policy will never erase the failures of the past, it is also true that we only compound our mistakes when we ignore the realities of Rwanda today.

Frankly, some of these realities are deeply disturbing. Crushing poverty characterizes the economic situation of far too many Rwandans, and serious repression is a dominant feature of the country's political life. The most recent State Department Human Rights Report on Rwanda cites instances of political disappearances, arbitrary arrest of opposition supporters, and harassment of independent journalists. According to the report, last year the government of Rwanda ''effectively dismantled independent human rights organizations'' and the Government declined to use its considerable influence with the RCD–G faction in Eastern Congo to effectively curtail that group's practice of killing, raping, and robbing the people of Eastern Congo on a massive scale.

Of course the government of Rwanda and the Rwandan people value order and are extremely sensitive to ethnically divisive forces. Rwanda remains a traumatized society. But not all dissent is dangerous or divisive, and history teaches us that imposing order alone is not enough to guarantee stability and security. Over the long run, suppression and intimidation can undermine security rather than protecting it, forcing healthy debates into illicit channels, and casting doubt on the legitimacy of the prevailing order. We fail to be true friends to the people of Rwanda when we fail to be honest about these issues, and to raise our voices in support of the civil and political rights of the Rwandan people.

As we remember the past today, we should resolve to pay close attention to the present. The people of Rwanda deserve more than our regret. They deserve our support for their efforts to build a more just, more free, and more secure future.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Evans, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The nominations received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:14 p.m., a message from the House, delivered by Ms. Niland, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 34. Concurrent resolution honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 3. An act to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC–1492. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Food Safety and Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Addition of Slovakia to the List of Countries Eligible to Export Meat Products to the United States'' (Docket No. 99–018F) received on March 18, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1493. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Thiophanate-methyl; Pesticide Tolerances for Emergency Exemptions'' (FRL No. 7699–3) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1494. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Mesotrione; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL No. 7703–1) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1495. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dinotefuran; Pesticide Tolerance'' (FRL No. 7695–5) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1496. A communication from the Principal Deputy Associate Administrator, Office of Policy, Economics, and Innovation, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Bacillus thuringiensis Modified Cry3A Protein (mCry3A) and the Genetic Material Necessary for its Production in Corn; temporary Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance'' (FRL No. 7704–4) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1497. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Agricultural Bioterrorism Protection Act of 2002; Possession, Use, and Transfer of Biological Agents and Toxins'' (RIN0579–AB47) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1498. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Classical Swine Fever Status of Mexican States of Campeche, Quintana Roo, Sonora, and Yucatan'' (APHIS Docket No. 02–002–2) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1499. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Karnal Bunt; Regulated Areas'' (APHIS Docket No. 04–118–1) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1500. A communication from the Congressional Review Coordinator, Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Commuted Travel Time'' (APHIS Docket No. 04–108–1) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC–1501. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Salable Quantities and Allotment Percentages for the 2005–2006 Marketing Year''

(FV05–985–1 FR) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1502. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Grapes Grown in a Designated Area of Southeastern California; Increased Assessment Rate'' (FV05–925–1 FR) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1503. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Vidalia Onions Grown in Georgia; Increased Assessment Rate'' (FV05–955–1 IFR) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1504. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Onions Grown in South Texas; Decreased Assessment Rate'' (FV05–959–1 FIR) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1505. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Dried Prunes Produced in California; Increased Assessment Rate'' (FV05–993–1 FR) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1506. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2004–2005 Marketing Year'' (FV04–985–2 IFR–A2) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1507. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Nectarines and Peaches Grown in California; Revision of Handling Requirements for Fresh Nectarines and Peaches'' (FV05–916–1 IFR) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1508. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Fruit and Vegetable Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Domestic Dates Produced or Packed in Riverside County, California; Modification of the Qualification Requirements for Approved Manufacturers of Date Products'' (FV04–987–1 FR) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1509. A communication from the Acting Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Dairy Programs, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Fluid Milk Promotion Order'' (DA–04–04) received on March 28, 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC – 1510. A communication from the Architect of the Capitol, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report of all expenditures during the period April 1, 2004 through September 30, 2004 from moneys appropriated to the Architect; to the Committee on Appropriations.

EC – 1511. A communication from the Chief, Office of Regulations Policy and Management, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Exclusions from Income and New Worth Computations'' (RIN2900–AM14) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC – 1512. A communication from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC – 1513. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Administrator, Office of Diversion Control, Drug Enforcement Agency, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Orders for Controlled Substances'' (RIN1117–AA60) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC – 1514. A communication from the General Counsel, Office of Justice Programs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Government-Wide Debarment and Suspension (Nonprocurement) and Government-Wide Requirements for Drug-Free Workplace Grants'' (RIN1121–AA57) received on March 24, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC – 1515. A communication from Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Interagency Guidance on Response Programs for Unauthorized Access to Customer Information and Customer Notice'' (RIN1557–AC92) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC – 1516. A communication from the Regulatory Specialist, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Reinvestment Act Regulations (Part 25)'' (RIN1557–AC86) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC – 1517. A communication from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''31 CFR Part 351, Offering of United States Savings Bonds, Series EE'' received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC – 1518. A communication from the Director, Office of Legislative Affairs, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC), transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Community Reinvestment Act Regulations (Technical Amendments)'' (RIN3064–AC82) received on April 4, 20057; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC – 1519. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the extension of trade promotion authority relative to section 2103(c)(2) of the Trade Act of 2002; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 1520. A communication from the Chief, Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Electronic Transmission of Passenger and Crew Manifests for Vessels and Aircraft'' (RIN1651–AA37) received on April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 1521. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''National Median Gross Income for 2005'' (Rev. Proc. 2005–15) received April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 1522. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''April–June 2005 Bond Factor Amounts'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–16) received April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 1523. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Designated IRS Officer or Employee Under Section 7602(a)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code'' (RIN1545–BA89) received April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 1524. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Revenue Ruling: Suitable for Use'' (Rev. Rul. 2005–19) received April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

EC – 1525. A communication from the Acting Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled ''Announcement and Report Concerning Advance Pricing Agreements'' (Announcement 2005–27) received April 4, 2005; to the Committee on Finance.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. COCHRAN, from the Committee on Appropriations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

H.R. 1268. Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109–52).

By Mr. INHOFE, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

S. 732. A bill to authorize funds to Federal aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 109–53).

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. ROBERTS (for himself and Mr. LUGAR):

S. 713. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. BURNS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 714. A bill to amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) relating to the prohibition on junk fax transmissions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 715. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage investment in facilities using wind to produce electricity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 716. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance services provided by vet centers, to clarify and improve the provision of bereavement counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. LINCOLN (for herself and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 717. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide coverage for kidney disease education services under the medicare program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORZINE, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 718. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide standards and procedures to guide both State and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, interrogation of law enforcement officers, and administrative disciplinary hearings, and to ensure accountability of law enforcement officers, to guarantee the due process rights of law enforcement officers, and to require States to enact law enforcement discipline, accountability, and due process laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 719. A bill to extend Corridor O of the Appalachian Development Highway System from its current southern terminus at I–68 near Cumberland to Corridor H, which stretches from Weston, West Virginia, to Strasburg, Virginia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BINGAMAN (for himself and Mr. SMITH):

S. 720. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate unnecessary paperwork burdens on government and small businesses by reducing the number of excise tax returns filed by small taxpayers that pay the Federal excise tax on wines and beer; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 721. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out a program for ecosystem restoration for the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SANTORUM:

S. 722. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 723. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small businesses to set up simple cafeteria plans to provide nontaxable employee benefits to their employees, to make changes in the requirements for cafeteria plans, flexible spending accounts, and benefits provided under such plans or accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 724. A bill to improve the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 725. A bill to improve the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 726. A bill to promote the conservation and production of natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 727. A bill to provide tax incentives to promote the conservation and production of natural gas; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 728. A bill to provide for the consideration and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 729. A bill to establish the Food Safety Administration to protect the public health by preventing food-borne illness, ensuring the safety of food, improving research on contaminants leading to food-borne illness, and improving security of food from intentional contamination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 730. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish requirements concerning the operation of fossil fuel-fired electric utility steam generating units, commercial and industrial boiler units, solid waste incineration units, medical waste incinerators, hazardous waste combustors, chlor-alkali plants, and Portland cement plants to reduce emissions of mercury to the environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. BURNS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 731. A bill to recruit and retain more qualified individuals to teach in Tribal Colleges or Universities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 732. A bill to authorize funds to Federal aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works; placed on the calendar.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 733. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to provide a domestic offshore energy reinvestment program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 734. A bill to provide for agreements between Federal agencies to partner or transfer funds to accomplish erosion goals relating to the coastal area of Louisiana, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 735. A bill to amend the Submerged Lands Act to make the seaward boundaries of the States of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi equivalent to the seaward boundaries of the State of Texas and the Gulf Coast of Florida; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 736. A bill to amend the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act to promote uses on the Outer Continental Shelf; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAIG (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. MURKOWSKI, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 737. A bill to amend the USA PATRIOT ACT to place reasonable limitations on the use of surveillance and the issuance of search warrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 738. A bill to provide relief for the cotton shirt industry; to the Committee on Finance.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

S. Res. 97. A resolution commending Patricia Sue Head Summitt, head women's basketball coach at the University of Tennessee, for three decades of excellence as a proven leader, motivated teacher, and established champion; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. DOLE):

S. Res. 98. A resolution commending the University of North Carolina men's basketball team for winning the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Championship; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LIEBERMAN):

S. Res. 99. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate to condemn the inhumane and unnecessary slaughter of small cetaceans, including Dall's porpoise, the bottlenose dolphin, Risso's dolphin, false killer whales, pilot whales, the striped dolphin, and the spotted dolphin in certain nations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. BYRD):

S. Res. 100. A resolution disapproving the request of the President for extension under section 2103(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002, of the trade promotion authorities under that Act; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SANTORUM (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. Res. 101. A resolution recognizing the 50th anniversary of the development of the Salk polio vaccine and its importance in eradicating the incidence of polio; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 132

At the request of Mrs. LINCOLN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. DODD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a deduction for premiums on mortgage insurance.

At the request of Mr. SMITH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 132, supra.

S. 185

At the request of Mr. NELSON of Florida, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mrs. LINCOLN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 185, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to repeal the requirement for the reduction of certain Survivor Benefit Plan annuities by the amount of dependency and indemnity compensation and to modify the effective date for paid-up coverage under the Survivor Benefit Plan.

S. 217

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 217, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to preserve the essential air service program.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the names of the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. KERRY) were added as cosponsors of S. 224, a bill to extend the period for COBRA coverage for victims of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001.

S. 241

At the request of Ms. SNOWE, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 241, a bill to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.

S. 267

At the request of Mr. CRAIG, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 267, a bill to reauthorize the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000, and for other purposes.

S. 333

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 333, a bill to hold the current regime in Iran accountable for its threatening behavior and to support a transition to democracy in Iran.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. REID, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. THOMAS) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to reaffirm the authority of States to regulate certain hunting and fishing activities.

S. 382

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the names of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mr. GREGG), the Senator from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN), the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. BIDEN), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. JEFFORDS), the Senator from California (Mrs. BOXER) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. ALLARD) were added as cosponsors of S. 382, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to strengthen prohibitions against animal fighting, and for other purposes.

S. 461

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 461, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to require that a member of the uniformed services who is wounded or otherwise injured while serving in a combat zone continue to be paid monthly military pay and allowances, while the member recovers from the wound or injury, at least equal to the monthly military pay and allowances the member received immediately before receiving the wound or injury, to continue the combat zone tax exclusion for the member during the recovery period, and for other purposes.

S. 467

At the request of Mr. DODD, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. SALAZAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 467, a bill to extend the applicability of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002.

S. 484

At the request of Mr. WARNER, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. LAUTENBERG) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. DORGAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 484, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow Federal civilian and military retirees to pay health insurance premiums on a pretax basis and to allow a deduction for TRICARE supplemental premiums.

S. 495

At the request of Mr. CORZINE, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Ms. MIKULSKI) and the Senator from New York (Mr. SCHUMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 495, a bill to impose sanctions against perpetrators of crimes against humanity in Darfur, Sudan, and for other purposes.

S. 513

At the request of Mr. GREGG, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 513, a bill to provide collective bargaining rights for public safety officers employed by States or their political subdivisions.

S. 521

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 521, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to establish, promote, and support a comprehensive prevention, research, and medical management referral program for hepatitis C virus infection.

S. 548

At the request of Mr. CONRAD, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. ENZI), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS), the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. COLEMAN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) were added as cosponsors of S. 548, a bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to encourage owners and operators of privately-held farm, ranch, and forest land to voluntarily make their land available for access by the public under programs administered by States and tribal governments.

S. 566

At the request of Mr. ROCKEFELLER, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. BINGAMAN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 566, a bill to continue State coverage of medicaid prescription drug coverage to medicare dual eligible beneficiaries for 6 months while still allowing the medicare part D benefit to be implemented as scheduled.

S. 577

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the names of the Senator from Minnesota (Mr. DAYTON) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 577, a bill to promote health care coverage for individuals participating in legal recreational activities or legal transportation activities.

S. 583

At the request of Ms. LANDRIEU, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. LOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 583, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the proper tax treatment of certain disaster mitigation payments.

S. 602

At the request of Ms. MIKULSKI, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 602, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to fund breakthroughs in Alzheimer's disease research while providing more help to caregivers and increasing public education about prevention.

S. 654

At the request of Mr. LEAHY, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. FEINGOLD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 654, a bill to prohibit the expulsion, return, or extradition of persons by the United States to countries engaging in torture, and for other purposes.

S. 657

At the request of Mr. ENSIGN, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 657, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to make a technical correction in the definition of outpatient speech-language pathology services.

S. 679

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. NELSON) was added as a cosponsor of S. 679, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to require the registration

of contractors' taxpayer identification numbers in the Central Contractor Registry database of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 702

At the request of Mr. BAUCUS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BAYH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 702, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the occupational taxes relating to distilled spirits, wine, and beer.

S. CON. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. BINGAMAN, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. LIEBERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 16, a concurrent resolution conveying the sympathy of Congress to the families of the young women murdered in the State of Chihuahua, Mexico, and encouraging increased United States involvement in bringing an end to these crimes.

S. RES. 31

At the request of Mr. COLEMAN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. BURNS) and the Senator from Utah (Mr. HATCH) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 31, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the week of August 7, 2005, be designated as ''National Health Center Week'' in order to raise awareness of health services provided by community, migrant, public housing, and homeless health centers, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 83

At the request of Mr. SANTORUM, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 83, a resolution commemorating the 65th Anniversary of the Black Press of America.

S. RES. 85

At the request of Mr. THOMAS, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. MARTINEZ), the Senator from Montana (Mr. BAUCUS) and the Senator from Alaska (Mr. STEVENS) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 85, a resolution designating July 23, 2005, and July 22, 2006, as ''National Day of the American Cowboy''.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. SMITH (for himself, Mr. INOUYE, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. SUNUNU, Mr. BURNS, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. STEVENS):

S. 714. A bill to amend section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) relating to the prohibition on junk fax transmissions; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today with Senator INOUYE and other colleagues to introduce the ''Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2005.'' This bill will strengthen existing laws by providing consumers the ability to prevent unsolicited fax advertisements and provide greater Congressional oversight of enforcement efforts by the Federal Communications Commission (FCC). This bill will also help businesses by allowing them to continue to send faxes to their customers in a manner that has proven successful with both businesses and consumers.

In July of 2003, the FCC reconsidered its Telephone Consumer Protection Act (TCPA) rules and elected to eliminate the ability for businesses to contact their customers even where there exists an established business relationship. The effect of the FCC's rule would be to prevent a business from sending a fax solicitation to any person, whether it is a supplier or customer, without first obtaining prior written consent. This approach, while seemingly sensible, would impose significant costs on businesses in the form of extensive record keeping. Recognizing the problems created by this rule, the Commission has twice delayed the effective date, with the current extension of stay expiring on June 30, 2005.

The purpose of this legislation is to preserve the established business relationship exception currently recognized under the TCPA. In addition, this bill will allow consumers to opt out of receiving further unsolicited faxes. This is a new consumer protection that does not exist under the TCPA today.

We believe that this bipartisan bill strikes the appropriate balance in providing significant protections to consumers from unwanted unsolicited fax advertisements and preserves the many benefits that result from legitimate fax communications.

In the 108th Congress, this legislation passed both the Senate and House but was not signed into law prior to the adjournment of Congress. We hope that both the Senate and House can pass this legislation in a timely manner, prior to June 30, 2005, when the FCC's stay expires.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 714

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION ON FAX TRANSMISSIONS CONTAINING UNSOLICITED ADVERTISEMENTS.

(a) PROHIBITION.—Section 227(b)(1)(C) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(1)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

''(C) to use any telephone facsimile machine, computer, or other device to send, to a telephone facsimile machine, an unsolicited advertisement, unless—

''(i) the unsolicited advertisement is from a sender with an established business relationship with the recipient; and

''(ii) the unsolicited advertisement contains a notice meeting the requirements under paragraph (2)(D), except that the exception under clauses (i) and (ii) shall not apply with respect to an unsolicited advertisement sent to a telephone facsimile machine by a sender to whom a request has been made not to send future unsolicited advertisements to such telephone facsimile machine that complies with the requirements under paragraph (2)(E); or''.

(b) DEFINITION OF ESTABLISHED BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP.—Section 227(a) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(a)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (2) through (4) as paragraphs (3) through (5), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following:

''(2) The term 'established business relationship', for purposes only of subsection (b)(1)(C)(i), shall have the meaning given the term in section 64.1200 of title 47, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on January 1, 2003, except that—

''(A) such term shall include a relationship between a person or entity and a business subscriber subject to the same terms applicable under such section to a relationship between a person or entity and a residential subscriber; and

''(B) an established business relationship shall be subject to any time limitation established pursuant to paragraph (2)(G)).''.

(c) REQUIRED NOTICE OF OPT-OUT OPPORTUNITY.—Section 227(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting a semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(D) shall provide that a notice contained in an unsolicited advertisement complies with the requirements under this subparagraph only if—

''(i) the notice is clear and conspicuous and on the first page of the unsolicited advertisement;

''(ii) the notice states that the recipient may make a request to the sender of the unsolicited advertisement not to send any future unsolicited advertisements to a telephone facsimile machine or machines and that failure to comply, within the shortest reasonable time, as determined by the Commission, with such a request meeting the requirements under subparagraph (E) is unlawful;

''(iii) the notice sets forth the requirements for a request under subparagraph (E);

''(iv) the notice includes—

''(I) a domestic contact telephone and facsimile machine number for the recipient to transmit such a request to the sender; and

''(II) a cost-free mechanism for a recipient to transmit a request pursuant to such notice to the sender of the unsolicited advertisement; the Commission shall by rule require the sender to provide such a mechanism and may, in the discretion of the Commission and subject to such conditions as the Commission may prescribe, exempt certain classes of small business senders, but only if the Commission determines that the costs to such class are unduly burdensome given the revenues generated by such small businesses;

''(v) the telephone and facsimile machine numbers and the cost-free mechanism set forth pursuant to clause (iv) permit an individual or business to make such a request during regular business hours; and

''(vi) the notice complies with the requirements of subsection (d);''.

(d) REQUEST TO OPT-OUT OF FUTURE UNSOLICITED ADVERTISEMENTS.—Section 227(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(2)), as amended by subsection (c), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(E) shall provide, by rule, that a request not to send future unsolicited advertisements to a telephone facsimile machine complies with the requirements under this subparagraph only if—

''(i) the request identifies the telephone number or numbers of the telephone facsimile machine or machines to which the request relates;

''(ii) the request is made to the telephone or facsimile number of the sender of such an unsolicited advertisement provided pursuant to subparagraph (D)(iv) or by any other method of communication as determined by the Commission; and

''(iii) the person making the request has not, subsequent to such request, provided express invitation or permission to the sender, in writing or otherwise, to send such advertisements to such person at such telephone facsimile machine;''.

(e) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH NONPROFIT EXCEPTION.—Section 227(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(2)), as amended by subsections (c) and (d), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(F) may, in the discretion of the Commission and subject to such conditions as the Commission may prescribe, allow professional or trade associations that are tax-exempt nonprofit organizations to send unsolicited advertisements to their members in furtherance of the association's tax-exempt purpose that do not contain the notice required by paragraph (1)(C)(ii), except that the Commission may take action under this subparagraph only—

''(i) by regulation issued after public notice and opportunity for public comment; and

''(ii) if the Commission determines that such notice required by paragraph (1)(C)(ii) is not necessary to protect the ability of the members of such associations to stop such associations from sending any future unsolicited advertisements; and''.

(f) AUTHORITY TO ESTABLISH TIME LIMIT ON ESTABLISHED BUSINESS RELATIONSHIP EXCEPTION.—Section 227(b)(2) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227(b)(2)), as amended by subsections (c), (d), and (e) of this section, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

''(G)(i) may, consistent with clause (ii), limit the duration of the existence of an established business relationship, however, before establishing any such limits, the Commission shall—

''(I) determine whether the existence of the exception under paragraph (1)(C) relating to an established business relationship has resulted in a significant number of complaints to the Commission regarding the sending of unsolicited advertisements to telephone facsimile machines;

''(II) determine whether a significant number of any such complaints involve unsolicited advertisements that were sent on the basis of an established business relationship that was longer in duration than the Commission believes is consistent with the reasonable expectations of consumers;

''(III) evaluate the costs to senders of demonstrating the existence of an established business relationship within a specified period of time and the benefits to recipients of establishing a limitation on such established business relationship; and

''(IV) determine whether with respect to small businesses, the costs would not be unduly burdensome; and

''(ii) may not commence a proceeding to determine whether to limit the duration of the existence of an established business relationship before the expiration of the 18-month period that begins on the date of the enactment of the Junk Fax Prevention Act of 2005.''.

(g) UNSOLICITED ADVERTISEMENT.—Section 227(a)(5) of the Communications Act of 1934, as so redesignated by subsection (b)(1), is amended by inserting '', in writing or otherwise'' before the period at the end.

(h) REGULATIONS.—Except as provided in section 227(b)(2)(G)(ii) of the Communications Act of 1934 (as added by subsection (f)), not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal Communications Commission shall issue regulations to implement the amendments made by this section.

SEC. 3. FCC ANNUAL REPORT REGARDING JUNK FAX ENFORCEMENT.

Section 227 of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 227) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(g) JUNK FAX ENFORCEMENT REPORT.—The Commission shall submit an annual report to Congress regarding the enforcement during the past year of the provisions of this section relating to sending of unsolicited advertisements to telephone facsimile machines, which report shall include—

''(1) the number of complaints received by the Commission during such year alleging that a consumer received an unsolicited advertisement via telephone facsimile machine in violation of the Commission's rules;

''(2) the number of citations issued by the Commission pursuant to section 503 during the year to enforce any law, regulation, or policy relating to sending of unsolicited advertisements to telephone facsimile machines;

''(3) the number of notices of apparent liability issued by the Commission pursuant to section 503 during the year to enforce any law, regulation, or policy relating to sending of unsolicited advertisements to telephone facsimile machines;

''(4) for each notice referred to in paragraph (3)—

''(A) the amount of the proposed forfeiture penalty involved;

''(B) the person to whom the notice was issued;

''(C) the length of time between the date on which the complaint was filed and the date on which the notice was issued; and

''(D) the status of the proceeding;

''(5) the number of final orders imposing forfeiture penalties issued pursuant to section 503 during the year to enforce any law, regulation, or policy relating to sending of unsolicited advertisements to telephone facsimile machines;

''(6) for each forfeiture order referred to in paragraph (5)—

''(A) the amount of the penalty imposed by the order;

''(B) the person to whom the order was issued;

''(C) whether the forfeiture penalty has been paid; and

''(D) the amount paid;

''(7) for each case in which a person has failed to pay a forfeiture penalty imposed by such a final order, whether the Commission referred such matter for recovery of the penalty; and

''(8) for each case in which the Commission referred such an order for recovery—

''(A) the number of days from the date the Commission issued such order to the date of such referral;

''(B) whether an action has been commenced to recover the penalty, and if so, the number of days from the date the Commission referred such order for recovery to the date of such commencement; and

''(C) whether the recovery action resulted in collection of any amount, and if so, the amount collected.''.

SEC. 4. GAO STUDY OF JUNK FAX ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study regarding complaints received by the Federal Communications Commission concerning unsolicited advertisements sent to telephone facsimile machines, which study shall determine—

(1) the mechanisms established by the Commission to receive, investigate, and respond to such complaints;

(2) the level of enforcement success achieved by the Commission regarding such complaints;

(3) whether complainants to the Commission are adequately informed by the Commission of the responses to their complaints; and

(4) whether additional enforcement measures are necessary to protect consumers, including recommendations regarding such additional enforcement measures.

(b) ADDITIONAL ENFORCEMENT REMEDIES.—In conducting the analysis and making the recommendations required under subsection (a)(4), the Comptroller General shall specifically examine—

(1) the adequacy of existing statutory enforcement actions available to the Commission;

(2) the adequacy of existing statutory enforcement actions and remedies available to consumers;

(3) the impact of existing statutory enforcement remedies on senders of facsimiles;

(4) whether increasing the amount of financial penalties is warranted to achieve greater deterrent effect; and

(5) whether establishing penalties and enforcement actions for repeat violators or abusive violations similar to those established under section 1037 of title 18, United States Code, would have a greater deterrent effect.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report on the results of the study under this section to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate and the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

By Mr. HARKIN (for himself, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. LAUTENBERG):

S. 715. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage investment in facilities using wind to produce electricity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. HARKIN. Mr. President, I am introducing today the Wind Power Tax Incentives Act of 2005. I am pleased to be joined by Senators DAYTON, DURBIN and LAUTENBURG. This legislation makes it easier for farmers and others around the country to invest in wind power for commercial electricity production. Wind power is a clean, economical, and reliable source of renewable energy abundant on farms and in rural areas of Iowa and elsewhere.

With this legislation we can help farmers help themselves by developing a new source of income, and help the rest of the country in the production of renewable energy. Farmers are ready to take on this challenge. A recent study found that 93 percent of corn producers support wind energy. They also strongly support the 2002 farm bill's historic energy title.

This regulation complements the farm bill's energy programs and other wind power initiatives currently being

considered by this body, and is strongly supported by the American Wind Energy Association and John Deere. Our bill changes Federal tax law to make the section 45 wind production tax credit more widely available to farmers, farm cooperatives, and other investors. Section 45 of the Federal tax code provides a tax credit, currently 1.8 cents per kilowatt-hour, for electricity produced and sold during the first ten years of the life of a wind turbine. The credit has been extraordinarily successful in spurring greater installation of new wind power capacity, making this sustainable energy source economically feasible. However, certain barriers have prevented many farmers and other investors from qualifying for the credit, thus impeding their participation.

It is time to allow full participation by farmers and other investors in this important tax incentive. Our legislation removes barriers by making two important changes to the tax code.

First, under current tax law most losses, deductions, and credits from passive investments cannot affect wages or other income or reduce taxes on such income. So a farmer who passively invests in wind energy could not use the credits to offset taxes on farm income. This bill creates an exception to passive loss restrictions for an interest in a wind facility that qualifies for the section 45 credit. The wind facility's loss or tax credits could then offset the income or taxes arising from the taxpayer's farming business. Existing law provides an even broader exception for oil and gas investments, but in contrast to existing law, our proposed exception for wind investment applies only to those with income under $1 million, in order to avoid potential windfalls or abuse.

Second, the bill allows cooperatives to invest in qualified wind facilities and pass through the section 45 credits to cooperative members. This will allow farmers to join together and pool their resources in a cooperative and still take advantage of the credit.

When we first introduced this bill in the 108th Congress, it also contained a measure providing alternative minimum tax (AMT) relief. This important piece of the equation was incorporated late last year in the American Jobs Creation Act, and passed into law. But there's more to be done.

The benefits of this legislation are obvious. Increased renewable energy production lessens our dependence on foreign oil, provides environmental and public health gains, bolsters farm income, creates jobs and boosts economic growth, especially in rural areas. The Nation must move toward energy security, and domestically produced wind power, along with other forms of renewable energy like biofuels, plays an important part in this endeavor.

I want to thank Senators DAYTON, DURBIN and LAUTENBURG for co-sponsoring this legislation with me. Their leadership in this area will be instrumental to moving the bill forward. I am hopeful we can pass this legislation soon to help secure a brighter renewable energy future for our Nation's farmers and all citizens.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 715

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''Wind Power Tax Incentives Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. OFFSET OF PASSIVE ACTIVITY LOSSES AND CREDITS OF AN ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER FROM WIND ENERGY FACILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 469 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to passive activity losses and credits limited) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsections (l) and (m) as subsections (m) and (n), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after subsection (k) the following:

''(l) OFFSET OF PASSIVE ACTIVITY LOSSES AND CREDITS FROM WIND ENERGY FACILITIES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to the portion of the passive activity loss, or the deduction equivalent (within the meaning of subsection (j)(5)) of the portion of the passive activity credit, for any taxable year which is attributable to all interests of an eligible taxpayer in qualified facilities described in section 45(d)(1).

''(2) ELIGIBLE TAXPAYER.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible taxpayer' means, with respect to any taxable year, a taxpayer the adjusted gross income (taxable income in the case of a corporation) of which does not exceed $1,000,000.

''(B) RULES FOR COMPUTING ADJUSTED GROSS INCOME.—Adjusted gross income shall be computed in the same manner as under subsection (i)(3)(F).

''(C) AGGREGATION RULES.—All persons treated as a single employer under subsection (a) or (b) of section 52 shall be treated as a single taxpayer for purposes of this paragraph.

''(D) PASS-THRU ENTITIES.—In the case of a pass-thru entity, this paragraph shall be applied at the level of the person to which the credit is allocated by the entity.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to facilities placed in service after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. APPLICATION OF CREDIT TO COOPERATIVES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 45(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to definitions and special rules) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(10) ALLOCATION OF CREDIT TO SHAREHOLDERS OF COOPERATIVE.—

''(A) ELECTION TO ALLOCATE.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a cooperative organization described in section 1381(a), any portion of the credit determined under subsection (a) for the taxable year may, at the election of the organization, be apportioned pro rata among shareholders of the organization on the basis of the capital contributions of the shareholders to the organization.

''(ii) FORM AND EFFECT OF ELECTION.—An election under clause (i) for any taxable year shall be made on a timely filed return for such year. Such election, once made, shall be irrevocable for such taxable year.

''(B) TREATMENT OF ORGANIZATIONS AND PATRONS.—The amount of the credit apportioned to any shareholders under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) shall not be included in the amount determined under subsection (a) with respect to the organization for the taxable year, and

''(ii) shall be included in the amount determined under subsection (a) for the taxable year of the shareholder with or within which the taxable year of the organization ends.

''(C) SPECIAL RULES FOR DECREASE IN CREDITS FOR TAXABLE YEAR.—If the amount of the credit of a cooperative organization determined under subsection (a) for a taxable year is less than the amount of such credit shown on the return of the cooperative organization for such year, an amount equal to the excess of—

''(i) such reduction, over

''(ii) the amount not apportioned to such shareholders under subparagraph (A) for the taxable year, shall be treated as an increase in tax imposed by this chapter on the organization. Such increase shall not be treated as tax imposed by this chapter for purposes of determining the amount of any credit under this subpart or subpart A, B, E, or G.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years ending after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. AKAKA (for himself, Mr. ROCKEFELLER, and Mr. CONRAD):

S. 716. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enhance services provided by vet centers, to clarify and improve the provision of bereavement counseling by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

Mr. AKAKA. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the ''Vet Center Enhancement Act of 2005.'' This legislation would enhance care and services provided through Vet Centers. Since their establishment over 25 years ago, Vet Centers have become a safe place in the community where more and more veterans and their families have turned for assistance and services. This legislation would provide resources that Vet Centers need to serve and reach out to the growing number of Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom (OEF/OIF) veterans and surviving family members.

The legislation would allow the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to hire an additional 50 Global War on Terror outreach coordinators, strike the three-year authorization provision for these outreach workers, clarify that Vet Centers can provide bereavement counseling to family members including parents, and provide more funding for the Vet Center program.

In February 2004, VA authorized the Vet Center program to hire 50 OEF/OIF veterans to conduct outreach to their fellow Global War on Terrorism veterans. There are still many OEF/OIF veterans in need of readjustment services, which requires more workers. This legislation would authorize the hiring of 50 additional outreach coordinators to reach this underserved population of veterans. In addition, this legislation would also repeal the three-

year authorization provision placed on these positions.

The number of brave servicemembers who die while defending freedom continues to rise, leaving many surviving family members in need for help. Under current law, VA has the authority to provide bereavement counseling to the immediate family. However, it is necessary to clarify that parents of a deceased servicemember qualify for this bereavement counseling and that such care could be provided at Vet Centers. This legislation would make the clarifications.

A recent article in the Washington Post detailed a mother's experience after her son was killed in Iraq and how she finally felt relief at an unexpected place, a Vet Center. The article also provided information concerning the Vet Center bereavement program and discussed the need for clarification of the Vet Center bereavement care program. This article paints a clear picture of the distress that surviving family members endure as a result of the death of a beloved soldier. I ask unanimous consent that the text of The Washington Post article be printed in the RECORD.

As the War on Terrorism persists, the number of veterans seeking readjustment counseling and related mental health services through Vet Centers will continue to grow. Experts predict that as many as 30 percent of those returning servicemembers may need psychiatric care. For these returning servicemembers who have suffered psychological wounds, the stigma surrounding these types of wounds creates a barrier that often times prevents them from seeking the care they need. Vet Centers, which have licensed mental health professionals, provide a means to overcome this barrier because of the center's location in the community and because veteran staff members can relate to the experiences of the veterans seeking services. In 2004, Vet Centers cared for 9,597 OEF/OIF veterans and 2005 projections are that Vet Centers will see 12,656 OEF/OIF veterans.

Despite increases in the number of veterans coming for care to Vet Centers, the budget for the program has remained stagnant. This legislation would authorize funding for the program from $93 million to $180 million.

We must make the readjustment period for the returning service members and the surviving family members of deceased servicemembers as smooth as possible.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Washington Post, Feb. 24, 2005]

VA PROGRAM OFFERS SOLACE TO CIVILIANS

(By David Finkel)

Her son had been killed in Iraq, and Hope Veverka needed someone to talk to.

''It was so horrific, the pain,'' said Veverka, the mother of Army Pfc. Brandon Sapp, who died in August when he drove his vehicle over a remote-controlled bomb. ''I didn't want it to destroy me.''

Unable to sleep, Veverka, 45, tried a hospice-based program for dealing with grief. Unable to stop thinking about the person who was the last to see her son while deliberately pushing a detonator, she talked to friends and attended a support group for parents who lost children. All helped somewhat, she says, but it was in an unexpected place—a readjustment center for veterans—where she finally felt some relief.

''These guys, they have served,'' Veverka said of the counselors she sees weekly at the Department of Veterans Affairs' Vet Center near her home in West Palm Beach, Fla. ''They get it. I can just talk, and they understand.''

More and more relatives of service members who died are learning the same thing, that because of a new bereavement program, vet centers are not just for veterans anymore. In August 2003, as the number of fatalities in Iraq passed the 250 mark, the 206 vet centers across the United States began offering counseling and bereavement services to immediate relatives of anyone in the military to die while on active duty.

The program marks the first time that non-veterans have been eligible for a benefit previously restricted to veterans. Before the program began, civilian family members might go to a vet center as part of a living veteran's counseling but had to go elsewhere if they needed counseling of their own.

''It's a big deal,'' said Alfonso Batres, chief of the VA's Office of Readjustment Counseling. ''And the families are so grateful that anything is being done.''

The program, which is free and allows unlimited visits, had 367 participants in connection with 252 deaths as of Feb. 1. Eighty-six of the 367 were spouses, 119 were mothers, 64 were fathers, 60 were siblings, 37 were children and one was a grandparent.

Batres says the numbers would be higher, but privacy concerns prohibit counselors from contacting people to see whether they are interested in getting help. Instead, initial contact must come from the family members.

Typically, relatives are referred to the program by military casualty-assistance officers, who are the ones to notify them of the death of their loved ones. A civilian organization called TAPS, the Tragedy Assistance Program for Survivors, which offers around-the-clock grief counseling and peer support—but does not have professionally trained counselors as at a vet center—also refers people to the program.

''It's really, really significant,'' TAPS founder and chairman Bonnie Carroll said of the VA's decision to treat family members. ''From our perspective, it has just been revolutionary.''

Batres says that implementing the program has not been problem-free. Especially in the early months, he says, some counselors complained that they already had more to do than they could handle. Others were concerned that expanding the centers' mandate to non-veterans could create a bad precedent.

The provisional status of the program has also been unsettling to some. Batres says he had hoped to get the program authorized by Congress, which would have given it a sense of permanence, but instead it was approved as an unfunded initiative at the discretion of the secretary of the VA.

Nonetheless, Batres says, as the months have gone by, the nature of the work has changed the misgivings of his staff into a shared sense of mission. ''It's akin to going to a disaster site'' is how he describes the work. ''This is a death site. It's almost like going into a sacred place.''

Joe Griffis, a counselor at the vet center in Lake Worth, Fla., agrees that this first venture into treating non-veterans is worthwhile. ''We're here to help the veteran,'' he said, ''and when they've been killed, it's the closest we can get to them to give them that service.''

Griffis says he has treated family members connected to five deaths, four of which occurred from enemy fire and one by suicide.

''They come in with grief, with a great sense of loss, often with guilt feelings about what they could have done, angry at the government, angry at God, angry at the child himself,'' he said of his clients, most of whom have been parents.

Rather than diagnosing a condition, he says, his goal is to ''let them ventilate all of their feelings. Their anger. Their grief. Their sadness. No matter what it's about. And let them have a feeling of relief before they walk out of the session.''

Veverka, who is one of Griffis's clients, says that is exactly what has happened to her in her weekly sessions.

''There was something lacking,'' she said of the support groups she attended in the first days after her son's death, where she found herself undifferentiated from the parents whose child had died of leukemia and the parents whose child had been killed crossing a street. ''It was only addressing half of my emotions. I needed something with the military.''

Try the vet center, someone suggested.

''So I went,'' she said of a place so familiar to her now that counselors have hung a photograph of her son for her to see every time she walks in the door, ''and it ended up being the door I needed.''

By Mr. BIDEN (for himself, Mr. SPECTER, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DAYTON, Mr. CHAMBLISS, Mr. CORZINE, and Ms. CANTWELL):

S. 718. A bill to amend title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide standards and procedures to guide both State and local law enforcement agencies and law enforcement officers during internal investigations, interrogation of law enforcement officers, and administrative disciplinary hearings, and to ensure accountability of law enforcement officers, to guarantee the due process rights of law enforcement officers, and to require States to enact law enforcement discipline, accountability, and due process laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. BIDEN. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability, and Due Process Act of 2005, along with Senator SPECTER, Senator MCCONNELL, Senator CHAMBLISS, Senator DAYTON, Senator MURRAY, Senator CORZINE, and Senator CANTWELL.

These are trying times for the men and women on our front lines who provide our domestic security and public safety—our Nation's law enforcement personnel. In fact, our men and women in blue are facing what I have called a perfect storm. First, they are being called upon to undertake more responsibilities than ever before. They are being required to undertake homeland security duties that weren't required before September 11, and, at the same time, the FBI is reprogramming its field agents from crime to terrorism

cases. While I don't disagree that this shift in resources is appropriate, it undoubtedly leaves a gap in law enforcement efforts to combat drugs and crime, and State and local agencies must fill this gap. At the same time, budget shortages at the local level are forcing personnel lay-offs, an increasing use of overtime to meet demand, and the forced elimination of critical crime prevention programs. Local law enforcement is struggling to keep up with service calls. To add insult to injury, Federal assistance for State and local law enforcement has been reduced by billions over the last 2 years—with the proposed elimination of the COPS hiring program—a proven initiative that has been hailed as one of the keys to the crime-drop of the nineties. Quite simply, we are asking law enforcement to do more with less, and I believe that public safety is being compromised as a result of Congress's unfortunate choices on the Federal budget.

We may argue about the Federal responsibility to provide financial assistance to State and local law enforcement, however, few will dispute the sacrifices that our men and women in law enforcement make for our nation. Indeed, they face one of the most difficult work environments imaginable—an average of 165 police officers are killed in the line of duty every year. Our Nation's law enforcement officers put themselves in harms way on a daily basis to ensure the safety of their fellow citizens and the domestic security of our Nation. Nevertheless, many times these brave officers do not receive basic rights if they become involved in internal police investigations or administrative hearings. According to the National Association of Police Organizations, ''[i]n roughly half of the states in this country, officers enjoy some legal protections against false accusations and abusive conduct, but hundreds of thousands of officers have very limited due process rights and confront limitations on their exercise of other rights, such as the right to engage in political activities.'' Similarly, the Fraternal Order of Police notes that, ''[i]n a startling number of jurisdictions throughout this country, law enforcement officers have no procedural or administrative protections whatsoever; in fact, they can be, and frequently are, summarily dismissed from their jobs without explanation. Officers who lose their careers due to administrative or political expediency almost always find it impossible to find new employment in public safety. An officer's reputation, once tarnished by accusation, is almost impossible to restore.''

The legislation that we introduce today, which is endorsed by the Fraternal Order of Police and of the National Association of Police Organizations, seeks to provide officers with certain basic protections in those jurisdictions where such workplace protections are not currently provided. First, this bill allows law enforcement officials to engage in political activities when they are off-duty. Second, it provides standards and procedures to guide State and local law enforcement agencies during internal investigations, interrogations, and administrative disciplinary hearings. Additionally, it calls upon States to develop and enforce these disciplinary procedures. The bill would preempt State laws which confer fewer rights than those provided for in the legislation, but it would not preempt any State or local laws that confer rights or protections that are equal to or exceed the rights and protections afforded in the bill. For example, my own State of Delaware has a law enforcement officers' bill of rights, and those procedures would not be impacted by the provisions of this bill.

This bill will also include important provisions that will enhance the ability of citizens to hold their local police departments accountable. The legislation includes provisions that will ensure citizen complaints against police officers are investigated and that citizens are informed of the outcome of these investigations. The bill balances the rights of police officers with the rights of citizens to raise valid concerns about the conduct of some of these officers. In addition, I have consulted with constitutional experts who have opined that the bill is consistent with Congress' powers under the Commerce Clause and that it does not run afoul of the Supreme Court's Tenth Amendment jurisprudence.

I would also like to note that I understand the objections that many management groups, including the International Association of Chiefs of Police, have to this measure. I have discussed this with them, and I've pledged that their views will be heard and considered as this bill is debated in Congress. It is my view that we must bridge this gap. Without a meeting of the minds between police management and union officials, the enactment of a meaningful law enforcement officers' bill of rights will be difficult. Law enforcement officials are facing unprecedented challenges, and management and labor simply must work together on this issue and the numerous other issues facing the law enforcement community.

I urge my colleagues to join Senators SPECTER, MCCONNELL, CHAMBLISS, DAYTON, MURRAY, CORZINE, CANTWELL, and me in providing all of the Nation's law enforcement officers with the basic rights they deserve.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 718

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability, and Due Process Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND DECLARATION OF PURPOSE AND POLICY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the rights of law enforcement officers to engage in political activity or to refrain from engaging in political activity, except when on duty, or to run as candidates for public office, unless such service is found to be in conflict with their service as officers, are activities protected by the first amendment of the United States Constitution, as applied to the States through the 14th amendment of the United States Constitution, but these rights are often violated by the management of State and local law enforcement agencies;

(2) a significant lack of due process rights of law enforcement officers during internal investigations and disciplinary proceedings has resulted in a loss of confidence in these processes by many law enforcement officers, including those unfairly targeted for their labor organization activities or for their aggressive enforcement of the laws, demoralizing many rank and file officers in communities and States;

(3) unfair treatment of officers has potentially serious long-term consequences for law enforcement by potentially deterring or otherwise preventing officers from carrying out their duties and responsibilities effectively and fairly;

(4) the lack of labor-management cooperation in disciplinary matters and either the perception or the actuality that officers are not treated fairly detrimentally impacts the recruitment of and retention of effective officers, as potential officers and experienced officers seek other careers, which has serious implications and repercussions for officer morale, public safety, and labor-management relations and strife and can affect interstate and intrastate commerce, interfering with the normal flow of commerce;

(5) there are serious implications for the public safety of the citizens and residents of the United States which threatens the domestic tranquility of the United States because of a lack of statutory protections to ensure—

(A) the due process and political rights of law enforcement officers;

(B) fair and thorough internal investigations and interrogations of and disciplinary proceedings against law enforcement officers; and

(C) effective procedures for receipt, review, and investigation of complaints against officers, fair to both officers and complainants; and

(6) resolving these disputes and problems and preventing the disruption of vital police services is essential to the well-being of the United States and the domestic tranquility of the Nation.

(b) DECLARATION OF POLICY.—Congress declares that it is the purpose of this Act and the policy of the United States to—

(1) protect the due process and political rights of State and local law enforcement officers and ensure equality and fairness of treatment among such officers;

(2) provide continued police protection to the general public;

(3) provide for the general welfare and ensure domestic tranquility; and

(4) prevent any impediments to the free flow of commerce, under the rights guaranteed under the United States Constitution and Congress' authority thereunder.

SEC. 3. DISCIPLINE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DUE PROCESS OF OFFICERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Part H of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act

of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3781 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"SEC. 820. DISCIPLINE, ACCOUNTABILITY, AND DUE PROCESS OF STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

''(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

''(1) DISCIPLINARY ACTION.—The term 'disciplinary action' means any adverse personnel action, including suspension, reduction in pay, rank, or other employment benefit, dismissal, transfer, reassignment, unreasonable denial of secondary employment, or similar punitive action taken against a law enforcement officer.

''(2) DISCIPLINARY HEARING.—The term 'disciplinary hearing' means an administrative hearing initiated by a law enforcement agency against a law enforcement officer, based on an alleged violation of law, that, if proven, would subject the law enforcement officer to disciplinary action.

''(3) EMERGENCY SUSPENSION.—The term 'emergency suspension' means the temporary action by a law enforcement agency of relieving a law enforcement officer from the active performance of law enforcement duties without a reduction in pay or benefits when the law enforcement agency, or an official within that agency, determines that there is probable cause, based upon the conduct of the law enforcement officer, to believe that the law enforcement officer poses an immediate threat to the safety of that officer or others or the property of others.

''(4) INVESTIGATION.—The term 'investigation'—

''(A) means an action taken to determine whether a law enforcement officer violated a law by a public agency or a person employed by a public agency, acting alone or in cooperation with or at the direction of another agency, or a division or unit within another agency, regardless of a denial by such an agency that any such action is not an investigation; and

''(B) includes—

''(i) asking questions of any other law enforcement officer or non-law enforcement officer;

''(ii) conducting observations;

''(iii) reviewing and evaluating reports, records, or other documents; and

''(iv) examining physical evidence.

''(5) LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.—The terms 'law enforcement officer' and 'officer' have the meaning given the term 'law enforcement officer' in section 1204, except the term does not include a law enforcement officer employed by the United States, or any department, agency, or instrumentality thereof.

''(6) PERSONNEL RECORD.—The term 'personnel record' means any document, whether in written or electronic form and irrespective of location, that has been or may be used in determining the qualifications of a law enforcement officer for employment, promotion, transfer, additional compensation, termination or any other disciplinary action.

''(7) PUBLIC AGENCY AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY.—The terms 'public agency' and 'law enforcement agency' each have the meaning given the term 'public agency' in section 1204, except the terms do not include the United States, or any department, agency, or instrumentality thereof.

''(8) SUMMARY PUNISHMENT.—The term 'summary punishment' means punishment imposed—

''(A) for a violation of law that does not result in any disciplinary action; or

''(B) for a violation of law that has been negotiated and agreed upon by the law enforcement agency and the law enforcement officer, based upon a written waiver by the officer of the rights of that officer under subsection (i) and any other applicable law or constitutional provision, after consultation with the counsel or representative of that officer.

''(b) APPLICABILITY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—This section sets forth the due process rights, including procedures, that shall be afforded a law enforcement officer who is the subject of an investigation or disciplinary hearing.

''(2) NONAPPLICABILITY.—This section does not apply in the case of—

''(A) an investigation of specifically alleged conduct by a law enforcement officer that, if proven, would constitute a violation of a statute providing for criminal penalties; or

''(B) a nondisciplinary action taken in good faith on the basis of the employment related performance of a law enforcement officer.

''(c) POLITICAL ACTIVITY.—

''(1) RIGHT TO ENGAGE OR NOT TO ENGAGE IN POLITICAL ACTIVITY.—Except when on duty or acting in an official capacity, a law enforcement officer shall not be prohibited from engaging in political activity or be denied the right to refrain from engaging in political activity.

''(2) RIGHT TO RUN FOR ELECTIVE OFFICE.—A law enforcement officer shall not be—

''(A) prohibited from being a candidate for an elective office or from serving in such an elective office, solely because of the status of the officer as a law enforcement officer; or

''(B) required to resign or take an unpaid leave from employment with a law enforcement agency to be a candidate for an elective office or to serve in an elective office, unless such service is determined to be in conflict with or incompatible with service as a law enforcement officer.

''(3) ADVERSE PERSONNEL ACTION.—An action by a public agency against a law enforcement officer, including requiring the officer to take unpaid leave from employment, in violation of this subsection shall be considered an adverse personnel action within the meaning of subsection (a)(1).

''(d) EFFECTIVE PROCEDURES FOR RECEIPT, REVIEW, AND INVESTIGATION OF COMPLAINTS AGAINST LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.—

''(1) COMPLAINT PROCESS.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this section, each law enforcement agency shall adopt and comply with a written complaint procedure that—

''(A) authorizes persons from outside the law enforcement agency to submit written complaints about a law enforcement officer to—

''(i) the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer; or

''(ii) any other law enforcement agency charged with investigating such complaints;

''(B) sets forth the procedures for the investigation and disposition of such complaints;

''(C) provides for public access to required forms and other information concerning the submission and disposition of written complaints; and

''(D) requires notification to the complainant in writing of the final disposition of the complaint and the reasons for such disposition.

''(2) INITIATION OF AN INVESTIGATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), an investigation based on a complaint from outside the law enforcement agency shall commence not later than 15 days after the receipt of the complaint by—

''(i) the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer against whom the complaint has been made; or

''(ii) any other law enforcement agency charged with investigating such a complaint.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) does not apply if—

''(i) the law enforcement agency determines from the face of the complaint that each allegation does not constitute a violation of law; or

''(ii) the complainant fails to comply substantially with the complaint procedure of the law enforcement agency established under this section.

''(3) COMPLAINANT OR VICTIM CONFLICT OF INTEREST.—The complainant or victim of the alleged violation of law giving rise to an investigation under this subsection may not conduct or supervise the investigation or serve as an investigator.

''(e) NOTICE OF INVESTIGATION.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any law enforcement officer who is the subject of an investigation shall be notified of the investigation 24 hours before the commencement of questioning of such officer or to otherwise being required to provide information to an investigating agency.

''(2) CONTENTS OF NOTICE.—Notice given under paragraph (1) shall include—

''(A) the nature and scope of the investigation;

''(B) a description of any allegation contained in a written complaint;

''(C) a description of each violation of law alleged in the complaint for which suspicion exists that the officer may have engaged in conduct that may subject the officer to disciplinary action; and

''(D) the name, rank, and command of the officer or any other individual who will be conducting the investigation.

''(f) RIGHTS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS PRIOR TO AND DURING QUESTIONING INCIDENTAL TO AN INVESTIGATION.—If a law enforcement officer is subjected to questioning incidental to an investigation that may result in disciplinary action against the officer, the following minimum safeguards shall apply:

''(1) COUNSEL AND REPRESENTATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Any law enforcement officer under investigation shall be entitled to effective counsel by an attorney or representation by any other person who the officer chooses, such as an employee representative, or both, immediately before and during the entire period of any questioning session, unless the officer consents in writing to being questioned outside the presence of counsel or representative.

''(B) PRIVATE CONSULTATION.—During the course of any questioning session, the officer shall be afforded the opportunity to consult privately with counsel or a representative, if such consultation does not repeatedly and unnecessarily disrupt the questioning period.

''(C) UNAVAILABILITY OF COUNSEL.—If the counsel or representative of the law enforcement officer is not available within 24 hours of the time set for the commencement of any questioning of that officer, the investigating law enforcement agency shall grant a reasonable extension of time for the law enforcement officer to obtain counsel or representation.

''(2) REASONABLE HOURS AND TIME.—Any questioning of a law enforcement officer under investigation shall be conducted at a reasonable time when the officer is on duty, unless exigent circumstances compel more immediate questioning, or the officer agrees in writing to being questioned at a different time, subject to the requirements of subsections (e) and paragraph (1).

''(3) PLACE OF QUESTIONING.—Unless the officer consents in writing to being questioned elsewhere, any questioning of a law enforcement officer under investigation shall take place—

''(A) at the office of the individual conducting the investigation on behalf of the

law enforcement agency employing the officer under investigation; or

''(B) the place at which the officer under investigation reports for duty.

''(4) IDENTIFICATION OF QUESTIONER.—Before the commencement of any questioning, a law enforcement officer under investigation shall be informed of—

''(A) the name, rank, and command of the officer or other individual who will conduct the questioning; and

''(B) the relationship between the individual conducting the questioning and the law enforcement agency employing the officer under investigation.

''(5) SINGLE QUESTIONER.—During any single period of questioning of a law enforcement officer under investigation, each question shall be asked by or through 1 individual.

''(6) REASONABLE TIME PERIOD.—Any questioning of a law enforcement officer under investigation shall be for a reasonable period of time and shall allow reasonable periods for the rest and personal necessities of the officer and the counsel or representative of the officer, if such person is present.

''(7) NO THREATS, FALSE STATEMENTS, OR PROMISES TO BE MADE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), no threat against, false or misleading statement to, harassment of, or promise of reward to a law enforcement officer under investigation shall be made to induce the officer to answer any question, give any statement, or otherwise provide information.

''(B) EXCEPTION.—The law enforcement agency employing a law enforcement officer under investigation may require the officer to make a statement relating to the investigation by explicitly threatening disciplinary action, including termination, only if—

''(i) the officer has received a written grant of use and derivative use immunity or transactional immunity by a person authorized to grant such immunity; and

''(ii) the statement given by the law enforcement officer under such an immunity may not be used in any subsequent criminal proceeding against that officer.

''(8) RECORDING.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—All questioning of a law enforcement officer under an investigation shall be recorded in full, in writing or by electronic device, and a copy of the transcript shall be provided to the officer under investigation before any subsequent period of questioning or the filing of any charge against that officer.

''(B) SEPARATE RECORDING.—To ensure the accuracy of the recording, an officer may utilize a separate electronic recording device, and a copy of any such recording (or the transcript) shall be provided to the public agency conducting the questioning, if that agency so requests.

''(9) USE OF HONESTY TESTING DEVICES PROHIBITED.—No law enforcement officer under investigation may be compelled to submit to the use of a lie detector, as defined in section 2 of the Employee Polygraph Protection Act of 1988 (29 U.S.C. 2001).

''(g) NOTICE OF INVESTIGATIVE FINDINGS AND DISCIPLINARY RECOMMENDATION AND OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT A WRITTEN RESPONSE.—

''(1) NOTICE.—Not later than 30 days after the conclusion of an investigation under this section, the person in charge of the investigation or the designee of that person shall notify the law enforcement officer who was the subject of the investigation, in writing, of the investigative findings and any recommendations for disciplinary action.

''(2) OPPORTUNITY TO SUBMIT WRITTEN RESPONSE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after receipt of a notification under paragraph (1), and before the filing of any charge seeking the discipline of such officer or the commencement of any disciplinary proceeding under subsection (h), the law enforcement officer who was the subject of the investigation may submit a written response to the findings and recommendations included in the notification.

''(B) CONTENTS OF RESPONSE.—The response submitted under subparagraph (A) may include references to additional documents, physical objects, witnesses, or any other information that the law enforcement officer believes may provide exculpatory evidence.

''(h) DISCIPLINARY HEARINGS.—

''(1) NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING.—Except in a case of summary punishment or emergency suspension (subject to subsection (k)), before the imposition of any disciplinary action the law enforcement agency shall notify the officer that the officer is entitled to a due process hearing by an independent and impartial hearing officer or board.

''(2) REQUIREMENT OF DETERMINATION OF VIOLATION.—No disciplinary action may be taken against a law enforcement officer unless an independent and impartial hearing officer or board determines, after a hearing and in accordance with the requirements of this subsection, that the law enforcement officer committed a violation of law.

''(3) TIME LIMIT.—No disciplinary charge may be brought against a law enforcement officer unless—

''(A) the charge is filed not later than the earlier of—

''(i) 1 year after the date on which the law enforcement agency filing the charge had knowledge or reasonably should have had knowledge of an alleged violation of law; or

''(ii) 90 days after the commencement of an investigation; or

''(B) the requirements of this paragraph are waived in writing by the officer or the counsel or representative of the officer.

''(4) NOTICE OF HEARING.—Unless waived in writing by the officer or the counsel or representative of the officer, not later than 30 days after the filing of a disciplinary charge against a law enforcement officer, the law enforcement agency filing the charge shall provide written notification to the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the charge, of—

''(A) the date, time, and location of any disciplinary hearing, which shall be scheduled in cooperation with the law enforcement officer, or the counsel or representative of the officer, and which shall take place not earlier than 30 days and not later than 60 days after notification of the hearing is given to the law enforcement officer under investigation;

''(B) the name and mailing address of the independent and impartial hearing officer, or the names and mailing addresses of the independent and impartial hearing board members; and

''(C) the name, rank, command, and address of the law enforcement officer prosecuting the matter for the law enforcement agency, or the name, position, and mailing address of the person prosecuting the matter for a public agency, if the prosecutor is not a law enforcement officer.

''(5) ACCESS TO DOCUMENTARY EVIDENCE AND INVESTIGATIVE FILE.—Unless waived in writing by the law enforcement officer or the counsel or representative of that officer, not later than 15 days before a disciplinary hearing described in paragraph (4)(A), the law enforcement officer shall be provided with—

''(A) a copy of the complete file of the predisciplinary investigation; and

''(B) access to and, if so requested, copies of all documents, including transcripts, records, written statements, written reports, analyses, and electronically recorded information that—

''(i) contain exculpatory information;

''(ii) are intended to support any disciplinary action; or

''(iii) are to be introduced in the disciplinary hearing.

''(6) EXAMINATION OF PHYSICAL EVIDENCE.—Unless waived in writing by the law enforcement officer or the counsel or representative of that officer—

''(A) not later than 15 days before a disciplinary hearing, the prosecuting agency shall notify the law enforcement officer or the counsel or representative of that officer of all physical, non-documentary evidence; and

''(B) not later than 10 days before a disciplinary hearing, the prosecuting agency shall provide a reasonable date, time, place, and manner for the law enforcement officer or the counsel or representative of the law enforcement officer to examine the evidence described in subparagraph (A).

''(7) IDENTIFICATION OF WITNESSES.—Unless waived in writing by the law enforcement officer or the counsel or representative of the officer, not later than 15 days before a disciplinary hearing, the prosecuting agency shall notify the law enforcement officer or the counsel or representative of the officer, of the name and address of each witness for the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer.

''(8) REPRESENTATION.—During a disciplinary hearing, the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the hearing shall be entitled to due process, including—

''(A) the right to be represented by counsel or a representative;

''(B) the right to confront and examine all witnesses against the officer; and

''(C) the right to call and examine witnesses on behalf of the officer.

''(9) HEARING BOARD AND PROCEDURE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A State or local government agency, other than the law enforcement agency employing the officer who is subject of the disciplinary hearing, shall—

''(i) determine the composition of an independent and impartial disciplinary hearing board;

''(ii) appoint an independent and impartial hearing officer; and

''(iii) establish such procedures as may be necessary to comply with this section.

''(B) PEER REPRESENTATION ON DISCIPLINARY HEARING BOARD.—A disciplinary hearing board that includes employees of the law enforcement agency employing the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the hearing, shall include not less than 1 law enforcement officer of equal or lesser rank to the officer who is the subject of the hearing.

''(10) SUMMONSES AND SUBPOENAS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The disciplinary hearing board or independent hearing officer—

''(i) shall have the authority to issue summonses or subpoenas, on behalf of—

''(I) the law enforcement agency employing the officer who is the subject of the hearing; or

''(II) the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the hearing; and

''(ii) upon written request of either the law enforcement agency or the officer, shall issue a summons or subpoena, as appropriate, to compel the appearance and testimony of a witness or the production of documentary evidence.

''(B) EFFECT OF FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH SUMMONS OR SUBPOENA.—With respect to any failure to comply with a summons or a subpoena issued under subparagraph (A)—

''(i) the disciplinary hearing officer or board shall petition a court of competent jurisdiction to issue an order compelling compliance; and

''(ii) subsequent failure to comply with such a court order issued pursuant to a petition under clause (i) shall—

''(I) be subject to contempt of a court proceedings according to the laws of the jurisdiction within which the disciplinary hearing is being conducted; and

''(II) result in the recess of the disciplinary hearing until the witness becomes available to testify and does testify or is held in contempt.

''(11) CLOSED HEARING.—A disciplinary hearing shall be closed to the public unless the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the hearing requests, in writing, that the hearing be open to specified individuals or to the general public.

''(12) RECORDING.—All aspects of a disciplinary hearing, including pre-hearing motions, shall be recorded by audio tape, video tape, or transcription.

''(13) SEQUESTRATION OF WITNESSES.—Either side in a disciplinary hearing may move for and be entitled to sequestration of witnesses.

''(14) TESTIMONY UNDER OATH.—The hearing officer or board shall administer an oath or affirmation to each witness, who shall testify subject to the laws of perjury of the State in which the disciplinary hearing is being conducted.

''(15) FINAL DECISION ON EACH CHARGE.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—At the conclusion of the presentation of all the evidence and after oral or written argument, the hearing officer or board shall deliberate and render a written final decision on each charge.

''(B) FINAL DECISION ISOLATED TO CHARGE BROUGHT.—The hearing officer or board may not find that the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the hearing is liable for disciplinary action for any violation of law as to which the officer was not charged.

''(16) BURDEN OF PERSUASION AND STANDARD OF PROOF.—The burden of persuasion or standard of proof of the prosecuting agency shall be—

''(A) by clear and convincing evidence as to each charge alleging false statement or representation, fraud, dishonesty, deceit, moral turpitude, or criminal behavior on the part of the law enforcement officer who is the subject of the charge; and

''(B) by a preponderance of the evidence as to all other charges.

''(17) FACTORS OF JUST CAUSE TO BE CONSIDERED BY THE HEARING OFFICER OR BOARD.—A law enforcement officer who is the subject of a disciplinary hearing shall not be found guilty of any charge or subjected to any disciplinary action unless the disciplinary hearing board or independent hearing officer finds that—

''(A) the officer who is the subject of the charge could reasonably be expected to have had knowledge of the probable consequences of the alleged conduct set forth in the charge against the officer;

''(B) the rule, regulation, order, or procedure that the officer who is the subject of the charge allegedly violated is reasonable;

''(C) the charging party, before filing the charge, made a reasonable, fair, and objective effort to discover whether the officer did in fact violate the rule, regulation, order, or procedure as charged;

''(D) the charging party did not conduct the investigation arbitrarily or unfairly, or in a discriminatory manner, against the officer who is the subject of the charge, and the charge was brought in good faith; and

''(E) the proposed disciplinary action reasonably relates to the seriousness of the alleged violation and to the record of service of the officer who is the subject of the charge.

''(18) NO COMMISSION OF A VIOLATION.—If the officer who is the subject of the disciplinary hearing is found not to have committed the alleged violation—

''(A) the matter is concluded;

''(B) no disciplinary action may be taken against the officer;

''(C) the personnel record of that officer shall not contain any reference to the charge for which the officer was found not guilty; and

''(D) any pay and benefits lost or deferred during the pendency of the disposition of the charge shall be restored to the officer as though no charge had ever been filed against the officer, including salary or regular pay, vacation, holidays, longevity pay, education incentive pay, shift differential, uniform allowance, lost overtime, or other premium pay opportunities, and lost promotional opportunities.

''(19) COMMISSION OF A VIOLATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—If the officer who is the subject of the charge is found to have committed the alleged violation, the hearing officer or board shall make a written recommendation of a penalty to the law enforcement agency employing the officer or any other governmental entity that has final disciplinary authority, as provided by applicable State or local law.

''(B) PENALTY.—The employing agency or other governmental entity may not impose a penalty greater than the penalty recommended by the hearing officer or board.

''(20) APPEAL.—Any officer who has been found to have committed an alleged violation may appeal from a final decision of a hearing officer or hearing board to a court of competent jurisdiction or to an independent neutral arbitrator to the extent available in any other administrative proceeding under applicable State or local law, or a collective bargaining agreement.

''(i) WAIVER OF RIGHTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An officer who is notified that the officer is under investigation or is the subject of a charge may, after such notification, waive any right or procedure guaranteed by this section.

''(2) WRITTEN WAIVER.—A written waiver under this subsection shall be—

''(A) in writing; and

''(B) signed by—

''(i) the officer, who shall have consulted with counsel or a representative before signing any such waiver; or

''(ii) the counsel or representative of the officer, if expressly authorized by subsection (h).

''(j) SUMMARY PUNISHMENT.—Nothing in this section shall preclude a public agency from imposing summary punishment.

''(k) EMERGENCY SUSPENSION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to preclude a law enforcement agency from imposing an emergency suspension on a law enforcement officer, except that any such suspension shall—

''(1) be followed by a hearing in accordance with the requirements of subsection (h); and

''(2) not deprive the affected officer of any pay or benefit.

''(l) RETALIATION FOR EXERCISING RIGHTS.—There shall be no imposition of, or threat of, disciplinary action or other penalty against a law enforcement officer for the exercise of any right provided to the officer under this section.

''(m) OTHER REMEDIES NOT IMPAIRED.—Nothing in this section may be construed to impair any other right or remedy that a law enforcement officer may have under any constitution, statute, ordinance, order, rule, regulation, procedure, written policy, collective bargaining agreement, or any other source.

''(n) DECLARATORY OR INJUNCTIVE RELIEF.—A law enforcement officer who is aggrieved by a violation of, or is otherwise denied any right afforded by, the Constitution of the United States, a State constitution, this section, or any administrative rule or regulation promulgated pursuant thereto, may file suit in any Federal or State court of competent jurisdiction for declaratory or injunctive relief to prohibit the law enforcement agency from violating or otherwise denying such right, and such court shall have jurisdiction, for cause shown, to restrain such a violation or denial.

''(o) PROTECTION OF LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER PERSONNEL FILES.—

''(1) RESTRICTIONS ON ADVERSE MATERIAL MAINTAINED IN OFFICERS' PERSONNEL RECORDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Unless the officer has had an opportunity to review and comment, in writing, on any adverse material generated after the effective date of the State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability, and Due Process Act of 2005 to be included in a personnel record relating to the officer, no law enforcement agency or other governmental entity may—

''(i) include the adverse material in that personnel record; or

''(ii) possess or maintain control over the adverse material in any form as a personnel record within the law enforcement agency or elsewhere in the control of the employing governmental entity.

''(B) RESPONSIVE MATERIAL.—Any responsive material provided by an officer to adverse material included in a personnel record pertaining to the officer shall be—

''(i) attached to the adverse material; and

''(ii) released to any person or entity to whom the adverse material is released in accordance with law and at the same time as the adverse material is released.

''(2) RIGHT TO INSPECTION OF, AND RESTRICTIONS ON ACCESS TO INFORMATION IN, THE OFFICER'S OWN PERSONNEL RECORDS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subparagraph (B), a law enforcement officer shall have the right to inspect all of the personnel records of the officer not less than annually.

''(B) RESTRICTIONS.—A law enforcement officer shall not have access to information in the personnel records of the officer if the information—

''(i) relates to the investigation of alleged conduct that, if proven, would constitute or have constituted a definite violation of a statute providing for criminal penalties, but as to which no formal charge was brought;

''(ii) contains letters of reference for the officer;

''(iii) contains any portion of a test document other than the results;

''(iv) is of a personal nature about another officer, and if disclosure of that information in non-redacted form would constitute a clearly unwarranted intrusion into the privacy rights of that other officer; or

''(v) is relevant to any pending claim brought by or on behalf of the officer against the employing agency of that officer that may be discovered in any judicial or administrative proceeding between the officer and the employer of that officer.

''(p) STATES' RIGHTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed—

''(A) to preempt any State or local law, or any provision of a State or local law, in effect on the date of enactment of the State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability, and Due Process Act of 2005, that confers a right or a protection that equals or exceeds the right or protection afforded by this section; or

''(B) to prohibit the enactment of any State or local law that confers a right or protection that equals or exceeds a right or protection afforded by this section.

''(2) STATE OR LOCAL LAWS PREEMPTED.—A State or local law, or any provision of a State or local law, that confers fewer rights or provides less protection for a law enforcement officer than any provision in this section shall be preempted by this section.

''(q) COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENTS.—Nothing in this section may be construed to—

''(1) preempt any provision in a mutually agreed-upon collective bargaining agreement, in effect on the date of enactment of the State and Local Law Enforcement Discipline, Accountability, and Due Process Act of 2005, that provides for substantially the same or a greater right or protection afforded under this section; or

''(2) prohibit the negotiation of any additional right or protection for an officer who is subject to any collective bargaining agreement.''.

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3711 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 819 the following:

''Sec. 820. Discipline, accountability, and due process of State and local law enforcement officers''.

SEC. 4. PROHIBITION OF FEDERAL CONTROL OVER STATE AND LOCAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE AGENCIES.

Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to authorize any department, agency, officer, or employee of the United States to exercise any direction, supervision, or control of any police force or any criminal justice agency of any State or any political subdivision thereof.

SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.

The amendments made by this Act shall take effect with respect to each State on the earlier of—

(1) 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act; or

(2) the conclusion of the second legislative session of the State that begins on or after the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. SARBANES (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI):

S. 719. A bill to extend Corridor O of the Appalachian Development Highway System from its currnet southern terminus at I–68 near Cumberland to Corridor H, which stretches from Weston, West Virginia, to Strasburg, Virginia; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. SARBANES. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to add a 35.5 mile segment of a proposed new highway, extending south of Interstate 68 near Cumberland, MD to Corridor H in West Virginia, to the Appalachian Development Highway System (ADHS). Joining me in co-sponsoring this legislation is my colleague Senator MIKULSKI.

The development of a north-south Appalachian highway corridor has long been a priority for elected officials, community leaders and citizens in the Potomac Highlands region of western Maryland, West Virginia and neighboring Pennsylvania counties. At least two Maryland State economic development task forces over the last decade have identified a north-south corridor as their leading priority for the region. In order to help determine the need, potential alignments as well as the projected economic benefits and the social, transportation and environmental impacts of upgrading north-south corridors, six years ago, I helped secure a grant from the Federal Highway Administration to support a multi-state study. That study was completed in 2001 and identified two corridors as having the greatest potential for benefiting Appalachian economic development the US 219 Corridor in the north from I–68 in Maryland to the Pennsylvania Turnpike and the US 220 Corridor in south from Corridor H in West Virginia to I–68 in Maryland. The study also found that upgrading US 220 South of Interstate 68 would support the largest number of potential new jobs, 7,800–8,600 jobs, with the highest relative growth—19 percent—of any of the corridors and have fewer impacts than the alternatives.

While US 220 north of I–68 is part of the ADHS, the segment south of the interstate is not currently part of the system, although it serves Appalachia. This area in Allegany County, MD—a county that has experienced some of the highest rates of unemployment and poverty in the State—has been targeted for economic development and job growth in the ''One Maryland'' economic development program. Major employers in the area—American Woodmark, Aliant Techsystems and MeadWestvaco—as well as others that might look at this region for the location of their next plant currently depend on a two-lane roadway running through residential neighborhoods and commercial areas. The area is well served by an important east and west corridor, I–68 (ADHS Corridor E), but North South transportation is inadequate and hampers the economic prosperity potential of Allegany and Garrett Counties and many of the surrounding Pennsylvania and West Virginia communities.

Over the past four years, and with additional funding provided by the Congress in the Fiscal 2003 Transportation Appropriations bill, Maryland and West Virginia have been undertaking a detailed project planning phase of the 35.5 mile segment of US 220 south that was recommended in the feasibility study. Improvements which have been proposed include a four-lane divided highway, most of which would be on a new alignment, with at-grade intersections. Fifteen miles of the proposed road improvements are in Maryland and 20.5 miles in West Virginia.

These upgrades would increase safety and alleviate traffic congestion between Cumberland and Keyser and provide an important link to the 83.2 miles of Appalachian Development Highways in Maryland and in the system of 28 corridors throughout the 13 Appalachian States. The corridor would interconnect several important ADHS corridors including the East-West Corridors P in Pennsylvania, E (I–68) in Maryland & West Virginia, H in West Virginia and Virginia along with the ADHS North-South Corridor O and Corridor N from Pennsylvania to the North. Currently ARC Corridors O & N dead end at I–68, and the closest interstate quality road continuing south is I–81 seventy miles east, or I–79 that is seventy miles to the west. The new Appalachian highway would also provide important linkages to the bi-State, Maryland and West Virginia, Greater Cumberland Airport, rail facilities in the area, and population centers of Cumberland, Maryland, Keyser, West Virginia, Romney, West Virginia, and Moorefield, West Virginia.

The Congress recognized the need to help bring the Appalachian Region into the mainstream of the American economy in 1965 when it created the Appalachian Region Commission and authorized the Appalachian Development Highway System. Now, some 40 years later, with the original ADHS more than 85 percent complete or under construction, it is time to provide critical linkages to the east-west ADHS corridors, population centers, other intermodal facilities such as air and rail, and the existing interstate system and to further boost the region's opportunity to advance towards economic parity. I hope that the Congress will swiftly approve this legislation.

By Mr. VITTER:

S. 721. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Army to carry out a program for ecosystem restoration for the Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. VITTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 721

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION. 1. LOUISIANA COASTAL AREA ECOSYSTEM RESTORATION, LOUISIANA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may carry out a program for ecosystem restoration, Louisiana Coastal Area, Louisiana, substantially in accordance with the report of the Chief of Engineers, dated January 31, 2005.

(b) PRIORITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out the program under subsection (a), the Secretary shall give priority to—

(A) any portion of the program identified in the report described in subsection (a) as a critical restoration feature;

(B) any Mississippi River diversion project that—

(i) protects a major population area of the Pontchartain, Pearl, Breton Sound, Barataria, or Terrebonne Basin; and

(ii) produces an environmental benefit to the coastal area of the State of Louisiana or the State of Mississippi; and

(C) any barrier island, or barrier shoreline, project that—

(i) is carried out in conjunction with a Mississippi River diversion project; and

(ii) protects a major population area.

(c) NON-FEDERAL SHARE.—

(1) CREDIT FOR INTEGRAL WORK.—The Secretary shall provide credit (including in-kind

credit) toward the non-Federal share for the cost of any work carried out by the non-Federal interest on a project that is part of the program under subsection (a) if the Secretary determines that the work is integral to the project.

(2) CARRYOVER OF CREDITS.—A credit provided under paragraph (1) may be carried over between authorized projects in the Louisiana Coastal Area ecosystem restoration program.

(3) NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS.—A nongovernmental organization shall be eligible to contribute all or a portion of the non-Federal share of the cost of a project under this section.

(d) COMPREHENSIVE PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in coordination with the Governor of the State of Louisiana, shall—

(A) develop a plan for protecting, preserving, and restoring the coastal Louisiana ecosystem; and

(B) not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 5 years thereafter, submit to Congress the plan, or an update of the plan.

(2) INCLUSIONS.—The comprehensive plan shall include a description of—

(A) the framework of a long-term program that provides for the comprehensive protection, conservation, and restoration of the wetlands, estuaries (including the Barataria-Terrebonne estuary), barrier islands, shorelines, and related land and features of the coastal Louisiana ecosystem, including protection of a critical resource, habitat, or infrastructure from the effects of a coastal storm, a hurricane, erosion, or subsidence;

(B) the means by which a new technology, or an improved technique, can be integrated into the program under subsection (a); and

(C) the role of other Federal agencies and programs in carrying out the program under subsection (a).

(3) CONSIDERATION.—In developing the comprehensive plan, the Secretary shall consider the advisability of integrating into the program under subsection (a)—

(A) a related Federal or State project carried out on the date on which the plan is developed;

(B) an activity in the Louisiana Coastal Area; or

(C) any other project or activity identified in—

(i) the Mississippi River and Tributaries program;

(ii) the Louisiana Coastal Wetlands Conservation Plan;

(iii) the Louisiana Coastal Zone Management Plan; or

(iv) the plan of the State of Louisiana entitled ''Coast 2050: Toward a Sustainable Coastal Louisiana''.

(e) TASK FORCE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a task force to be known as the ''Coastal Louisiana Ecosystem Protection and Restoration Task Force'' (referred to in this subsection as the ''Task Force'').

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Task Force shall consist of the following members (or, in the case of the head of a Federal agency, a designee at the level of Assistant Secretary or an equivalent level):

(A) The Secretary.

(B) The Secretary of the Interior.

(C) The Secretary of Commerce.

(D) The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

(E) The Secretary of Agriculture.

(F) The Secretary of Transportation.

(G) The Secretary of Energy.

(H) The Secretary of Homeland Security.

(I) 3 representatives of the State of Louisiana appointed by the Governor of that State.

(3) DUTIES.—The Task Force shall make recommendations to the Secretary regarding—

(A) policies, strategies, plans, programs, projects, and activities for addressing conservation, protection, restoration, and maintenance of the coastal Louisiana ecosystem;

(B) financial participation by each agency represented on the Task Force in conserving, protecting, restoring, and maintaining the coastal Louisiana ecosystem, including recommendations—

(i) that identify funds from current agency missions and budgets; and

(ii) for coordinating individual agency budget requests; and

(C) the comprehensive plan under subsection (d).

(4) WORKING GROUPS.—The Task Force may establish such working groups as the Task Force determines to be necessary to assist the Task Force in carrying out this subsection.

(5) APPLICATION OF THE FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Task Force or any working group of the Task Force.

(f) MISSISSIPPI RIVER GULF OUTLET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall develop a plan for modifying the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet that addresses—

(A) wetland losses attributable to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet;

(B) channel bank erosion;

(C) hurricane storm surges;

(D) saltwater intrusion;

(E) navigation interests; and

(F) environmental restoration.

(2) REPORT.—If the Secretary determines necessary, the Secretary, in conjunction with the Chief of Engineers, shall submit to Congress a report recommending modifications to the Mississippi River Gulf Outlet, including measures to prevent the intrusion of saltwater into the Outlet.

(g) SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall establish a coastal Louisiana ecosystem science and technology program.

(2) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the program established by paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) to identify any uncertainty relating to the physical, chemical, geological, biological, and cultural baseline conditions in coastal Louisiana;

(B) to improve knowledge of the physical, chemical, geological, biological, and cultural baseline conditions in coastal Louisiana; and

(C) to identify and develop technologies, models, and methods to carry out this subsection.

(3) WORKING GROUPS.—The Secretary may establish such working groups as the Secretary determines to be necessary to assist the Secretary in carrying out this subsection.

(4) CONTRACTS AND COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Secretary may enter into a contract or cooperative agreement with an individual or entity (including a consortium of academic institutions in Louisiana and Mississippi) with scientific or engineering expertise in the restoration of aquatic and marine ecosystems for coastal restoration and enhancement through science and technology.

(h) ANALYSIS OF BENEFITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 209 of the Flood Control Act of 1970 (42 U.S.C. 1962–2) or any other provision of law, in carrying out an activity to conserve, protect, restore, or maintain the coastal Louisiana ecosystem, the Secretary may determine that the environmental benefits provided by the program under this section outweigh the disadvantage of an activity under this section.

(2) DETERMINATION OF COST-EFFECTIVENESS.—If the Secretary determines that an activity under this section is cost-effective, no further economic justification for the activity shall be required.

(i) APPORTIONMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in consultation with the non-Federal interest, shall enter into a contract with the National Academy of Sciences under which the National Academy of Sciences shall conduct a study.

(2) IDENTIFICATION OF CAUSES AND SOURCES.—The study under paragraph (1) shall, to the maximum extent practicable, identify—

(A) each cause of degradation of the Louisiana Coastal Area ecosystem that is attributable to an action by the Secretary;

(B) an apportionment of the sources of such degradation;

(C) any potential reduction in the amount of Federal emergency response funds that would occur as a result of ecosystem restoration in the Louisiana Coastal Area; and

(D) the reduction in costs associated with protection and maintenance of infrastructure that is threatened or damaged as a result of coastal erosion in Louisiana that would occur as a result of ecosystem restoration in the Louisiana Coastal Area.

(j) REPORT.—Not later than July 1, 2006, the Secretary, in conjunction with the Chief of Engineers, shall submit to Congress a report describing the features included in table 3 of the report described in subsection (a).

(k) PROJECT MODIFICATIONS.—

(1) REVIEW.—The Secretary, in cooperation with any non-Federal interest, shall review each federally-authorized water resources project in the coastal Louisiana area in existence on the date of enactment of this Act to determine whether—

(A) each project is in accordance with the program under subsection (a); and

(B) the project could contribute to ecosystem restoration under subsection (a) through modification of the operations or features of the project.

(2) PUBLIC NOTICE AND COMMENT.—Before modifying an operation or feature of a project under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall provide an opportunity for public notice and comment.

(3) REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Before modifying an operation or feature of a project under paragraph (1)(B), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Environment and Public Works of the Senate and the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure of the House of Representatives a report describing the modification.

(B) INCLUSION.—A report under paragraph (2)(B) shall include such information relating to the timeline and cost of a modification as the Secretary determines to be relevant.

(4) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry out modifications under this subsection $10,000,000.

Mr. SANTORUM. Mr. President, today I am introducing legislation to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the tax on beer to its pre-1991 level. In 1990, Congress raised taxes on luxury items like expensive cars, fur coats, jewelry, yachts and private airplanes and doubled the Federal excise tax on beer.

This was the single largest tax increase on beer in American history and resulted in some 60,000 people losing

their jobs in brewing, distributing, retailing and related industries. The tax burden on beer is higher than the average consumer good in the American economy, an astounding 44 percent of its retail price. As a result of this tax increase the Government collects approximately seven times more in beer taxes than the Nation's brewers make in profits.

The doubling of the beer excise tax in 1990 was regressive, and therefore unfair, because it hits lower income taxpayers the hardest. Most beer consumers have household incomes below $40,000. Regular beer drinkers—Americans raising a family—are the people most affected by the increase in the Federal excise tax on beer. Lowering the beer tax means more money in the pockets of these hard-working men and women.

The beer excise tax was first enacted as an emergency measure to help finance the Civil War. It is an anachronism in our tax code. Since its enactment, dozens of corporate and payroll taxes have been imposed on brewers just as they have on other businesses. Yet the beer excise tax remains. A rollback of just the 1990 beer tax increase would also help maintain good-paying American manufacturing jobs and will create new opportunities and a boost to the economy. The U.S. system of alcohol beverage control has been the maintenance of a domestic presence for the industry with independent supplier, wholesale and retail tiers. Brewers, wholesalers and retailers are heavily regulated and to the extent the U.S. maintains a strong domestic industry, the Federal, State and local agencies will continue to ensure accountability and responsible business practices.

The brewing industry has a major presence in many U.S. cities and provides a significant source of manufacturing jobs. The industry directly and indirectly accounts for close to 2.5 million jobs nationwide—a reduction of the beer tax would help brewers maintain or grow their workforce. Brewing, wholesaling and retail combined contribute over 41,000 jobs to the economy of my home State of Pennsylvania.

All of the other luxury taxes enacted in 1990 have been repealed. Yet the beer tax increase remains in place. It is time to roll back the Federal excise tax increase on beer and provide another measure of tax relief to America's working men and women. The Federal Government will still collect almost $3.7 billion in excise taxes and the industry will pay an additional $21 billion in Federal, State, and local taxes. This is a modest and reasonable measure of tax relief to a significant American industry.

By Ms. SNOWE (for herself, Mr. BOND, and Mr. BINGAMAN):

S. 723. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow small businesses to set up simple cafeteria plans to provide nontaxable employee benefits to their employees, to make changes in the requirements for cafeteria plans, flexible spending accounts, and benefits provided under such plans or accounts, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. SNOWE. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the SIMPLE Cafeteria Plan Act of 2005'' to increase the access to quality, affordable health care for millions of small business owners and their employees. I am pleased that my good friend from Missouri, Senator BOND, as well as my good friend Senator BINGAMAN from New Mexico have agreed to co-sponsor this critical piece of legislation.

Regrettably, our Nation's healthcare system is in the midst of a crisis. Each year, more and more Americans are unable to purchase health insurance, and there are no signs that things are improving. As evidence, the United States Census Bureau estimates that nearly 47 million people did not have health insurance coverage for all of 2002. Sadly, this number rose from 41.2 million uninsured persons in 2001—a 14.6 percent increase.

As if these numbers on a national scale are not alarming enough, the results are even more troubling when we look specifically at the small business sector of our economy. Analysis conducted by the Employee Benefit Research Institute, a nonpartisan group dedicated to ensuring that all workers have access to affordable health care, suggests that the highest rates of uninsured occur among either self-employed workers or workers whose employer employees fewer than 25 persons. When compared to workers in firms that employ 1,000 or more employees, where just 12.6 percent of those workers do not have health insurance, it becomes clear that the majority of uninsured Americans work for small enterprises. Clearly, these numbers suggest that there is a direct correlation among those persons who do not have health insurance and the size of their employer.

The question, then, is why are our Nation's small businesses, which are our country's job creators and the true engine of our national economy, so disadvantaged when it comes to purchasing health insurance.

The main reason that small business owners are not able to offer their employees health insurance is because many small business owners are able to pay only a portion of their employees' health insurance premiums or, even worse, cannot afford to provide any health insurance or other employee benefits at all. As a result, many small business workers must acquire health insurance from the private sector rather than the work place—an unfair, and far more expensive alternative.

Clearly, we have a problem on our hands. While we can debate among ourselves why this crisis exists and how we ended up here, what is not open for debate is that we need to start identifying ways to fix the system because it is simply unconscionable to do nothing while more and more Americans find themselves without health care.

As you know, I re-introduced a bill earlier this year that will go a long ways towards improving the situation by creating Associated Health Plans for small businesses. In general, this bill would permit small businesses throughout the country to band together for purposes of obtaining an insurance quote from an insurance company. By pooling these businesses together, they would pay lower premiums because of the increased risk pool.

Again, this bill would increase the number of Americans that would be able to afford health insurance because their insurance premiums would be based on a more reasonable number. The bill I am introducing today builds upon this and goes a step further by putting more small business owners and their employees on a level playing field when compared to workers of a larger company.

Specifically, many large companies and even the Federal government enable their employees to purchase health insurance and other qualified benefits with taxfree dollars. Larger companies are able to do this by qualifying for certain employee benefit delivery mechanisms under the tax code.

One such delivery mechanism is a cafeteria plan. As the name suggests, cafeteria plans are programs whereby employers offer their employees the opportunity to purchase certain qualified benefits of their choosing. The key here is that the employer provides the opportunity for the employee to purchase the benefit, and the employee is then free to chose whether to participate and which benefits to buy. Under current law, qualified benefits include health insurance, dependent-care reimbursement, and life and disability insurance. Typically, employer contributions, employee contributions, or a combination of the two fund these plans.

Cafeteria plans offer valuable benefits to employees and are popular for many reasons. Specifically, they offer employees great flexibility in selecting their desired benefits while enabling them to disregard those benefits that do not fit their particular needs. Participating employees are also able to exclude any wages that they contribute to a cafeteria plan from their Federal taxable income, Social Security, and Medicare, which means they are using more valuable pre-tax dollars to buy these benefits. Moreover, the employees are usually purchasing these benefits at a lower cost because employers are oftentimes able to obtain a reduced price for the benefits through a group rate after they establish a cafeteria plan.

Cafeteria plans also provide employers with valuable benefits, most notably as a recruiting tool. It certainly stands to reason that if more small business owners are able to offer their employees the chance to enjoy a variety of employee benefits, these owners

then will be more likely to attract, recruit, and retain more talented workers, which will ultimately increase the firm's business output. Too often, we hear that small businesses loose skilled employees to larger companies simply because a big firm is able to offer a more attractive benefit package. Given that small businesses are responsible for a majority of the new jobs created in this country, we need to reverse that trend, and this bill will go a long way in rectifying this inequity.

Clearly, cafeteria plans play a critical role in our Nation's health care system and economy in general. The problem, though, is that in order for companies to qualify for the tax benefits that cafeteria plans provide, they must satisfy strict nondiscrimination rules under the tax code. These rules exist to ensure that the benefits offered to highly compensated employees are offered to non-highly compensated employees as well. The rules also strive to ensure that non-highly compensated employees in fact receive a substantial portion of the benefits provided under the plan.

Now I want to be clear when I say that these non-discrimination rules serve a legitimate purpose. Indeed, we need to be sure that employers are not able to game the tax system by implementing these cafeteria plans, and that the cafeteria plans that qualify for preferential tax treatment are used by a majority of the employees in the company.

However, what I find to be unacceptable is the way the tax code attempts to implement this policy under the existing rules. Currently, many small businesses simply cannot satisfy these mechanical rules because, through no fault of their own, they have relatively few employees and a high proportion of owners or highly compensated individuals. As such, were a small business to create a cafeteria plan and violate the non-discrimination rules, certain workers within the company would be subject to a penalty and would be required to include a substantial portion of their contributions in their taxable income.

Consequently, many small companies simply do not even bother to implement a cafeteria plan for fear that they will violate the non-discrimination rules. According to the Employer's Council on Flexible Compensation, while 38.36 million U.S. workers had access to cafeteria plans in 1999, only 19 percent of those workers were employees of small businesses.

To improve the current situation, the bill I am introducing today will allow and encourage more small businesses to offer employees the opportunity to purchase health insurance with tax-free dollars just as larger companies and the federal government do. My bill accomplishes this by creating a Simple Cafeteria Plan, which is modeled after the Savings Incentive Match Plan for Employees (SIMPLE) pension plan. As with the SIMPLE pension plan, a small business employer that is willing to make a minimum contribution for all employees or who is willing to match contributions will be permitted to waive the non-discrimination rules that currently prevent these owners from otherwise offering these benefits. This structure has worked extraordinarily well in the pension area with little risk of abuse, and I am confident that it will be just as successful when it comes to broad-based benefits offered through cafeteria plans.

Under the SIMPLE Cafeteria Plan, small companies will not have to struggle with satisfying the burdensome non-discrimination rules that often prevent them from offering valuable employee benefits to their workers. As a result, more small business employers will be able to provide their workers with the employee benefits that are often reserved for larger employers and that are otherwise unavailable because of the non-discrimination rules.

In addition my bill will expand the types of qualified benefits that will be able to be offered under ALL cafeteria plans—both those that qualify under existing law as well as the new SIMPLE cafeteria plans that will be created. Specifically, my bill modifies the rules governing benefits offered under cafeteria plans, such as flexible spending accounts and dependent-care assistance plans that many larger employers offer their employees. These modifications will increase the likelihood that employees of small businesses will utilize the available benefits and that will increase the benefits provided for all employees.

For example, current rules impose a ''use it or lose it'' requirement with respect to flexible spending arrangement contributions. This means that the employee forfeits any money he or she contributes to the account but does not use during the plan. My bill would change that rule and allow employees to carry over up to $500 remaining in their account to the next plan year. The bill would also permit employees to carry-over any unused funds to a retirement account such as a 401(k) plan.

In either case, any carried over contributions will reduce the amount that the employee otherwise would be able to contribute to the spending arrangement in the following year so that the carry-over option will not produce a greater dollar benefit for any employee. As a result, more employees are likely to participate in these spending arrangements because they will ultimately be able to use any funds that they contribute without any fear of forfeiting them simply because the funds were not used in the year of contribution.

Additionally, this legislation modifies rules that pertain to employer-provided, dependent-care assistance plans. First, it would increase the current $5,000 annual contribution limitation of these plans to $10,000 if the contributing employee claims two or more dependents on his or her tax return. This increase is significant because it will provide these taxpayers with an opportunity to care for not only their children but also an elderly family member who is a dependent of an employee—a scenario that will become increasingly more likely as the current baby-boomer generation continues to age.

Second, this bill would amend the current non-discrimination rules that dependent-care assistance plans must satisfy. As is often the case with the majority of small business owners who cannot, through any fault of their own, satisfy the non-discrimination rules for establishing a cafeteria plan, these rules often prevent the owner from offering this valuable benefit to their employees. To remedy this inequity, this bill would change the current mechanical thresholds such that more small businesses can provide dependent-care assistance plans to their employees but in a manner that does not encourage the type of abuse that the non-discrimination rules are intended to prevent.

Small businesses are the backbone of the American economy. According to the Small Business Administration, small businesses represent 99 percent of all employers, employ 51 percent of the private-sector workforce, and contribute 51 percent of the private-sector output. It is therefore critical that small businesses owners are able to offer their employees the benefits that cafeteria plans provide so that more of our nation's workers have the opportunity to purchase quality healthcare and provide security for their families.

The ''SIMPLE Cafeteria Plan Act of 2005'' achieves those objectives, and it does so in a manner that the employers and employees are able to afford. Although the use of pre-tax dollars to acquire these benefits reduces current federal revenues, the opportunity to provide small business employees these same benefits to workers and their families rather than relying on the public sector more than justifies this minimal investment. Therefore, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation as we work with you to enact this bill into law.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 723

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''SIMPLE Cafeteria Plan Act of 2005'' .

(b) AMENDMENT OF 1986 CODE.—Except as otherwise expressly provided, whenever in this Act an amendment or repeal is expressed in terms of an amendment to, or repeal of, a section or other provision, the reference shall be considered to be made to a section or other provision of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

SEC. 2. ESTABLISHMENT OF SIMPLE CAFETERIA PLANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 125 (relating to cafeteria plans) is amended by redesignating

subsections (h) and (i) as subsections (i) and (j), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (g) the following new subsection:

''(h) SIMPLE CAFETERIA PLANS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible employer maintaining a simple cafeteria plan with respect to which the requirements of this subsection are met for any year shall be treated as meeting any applicable nondiscrimination requirement with respect to benefits provided under the plan during such year.

''(2) SIMPLE CAFETERIA PLAN.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'simple cafeteria plan' means a cafeteria plan—

''(A) which is established and maintained by an eligible employer, and

''(B) with respect to which the contribution requirements of paragraph (3), and the eligibility and participation requirements of paragraph (4), are met.

''(3) CONTRIBUTIONS REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this paragraph are met if, under the plan—

''(i) the employer makes matching contributions on behalf of each employee who is eligible to participate in the plan and who is not a highly compensated or key employee in an amount equal to the elective plan contributions of the employee to the plan to the extent the employee's elective plan contributions do not exceed 3 percent of the employee's compensation, or

''(ii) the employer is required, without regard to whether an employee makes any elective plan contribution, to make a contribution to the plan on behalf of each employee who is not a highly compensated or key employee and who is eligible to participate in the plan in an amount equal to at least 2 percent of the employee's compensation.

''(B) MATCHING CONTRIBUTIONS ON BEHALF OF HIGHLY COMPENSATED AND KEY EMPLOYEES.—The requirements of subparagraph (A)(i) shall not be treated as met if, under the plan, the rate of matching contribution with respect to any elective plan contribution of a highly compensated or key employee at any rate of contribution is greater than that with respect to an employee who is not a highly compensated or key employee.

''(C) SPECIAL RULES.—

''(i) TIME FOR MAKING CONTRIBUTIONS.—An employer shall not be treated as failing to meet the requirements of this paragraph with respect to any elective plan contributions of any compensation, or employer contributions required under this paragraph with respect to any compensation, if such contributions are made no later than the 15th day of the month following the last day of the calendar quarter which includes the date of payment of the compensation.

''(ii) FORM OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—Employer contributions required under this paragraph may be made either to the plan to provide benefits offered under the plan or to any person as payment for providing benefits offered under the plan.

''(iii) ADDITIONAL CONTRIBUTIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), nothing in this paragraph shall be treated as prohibiting an employer from making contributions to the plan in addition to contributions required under subparagraph (A).

''(D) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph—

''(i) ELECTIVE PLAN CONTRIBUTION.—The term 'elective plan contribution' means any amount which is contributed at the election of the employee and which is not includible in gross income by reason of this section.

''(ii) HIGHLY COMPENSATED EMPLOYEE.—The term 'highly compensated employee' has the meaning given such term by section 414(q).

''(iii) KEY EMPLOYEE.—The term 'key employee' has the meaning given such term by section 416(i).

''(4) MINIMUM ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The requirements of this paragraph shall be treated as met with respect to any year if, under the plan—

''(i) all employees who had at least 1,000 hours of service for the preceding plan year are eligible to participate, and

''(ii) each employee eligible to participate in the plan may, subject to terms and conditions applicable to all participants, elect any benefit available under the plan.

''(B) CERTAIN EMPLOYEES MAY BE EXCLUDED.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), an employer may elect to exclude under the plan employees—

''(i) who have less than 1 year of service with the employer as of any day during the plan year,

''(ii) who have not attained the age of 21 before the close of a plan year,

''(iii) who are covered under an agreement which the Secretary of Labor finds to be a collective bargaining agreement if there is evidence that the benefits covered under the cafeteria plan were the subject of good faith bargaining between employee representatives and the employer, or

''(iv) who are described in section 410(b)(3)(C) (relating to nonresident aliens working outside the United States).

A plan may provide a shorter period of service or younger age for purposes of clause (i) or (ii).

''(5) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'eligible employer' means, with respect to any year, any employer if such employer employed an average of 100 or fewer employees on business days during either of the 2 preceding years. For purposes of this subparagraph, a year may only be taken into account if the employer was in existence throughout the year.

''(B) EMPLOYERS NOT IN EXISTENCE DURING PRECEDING YEAR.—If an employer was not in existence throughout the preceding year, the determination under subparagraph (A) shall be based on the average number of employees that it is reasonably expected such employer will employ on business days in the current year.

''(C) GROWING EMPLOYERS RETAIN TREATMENT AS SMALL EMPLOYER.—If—

''(i) an employer was an eligible employer for any year (a 'qualified year'), and

''(ii) such employer establishes a simple cafeteria plan for its employees for such year, then, notwithstanding the fact the employer fails to meet the requirements of subparagraph (A) for any subsequent year, such employer shall be treated as an eligible employer for such subsequent year with respect to employees (whether or not employees during a qualified year) of any trade or business which was covered by the plan during any qualified year. This subparagraph shall cease to apply if the employer employs an average of 200 more employees on business days during any year preceding any such subsequent year.

''(D) SPECIAL RULES.—The rules of section 220(c)(4)(D) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.

''(6) APPLICABLE NONDISCRIMINATION REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of this subsection, the term 'applicable nondiscrimination requirement' means any requirement under subsection (b) of this section, section 79(d), section 105(h), or paragraph (2), (3), (4), or (8) of section 129(d).

''(7) COMPENSATION.—The term 'compensation' has the meaning given such term by section 414(s).''

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to years beginning after December 31, 2004.

SEC. 3. MODIFICATIONS OF RULES APPLICABLE TO CAFETERIA PLANS.

(a) APPLICATION TO SELF-EMPLOYED INDIVIDUALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 125(d) (defining cafeteria plan) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) EMPLOYEE TO INCLUDE SELF-EMPLOYED.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The term 'employee' includes an individual who is an employee within the meaning of section 401(c)(1) (relating to self-employed individuals).

''(B) LIMITATION.—The amount which may be excluded under subsection (a) with respect to a participant in a cafeteria plan by reason of being an employee under subparagraph (A) shall not exceed the employee's earned income (within the meaning of section 401(c)) derived from the trade or business with respect to which the cafeteria plan is established.''

(2) APPLICATION TO BENEFITS WHICH MAY BE PROVIDED UNDER CAFETERIA PLAN.—

(A) GROUP-TERM LIFE INSURANCE.—Section 79 (relating to group-term life insurance provided to employees) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(f) EMPLOYEE INCLUDES SELF-EMPLOYED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'employee' includes an individual who is an employee within the meaning of section 401(c)(1) (relating to self-employed individuals).

''(2) LIMITATION.—The amount which may be excluded under the exceptions contained in subsection (a) or (b) with respect to an individual treated as an employee by reason of paragraph (1) shall not exceed the employee's earned income (within the meaning of section 401(c)) derived from the trade or business with respect to which the individual is so treated.''

(B) ACCIDENT AND HEALTH PLANS.—Section 105(g) is amended to read as follows:

''(g) EMPLOYEE INCLUDES SELF-EMPLOYED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'employee' includes an individual who is an employee within the meaning of section 401(c)(1) (relating to self-employed individuals).

''(2) LIMITATION.—The amount which may be excluded under this section by reason of subsection (b) or (c) with respect to an individual treated as an employee by reason of paragraph (1) shall not exceed the employee's earned income (within the meaning of section 401(c)) derived from the trade or business with respect to which the accident or health insurance was established.''

(C) CONTRIBUTIONS BY EMPLOYERS TO ACCIDENT AND HEALTH PLANS.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Section 106, as amended by subsection (b), is amended by adding after subsection (b) the following new subsection:

''(c) EMPLOYER TO INCLUDE SELF-EMPLOYED.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term 'employee' includes an individual who is an employee within the meaning of section 401(c)(1) (relating to self-employed individuals).

''(2) LIMITATION.—The amount which may be excluded under subsection (a) with respect to an individual treated as an employee by reason of paragraph (1) shall not exceed the employee's earned income (within the meaning of section 401(c)) derived from the trade or business with respect to which the accident or health insurance was established.''

(ii) CLARIFICATION OF LIMITATIONS ON OTHER COVERAGE.—The first sentence of section 162(l)(2)(B) is amended to read as follows:

''Paragraph (1) shall not apply to any taxpayer for any calendar month for which the taxpayer participates in any subsidized health plan maintained by any employer (other than an employer described in section 401(c)(4)) of the taxpayer or the spouse of the taxpayer.

(b) LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PERMITTED TO BE OFFERED UNDER CAFETERIA PLANS AND FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.—

(1) CAFETERIA PLANS.—The last sentence of section 125(f) (defining qualified benefits) is amended to read as follows: ''Such term shall include the payment of premiums for any qualified long-term care insurance contract (as defined in section 7702B) to the extent the amount of such payment does not exceed the eligible long-term care premiums (as defined in section 213(d)(10)) for such contract''.

(2) FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.—Section 106 (relating to contributions by employer to accident and health plans) is amended by striking subsection (c).

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2004.

SEC. 4. MODIFICATION OF RULES APPLICABLE TO FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 125, as amended by section 2, is amended by redesignating subsections (i) and (j) as subsections (j) and (k), respectively, and by inserting after subsection (h) the following new subsection:

''(i) SPECIAL RULES APPLICABLE TO FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this title, a plan or other arrangement shall not fail to be treated as a flexible spending or similar arrangement solely because under the plan or arrangement—

''(A) the amount of the reimbursement for covered expenses at any time may not exceed the balance in the participant's account for the covered expenses as of such time,

''(B) except as provided in paragraph (4)(A)(ii), a participant may elect at any time specified by the plan or arrangement to make or modify any election regarding the covered benefits, or the level of covered benefits, of the participant under the plan, and

''(C) a participant is permitted access to any unused balance in the participant's accounts under such plan or arrangement in the manner provided under paragraph (2) or (3).

''(2) CARRYOVERS AND ROLLOVERS OF UNUSED BENEFITS IN HEALTH AND DEPENDENT CARE ARRANGEMENTS.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A plan or arrangement may permit a participant in a health flexible spending arrangement or dependent care flexible spending arrangement to elect—

''(i) to carry forward any aggregate unused balances in the participant's accounts under such arrangement as of the close of any year to the succeeding year, or

''(ii) to have such balance transferred to a plan described in subparagraph (E).

Such carryforward or transfer shall be treated as having occurred within 30 days of the close of the year.

''(B) DOLLAR LIMIT ON CARRYFORWARDS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—The amount which a participant may elect to carry forward under subparagraph (A)(i) from any year shall not exceed $500. For purposes of this paragraph, all plans and arrangements maintained by an employer or any related person shall be treated as 1 plan.

''(ii) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of any taxable year beginning in a calendar year after 2005, the $500 amount under clause (i) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(I) $500, multiplied by

''(II) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for such calendar year, determined by substituting '2004' for '1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If any dollar amount as increased under this clause is not a multiple of $100, such amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $100.

''(C) EXCLUSION FROM GROSS INCOME.—No amount shall be required to be included in gross income under this chapter by reason of any carryforward or transfer under this paragraph.

''(D) COORDINATION WITH LIMITS.—

''(i) CARRYFORWARDS.—The maximum amount which may be contributed to a health flexible spending arrangement or dependent care flexible spending arrangement for any year to which an unused amount is carried under this paragraph shall be reduced by such amount.

''(ii) ROLLOVERS.—Any amount transferred under subparagraph (A)(ii) shall be treated as an eligible rollover under section 219, 223(f)(5), 401(k), 403(b), or 457, whichever is applicable, except that—

''(I) the amount of the contributions which a participant may make to the plan under any such section for the taxable year including the transfer shall be reduced by the amount transferred, and

''(II) in the case of a transfer to a plan described in clause (ii) or (iii) of subparagraph (E), the transferred amounts shall be treated as elective deferrals for such taxable year.

''(E) PLANS.—A plan is described in this subparagraph if it is—

''(i) an individual retirement plan,

''(ii) a qualified cash or deferred arrangement described in section 401(k),

''(iii) a plan under which amounts are contributed by an individual's employer for an annuity contract described in section 403(b),

''(iv) an eligible deferred compensation plan described in section 457, or

''(v) a health savings account described in section 223.

''(3) DISTRIBUTION UPON TERMINATION.—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—A plan or arrangement may permit a participant (or any designated heir of the participant) to receive a cash payment equal to the aggregate unused account balances in the plan or arrangement as of the date the individual is separated (including by death or disability) from employment with the employer maintaining the plan or arrangement.

''(B) INCLUSION IN INCOME.—Any payment under subparagraph (A) shall be includible in gross income for the taxable year in which such payment is distributed to the employee.

''(4) TERMS RELATING TO FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.—

''(A) FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.—

''(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this subsection, a flexible spending arrangement is a benefit program which provides employees with coverage under which specified incurred expenses may be reimbursed (subject to reimbursement maximums and other reasonable conditions).

''(ii) ELECTIONS REQUIRED.—A plan or arrangement shall not be treated as a flexible spending arrangement unless a participant may at least 4 times during any year make or modify any election regarding covered benefits or the level of covered benefits.

''(B) HEALTH AND DEPENDENT CARE ARRANGEMENTS.—The terms 'health flexible spending arrangement' and 'dependent care flexible spending arrangement' means any flexible spending arrangement (or portion thereof) which provides payments for expenses incurred for medical care (as defined in section 213(d)) or dependent care (within the meaning of section 129), respectively.''

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—

(1) The heading for section 125 is amended by inserting ''AND FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS'' after ''PLANS''.

(2) The item relating to section 125 in the table of sections for part III of subchapter B of chapter 1 is amended by inserting ''and flexible spending arrangements'' after ''plans''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to years beginning after December 31, 2004.

SEC. 5. RULES RELATING TO EMPLOYER-PROVIDED HEALTH AND DEPENDENT CARE BENEFITS.

(a) HEALTH BENEFITS.—Section 106, as amended by section 3, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(e) LIMITATION ON CONTRIBUTIONS TO HEALTH FLEXIBLE SPENDING ARRANGEMENTS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Gross income of an employee for any taxable year shall include employer-provided coverage provided through 1 or more health flexible spending arrangements (within the meaning of section 125(i)) to the extent that the amount otherwise excludable under subsection (a) with regard to such coverage exceeds the applicable dollar limit for the taxable year.

''(2) APPLICABLE DOLLAR LIMIT.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicable dollar limit for any taxable year is an amount equal to the sum of—

''(i) $7,500, plus

''(ii) if the arrangement provides coverage for 1 or more individuals in addition to the employee, an amount equal to one-third of the amount in effect under clause (i) (after adjustment under subparagraph (B)).

''(B) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENT.—In the case of taxable years beginning in any calendar year after 2005, the $7,500 amount under subparagraph (A) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(i) $7,500, multiplied by

''(ii) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year, determined by substituting '2004' for '1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If any dollar amount as increased under this subparagraph is not a multiple of $100, such dollar amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $100.''

(b) DEPENDENT CARE.—

(1) EXCLUSION LIMIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 129(a)(2) (relating to limitation on exclusion) is amended—

(i) by striking ''$5,000'' and inserting ''the applicable dollar limit'', and

(ii) by striking ''$2,500'' and inserting ''one-half of such limit''.

(B) APPLICABLE DOLLAR LIMIT.—Section 129(a) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) APPLICABLE DOLLAR LIMIT.—For purposes of this subsection—

''(A) IN GENERAL.—The applicable dollar limit is $5,000 ($10,000 if dependent care assistance is provided under the program to 2 or more qualifying individuals of the employee).

''(B) COST-OF-LIVING ADJUSTMENTS.—

''(i) $5,000 AMOUNT.—In the case of taxable years beginning after 2005, the $5,000 amount under subparagraph (A) shall be increased by an amount equal to—

''(I) $5,000, multiplied by

''(II) the cost-of-living adjustment determined under section 1(f)(3) for the calendar year in which the taxable year begins, determined by substituting '2004' for '1992' in subparagraph (B) thereof.

If any dollar amount as increased under this clause is not a multiple of $100, such dollar amount shall be rounded to the next lowest multiple of $100.

''(ii) $10,000 AMOUNT.—The $10,000 amount under subparagraph (A) for taxable years beginning after 2005 shall be increased to an

amount equal to twice the amount the $5,000 amount is increased to under clause (i).''

(2) AVERAGE BENEFITS TEST.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Section 129(d)(8)(A) (relating to benefits) is amended—

(i) by striking ''55 percent'' and inserting ''60 percent'', and

(ii) by striking ''highly compensated employees'' the second place it appears and inserting ''employees receiving benefits''.

(B) SALARY REDUCTION AGREEMENTS.—Section 129(d)(8)(B) (relating to salary reduction agreements) is amended—

(i) by striking ''$25,000'' and inserting ''$30,000'', and

(ii) by adding at the end the following: ''In the case of years beginning after 2005, the $30,000 amount in the first sentence shall be adjusted at the same time, and in the same manner, as the applicable dollar amount is adjusted under subsection (a)(3)(B).''

(3) PRINCIPAL SHAREHOLDERS OR OWNERS.—Section 129(d)(4) (relating to principal shareholders and owners) is amended by adding at the end the following: ''In the case of any failure to meet the requirements of this paragraph for any year, amounts shall only be required by reason of the failure to be included in gross income of the shareholders or owners who are members of the class described in the preceding sentence.''

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after December 31, 2004.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Mr. DURBIN, and Mr. SALAZAR):

S. 724. A bill to improve the No Child Left Behind Act of 2001, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. President, today I am pleased to introduce with Senators DURBIN and SALAZAR a very important piece of legislation, ''The No Child Left Behind Reform Act.'' This legislation makes three basic changes to the No Child Left Behind Act which was signed into law in January of 2002.

The No Child Left Behind Act received the support of this Senator and eighty-six of our colleagues. Like most, if not all, of our colleagues who supported this bill, I supported it because I care about improving the quality of education in America for all of our children. I believed that this law would help to achieve that goal by establishing more rigorous standards for measuring student achievement, by helping teachers do a better job of instructing students, and last but not least, by providing the resources desperately needed by our schools for even the most basic necessities to help put the reforms we passed into place.

Regrettably, the high hopes that I and many others had for this law have not been realized. The law is being implemented by the Administration in a manner that is inflexible, unreasonable and unhelpful to students. Furthermore, the law is not only failing to help teachers do their best in the classroom, it also reflects, along with other Administration policies and pronouncements, a neglect and even hostility towards members of the teaching profession.

Worse still, the Administration's promise of sufficient resources to implement No Child Left Behind's much needed reforms is a promise that has yet to be kept. Indeed, the current budget proposed by the Bush Administration underfunds No Child Left Behind by $12 billion. Since passage three years ago, the law has been funded at a level that is more than $39 billion below what was promised when the President signed the Act into law.

As a result of the failures of the current Administration to fulfill its commitment to our nation's school children under this law, those children and their teachers are today shouldering new and noteworthy hardships. Throughout the State of Connecticut, for example, students, teachers, administrators and parents are struggling to implement requirements that are often confusing, inflexible and unrealistic. And they are struggling to do so without the additional resources they were promised to put them into place. According to a recent report put together by the Connecticut State Department of Education, through 2008, it will cost the State of Connecticut $41.6 million over and above what the Federal Government is going to supply to meet the requirements of No Child Left Behind. Of that $41.6 million, $8 million will need to spent on testing alone. That is a significant amount of money—a significant amount of money that is going to fall on Connecticut taxpayers trying to simultaneously pay for their mortgage, basic health care and the rising cost of their children's tuition.

As I have said on numerous occasions in the past, resources without reforms are a waste of money. By the same token, reforms without resources are a false promise—a false promise that has left students and their teachers grappling with new burdens and little help to bear them.

The legislation I am introducing today proposes to make three changes to the No Child Left Behind Act. These changes will ease current burdens on our students, our teachers and our administrators without dismantling the fundamental underpinnings of the law.

First, the No Child Left Behind Reform Act will allow schools to be given credit for performing well on measures other than test scores when calculating student achievement. Test scores are an important measure of student knowledge. However, they are not the only measure. There are others. These include dropout rates, the number of students who participate in advanced placement courses, and individual student improvement over time. Unfortunately, current law does not allow schools to use these additional ways to gauge school success in a constructive manner. Additional measures can only be used to further indicate how a school is failing, not how a school is succeeding. This legislation will allow schools to earn credit for succeeding.

Second, the No Child Left Behind Reform Act will allow schools to target school choice and supplemental services to the students that actually demonstrate a need for them. As the current law is being implemented by the Administration, if a school is in need of improvement, it is expected to offer school choice and supplemental services to all students—even if not all students have demonstrated a need for them. That strikes me as a wasteful and imprecise way to help a school improve student performance. For that reason, this legislation will allow schools to target resources to the students that actually demonstrate that they need them. Clearly, this is the most efficient way to maximize their effect.

Finally, the No Child Left Behind Reform Act introduces a greater degree of reasonableness to the teacher certification process. As it is being implemented, the law requires teachers to be ''highly qualified'' to teach every subject that they teach. Certainly none of us disagree with this policy as a matter of principle. But as a matter of practice, it is causing confusion and hardship for teachers, particularly secondary teachers and teachers in small school districts. For example, as the law is being implemented by the Administration, a high school science teacher could be required to hold degrees in biology, physics and chemistry to be considered highly qualified. In small schools where there may be only one 7th or 8th grade teacher teaching all subjects, these teachers could similarly be required to hold degrees in every subject area.

Such requirements are unreasonable at a time when excellent teachers are increasingly hard to find. The legislation I introduce today will allow states to create a single assessment to cover multiple subjects for middle grade level teachers and allow states to issue a broad certification for science and social studies.

In my view, the changes I propose will provide significant assistance to schools struggling to comply with the No Child Left Behind law all across America. As time marches on and more deadlines set by this law approach—including additional testing, a highly qualified teacher in every classroom and 100% proficiency for all students—we have a responsibility to reassess the law and do what we can to make sure that it is implemented in a reasonable manner. In doing so, we must also preserve the basic tenets of the law—providing a world class education for all American students and closing the achievement gap across demographic and socioeconomic lines. Again, no child should left behind—no special education student, no English language learning student, no minority student and no low-income student. I stand by this commitment.

Obviously, funding this law is beyond the scope of this bill. I would note, however, that efforts to increase education funding to authorized levels have thus far been unsuccessful. Despite this, I remain committed to work to change this outcome as well. Clearly, our children deserve the resources

needed to make their dreams for a better education a reality.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 724

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the ''No Child Left Behind Reform Act''.

SEC. 2. ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS.

(a) DEFINITION OF ADEQUATE YEARLY PROGRESS.—Section 1111(b)(2) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311(b)(2)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (C)(vii)—

(A) by striking ''such as'';

(B) by inserting ''such as measures of individual or cohort growth over time based on the academic assessments implemented in accordance with paragraph (3),'' after ''described in clause (v),''; and

(C) by striking ''attendance rates,''; and

(2) in subparagraph (D)—

(A) by striking clause (ii);

(B) by striking ''the State'' and all that follows through ''ensure'' and inserting ''the State shall ensure''; and

(C) by striking ''; and'' and inserting a period.

(b) ACADEMIC ASSESSMENT AND LOCAL EDUCATIONAL AGENCY AND SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT.—Section 1116(a)(1)(B) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316(a)(1)(B)) is amended by striking '', except that'' and all that follows through ''action or restructuring''.

SEC. 3. GRANTS FOR INCREASING DATA CAPACITY FOR PURPOSES OF AYP.

Subpart 1 of part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''SEC. 1120C. GRANTS FOR INCREASING DATA CAPACITY FOR PURPOSES OF AYP.

''(a) GRANT AUTHORITY.—The Secretary may award grants, on a competitive basis, to State educational agencies to enable the State educational agencies—

''(1) to develop or increase the capacity of data systems for accountability purposes; and

''(2) to award subgrants to increase the capacity of local educational agencies to upgrade, create, or manage information databases for the purpose of measuring adequate yearly progress.

''(b) PRIORITY.—In awarding grants under this section the Secretary shall give priority to State educational agencies that have created, or are in the process of creating, a growth model or proficiency index as part of their adequate yearly progress determination.

''(c) STATE USE OF FUNDS.—Each State that receives a grant under this section shall use—

''(1) not more than 20 percent of the grant funds for the purpose of increasing the capacity of, or creating, State databases to collect information related to adequate yearly progress; and

''(2) not less than 80 percent of the grant funds to award subgrants to local educational agencies within the State to enable the local educational agencies to carry out the authorized activities described in subsection (d).

''(d) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Each local educational agency that receives a subgrant under this section shall use the subgrant funds to increase the capacity of the local educational agency to upgrade databases or create unique student identifiers for the purpose of measuring adequate yearly progress, by—

''(1) purchasing database software or hardware;

''(2) hiring additional staff for the purpose of managing such data;

''(3) providing professional development or additional training for such staff; and

''(4) providing professional development or training for principals and teachers on how to effectively use such data to implement instructional strategies to improve student achievement.

''(e) STATE APPLICATION.—Each State educational agency desiring a grant under this section shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

''(f) LEA APPLICATION.—Each local educational agency desiring a subgrant under this section shall submit an application to the State educational agency at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the State educational agency may require. Each such application shall include, at a minimum, a demonstration of the local educational agency's ability to put such a database in place.

''(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this part $80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2006, 2007, and 2008.''

SEC. 4. TARGETING TRANSFER OPTIONS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES.

(a) TARGETING TRANSFER OPTIONS AND SUPPLEMENTAL SERVICES.—Section 1116 of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316) is amended—

(1) in paragraphs (1)(E)(i), (5)(A), (7)(C)(i), and (8)(A)(i) of subsection (b), by striking the term ''all students enrolled in the school'' each place such term appears and inserting ''all students enrolled in the school, who are members of a group described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) that fails to make adequate yearly progress as defined in the State's plan under section 1111(b)(2),'';

(2) in subsection (b)(1), by adding at the end the following:

''(G) MAINTENANCE OF LEAST RESTRICTIVE ENVIRONMENT.—A student who is eligible to receive services under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act and who uses the option to transfer under subparagraph (E), paragraph (5)(A), (7)(C)(i), or (8)(A)(i), or subsection (c)(10)(C)(vii), shall be placed and served in the least restrictive environment appropriate, in accordance with the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act.'';

(3) in clause (vii) of subsection (c)(10)(C), by inserting '', who are members of a group described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) that fails to make adequate yearly progress as defined in the State's plan under section 1111(b)(2),'' after ''Authorizing students''; and

(4) in subparagraph (A) of subsection (e)(12), by inserting '', who is a member of a group described in section 1111(b)(2)(C)(v) that fails to make adequate yearly progress as defined in the State's plan under section 1111(b)(2)'' after ''under section 1113(c)(1)''.

(b) STUDENT ALREADY TRANSFERRED.—A student who transfers to another public school pursuant to section 1116(b) of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6316(b)) before the effective date of this section and the amendments made by this section, may continue enrollment in such public school after the effective date of this section and the amendments made by this section.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section and the amendments made by this section shall be effective for each fiscal year for which the amount appropriated to carry out title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 for the fiscal year, is less than the amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out such title for the fiscal year.

SEC. 5. DEFINITION OF HIGHLY QUALIFIED TEACHERS.

Section 9101(23)(B)(ii) of the Elementary and Secondary Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 7801(23)(B)(ii)) is amended—

(1) in subclause (I), by striking ''or'' after the semicolon;

(2) in subclause (II), by striking ''and'' after the semicolon; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(III) in the case of a middle school teacher, passing a State approved middle school generalist exam when the teacher receives the teacher's license to teach middle school in the State;

''(IV) obtaining a State social studies certificate that qualifies the teacher to teach history, geography, economics, and civics in middle or secondary schools, respectively, in the State; or

''(V) obtaining a State science certificate that qualifies the teacher to teach earth science, biology, chemistry, and physics in middle or secondary schools, respectively, in the State; and''.

By Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. SNOWE, Mr. KENNEDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. DURBIN, Mrs. CLINTON, Mr. INOUYE, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. LAUTENBERG, and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 725. A bill a improve the Child Care Access Means Parents in School Program; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DODD. Mr. PresIdent, I am pleased to rise today with Senators SNOWE, KENNEDY, COLLINS, MURRAY, DURBIN, CLINTON, INOUYE, LEVIN, LAUTENBERG and JOHNSON to introduce legislation which would supply greatly needed support to college students struggling to balance their roles as parents with their roles as students. The Child Care Access Means Parents in School Act (CCAMPIS) would increase access to, support for, and retention of low-income, nontraditional students who are struggling to complete college degrees while caring for their children.

The typical college student is no longer an 18-year-old recent high school graduate. According to a 2002 study by the National Center for Education Statistics, only 27 percent of undergraduates meet the ''traditional'' undergraduate criteria of earning a high school diploma, enrolling full-time, depending on parents for financial support and not working or working part-time. This means that 73 percent of today's students are considered non-traditional in some way. Clearly, non-traditional students—older students, students with children and students with various job and life experiences—are filling the ranks of college classes. Why? Because they recognize the importance of college to future success. It is currently estimated that a full-time worker with a bachelor's degree earns about 60 percent more than a full-time worker with only a high school diploma. This amounts to a lifetime gap in earnings of more than $1 million.

Today's non-traditional students face barriers unheard of by traditional college students of earlier years. Many are parents and must provide for their children while in school. Access to affordable, quality and convenient child care is a necessity for these students. But obtaining the child care that they need is often difficult because of their limited income and non-traditional schedules, compounded by declining assistance for child care through other supports. Campus-based child care can fill the gap. It is conveniently located, available during the right hours, and of high quality and lower cost. Unfortunately, it is unavailable at many campuses. Even when programs do exist, they are often available to only a fraction of the eligible students. That is where the Dodd-Snowe CCAMPIS Act comes in.

The Dodd-Snowe CCAMPIS Act increases and expands the availability of campus-based child care in three ways. First, it raises the minimum grant amount from $10,000 to $30,000. For most institutions of higher education, $10,000 has proven too small relative to the cost and effort required to complete a federal application.

Second, the Dodd-Snowe CCAMPIS Act ensures that a wider range of students are able to access services. Present language defines low-income students as students eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant. This language excludes graduate students, international students, and students who may be low-income but make slightly more than is allowed to qualify for Pell grants. CCAMPIS will open eligibility for these additional populations.

Third, the CCAMPIS Act raises the program's current authorization level from $45 million to $75 million so that we not only expand existing programs, but create new ones as well.

Research demonstrates that campus-based child care is of high quality and that it increases the educational success of both parents and students. Furthermore, recipients of campus-based child care assistance who are on public assistance are more likely to never return to welfare and to obtain jobs paying good wages.

Currently, there are approximately 1,850 campus-based child care programs but over 6,000 colleges and universities eligible to participate in the CCAMPIS program. Currently, CCAMPIS funds only 427 programs in states and the District of Columbia. Meanwhile, the number of non-traditional students across America is increasing. As these numbers increase, the need for campus-based child care will increase as well.

Just last week in Connecticut, I went to Eastern Connecticut State University where I met a number of students who would benefit from this legislation. One woman is attending part-time as an accounting major. She works as a restaurant supervisor and just gave birth to her first child. She is balancing work, family and school. Another woman is a junior social work major with two children. Having already received an associate's degree, she is now working towards a bachelor's degree to increase her competitiveness in the job market. A third woman is pursuing her second degree in physical and health education. A stay-at-home mom prior to re-enrolling, she has three children at home. These are the students that need our assistance—hard working parents trying to improve their lot in life for the good of their children.

This is a modest measure that will make a major difference to students. It will offer them new hope for starting and staying in school. I am hopeful that it can be considered and enacted as part of the Higher Education Act. I look forward to working with my colleagues to move this important measure forward.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 725

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. CHILD CARE ACCESS MEANS PARENTS IN SCHOOL PROGRAM.

(a) MINIMUM GRANT.—Section 419N(b)(2)(B) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070e(b)(2)(B)) is amended by striking ''$10,000'' and inserting ''$30,000''.

(b) DEFINITION OF LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—Section 419N(b)(7) of such Act is amended to read as follows:

''(7) DEFINITION OF LOW-INCOME STUDENT.—For the purpose of this section, the term 'low-income student' means a student who—

''(A) is eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the fiscal year for which the determination is made; or

''(B) would otherwise be eligible to receive a Federal Pell Grant for the fiscal year for which the determination is made, except that the student fails to meet the requirements of—

''(i) section 401(c)(1) because the student is enrolled in a graduate or first professional course of study; or

''(ii) section 484(a)(5) because the student is in the United States for a temporary purpose.''.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section 419N(g) of such Act is amended by striking ''$45,000,000 for fiscal year 1999'' and inserting ''$75,000,000 for fiscal year 2006''.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 726. A bill to promote the conservation and production of natural gas; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. ALEXANDER (for himself and Mr. JOHNSON):

S. 727. A bill to provide tax incentives to promote the conservation and production of natural gas; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. ALEXANDER. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Natural Gas Price Reduction Act of 2005 and the ''Tax Provisions for Natural Gas Price Reduction Act of 2005.'' I send to the desk two pieces of legislation. One is the substantive provisions of the bill and one is the tax provisions of the bill.

Mr. President, I offer the legislation on behalf of myself and the Senator from South Dakota, Mr. JOHNSON, who is the lead Democratic sponsor on the legislation. I do so with appreciation to the chairman of our Energy and Natural Resources Committee, Chairman PETE DOMENICI, and the staff of that committee who have worked very closely with us on the development of this comprehensive piece of legislation, and with thanks to my own staff, Sharon Segner, who has worked on it for several months.

This is a piece of legislation to address aggressively and comprehensively the rising cost of natural gas in the United States. This is legislation for the blue-collar worker, for the American farmer, and for the American homeowner.

Natural gas prices in the United States are at record levels. We have gone from having the lowest natural gas prices in the industrial world to the highest. These high prices are threatening millions of our jobs. Our farmers are getting a 10-percent pay cut. Homeowners are having a hard time paying their heating and cooling bills because of our contradictory policies.

Our policies boil down to this: We are restricting the supply of natural gas, and we are encouraging the use of natural gas. You do not have to go very far in an economics class at the University of Oklahoma or the University of Tennessee to know that if you restrict supply and encourage demand, the inevitable result is higher prices. And higher prices is a very serious problem for U.S. workers, U.S. homeowners, and U.S. farmers.

Only an ambitious and comprehensive approach that both increases supply and controls demand can lower the price of natural gas and keep our economy growing. This is not a question of tweaking our natural gas policy. It is time, aggressively, to revamp it. We need aggressive conservation. We need aggressive use of alternative fuels. We need aggressive research and development. We need aggressive production. And, for the time being, we need aggressive importation of liquefied natural gas from other parts of the world.

Here on this chart is an idea of where we are today. This is the United States of America: $7 per unit for natural gas—the highest in the industrialized world. Until recently, we had the lowest natural gas prices in the world.

What that means is large parts of our industries—the chemical industry, for example—were built on the idea of $1.50 or $2 for natural gas, but today it is $7.

A million Americans work in those blue-collar manufacturing jobs in every State in our country. Now, if they are paying $7 here, and it is $5.55 in Canada and $5.15 in the United Kingdom and $2.65 in Turkey and $1.70 in the Ukraine, where do you suppose,

though, a million blue-collar jobs are going to be 5 years from now, if we do not do something about the $7 price? They are not going to be in the United States. They are going to be moving out of the United States, to the United Kingdom, to Germany, to the Ukraine, to other parts of the world. And people are going to be writing their Congressmen and saying: Why didn't you do something?

So here is what we can do. By aggressive conservation, I mean setting stronger appliance and equipment standards for natural gas efficiency so that a commercial air conditioner will cool the same while using less natural gas doing it. Those standards have been generally agreed upon by environmental groups with the industry. If they were put in place, by a rough estimate, they might save the equivalent energy that could be produced by 30 or 35 powerplants.

By aggressive use of alternative fuels, I mean, for example, fully commercializing coal gasification. Coal gasification is taking this abundant supply of coal we have in the United States—we are the ''OPEC,'' the ''Saudi Arabia'' of coal; we have a 400- or 500-year supply—and finding a clean way to use it instead of importing oil from a part of the world where people are blowing each other up.

That means starting with support so we can have six coal gasification plants in this country by the year 2013. Coal gasification means, you burn the coal to create gas, and then you burn the gas to create power. If we can do that commercially, we will not only be passing a clean energy bill, we will be passing a clean air bill, because if you do that, you remove most of the mercury, most of the nitrogen, most of the sulfur. And by additional research, we may be able to find a way to recapture the carbon that is produced and put that in the ground and solve the carbon problems that a lot of people are talking about around the world.

In addition to helping ourselves, we would help ourselves by helping others. China and India and other parts of the world are building hundreds of coal plants. We would much rather them build a coal gasification plant, one that is clean and does not contribute to air pollution. Because if China and India and Brazil build dirty coal plants, that air blows around the world, and it blows into Tennessee and it blows into South Carolina. It blows into Oklahoma.

So aggressive alternative fuels is a part of a natural gas supply. Aggressive research and development includes investment and research in gas hydrates. Gas hydrates is gas that is in the ground. Methane hydrates hold tremendous potential to provide abundant supplies of natural gas. Hydrates are like ice solid structures, consisting of water and gases, mainly methane, compressed to greater than normal densities.

Coastal U.S. areas are rich in this resource. The United States is estimated to contain one-fourth of the world's supply. We need to find a way to use that gas so we do not have $7 per unit natural gas prices. That sends millions of jobs overseas. That cuts the income of farmers. And that raises home heating prices and cooling prices for residential Americans.

Aggressive production means, among other things, allowing States to selectively waive the Federal moratoria on offshore production of gas and collect significant revenues from such production. Let me give you an example. Within the last few weeks, the legislature of Virginia decided it might like to explore the idea of drilling for gas offshore. Now, why would Virginia want to do that? Because there is probably a lot of gas offshore. What would that mean for Virginia? Well, they could put a gas rig out in the ocean, beyond 20 miles, so nobody in Virginia or North Carolina could see it, run a pipeline underground to Virginia, and take their share of the revenues. And they can lower taxes in Virginia and put the rest of the money in a trust fund to build the best colleges and universities in America. That is what they could do in Virginia.

If Tennessee had a coastline, and I were Governor of Tennessee, that is what I would be asking the Congress to let me do.

I think as other Governors and other legislatures and other people look at Texas and Louisiana and Alabama and see what they are doing and decide that they can in an environmentally sensitive way exercise a State option to drill for gas in Federal waters so far out you can't see it, that they will find that a good option because it will help lower the price of gas. It can build up the schools and keep taxes down, and it can avoid other worse forms of energy.

For example, you would have to have 46 square miles of windmills, these things that are 100 yards tall, in order to equal one gas rig that you couldn't see out in the ocean. This is a State option. Aggressive importation of liquefied natural gas starts with giving the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission exclusive authority for siting and regulating what we call LNG terminals. This means importing liquefied natural gas from other parts of the world. There is a lot of it around the world. They freeze it and put it in tankers, and they bring it here and put it in our pipelines, and then we have it.

That seems like a pretty big waste of effort when we have plenty of natural gas here in the United States that we don't have access to. But if we want an adequate supply of natural gas, we are going to have to import some from around the world, and that means we are going to need terminals to which to bring it. Some of them may be offshore. They might be 10, 12, 14 miles offshore. Some of them, like the four we have today, may need to be onshore. There is no silver bullet. There is no single answer. That is why we need aggressive conservation. If, for example, the United States adopted the conservation attitudes towards natural gas that California did a few years ago, it might equal what 50 powerplants could produce in the United States. If that is so, we ought to do it today. That would begin to bring this $7 figure down.

Aggressive use of alternative fuels such as coal gasification. I also would say nuclear power is the most obvious alternative fuel to natural gas. If we had more nuclear power, we would use less natural gas. In our country today, what do you suppose we are using to create electricity when we need more electricity even though the cost of it is $7 a unit, the highest in the world? Natural gas, because natural gas plants can be built for a few hundred million dollars, and we have created an environment where we can't use nuclear.

We haven't built a new nuclear plant since the 1970s, even though we invented the technology, even though France has 80 percent of its power now produced by nuclear power, even though Japan builds a new nuclear plant every year or so. We invented it. Our Navy has operated nuclear reactors since the 1950s without ever having a single accident. It is a clean, obvious alternative to $7 natural gas, and we haven't built a plant since the 1970s. So we need to think seriously about aggressive conservation, aggressive use of alternative fuels, aggressive research and development for solar, for methane hydrates, aggressive production, and that includes giving States the option of deciding whether they would like to drill offshore and take some of the revenues and put some of the revenues into a conservation fund, and aggressive importation of liquefied natural gas from overseas at least for the time being.

In March of 2002, the Secretary of Energy requested that the National Petroleum Council undertake an extensive study on the natural gas crisis. That advisory council produced a study. It talked about the results I have described. Our Senate Energy Committee, under the chairman, Senator DOMENICI, has paid a lot of attention to that report. Senator DOMENICI hosted what we called a natural gas roundtable that was well attended by Senators and went on for 3 or 4 hours. There were more than 100 proposals presented.

I am chairman of the subcommittee of that full committee, and so my purpose today is to take many of the ideas that we heard that made the most sense, some of which people haven't been willing to advocate, and put them into the discussion. Again, because I do not want to be a Senator who 10 years from now somebody comes up to and says: How did you let farmers get a 20–percent pay cut because of $7, $8, $9 natural gas; how did you let millions of jobs in the chemical industry, the auto industry go overseas because of $7, $8, and $9 natural gas; how did you let prices of natural gas for home heating

or cooling get so high that middle-income Americans can't even afford to heat their homes? I don't want to be that kind of Senator. So I am here today with a comprehensive proposal across the board even though some of the ideas will create that kind of controversy.

I have summarized in a few words the provisions of a 250-page piece of legislation.

We were ambushed in the United States on September 11, 2001. Even though you could argue that we might have known it was coming, terrorism wasn't new on September 11, 2001.

I remember being in a meeting with Prime Minister Rabin of Israel in 1994. At the end of a long day, I asked him: What is the greatest challenge threatening the world? And he said terrorism. That was many years before we were attacked. He was right. He was dead within a few months at the hands of terrorists within his own country. We didn't see the terrorism coming. We were ambushed, and we have paid a terrible price—in lives, in dollars. We have had to create whole new departments. We have had to interrupt the lives of thousand of national guardsmen and Army reservists and send them overseas, some to die and some to be wounded, because of terrorism. Maybe we couldn't have seen exactly that act coming, but we knew it was out there.

We are about to have another big surprise. That is to our standard of living. We are 5 to 6 percent of all the people in the world. Yet we produce a third of all the money in the world. We could wake up 10 years from now and that picture could be very changed. One way is if we lose our brainpower advantage. And we could lose it. Half of our new jobs have been created by science and technology since the end of World War II. And if we go through our budget balancing, deficit controlling exercise for the next 10 years and we don't double investments for the physical sciences and retake the lead in advanced computing, and if we don't see that we have plenty of graduate students in science and engineering, we are going to find most of the R&D will be done in other parts of the world. We are going to find most of the engineers who produce this brainpower that creates jobs in other parts of the world.

They are thinking in China, and they are thinking in India. There is no real good reason why the United States should make a third of all the money in the world every year with just 5 or 6 percent of the people, and we have so little. So they are keeping their bright people home. They are building up their universities. They are doing what we need to keep doing. That is one place we could get a big surprise.

But the other is in energy. We have taken energy for granted for a long time. I know I come from Tennessee. We have had the Tennessee Valley Authority. It has sat there since the 1930s, and it has produced reliable, low-cost electricity. Homes that have never been lit, barns that have never been lit, rural areas that have never been lit have enjoyed that. That is within my lifetime.

And then while I was Governor in the 1990s, I remember that one of the big attractions for Saturn and Nissan and the automobile industry coming into Tennessee was low-cost reliable power. But when I had a natural gas roundtable last fall in Tennessee, there was the president of Saturn, the president of Nissan, the head of the Tennessee Farm Bureau. There was the head of the University of Tennessee. They were all saying: We can't live in Tennessee on $7 natural gas. What do they do if they can't? It is very easy what they do. They don't have to have those jobs in Tennessee or South Carolina. They can move them to Germany, they can move them to Mexico, they can move them to Canada, and they are doing it every day.

And Tennessee Eastman in the upper part of east Tennessee, which we think is just like the great Smokey Mountains, has been there so long. There are 12,000 people there, real good incomes. What do they use to make chemicals there? They use natural gas.

How long are they going to be there? If we have $7 gas and they have $3 and $4 gas in other parts of the world, I am afraid they are not going to be there too long. And somebody is going to say to me: What did you do about it? At least my answer is I stood up on the floor of the Senate and said this is not the time to tweak our natural gas policy.

We do not need to sit around and wait for a big surprise on energy like we had a big surprise on September 11 on terrorism. We need an aggressive policy. We need a comprehensive policy. We need aggressive conservation. That is where we should start. We need aggressive alternative fuels. That means nuclear and that means coal gasification. We need aggressive research and development, whether it is hydrogen or whether it is solar, or whether it is methane gas hydrates. We need aggressive production. We have lots of gas in the United States. We should be using it if we have $7 gas.

For the time being, we need to create the terminals that will permit us to import enough liquefied natural gas to get that $7 price down to $6 or $5 or $4.

Mr. President, I thank Senator JOHNSON from South Dakota for joining me in this comprehensive aggressive approach. I thank Senator DOMENICI for taking the lead on an energy bill. I thank Senator BINGAMAN, who is the ranking Democrat on our committee, because I notice on our committee a greater sense of urgency, a greater sense of bipartisan cooperation on coming up with an energy bill this year. Our blue-collar workers, our farmers, our homeowners in Tennessee and across this country expect it from us.

Senator JOHNSON's and my contribution today is to introduce this comprehensive 250-page bill and to get on the table all the aggressive ideas we can think of that make sense about how to reduce the price of natural gas for workers, for farmers, and for homeowners. We hope it contributes to the discussion. We hope we find lots of these provisions in an ambitious energy bill.

I look forward to working with my colleagues, as I know Senator JOHNSON does, on a bipartisan basis to help lower the price of natural gas, keep our jobs, keep our homes cool and warm, and make it possible for farmers to make a living.

Natural gas prices are at record levels and the highest of any industrialized country. High natural gas prices are threatening our jobs, our farms, and hurting Americans who are trying to heat and cool their homes. Only an ambitious, comprehensive approach that both increases supply and controls demand can lower the price of natural gas and keep our growing economic recovery from becoming recent history.

This is not a question of tweaking our natural gas policy. It is time to aggressively revamp it. We need aggressive conservation, aggressive use of alternative fuels, aggressive research and development, aggressive production and for the time being, aggressive imports of liquefied natural gas.

Aggressive conservation, for example, means setting stronger appliance and equipment standards for natural gas efficiency so that a commercial air conditioner will cool the same while using less natural gas to do it.

Aggressive use of alternative fuels, for example, means fully commercializing coal gasification, starting with support for the deployment of six coal gasification plants by 2013. Coal gasification means that you burn coal to produce power but get the much lower pollution output of using natural gas.

Aggressive research and development includes investment in research of gas hydrates. Methane hydrates hold tremendous potential to provide abundant supplies of natural gas. Hydrates are ice-like solid structures consisting of water and gases, mainly methane, compressed to greater than normal densities. Coastal U.S. areas are rich in this resource. The U.S. is estimated to contain one-fourth of the world's supply.

Aggressive production means, among other changes, allowing states to selectively waive the federal moratoria on off-shore production and collect significant revenues from such production.

And aggressive importation of liquefied natural gas starts with giving the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission exclusive authority for siting and regulating LNG terminals, while still preserving states' authorities under the Coastal Zone Management Act and other acts.

In March 2002, Secretary of Energy Abraham requested that the National Petroleum Council undertake an extensive study on the natural gas crisis.

That council, a Federal advisory committee to the Secretary of Energy, produced in late 2003 one of the most extensive policy studies and recommendations on the natural gas crisis to date. Since that time, other prominent groups, such as the National Commission on Energy Policy, have also produced extensive studies on the natural gas crisis. In October 2004, I held a roundtable on the impact of soaring natural gas prices on Tennessee farmers and jobs. The Senate Energy Committee has held numerous hearings over the last 2 years and recently held an extensive natural gas roundtable on the subject on January 24, 2005. Over 100 proposals were submitted to the Senate Energy Committee on natural gas issues.

The conclusion of all of these forums has been clear.

High natural gas prices are threatening our country's economic competitiveness and costing us jobs. For example, high natural gas prices have been the equivalent of a 10 percent pay cut to American farmers.

The situation is urgent.

There are no silver bullets. We cannot conserve our way out of this problem, nor can we drill our way out of this problem. We will need to be aggressive on all fronts, in order to keep our industries competitive.

High natural gas costs are also tied to high oil prices. We need to address both natural gas and oil prices in order to lower natural gas costs.

Our country has contradictory policies on natural gas—on one hand, we encourage its use. On the other hand, we limit access to its supply. We need to amend our contradictory natural gas and environmental policies.

That's why I am introducing the ''Natural Gas Price Reduction Act.'' It is an aggressive, bold approach to tackle this issue. This 250-page legislation is an attempt to start a very difficult, but balanced, legislative discussion in the United States Senate on natural gas prices. I have taken the best ideas that I have heard in these roundtable discussions and from the various policy studies. I have met with hundreds of people in the past year discussing natural gas prices. This legislation is an attempt to be more aggressive on all areas impacting natural gas prices—energy efficiency and fuel diversity, natural gas supply, and improved infrastructure for importation of liquefied natural gas.

Half our Nation's increase in natural gas demand in the last decade has come from the power sector. So to conserve natural gas, one must not only reduce consumption of gas itself, but also of electricity. And, as I noted, since oil prices affect natural gas prices, conserving oil is also important. My bill addresses conservation in five ways.

The bill creates a 4-year national consumer education program on the urgent need for energy conservation. A statewide California effort to educate energy consumers resulted in savings of 10 percent at peak usage—the equivalent of five-and-a-half 1,000 Megawatt coal-powered power plants. My bill aims to take that effort to the entire nation.

The legislation sets higher appliance and equipment standards for natural gas efficiency. These standards have been negotiated between consumer and industry representatives and are codified in the bill. For example, the standards would require a new kitchen oven to produce the same heat while using less natural gas to do it. The American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy estimates that these standards will reduce natural gas use by about 125 BCF in 2010 and 525 BCF in 2020. In addition these standards will reduce peak electric demand by about 33,500 MW in 2020, equivalent to 34 coal power plants of 1000 MW each, and will save consumers and businesses more than $60 billion.

The bill creates tax incentives and provides regulatory relief to enable manufacturing facilities to more easily produce their own power and steam from a single source—a process called cogeneration or CHP which saves money and energy while also reducing pollutants. A CHP system can produce the same electrical and thermal output at 75 percent fuel conversion efficiency as compared to 49 percent separate steam and power. This is a 50 percent gain in overall efficiency, resulting in a 35 percent fuel savings. Large industrial plants, such as International Paper, Alcoa and Eastman in my home State of Tennessee all use cogeneration in their manufacturing processes. More companies could do the same, and the bill particularly focuses on providing incentive for smaller cogeneration projects.

The Alexander bill provides incentive for public utilities to utilize their natural gas plants based on efficiency. The process of activating different power plants to meet demand during a given day is called ''dispatching.'' For example, on a hot summer day in Tennessee, the demand for electricity, for air conditioning, might be highest in the early afternoon, so then a power company would have to dispatch the most power plants to provide the energy. But during the cooler night, they might dispatch less plants since less power is needed. If power companies dispatched their most efficient plants first, this would save us a significant amount of natural gas. As you can see, the highest saving will be in the medium-term—2010–2015—but real savings continue for many years.

Our reliance on foreign oil is the silent elephant in the room when it comes to high natural gas prices. My legislation includes a provision that requires the President report to Congress annually on efforts to reduce U.S. dependence on imported petroleum 1.75 million barrels a day from projected 2013 levels, almost 10 percent. As I noted earlier, oil and gas are usually produced together; and, typically, there is a 6:1 ratio between natural gas and oil prices. Reducing dependence on foreign oil will help bring natural gas prices down.

Conservation of natural gas and related energy sources is critical to lowering prices and keeping our manufacturing and farming jobs here in the United States. But conservation alone is not enough. The second focus must be to develop alternative sources of energy. The ''Keep Manufacturing and Farming Jobs in the United States Act'' encourages the use of three alternative fuels:

The bill initiates a national coal gasification strategy. Eastman Chemical in Kingsport, TN, has been using coal gasification with a 95% availability factor for the past 20 years. Tampa Electric has successfully demonstrated large-scale coal gasification. It is time for this process to be more widely used. Coal gasification is a process whereby gas derived from burning coal is used as a source of energy or a raw material. When used in a power plant, coal gasification means that you burn coal but get the much lower pollution output of using natural gas. My legislation provides up to $2 billion in tax or other incentives to support the construction of six new coal gasification power plants. Similarly, the legislation provides up to $2 billion in assistance for industrial gasification projects. The bill also provides streamlined permitting for coal gasification facilities. Coal is an abundant resource in the United States; we should use it to produce clean energy and raw material for industrial applications.

Solar energy is another clean, alternative fuel source that could be developed further. Solar energy can be used directly for heating as well as to create electricity. To push an aggressive solar energy strategy, the Alexander legislation provides tax incentives for investment in solar power generation. Specifically, it provides businesses a tax credit for investing in geothermal or solar heating and/or power generation—10 percent heating, 25 percent for generating or displacing electricity.

My bill also contains language to invest in new technologies to use hydrogen to power fuel cell vehicles. The language in this bill mirrors language I offered in the last session of Congress on the Energy Bill that would have enacted President Bush's Hydrogenl/Fuel Cell Initiative. When I visited Japan last year, I visited a hydrogen fuel station—that looked much like a gas station—and saw fuel cell vehicles that range from small cars to SUVs. These cars not only allow us to use an alternative fuel source but are also great for the environment—their only byproduct is water vapor. The bill invests in research and development of technologies and infrastructure for 2 hydrogen and fuel cell vehicles.

Methane hydrates hold tremendous potential to provide abundant supplies of natural gas. Hydrates are ice-like solid structures consisting of water and

gases—mainly methane—compressed to greater than normal densities. Coastal US areas are rich in this resource—the U.S. is estimated to contain one-fourth of the world's supply. My bill invests $200 million over the next 4 years in research for this promising new resource, a number consistent with recommendations from the National Commission on Energy Policy.

Conserving natural gas and using alternative fuels will take us a long way to reducing gas prices and keeping jobs here in the U.S., but we must also address the other side of the equation: supply. As Energy Committee members learned at our Natural Gas Roundtable, our current policy encourages consumption of natural gas while restricting the supply. We need to stop putting unnecessary restrictions on production and supply of natural gas, and my legislation does so by addressing production off-shore and in the Rocky Mountains as well as the importation of liquid natural gas from abroad.

We have plenty of natural gas here in the U.S., we just cannot get to it. There are large fields off the coasts, especially the Atlantic, and in the Rocky Mountains. There is no reason for natural gas prices here in the U.S. to be so high when we have so much available here—if only we would use it.

Today, there are two moratoria on our outer continental shelf, OCS—a congressional moratorium and a Presidential moratorium. The Atlantic Coast—40 miles off the coast is believed to be largely natural gas-prone. The Pacific Coast is believed—to be mainly oil-prone. The Gulf of Mexico is both. Today, when production is greater than 9 miles offshore, a State that has oil and gas production gets zero percent of the production revenues. This is radically different than onshore production; on Federal lands, States get 50 percent of the production revenues. Alaska gets 90 percent of the production revenues. In order to have a constructive dialogue on OCS production, the right framework needs to be established.

My legislation provides the Department of the Interior with the legal authority to issue natural gas only leases. Currently, Interior can only issue combination gas and oil leases. Since there is greater hesitation about the environmental impact of producing oil off-shore, issuing natural gas-only leases may alleviate some concerns.

It also instructs the Secretary of the Interior to draw the state boundary between Alabama and Florida regarding Lease 181—a disputed area off the coast of both states in the Gulf of Mexico in which Alabama may wish to permit production while Florida may not. The boundaries shall be drawn using established international law. Under my bill, portions of Lease 181, which are not in the state of Florida and greater than 30 miles off of the coast of Alabama, shall be leased by December 31, 2007. However, of those portions of Lease 181 that are in the State of Florida, the State of Florida may keep the moratoria. Leasing would not be allowed to interfere with U.S. military operations in the Gulf Coast.

Finally, under the bill, States will have the authority to request studies of natural gas resources off their coasts and be permitted to waive Federal moratoria on offshore production. The states shall not have the authority to lift the moratoria at National Marine Sanctuaries or National Wildlife Refuge Area. The State of Virginia recently engaged on this issue, and the state ought to have the ability to license off-shore production—especially if it is far enough off-shore that you cannot even see it from land. My bill also allows States to collect significant revenue from such production, and designates that a portion of revenues also go to a conservation royalty. The conservation royalty would be shared equally by the Federal land and water conservation fund, state land and water conservation fund and wildlife grants.

Importing liquefied natural gas—LNG—requires the infrastructure to receive it. LNG comes to the U.S. by ship, and terminals to receive these ships and unload LNG must be built and appropriate infrastructure developed to transport gas from those terminals to users across the country.

My bill streamlines the development of offshore liquefied natural gas terminals. The siting of LNG terminals has become a difficult issue since we all want cheaper natural gas, but no one seems to want an LNG terminal in ''their backyard.'' The Alexander legislation gives FERC clear authority for regulating liquid natural gas terminals, but, unlike a related House bill, still preserves States' authorities under the Coastal Zone Management Act and other acts. I hope this will provide some balance so that LNG terminals can be sited, but environmental concerns will play a significant role in choosing their sites. In an effort to speed the siting of pipelines that allow natural gas to reach all parts of the country, the bill also requires that FERC grant or deny a terminal or pipeline application within one year.

Our country is facing an energy crisis. We are consuming more and more electricity. Gasoline prices are poised to reach all time highs. The price of oil is up. And so, too, is the price of natural gas.

The bill I introduce today, the ''Natural Gas Price Reduction Act,'' addresses high natural gas prices. Natural gas is not just used for heating homes, a source of electricity, it is a raw material for industries, and it is an important component in fertilizers used by farmers. High natural gas prices have cost farmers a 10-percent pay cut and are shipping manufacturing and chemical jobs overseas. We can not afford to let this problem fester any longer.

Bold action is required, and that is what my legislation provides. This bill takes a comprehensive approach to addressing the problem by encouraging conservation, developing alternative fuel sources, and reducing roadblocks to the production and importation of natural gas. I urge my colleagues to support it.

By Mr. BOND (for himself, Mr. INHOFE, Mr. VITTER, Mr. WARNER, Mr. VOINOVICH, Mr. ISAKSON, Mr. THUNE, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. OBAMA, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. HARKIN, Mr. TALENT, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. COCHRAN, Mr. DOMENICI, and Mr. COLEMAN):

S. 728. A bill to provide for the consideration and development of water and related resources, to authorize the Secretary of the Army to construct various projects for improvements to rivers and harbors of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. BOND. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce, with Senators INHOFE, VITTER, WARNER, VOINOVICH, ISAKSON, THUNE, MURKOWSKI, OBAMA, LANDRIEU, GRASSLEY, HARKIN, TALENT, CORNYN, COCHRAN, DOMENICI, and COLEMAN, the 2005 Water Resources Development Act.

The programs administered by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers are invaluable to this Nation. They provide drinking water, electric power production, river transportation, environmental protection and restoration, protection from floods, emergency response, and recreation. Few agencies in the Federal Government touch so many citizens and they do it on a relatively small budget. They provide one-quarter of our Nation's total hydropower output; operate 456 lakes in 43 States hosting 33 percent of all freshwater lake fishing; move 630 million tons of cargo valued at over $73 billion annually through our inland system; manage over 12 million acres of land and water; provide 3 trillion gallons of water for use by local communities and business; and have prevented an estimated $706 billion in flood damage within the past 25 years with an investment one-seventh that value. During the 1993 flood alone, an estimated $19.1 billion in flood damage was prevented by flood control facilities in place at that time. Our ports move over 95 percent of U.S. overseas trade by weight and 75 percent by value. Between 1970 and 2003, the value of U.S. trade increased 24 fold, and 70 percent since 1994. That was an average annual growth rate of 10.2 percent, which was nearly double the pace of the Gross Domestic Product growth during the same period. Unfortunately, the American Society of Civil Engineers grades navigable waterways infrastructure D– with over 50 percent of the locks ''functionally obsolete'' despite increased demand.

This bipartisan bill is one that traditionally is produced by the Congress

every two years, however, we have not passed a WRDA bill since 2000 and the longer we wait, the more unmet needs pile up and the more complicated the demands upon the bill become making it harder and harder to win approval. For some, this bill is too small and for others, too big. For some, the new regulations are too onerous and for others, the new regulations are not onerous enough. Nevertheless, I believe we have struck a balance here that disciplines the new projects to criteria fairly applied while addressing a great number of water resources priorities.

With the new regulations, we have embraced a common sense bipartisan proposal by Senators LANDRIEU and COCHRAN similar to the bi-partisan House agreement that requires major projects to be subject to independent peer review and requires that necessary mitigation for projects be completed at the same time the project is completed, or, in special cases, no longer than one year after project completion. This will impose a cost on communities, particularly smaller communities, but it is not as onerous as the new regulations proposed last year which ultimately prevented a final agreement from being reached between the House and Senate.

The commanding feature of the bill is its landmark environmental and ecosystem restoration authorities. Nearly 60 percent of the bill authorizes such efforts, including environmental restoration of the Everglades, Coastal Louisiana, Chesapeake Bay, Missouri River, Long Island Sound, Salton Sea, Upper Connecticut, and the Illinois and Mississippi Rivers, and others.

Additionally, it is important to understand the budget implications of this legislation in the real world. We are contending with difficult budget realities currently and it is critical that we be mindful of those realities as we make investments in the infrastructure that supports the people in our nation who make and grow and buy and sell things so that we can grow our economy, create jobs, and secure our future. This is an authorization bill. It does not spend one dollar. I repeat, it does not spend one dollar. It makes projects eligible for funding through the appropriations process that operates within the restrictions of the budget Congress provides it. With the allocation provided, the Appropriations Committee and the Congress and the President will fund such projects deemed of the highest priority and those remaining will not be funded because the budget will not permit it. This WRDA process simply permits project consideration during the process of appropriations and I expect some will measure up and others will not. I hear some suggest that we should not authorize anything new until all other previously-authorized projects are funded. That, of course, is nonsense because it assumes falsely that all projects authorized five and 10 and 50 years ago are higher priority than those in this package. We have de-authorized a great number of projects in this bill and I expect there will be more added as we proceed and then the remainder will have to face the stingy budget process that will prioritize the rest.

While the majority of this legislation is for environmental protection and restoration, a key bipartisan economic initiative we include provides transportation efficiency and environmental sustainability on the Mississippi and Illinois Rivers.

As the world becomes more competitive, we must also. In the heartland, the efficiency, reliability, capacity, and safety of our transportation options are critical—often make-or-break. In Missouri alone, we ship 34.7 million tons of commodities with a combined value of more than $4 billion which include coal, petroleum, aggregates, grain, chemicals, iron, steel, minerals and other commodities.

As we look 50 years into the future, and as we anticipate and try to promote commercial and economic growth, we have to ask ourselves a fundamental question: should we have a system that permits and promotes growth, or should we be satisfied to restrict our growth to the confines of a transportation straight jacket designed not for 2050, but for 1950 for paddle wheel boats?

Further, we must ask ourselves if dramatic investments should be made to address environmental problems and opportunities that exist on these great waterways. In both cases, the answer is, ''Of course we should modernize and improve.''

We have a system which is in environmental and economic decline. Jobs and markets and the availability of habitat for fish and wildlife are at stake. We cannot be for increased trade, commercial growth, and job creation without supporting the basic transportation infrastructure necessary to move goods from buyers to sellers. New efficiency helps give our producers an edge that can make or break opportunities in the international marketplace.

Seventy years ago, some argued that a transportation system on the Mississippi River was not justified. Congress decided that its role was not to try to predict the future but to shape the future and decided to invest in a system despite the naysayers. Over 84 million tons per year later, it is clear that the decision was wise.

Now, that system that was designed for paddlewheel boats and to last 50 years is nearly 70 years old and we must make decisions that will shape the next 50–70 years. As we look ahead, we must promote growth policies that help Americans who produce and employ.

We must work for policies that promote economic growth, job creation, and environmental sustainability. We know that trade and economic growth can be fostered or it can be discouraged by policies and other realities which include the quality of our transportation infrastructure.

So in 20 and 30 and 40 and 50 years, where will the growth in transportation occur to accommodate the growth in demand for commercial shipping? The Department of Transportation suggests that congestion on our roads and rails will double in the next quarter century. The fact of the matter is that the great untapped capacity is on our water.

This is good news because water transportation is efficient, it is safe, it conserves fuel, and it protects the air and the environment. One medium-sized barge tow can carry the freight of 870 trucks. That fact alone speaks volumes to the benefits of water. If we can, would we rather have 870 diesel engines on the roads of downtown St. Louis, or two diesel engines on the water.

The veteran Chief Economist at USDA testified that transportation efficiency and the ability of farmers to win markets are higher prices are ''fundamentally related.'' He predicts that corn exports over the next 10 years will rise 45 percent, 70 percent of which will travel down the Mississippi.

Over the past 35 years, waterborne commerce on the Upper Mississippi River has more than tripled. The system currently carries 60 percent of our Nation's corn exports and 45 percent of our Nation's soybean exports and it does so at two-thirds the cost of rail—when rail is available.

Over the previous 12 years, the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers have spent $70 million completing a six year study. During that period, there have been 35 meetings of the Governors Liaison Committee, 28 meetings on the Economic Coordinating Committee, among the States along the Upper Mississippi and Illinois waterways, and there have been 44 meetings of the Navigation and Environmental Coordination Committee. Additionally, there have been 130 briefings for special interest groups, 24 newsletters. There have been six sets of public meetings in 46 locations with over 4,000 people in attendance. To say the least, this has been a very long, very transparent, and very representative process.

However, while we have been studying, our competitors have been building. Given the extraordinary delay so far, and given the reality that large scale construction takes not weeks or months, but decades, further delay is no longer an option. This is why I am pleased to be joined by a bipartisan group of Senators who agree that we must improve the efficiency and the environmental sustainability of our great resources.

This plan gets the Corps back in the business of building the future, rather than just haggling about predicting the future. More will need to be done later on ecosystem and lock expansions further upstream, but this begins the improvement schedule underway.

In this legislation, we authorize $1.58 billion for ecosystem restoration-almost 2 times the federal cost of lock capacity expansion which we authorize on locks 20–25 on the Mississippi River and Peoria and LaGrange on the Illinois. The new 1,200 foot locks on the Mississippi River will provide equal capacity in the bottleneck region below the 1,200 foot lock 19 at Keokuk and above locks 26 and 27 near St. Louis. Half the cost of the new locks will be paid for by private users who pay into the Inland Waterways Trust fund. Additional funds will be provided for mitigation and small scale and nonstructural measures to improve efficiency.

As we look ahead, the locks at 14–18 will have to be addressed as will further investments to ecosystem restoration efforts.

This effort is supported by a broad-based group of the States, farm groups, shippers, labor, and those who pay taxes into the Trust Fund for improvements. Of particular note, I appreciate the strong support from the carpenters, corngrowers, farm bureau, soybeans, the diverse membership of MARC2000.

I thank my colleagues and their staff for the hard work devoted to this difficult matter and I thank particularly chairman INHOFE for his forbearance. I believe that if members work cooperatively and aim for the center and not the fringe, that we can get a bill completed this year. If demands exist that the bill be away from the center toward the fringe, we will go another Congress without completing our work as we witnessed last year.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, first, I would like to thank Senator BOND for the leadership he and his subcommittee staff have demonstrated in bringing this piece of legislation together.

I have great hopes for getting a WRDA bill passed this session. We have not enacted a WRDA bill since 2000, and the water resources are in much need of this authorization. We made great progress and were very close to finishing a bill at the end of the 108th Congress. That effort has provided a great stepping stone toward quick completion this year.

The Army Corps of Engineers has provided a valuable service to the Nation for over 200 years. It has been instrumental in creating one of the most dynamic inland waterway systems in the world. For example, the Corps activities have provided Tulsa, OK with one of the Nation's most inland ports and provides the dredging needed to keep the San Francisco Bay navigable. There is not a State in the Union that does not reap the benefits of the Army Corps.

I am well aware of the stacks of requests that have come in from every State for projects to be included in the bill. While it is important that we insure the Corps is capable of meeting our future water resource needs, it is also very important that we do not demand more of the Corps than it is capable of providing. No Federal agency could complete all of the projects requested by all of the Senators. Considering the limited staff and budget of the Corps, an ''authorize everything'' approach may leave everyone with nothing. While I know that each Senator has his or her own priorities, we all must understand the limitations with which we reside. I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure that we give clear direction to the Corps to focus on completing the highest priority and most beneficial projects.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 729. A bill to establish the Food Safety Administration to protect the public health by preventing food-borne illness, ensuring the safety of food, improving research on contaminants leading to food-borne illness, and improving security of food from intentional contamination, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, a single food safety agency with authority to protect the food supply based on sound scientific principles would provide this country with the greatest hope of reducing foodborne illnesses and preventing or minimizing the harm from a bioterrorist attack on our food supply. Right now, our food is the safest in the world, but there are widening gaps in our food safety net due to emerging threats and the fact that food safety oversight has evolved over time to spread across several agencies. This mismatched, piecemeal approach to food safety could spell disaster if we do not act quickly and decisively.

But don't take it from me. Former HHS Secretary Tommy Thompson told reporters in December as he resigned that he worries ''every single night'' about a massive attack on the U.S. food supply. ''I, for the life of me, cannot understand why the terrorists have not, you know, attacked our food supply, because it is so easy to do,'' Thompson said. ''And we are importing a lot of food from the Middle East, and it would be easy to tamper with that,'' he said.

No wonder he feels that way. Several Federal agencies, all with different and conflicting missions, work to ensure our food is safe. For example, there is no standardization for inspections—processed food facilities may see a Food and Drug Administration inspector once every 5 to 6 years, while meat and poultry operations are inspected daily by the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) estimates that as many as 76 million people suffer from food poisoning each year. Of those individuals, approximately 325,000 will be hospitalized, and more than 5,000 will die. Factors such as emerging pathogens, an aging population at high risk for foodborne illnesses, an increasing volume of food imports, and people eating outside their homes more often underscore the need for us to take charge and shed the old bureaucratic shackles that have tied us to the overlapping and inefficient ad hoc food safety system of the past.

That is why I come to the Senate floor today to introduce the Safe Food Act of 2005. My House counterpart, Representative ROSA DELAURO, is introducing the bill in the other body. This legislation would create a single, independent Federal food safety agency to administer all aspects of Federal food safety inspections, enforcement, standards-setting and research in order to protect public health. The components of the agencies now charged with protecting the food supply, primarily housed at the Food and Drug Administration and the Agriculture Department, would be transferred to this new agency.

The new Food Safety Administrator would be responsible for the safety of the food supply, and would fulfill that charge by implementing the registration and recordkeeping requirements of the 2002 bioterrorism law; ensuring slaughterhouses and food processing plants have procedures in place to prevent and reduce food contamination; regularly inspecting domestic food facilities, with inspection frequency based on risk; and centralizing the authority to detain, seize, condemn and recall food that is adulterated or misbranded. The Administrator would be charged with requiring food producers to code their products so those products could be traced in the event of a foodborne illness outbreak in order to minimize the health impact of such an event.

The Administrator would also have the power examine the food safety practices of foreign countries and work with the states to impose various civil and criminal penalties for serious violations of the food safety laws. The Administrator would also actively oversee public education and research programs on foodborne illness.

It is time to create a single food safety agency in this country. I am encouraged by a February 2005 Government Accountability Office report in which government officials in seven other high-income countries who have consolidated their food safety systems consistently state that the benefits of consolidation outweigh the costs.

In this era of limited budgets, it is our responsibility to streamline the Federal food safety system. The United States simply cannot afford to continue operating multiple redundant systems. This is not about more regulation, a super agency, or increased bureaucracy. It is about common sense and the more effective marshaling of our existing resources.

I urge my colleagues to join me in cosponsoring this legislation.

I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 729

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Safe Food Act of 2005''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
Sec. 2. Findings; purposes.
Sec. 3. Definitions.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 101. Establishment of Food Safety Administration.
Sec. 102. Consolidation of separate food safety and inspection services and agencies.
Sec. 103. Additional duties of the Administration.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATION OF FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

Sec. 201. Administration of national program.
Sec. 202. Registration of food establishments and foreign food establishments.
Sec. 203. Preventative process controls to reduce adulteration of food.
Sec. 204. Performance standards for contaminants in food.
Sec. 205. Inspections of food establishments.
Sec. 206. Food production facilities.
Sec. 207. Federal and State cooperation.
Sec. 208. Imports.
Sec. 209. Resource plan.
Sec. 210. Traceback.

TITLE III—RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

Sec. 301. Public health assessment system.
Sec. 302. Public education and advisory system.
Sec. 303. Research.

TITLE IV—ENFORCEMENT

Sec. 401. Prohibited Acts.
Sec. 402. Food detention, seizure, and condemnation.
Sec. 403. Notification and recall.
Sec. 404. Injunction proceedings.
Sec. 405. Civil and criminal penalties.
Sec. 406. Presumption.
Sec. 407. Whistleblower protection.
Sec. 408. Administration and enforcement.
Sec. 409. Citizen civil actions.

TITLE V—IMPLEMENTATION

Sec. 501. Definition.
Sec. 502. Reorganization plan.
Sec. 503. Transitional authorities.
Sec. 504. Savings provisions.
Sec. 505. Conforming amendments.
Sec. 506. Additional technical and conforming amendments.
Sec. 507. Regulations.
Sec. 508. Authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 509. Limitation on authorization of appropriations.
Sec. 510. Effective date.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(1) the safety of the food supply of the United States is vital to the public health, to public confidence in the food supply, and to the success of the food sector of the Nation's economy;

(2) lapses in the protection of the food supply and loss of public confidence in food safety are damaging to consumers and the food industry, and place a burden on interstate commerce;

(3) the safety and security of the food supply requires an integrated, system-wide approach to preventing food-borne illness, a thorough and broad-based approach to basic and applied research, and intensive, effective, and efficient management of the Nation's food safety program;

(4) the task of preserving the safety of the food supply of the United States faces tremendous pressures with regard to—

(A) emerging pathogens and other contaminants and the ability to detect all forms of contamination;

(B) an aging and immune compromised population, with a growing number of people at high-risk for food-borne illnesses, including infants and children;

(C) an increasing volume of imported food, without adequate monitoring and inspection; and

(D) maintenance of rigorous inspection of the domestic food processing and food service industries;

(5) Federal food safety standard setting, inspection, enforcement, and research efforts should be based on the best available science and public health considerations and food safety resources should be systematically deployed in ways that most effectively prevent food-borne illness;

(6) the Federal food safety system is fragmented, with at least 12 Federal agencies sharing responsibility for food safety, and operates under laws that do not reflect current conditions in the food system or current scientific knowledge about the cause and prevention of food-borne illness;

(7) the fragmented Federal food safety system and outdated laws preclude an integrated, system-wide approach to preventing food-borne illness, to the effective and efficient operation of the Nation's food safety program, and to the most beneficial deployment of food safety resources;

(8) the National Academy of Sciences recommended in the report ''Ensuring Safe Food from Production to Consumption'' that Congress establish by statute a unified and central framework for managing Federal food safety programs, and recommended modifying Federal statutes so that inspection, enforcement, and research efforts are based on scientifically supportable assessments of risks to public health; and

(9) the lack of a single focal point for food safety leadership in the United States undercuts the ability of the United States to exert food safety leadership internationally, which is detrimental to the public health and the international trade interests of the United States.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this Act are—

(1) to establish a single agency to be known as the ''Food Safety Administration'' to—

(A) regulate food safety and labeling to strengthen the protection of the public health;

(B) ensure that food establishments fulfill their responsibility to produce food in a manner that protects the public health of all people in the United States;

(C) lead an integrated, system-wide approach to food safety and to make more effective and efficient use of resources to prevent food-borne illness;

(D) provide a single focal point for food safety leadership, both nationally and internationally; and

(E) provide an integrated food safety research capability, utilizing internally-generated, scientifically and statistically valid studies, in cooperation with academic institutions and other scientific entities of the Federal and State governments, to achieve the continuous improvement of research on food-borne illness and contaminants;

(2) to transfer to the Food Safety Administration the food safety, labeling, inspection, and enforcement functions that, as of the day before the effective date of this Act, are performed by other Federal agencies; and

(3) to modernize and strengthen the Federal food safety laws to achieve more effective application and efficient management of the laws for the protection and improvement of public health.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) ADMINISTRATION.—The term ''Administration'' means the Food Safety Administration established under section 101(a)(1).

(2) ADMINISTRATOR.—The term ''Administrator'' means the Administrator of Food Safety appointed under section 101(a)(3).

(3) ADULTERATED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''adulterated'' has the meaning described in subsections (a) through (c) of section 402 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 342).

(B) INCLUSION.—The term ''adulterated'' includes bearing or containing a contaminant that causes illness or death among sensitive populations.

(4) AGENCY.—The term ''agency'' has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(5) CATEGORY 1 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—The term ''category 1 food establishment'' means a food establishment that slaughters animals for food.

(6) CATEGORY 2 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—The term ''category 2 food establishment'' means a food establishment that processes raw meat, poultry, seafood products, regardless of whether the establishment also has a kill step, and animal feed and other products that the Administrator determines by regulation to be at high risk of contamination and the processes of which do not include a step validated to destroy contaminants.

(7) CATEGORY 3 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—The term ''category 3 food establishment'' means a food establishment that processes meat, poultry, seafood products, and other products that the Administrator determines by regulation to be at high risk of contamination and whose processes include a step validated to destroy contaminants.

(8) CATEGORY 4 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—The term ''category 4 food establishment'' means a food establishment that processes all other categories of food products not described in paragraphs (5) through (7).

(9) CATEGORY 5 FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—The term ''category 5 food establishment'' means a food establishment that stores, holds, or transports food products prior to delivery for retail sale.

(10) CONTAMINANT.—The term ''contaminant'' includes a bacterium, chemical, natural or manufactured toxin, virus, parasite, prion, physical hazard, or other human pathogen that when found on or in food can cause human illness, injury, or death.

(11) CONTAMINATION.—The term ''contamination'' refers to a presence of a contaminant in food.

(12) FOOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''food'' means a product intended to be used for food or drink for a human or an animal.

(B) INCLUSIONS.—The term ''food'' includes any product (including a meat food product, as defined in section 1(j) of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601(j))), capable for use as human food that is made in whole or in part from any animal, including cattle, sheep, swine, or goat, or poultry (as defined in section 4 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 453)), and animal feed.

(C) EXCLUSION.—The term ''food'' does not include dietary supplements, as defined in section 201(ff) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(ff)).

(13) FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ''food establishment'' means a slaughterhouse, factory, warehouse, or facility owned or operated by a person located in any State that processes food or a facility that holds, stores, or transports food or food ingredients.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—For the purposes of registration, the term ''food establishment'' does not include a farm, restaurant, other retail food establishment, nonprofit food establishment in which food is prepared for or served directly to the consumer, or fishing vessel (other than a fishing vessel engaged in processing, as that term is defined in section 123.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations).

(14) FOOD PRODUCTION FACILITY.—The term ''food production facility'' means any farm, ranch, orchard, vineyard, aquaculture facility, or confined animal-feeding operation.

(15) FOOD SAFETY LAW.—The term ''food safety law'' means—

(A) the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) related to and requiring the safety, labeling, and inspection of food, infant formulas, food additives, pesticide residues, and other substances present in food under that Act;

(B) the provisions of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) and of any other Act that are administered by the Center for Veterinary Medicine of the Food and Drug Administration;

(C) the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.);

(D) the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.);

(E) the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.);

(F) the Sanitary Food Transportation Act of 1990 (49 U.S.C. App. 2801 et seq.);

(G) the provisions of the Humane Methods of Slaughter Act of 1978 (Public Law 95–448) administered by the Food Safety and Inspection Service;

(H) the provisions of this Act; and

(I) such other provisions of law related to and requiring food safety, labeling, inspection, and enforcement as the President designates by Executive order as appropriate to include within the jurisdiction of the Administration.

(16) FOREIGN FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—The term ''foreign food establishment'' means a slaughterhouse, factory, warehouse, or facility located outside the United States that processes food for consumption that is imported into the United States or food ingredients.

(17) INTERSTATE COMMERCE.—The term ''interstate commerce'' has the meaning given that term in section 201(b) of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 321(b)).

(18) MISBRANDED.—The term ''misbranded'' has the meaning given that term in section 403 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 343).

(19) PROCESS.—The term ''process'' or ''processing'' means the commercial harvesting, slaughter, packing, preparation, or manufacture of food.

(20) SAFE.—The term ''safe'' refers to human and animal health.

(21) STATE.—The term ''State'' means—

(A) a State;

(B) the District of Columbia;

(C) the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico; and

(D) any other territory or possession of the United States.

(22) VALIDATION.—The term ''validation'' means the obtaining of evidence that the food hygiene control measure or measures selected to control a hazard in food is capable of effectively and consistently controlling the hazard.

(23) STATISTICALLY VALID.—With respect to a study, the term ''statistically valid'' means evaluated and conducted under standards set by the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

TITLE I—ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD SAFETY ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF FOOD SAFETY ADMINISTRATION.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the executive branch an agency to be known as the ''Food Safety Administration''.

(2) STATUS.—The Administration shall be an independent establishment (as defined in section 104 of title 5, United States Code).

(3) HEAD OF ADMINISTRATION.—The Administration shall be headed by the Administrator of Food Safety, who shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

(b) DUTIES OF ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator shall—

(1) administer and enforce the food safety law;

(2) serve as a representative to international food safety bodies and discussions;

(3) promulgate regulations to ensure the security of the food supply from all forms of contamination, including intentional contamination; and

(4) oversee—

(A) implementation of Federal food safety inspection, enforcement, and research efforts, to protect the public health;

(B) development of consistent and science-based standards for safe food;

(C) coordination and prioritization of food safety research and education programs with other Federal agencies;

(D) prioritization of Federal food safety efforts and deployment of Federal food safety resources to achieve the greatest possible benefit in reducing food-borne illness;

(E) coordination of the Federal response to food-borne illness outbreaks with other Federal and State agencies; and

(F) integration of Federal food safety activities with State and local agencies.

SEC. 102. CONSOLIDATION OF SEPARATE FOOD SAFETY AND INSPECTION SERVICES AND AGENCIES.

(a) TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.—For each Federal agency specified in subsection (b), there are transferred to the Administration all functions that the head of the Federal agency exercised on the day before the effective date of this Act (including all related functions of any officer or employee of the Federal agency) that relate to administration or enforcement of the food safety law, as determined by the President.

(b) TRANSFERRED AGENCIES.—The Federal agencies referred to in subsection (a) are—

(1) the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the Department of Agriculture;

(2) the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition of the Food and Drug Administration;

(3) the part of the Agriculture Marketing Service that administers shell egg surveillance services established under the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.);

(4) the resources and facilities of the Office of Regulatory Affairs of the Food and Drug Administration that administer and conduct inspections of food establishments and imports;

(5) the resources and facilities of the Office of the Commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration that support—

(A) the Center for Food Safety and Applied Nutrition;

(B) the Center for Veterinary Medicine; and

(C) the Office of Regulatory Affairs facilities and resources described in paragraph (4);

(6) the Center for Veterinary Medicine of the Food and Drug Administration;

(7) the resources and facilities of the Environmental Protection Agency that control and regulate pesticide residues in food;

(8) the part of the Research, Education, and Economics mission area of the Department of Agriculture related to food safety and animal feed research;

(9) the part of the National Marine Fisheries Service of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration of the Department of Commerce that administers the seafood inspection program;

(10) the Animal and Plant Inspection Health Service of the Department of Agriculture; and

(11) such other offices, services, or agencies as the President designates by Executive order to carry out this Act.

SEC. 103. ADDITIONAL DUTIES OF THE ADMINISTRATION.

(a) OFFICERS AND EMPLOYEES.—The Administrator may—

(1) appoint officers and employees for the Administration in accordance with the provisions of title 5, United States Code, relating to appointment in the competitive service; and

(2) fix the compensation of those officers and employees in accordance with chapter 51 and with subchapter III of chapter 53 of that title, relating to classification and General Schedule pay rates.

(b) EXPERTS AND CONSULTANTS.—The Administrator may—

(1) procure the services of temporary or intermittent experts and consultants as authorized by section 3109 of title 5, United States Code; and

(2) pay in connection with those services the travel expenses of the experts and consultants, including transportation and per diem in lieu of subsistence while away from the homes or regular places of business of the individuals, as authorized by section 5703 of that title.

(c) BUREAUS, OFFICES, AND DIVISIONS.—The Administrator may establish within the Administration such bureaus, offices, and divisions as the Administrator determines are necessary to perform the duties of the Administrator.

(d) ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish advisory committees that consist of representatives of scientific expert bodies, academics, industry specialists, and consumers.

(2) DUTIES.—The duties of an advisory committee established under paragraph (1) may include developing recommendations with respect to the development of new processes, research, communications, performance standards, and inspection.

TITLE II—ADMINISTRATION OF FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

SEC. 201. ADMINISTRATION OF NATIONAL PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall—

(1) administer a national food safety program (referred to in this section as the ''program'') to protect public health; and

(2) ensure that persons who produce or process food meet their responsibility to prevent or minimize food safety hazards related to their products.

(b) COMPREHENSIVE ANALYSIS.—The program shall be based on a comprehensive analysis of the hazards associated with different food and with the processing of different food, including the identification and evaluation of—

(1) the severity of the potential health risks;

(2) the sources and specific points of potential contamination extending from the farm or ranch to the consumer that may render food unsafe;

(3) the potential for persistence, multiplication, or concentration of naturally occurring or added contaminants in food;

(4) opportunities across the food production, processing, distribution, and retail system to reduce potential health risks; and

(5) opportunities for intentional contamination.

(c) PROGRAM ELEMENTS.—In carrying out the program, the Administrator shall—

(1) adopt and implement a national system for the registration of food establishments and foreign food establishments and regular unannounced inspection of food establishments;

(2) enforce the adoption of process controls in food establishments, based on best available scientific and public health considerations and best available technologies;

(3) establish and enforce science-based standards for—

(A) substances that may contaminate food; and

(B) safety and sanitation in the processing and handling of food;

(4) implement a statistically valid sampling program to ensure that industry programs and procedures that prevent food contamination are effective on an ongoing basis and that food meets the standards established under this Act;

(5) implement procedures and requirements to ensure the safety and security of imported food;

(6) coordinate with other agencies and State or local governments in carrying out inspection, enforcement, research, and monitoring;

(7) have access to the surveillance data of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and other Federal Government agencies, in order to implement a national surveillance system to assess the health risks associated with the human consumption of food or to create surveillance data and studies;

(8) develop public education risk communication and advisory programs;

(9) implement a basic and applied research program to further the purposes of this Act; and

(10) coordinate and prioritize food safety research and educational programs with other agencies, including State or local agencies.

SEC. 202. REGISTRATION OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS AND FOREIGN FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall by regulation require that any food establishment or foreign food establishment engaged in processing food in the United States be registered with the Administrator.

(b) REGISTRATION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be registered under subsection (a)—

(A) in the case of a food establishment, the owner, operator, or agent in charge of the food establishment shall submit a registration to the Administrator; and

(B) in the case of a foreign food establishment, the owner, operator, or agent in charge of the foreign food establishment shall—

(i) submit a registration to the Administrator; and

(ii) provide the name, address, and emergency contact information of the United States agent for the foreign food establishment.

(2) REGISTRATION.—A food establishment or foreign food establishment shall submit a registration under paragraph (1) to the Administrator that—

(A) identifies the name, address, and emergency contact information of each food establishment or foreign food establishment that the registrant operates under this Act and all trade names under which the registrant conducts business relating to food;

(B) lists the primary purpose and business activity of each food establishment or foreign food establishment, including the dates of operation if the food establishment or foreign food establishment is seasonal;

(C) lists the types of food processed or sold at each food establishment or, for foreign food establishments selling food for consumption in the United States, identifies the specific food categories of that food as listed under section 170.3 of title 21, Code of Federal Regulations; and

(D) not later than 30 days after a change in the products, function, or legal status of the food establishment or foreign food establishment (including cessation of business activities), notifies the Administrator of the change.

(3) PROCEDURE.—Upon receipt of a completed registration described in paragraph (1), the Administrator shall notify the registrant of the receipt of the registration, designate each establishment as a category 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5 food establishment, and assign a registration number to each food establishment and foreign food establishment.

(4) LIST.—The Administrator shall compile and maintain an up-to-date list of food establishments and foreign food establishments that are registered under this section. The Administrator may establish regulations by which such list may be shared with other governmental authorities.

(5) DISCLOSURE EXEMPTION.—The disclosure requirements under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply to—

(A) the list compiled under paragraph (4); and

(B) information derived from the list under paragraph (4), to the extent that it discloses the identity or location of a specific registered person.

(6) SUSPENSION OF REGISTRATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may suspend the registration of a food establishment or foreign food establishment, including the facility of an importer, for violation of a food safety law.

(B) NOTICE AND OPPORTUNITY FOR HEARING.—The Administrator shall provide notice to a registrant immediately upon the suspension of the registration of the facility and provide registrant with an opportunity for a hearing within 3 days of the suspension.

(7) REINSTATEMENT.—A registration that is suspended under this section may be reinstated pursuant to criteria published in the Federal Register by the Administrator.

SEC. 203. PREVENTATIVE PROCESS CONTROLS TO REDUCE ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall, upon the basis of best available public health, scientific, and technological data, promulgate regulations to ensure that food establishments carry out their responsibilities to—

(1) process food in a sanitary manner so that it is free of dirt and filth;

(2) limit the presence of potentially harmful contaminants in food;

(3) implement appropriate measures of preventative process control to minimize and reduce the presence and growth of contaminants in food and meet the performance standards established under section 204;

(4) process all fully processed or ready-to-eat food in a sanitary manner, using reasonably available techniques and technologies to eliminate any potentially harmful contaminants; and

(5) label food intended for final processing outside commercial food establishments with instructions for handling and preparation for consumption that will destroy contaminants.

(b) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this Act, the Administrator shall promulgate regulations that—

(1) require all food establishments to adopt preventative process controls that are—

(A) adequate to protect the public health;

(B) meet relevant regulatory and food safety standards; and

(C) limit the presence and growth of contaminants in food prepared in a food establishment;

(2) set standards for sanitation;

(3) meet any performance standards for contaminants established under section 204;

(4) require recordkeeping to monitor compliance;

(5) require sampling and testing at a frequency and in a manner sufficient to ensure that process controls are effective on an ongoing basis and that regulatory standards are being met; and

(6) provide for agency access to records kept by food establishments and submission of copies of the records to the Administrator, as the Administrator determines appropriate.

(c) PROCESSING CONTROLS.—The Administrator may require any person with responsibility for or control over food or food ingredients to adopt process controls, if the process controls are needed to ensure the protection of the public health.

SEC. 204. PERFORMANCE STANDARDS FOR CONTAMINANTS IN FOOD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—To protect the public health, the Administrator shall establish by regulation and enforce performance standards that define, with respect to specific food-borne contaminants and foods, the level of food safety performance that a person responsible for producing, processing, or selling food shall meet.

(b) IDENTIFICATION OF CONTAMINANTS; PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall identify the food-borne contaminants and food that contribute significantly to the risk of food-borne illness.

(2) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—As soon as practicable after the identification of the contaminants under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall establish appropriate performance standards to protect against all food-borne contaminants.

(3) SIGNIFICANT CONTAMINANTS.—The Administrator shall establish performance standards for the 5 contaminants that contribute to the greatest number of illnesses or deaths associated with raw meat, poultry, and seafood not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act. The Administrator shall revise such standards not less often than every 3 years.

(c) PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The performance standards established under this section shall include—

(A) health-based standards that set the level of a contaminant that can safely and lawfully be present in food;

(B) zero tolerances, including zero tolerances for fecal matter, in addition to any zero-tolerance standards in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, when necessary to protect against significant adverse health outcomes;

(C) process standards, such as log reduction criteria for cooked products, when sufficient to ensure the safety of processed food; and

(D) in the absence of data to support a performance standard described in subparagraph (A), (B), or (C), standards that define required performance in terms of ''best reasonably achievable performance'', using best

available technologies, interventions, and practices.

(2) BEST REASONABLY ACHIEVABLE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS.—In developing best reasonably achievable performance standards, the Administrator shall collect, or contract for the collection of, data on current best practices and food safety outcomes related to the contaminants and foods in question, as the Administrator determines necessary.

(3) REVOCATION BY ADMINISTRATOR.—All performance standards, tolerances, action levels, or other similar standards in effect on the date of enactment of this Act shall remain in effect until revised or revoked by the Administrator.

(d) ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the promulgation of a performance standard under this section, the Administrator shall implement a statistically significant sampling program to determine whether food establishments are complying with the performance standards promulgated under this section. The program established under this paragraph shall be at least as stringent as the Hazard Analysis and Critical Control Point System requirements established under part 417 of title 9, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulation).

(2) INSPECTIONS.—If the Administrator determines that a food establishment fails to meet a standard promulgated under this section, and such establishment fails to take appropriate corrective action as determined by the Administrator, the Administrator shall, as appropriate—

(A) detain, seize, or condemn food from the food establishment under section 402;

(B) order a recall of food from the food establishment under section 403;

(C) increase the inspection frequency for the food establishment;

(D) withdraw the mark of inspection from the food establishment, if in use; or

(E) take other appropriate enforcement action concerning the food establishment, including withdrawal of registration.

(e) NEWLY IDENTIFIED CONTAMINANTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this section, the Administrator shall promulgate interim performance standards for newly identified contaminants as necessary to protect the public health.

SEC. 205. INSPECTIONS OF FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall establish an inspection program, which shall include sampling and testing of food and food establishments, to determine if each food establishment—

(1) is operating in a sanitary manner;

(2) has continuous systems, interventions, and processes in place to minimize or eliminate contaminants in food;

(3) is in compliance with applicable performance standards established under section 203, and other regulatory requirements;

(4) is processing food that is safe and not adulterated or misbranded;

(5) maintains records of process control plans under section 203, and other records related to the processing, sampling, and handling of food; and

(6) is in compliance with the requirements of the food safety law.

(b) ESTABLISHMENT CATEGORIES AND INSPECTION FREQUENCIES.—The resource plan required under section 209, including the description of resources required to carry out inspections of food establishments, shall be based on the following categories and inspection frequencies, subject to subsections (c), (d), and (e):

(1) CATEGORY 1 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.—A category 1 food establishment shall be subject to antemortem, postmortem, and continuous inspection of each slaughter line during all operating hours, and other inspection on a daily basis, sufficient to verify that—

(A) diseased animals are not offered for slaughter;

(B) the food establishment has successfully identified and removed from the slaughter line visibly defective or contaminated carcasses, has avoided cross-contamination, and destroyed or reprocessed them in a manner acceptable to the Administrator; and

(C) that applicable performance standards and other provisions of the food safety law, including those intended to eliminate or reduce pathogens, have been satisfied.

(2) CATEGORY 2 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.—A category 2 food establishment shall be randomly inspected at least daily.

(3) CATEGORY 3 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.—A category 3 food establishment shall—

(A) have ongoing verification that its processes are controlled; and

(B) be randomly inspected at least monthly.

(4) CATEGORY 4 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.—A category 4 food establishment shall be randomly inspected at least quarterly.

(5) CATEGORY 5 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.—A category 5 food establishment shall be randomly inspected at least annually.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF INSPECTION PROCEDURES.—The Administrator shall establish procedures under which inspectors or safety officers shall take random samples, photographs, and copies of records in food establishments.

(d) ALTERNATIVE INSPECTION FREQUENCIES.—With respect to a category 2, 3, 4, or 5 food establishment, the Administrator may establish alternative increasing or decreasing inspection frequencies for subcategories of food establishments or individual establishments, to foster risk-based allocation of resources, subject to the following criteria and procedures:

(1) Subcategories of food establishments and their alternative inspection frequencies shall be defined by regulation, subject to paragraphs (2) and (3).

(2) Regulations of alternative inspection frequencies for subcategories of food establishments under paragraph (1) and for a specific food establishment under paragraph (4) shall provide that—

(A) category 2 food establishments shall be inspected at least monthly; and

(B) category 3, 4, and 5 food establishments shall be inspected at least annually.

(3) In defining subcategories of food establishments and their alternative inspection frequencies under paragraphs (1) and (2), the Administrator shall consider—

(A) the nature of the food products being processed, stored, or transported;

(B) the manner in which food products are processed, stored, or transported;

(C) the inherent likelihood that the products will contribute to the risk of food-borne illness;

(D) the best available evidence concerning reported illnesses associated with the foods produced in the proposed subcategory of establishments; and

(E) the overall record of compliance with the food safety law among establishments in the proposed subcategory, including compliance with applicable performance standards and the frequency of recalls.

(4) The Administrator may adopt alternative inspection frequencies for increased or decreased inspection for a specific establishment, subject to paragraphs (2) and (5) and shall periodically publish a list of establishments subject to alternative inspections.

(5) In adopting alternative inspection frequencies for a specific establishment, the Administrator shall consider—

(A) the criteria in paragraph (3);

(B) whether products from the specific establishment have been associated with a case or an outbreak of food-borne illness; and

(C) the record of the establishment of compliance with the food safety law, including compliance with applicable performance standards and the frequency of recalls.

(6) Before establishing decreased alternative inspection frequencies for subcategories of establishments or individual establishments, the Administrator shall—

(A) determine, based on the best available evidence, that the alternative uses of the resources required to carry out the inspection activity would make a greater contribution to protecting the public health and reducing the risk of food-borne illness than the use of resources described in subsection (b);

(B) describe the alternative uses of resources in general terms when issuing the regulation or order that establishes the alternative inspection frequency;

(C) consider the supporting evidence that an individual food establishment shall submit related to whether an alternative inspection frequency should be established for such establishment by the Administrator; and

(D) include a description of the alternative uses in the annual resource plan required in section 209.

(e) INSPECTION TRANSITION.—The Administrator shall manage the transition to the inspection system described in this Act as follows:

(1) In the case of a category 1 or 2 food establishment, the Administrator shall continue to implement the applicable inspection mandates of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) until—

(A) regulations required to implement this section have been promulgated;

(B) the performance standards required by section 204(c) have been promulgated and implemented for 1 year; and

(C) the establishment has achieved compliance with the other applicable provisions of the food safety law.

(2) In the case of a category 1 or 2 food establishment that, within 2 years after the promulgation of the performance standards required by section 204(c), has not achieved compliance with the food safety law, the Administrator shall—

(A) issue an order prohibiting the establishment from operating pending a demonstration by the establishment that sufficient changes in facilities, procedures, personnel, or other aspects of the process control system have been made such that the Administrator determines that compliance with the food safety law is achieved; and

(B) following the demonstration required in subparagraph (A), issue an order authorizing the food establishment to operate subject, at a minimum, to—

(i) the inspection requirement applicable to the establishment under subsection (b) (1) or (2); and

(ii) such other inspection or compliance measures determined by the Administrator necessary to assure compliance with the applicable food safety law.

(3) In the case of a category 3 food establishment, the Administrator shall continue to implement the applicable inspection mandates of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) until—

(A) the regulations required to implement this section have been promulgated;

(B) the first resource plan under section 209 has been submitted; and

(C) for individual establishments, compliance with the food safety law has been demonstrated.

(4) In the case of a category 3 food establishment that, within 1 year after the promulgation of the regulations required to implement this section, have not demonstrated compliance with the food safety law, the Administrator shall—

(A) issue an order prohibiting the establishment from operating, pending a demonstration by the establishment that sufficient changes in facilities, procedures, personnel, or other aspects of the process control system have been made such that the Administrator determines that compliance with the food safety law is achieved; and

(B) following the demonstration required in subparagraph (A), issue an order authorizing the establishment to operate subject, at a minimum, to—

(i) the inspection requirement applicable to the establishment under subsection (b)(3); and

(ii) such other inspection or compliance measures determined by the Administrator necessary to assure compliance with the food safety law.

(5) In the case of a category 4 or 5 food establishment, the inspection requirements of this Act shall be implemented as soon as possible after—

(A) the promulgation of the regulations required to implement this section;

(B) the publication of the first resource plan under section 209; and

(C) the commencement of the first fiscal year in which the Administration is operating with budgetary resources that Congress has appropriated following consideration of the resource plan under section 209.

(f) OFFICIAL MARK.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) ESTABLISHMENT.—Before the completion of the transition process under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (e), the Administrator shall by regulation establish an official mark that shall be affixed to a food product produced in a category 1, 2, or 3 establishment, subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) PREREQUISITE.—The official mark required under subparagraph (A) shall be affixed to a food product by the Administrator if the establishment has been inspected by the Administrator in accordance with the inspection frequencies under this section and the establishment is in compliance with the food safety law.

(C) REMOVAL OF OFFICIAL MARK.—The Administrator shall promulgate regulations that provide for the removal of the official mark under this subsection if the Administrator makes a finding that the establishment is not in compliance with the food safety law.

(2) CATEGORY 1, 2, OR 3 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.—In the case of products produced in a category 1, 2, or 3 food establishment—

(A) products subject to Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 601 et seq.), the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 451 et seq.), the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1031 et seq.), and the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 301 et seq.) as of the date of enactment of this Act shall remain subject to the requirement under those Acts that they bear the mark of inspection pending completion of the transition process under paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (e);

(B) the Administrator shall publicly certify on a monthly basis that the inspection frequencies required under this Act have been achieved; and

(C) a product from an establishment that has not been inspected in accordance with the required frequencies under this section shall not bear the official mark and shall not be shipped in interstate commerce.

(3) CATEGORY 4 AND 5 FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS.—In the case of a product produced in a category 4 or 5 food establishment the Administrator shall provide by regulation for the voluntary use of the official mark established under paragraph (1), subject to—

(A) such minimum inspection frequencies as determined appropriate by the Administrator;

(B) compliance with applicable performance standards and other provisions of the food safety law; and

(C) such other requirements the Administrator considers appropriate.

(g) IMPLEMENTATION.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this Act, the Administrator shall issue regulations to implement subsections (b) through (e).

(h) MAINTENANCE AND INSPECTION OF RECORDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—

(A) RECORDS.—A food establishment shall—

(i) maintain such records as the Administrator shall require by regulation, including all records relating to the processing, distributing, receipt, or importation of any food; and

(ii) permit the Administrator, in addition to any authority of the food safety agencies in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act, upon presentation of appropriate credentials and at reasonable times and in a reasonable manner, to have access to and copy all records maintained by or on behalf of such food establishment representative in any format (including paper or electronic) and at any location, that are necessary to assist the Administrator—

(I) to determine whether the food is contaminated or not in compliance with the food safety law; or

(II) to track the food in commerce.

(B) REQUIRED DISCLOSURE.—A food establishment shall have an affirmative obligation to disclose to the Administrator the results of testing or sampling of food, equipment, or material in contact with food, that is positive for any contaminant.

(2) MAINTENANCE OF RECORDS.—The records in paragraph (1) shall be maintained for a reasonable period of time, as determined by the Administrator.

(3) REQUIREMENTS.—The records in paragraph (1) shall include records describing—

(A) the origin, receipt, delivery, sale, movement, holding, and disposition of food or ingredients;

(B) the identity and quantity of ingredients used in the food;

(C) the processing of the food;

(D) the results of laboratory, sanitation, or other tests performed on the food or in the food establishment;

(E) consumer complaints concerning the food or packaging of the food;

(F) the production codes, open date codes, and locations of food production; and

(G) other matters reasonably related to whether food is unsafe, is adulterated or misbranded, or otherwise fails to meet the requirements of this Act.

(i) PROTECTION OF SENSITIVE INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall develop and maintain procedures to prevent the unauthorized disclosure of any trade secret or confidential information obtained by the Administrator.

(2) LIMITATION.—The requirement under this subsection does not—

(A) limit the authority of the Administrator to inspect or copy records or to require the establishment or maintenance of records under this Act;

(B) have any legal effect on section 1905 of title 18, United States Code;

(C) extend to any food recipe, financial data, pricing data, personnel data, or sales data (other than shipment dates relating to sales);

(D) limit the public disclosure of distribution records or other records related to food subject to a voluntary or mandatory recall under section 403; or

(E) limit the authority of the Administrator to promulgate regulations to permit the sharing of data with other governmental authorities.

(j) BRIBERY OF OR GIFTS TO INSPECTOR OR OTHER OFFICERS AND ACCEPTANCE OF GIFTS.—Section 22 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 622) shall apply under this Act.

SEC. 206. FOOD PRODUCTION FACILITIES.

In carrying out the duties of the Administrator and the purposes of this Act, the Administrator shall have the authority, with respect to food production facilities, to—

(1) visit and inspect food production facilities in the United States and in foreign countries to investigate bioterrorism threats and for other critical food safety purposes;

(2) review food safety records as required to be kept by the Administrator to carry out traceback and for other critical food safety purposes;

(3) set good practice standards to protect the public and animal health and promote food safety;

(4) conduct monitoring and surveillance of animals, plants, products, or the environment, as appropriate; and

(5) collect and maintain information relevant to public health and farm practices.

SEC. 207. FEDERAL AND STATE COOPERATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall work with the States to carry out activities and programs that create a national food safety program so that Federal and State programs function in a coordinated and cost-effective manner.

(b) STATE ACTION.—The Administrator shall work with States to—

(1) continue, strengthen, or establish State food safety programs, especially with respect to the regulation of retail commercial food establishments, transportation, harvesting, and fresh markets;

(2) continue, strengthen, or establish inspection programs and requirements to ensure that food under the jurisdiction of the State is safe; and

(3) support recall authorities at the State and local levels.

(c) ASSISTANCE.—To assist in planning, developing, and implementing a food safety program, the Administrator may provide and continue to a State—

(1) advisory assistance;

(2) technical and laboratory assistance and training (including necessary materials and equipment); and

(3) financial, in kind, and other aid.

(d) SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may, under agreements entered into with Federal, State, or local agencies, use on a reimbursable basis or otherwise, the personnel and services of those agencies in carrying out this Act.

(2) TRAINING.—Agreements with a State under this subsection may provide for training of State employees.

(3) MAINTENANCE OF AGREEMENTS.—The Administrator shall maintain any agreement that is in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act until the Administrator evaluates such agreement and determines whether to maintain or substitute such agreement.

(e) AUDITS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall annually conduct a comprehensive review of each State program that provides services to

the Administrator in carrying out the responsibilities under this Act, including mandated inspections under section 205.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The review shall—

(A) include a determination of the effectiveness of the State program; and

(B) identify any changes necessary to ensure enforcement of Federal requirements under this Act.

(f) NO FEDERAL PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to preempt the enforcement of State food safety laws and standards that are at least as stringent as those under this Act.

SEC. 208. IMPORTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the effective date of this Act, the Administrator shall establish a system under which a foreign government or foreign food establishment seeking to import food to the United States shall submit a request for certification to the Administrator.

(b) CERTIFICATION STANDARD.—A foreign government or foreign food establishment requesting a certification to import food to the United States shall demonstrate, in a manner determined appropriate by the Administrator, that food produced under the supervision of a foreign government or by the foreign food establishment has met standards for food safety, inspection, labeling, and consumer protection that are at least equivalent to standards applicable to food produced in the United States.

(c) CERTIFICATION APPROVAL.—

(1) REQUEST BY FOREIGN GOVERNMENT.—Prior to granting the certification request of a foreign government, the Administrator shall review, audit, and certify the food safety program of a requesting foreign government (including all statutes, regulations, and inspection authority) as at least equivalent to the food safety program in the United States, as demonstrated by the foreign government.

(2) REQUEST BY FOREIGN FOOD ESTABLISHMENT.—Prior to granting the certification request of a foreign food establishment, the Administrator shall certify, based on an onsite inspection, the food safety programs and procedures of a requesting foreign firm as at least equivalent to the food safety programs and procedures of the United States.

(d) LIMITATION.—A foreign government or foreign firm approved by the Administrator to import food to the United States under this section shall be certified to export only the approved food products to the United States for a period not to exceed 5 years.

(e) WITHDRAWAL OF CERTIFICATION.—The Administrator may withdraw certification of any food from a foreign government or foreign firm—

(1) if such food is linked to an outbreak of human illness;

(2) following an investigation by the Administrator that finds that the foreign government programs and procedures or foreign food establishment is no longer equivalent to the food safety programs and procedures in the United States; or

(3) following a refusal to allow United States officials to conduct such audits and investigations as may be necessary to fulfill the requirements under this section.

(f) RENEWAL OF CERTIFICATION.—The Administrator shall audit foreign governments and foreign food establishments at least every 5 years to ensure the continued compliance with the standards set forth in this section.

(g) REQUIRED ROUTINE INSPECTION.—The Administrator shall routinely inspect food and food animals (via a physical examination) before it enters the United States to ensure that it is—

(1) safe;

(2) labeled as required for food produced in the United States; and

(3) otherwise meets requirements under the food safety law.

(h) ENFORCEMENT.—The Administrator is authorized to—

(1) deny importation of food from any foreign government that does not permit United States officials to enter the foreign country to conduct such audits and inspections as may be necessary to fulfill the requirements under this section;

(2) deny importation of food from any foreign government or foreign firm that does not consent to an investigation by the Administration when food from that foreign country or foreign firm is linked to a foodborne illness outbreak or is otherwise found to be adulterated or mislabeled; and

(3) promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the purposes of this section, including setting terms and conditions for the destruction of products that fail to meet the standards of this Act.

(i) DETENTION AND SEIZURE.—Any food imported for consumption in the United States may be detained, seized, or condemned pursuant to section 402.

SEC. 209. RESOURCE PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall prepare and update annually a resource plan describing the resources required, in the best professional judgment of the Administrator, to develop and fully implement the national food safety program established under this Act.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The resource plan shall—

(1) describe quantitatively the personnel, financial, and other resources required to carry out the inspection of food establishments under section 205 and other requirements of the national food safety program;

(2) allocate inspection resources in a manner reflecting the distribution of risk and opportunities to reduce risk across the food supply to the extent feasible based on the best available information, and subject to section 205; and

(3) describe the personnel, facilities, equipment, and other resources needed to carry out inspection and other oversight activities, at a total resource level equal to at least 50 percent of the resources required to carry out inspections in food establishments under section 205—

(A) in foreign establishments;

(B) at the point of importation; and

(C) at the point of production on farms, ranches, and feedlots.

(c) GRANTS.—The resource plan shall include recommendations for funding to provide grants to States and local governments to carry out food safety activities in retail and food service facilities and the required inspections in food establishments.

(d) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—The Administrator shall submit annually to the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate, the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives, and other relevant committees of Congress, the resource plan required under this section.

SEC. 210. TRACEBACK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in order to protect the public health, shall establish requirements for a national system for tracing food and food producing animals from point of origin to retail sale, subject to subsection (b).

(b) APPLICABILITY.—Traceability requirements shall—

(1) be established in accordance with regulations and guidelines issued by the Administrator; and

(2) apply to food production facilities and food establishments.

(c) RELATIONSHIP TO COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING.—Nothing contained in this section prevents or interferes with implementation of the country of origin labeling requirements of subtitle D of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1638 et seq.).

TITLE III—RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SEC. 301. PUBLIC HEALTH ASSESSMENT SYSTEM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, acting in coordination with the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and with the Research Education and Economics mission area of the Department of Agriculture, shall—

(1) have access to the applicable data systems of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and to the databases made available by a State;

(2) maintain an active surveillance system of food, food products, and epidemiological evidence submitted by States to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention based on a representative proportion of the population of the United States;

(3) assess the frequency and sources of human illness in the United States associated with the consumption of food;

(4) maintain a state-of-the-art DNA matching system and epidemiological system dedicated to food-borne illness identification, outbreaks, and containment; and

(5) have access to the surveillance data created via monitoring and statistical studies conducted as part of its own inspection.

(b) PUBLIC HEALTH SAMPLING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the effective date of this Act, the Administrator shall establish guidelines for a sampling system under which the Administrator shall take and analyze samples of food—

(A) to assist the Administrator in carrying out this Act; and

(B) to assess the nature, frequency of occurrence, and quantities of contaminants in food.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The sampling system described in paragraph (1) shall provide—

(A) statistically valid monitoring, including market-based studies, on the nature, frequency of occurrence, and quantities of contaminants in food available to consumers; and

(B) at the request of the Administrator, such other information, including analysis of monitoring and verification samples, as the Administrator determines may be useful in assessing the occurrence of contaminants in food.

(c) ASSESSMENT OF HEALTH HAZARDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Through the surveillance system referred to in subsection (a) and the sampling system described in subsection (b), the Administrator shall—

(A) rank food categories based on the hazard to human health presented by the food category;

(B) identify appropriate industry and regulatory approaches to minimize hazards in the food supply; and

(C) assess the public health environment for emerging diseases, including zoonosis, for their risk of appearance in the United States food supply.

(2) COMPONENTS OF ANALYSIS.—The analysis under subsection (b)(1) may include—

(A) a comparison of the safety of commercial processing with the health hazards associated with food that is harvested for recreational or subsistence purposes and prepared noncommercially;

(B) a comparison of the safety of food that is domestically processed with the health hazards associated with food that is processed outside the United States;

(C) a description of contamination originating from handling practices that occur prior to or after the sale of food to consumers; and

(D) use of comparative risk assessments.

SEC. 302. PUBLIC EDUCATION AND ADVISORY SYSTEM.

(a) PUBLIC EDUCATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in cooperation with private and public organizations, including the cooperative extension services and building on the efforts of appropriate State and local entities, shall establish a national public education program on food safety.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The program shall provide—

(A) information to the public regarding Federal standards and best practices and promotion of public awareness, understanding, and acceptance of those standards and practices;

(B) information for health professionals—

(i) to improve diagnosis and treatment of food-related illness; and

(ii) to advise individuals at special risk for food-related illnesses; and

(C) such other information or advice to consumers and other persons as the Administrator determines will promote the purposes of this Act.

(b) HEALTH ADVISORIES.—The Administrator, in consultation with other Federal departments and agencies as the Administrator determines necessary, shall work with the States and other appropriate entities—

(1) to develop and distribute regional and national advisories concerning food safety;

(2) to develop standardized formats for written and broadcast advisories;

(3) to incorporate State and local advisories into the national public education program established under subsection (a); and

(4) to present prompt, specific information regarding foods found to pose a threat to the public health.

SEC. 303. RESEARCH.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall conduct research to carry out this Act, including studies to—

(1) improve sanitation and food safety practices in the processing of food;

(2) develop improved techniques to monitor and inspect food;

(3) develop efficient, rapid, and sensitive methods to detect contaminants in food;

(4) determine the sources of contamination of contaminated food;

(5) develop food consumption data;

(6) identify ways that animal production techniques could improve the safety of the food supply;

(7) draw upon research and educational programs that exist at the State and local level;

(8) utilize the DNA matching system and other processes to identify and control pathogens;

(9) address common and emerging zoonotic diseases;

(10) develop methods to reduce or destroy harmful pathogens before, during, and after processing;

(11) analyze the incidence of antibiotic resistence as it pertains to the food supply and develop new methods to reduce the transfer of antibiotic resistance to humans; and

(12) conduct other research that supports the purposes of this Act.

(b) CONTRACT AUTHORITY.—The Administrator may enter into contracts and agreements with any State, university, Federal Government agency, or person to carry out this section.

TITLE IV—ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 401. PROHIBITED ACTS.

It is prohibited—

(1) to manufacture, introduce, deliver for introduction, or receive into interstate commerce any food that is adulterated, misbranded, or otherwise unsafe;

(2) to adulterate or misbrand any food in interstate commerce;

(3) for a food establishment or foreign food establishment to fail to register under section 202, or to operate without a valid registration;

(4) to refuse to permit access to a food establishment for the inspection and copying of a record as required under section 205(h);

(5) to fail to establish or maintain any record or to make any report as required under section 205(h);

(6) to refuse to permit entry to or inspection of a food establishment as required under section 205;

(7) to fail to provide to the Administrator the results of a testing or sampling of a food, equipment, or material in contact with contaminated food under section 205(i);

(8) to fail to comply with a provision, regulation, or order of the Administrator under section 202, 203, 204, or 208;

(9) to slaughter an animal that is capable for use in whole or in part as human food at a food establishment processing any such food for commerce, except in compliance with the food safety law;

(10) to transfer food in violation of an administrative detention order under section 402 or to remove or alter a required mark or label identifying the food as detained;

(11) to fail to comply with a recall or other order under section 403; or

(12) to otherwise violate the food safety law.

SEC. 402. FOOD DETENTION, SEIZURE, AND CONDEMNATION.

(a) ADMINISTRATIVE DETENTION OF FOOD.—

(1) EXPANDED AUTHORITY.—The Administrator shall have authority under section 304 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 334) to administratively detain and seize any food that the Administrator has reason to believe is unsafe, is adulterated or misbranded, or otherwise fails to meet the requirements of the food safety law.

(2) DETENTION AUTHORITY.—If, during an inspection conducted in accordance with section 205 or 208, an officer, employee, or agent of the Administration making the inspection has reason to believe that a domestic food, imported food, or food offered for import is unsafe, is adulterated or misbranded, or otherwise fails to meet the requirements of this Act, the officer or employee may order the food detained.

(3) PERIOD OF DETENTION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A food may be detained for a reasonable period, not to exceed 20 days, unless a longer period, not to exceed 30 days, is necessary for the Administrator to institute a seizure action.

(B) PERISHABLE FOOD.—The Administrator shall provide by regulation for procedures to institute a seizure action on an expedited basis with respect to perishable food.

(4) SECURITY OF DETAINED FOOD.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—A detention order—

(i) may require that the food be labeled or marked as detained; and

(ii) shall require that the food be removed to a secure facility, if appropriate.

(B) FOOD SUBJECT TO AN ORDER.—A food subject to a detention order shall not be transferred by any person from the place at which the food is removed, until released by the Administrator or until the expiration of the detention period applicable under the order, whichever occurs first.

(C) DELIVERY OF FOOD.—This subsection does not authorize the delivery of a food in accordance with execution of a bond while the article is subject to the order.

(b) APPEAL OF DETENTION ORDER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person who would be entitled to be a claimant for a food subject to a detention order if the food were seized under section 304 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 334), may appeal the order to the Administrator.

(2) ACTION BY THE ADMINISTRATOR.—Not later than 5 days after an appeal is filed under paragraph (1), the Administrator, after providing an opportunity for an informal hearing, shall confirm, modify, or terminate the order involved.

(3) FINAL AGENCY ACTION.—Confirmation, modification, or termination by the Administrator under paragraph (2) shall be considered a final agency action for purposes of section 702 of title 5, United States Code.

(4) TERMINATION.—The order shall be considered to be terminated if, after 5 days, the Administrator has failed—

(A) to provide an opportunity for an informal hearing; or

(B) to confirm, modify, or terminate the order.

(5) EFFECT OF INSTITUTING COURT ACTION.—If the Administrator initiates an action under section 302 of the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act (21 U.S.C. 332) or section 304(a) of that Act (21 U.S.C. 334(a)), the process for the appeal of the detention order shall terminate.

(c) CONDEMNATION OF FOOD.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After confirming a detention order, the Administrator may order the food condemned.

(2) DESTRUCTION OF FOOD.—Any food condemned shall be destroyed under the supervision of the Administrator.

(3) RELEASE OF FOOD.—If the Administrator determines that, through reprocessing, relabeling, or other action, a detained food can be brought into compliance with this Act, the food may be released following a determination by the Administrator that the relabeling or other action as specified by the Administrator has been performed.

(d) TEMPORARY HOLDS AT PORTS OF ENTRY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an officer or qualified employee of the Administration has reason to believe that a food is unsafe, is adulterated or misbranded, or otherwise fails to meet the requirements of this Act, and the officer or qualified employee is unable to inspect, examine, or investigate the food when the food is offered for import at a port of entry into the United States, the officer or qualified employee shall request the Secretary of Homeland Security to hold the food at the port of entry for a reasonable period of time, not to exceed 24 hours, to enable the Administrator to inspect or investigate the food as appropriate.

(2) REMOVAL TO SECURE FACILITY.—The Administrator shall work in coordination with the Secretary of Homeland Security to remove a food held in accordance with paragraph (1) to a secure facility as appropriate.

(3) PROHIBITION ON TRANSFER.—During the period in which the food is held, the food shall not be transferred by any person from the port of entry into the United States, or from the secure facility to which the food has been removed.

(4) DELIVERY IN ACCORDANCE WITH A BOND.—The delivery of the food in accordance with the execution of a bond while the food is held is not authorized.

(5) PROHIBITION ON REEXPORT.—A food found unfit for human or animal consumption shall be prohibited from reexport without further processing to remove the contamination and reinspection by the Administration.

SEC. 403. NOTIFICATION AND RECALL.

(a) NOTICE TO ADMINISTRATOR OF VIOLATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A person that has reason to believe that any food introduced into or in

interstate commerce, or held for sale (whether or not the first sale) after shipment in interstate commerce, may be in violation of the food safety law shall immediately notify the Administrator of the identity and location of the food.

(2) MANNER OF NOTIFICATION.—Notification under paragraph (1) shall be made in such manner and by such means as the Administrator may require by regulation.

(b) RECALL AND CONSUMER NOTIFICATION.—

(1) VOLUNTARY ACTIONS.—If the Administrator determines that food is in violation of the food safety law when introduced into or while in interstate commerce or while held for sale (whether or not the first sale) after shipment in interstate commerce and that there is a reasonable probability that the food, if consumed, would present a threat to public health, as determined by the Administrator, the Administrator shall give the appropriate persons (including the manufacturers, importers, distributors, or retailers of the food) an opportunity to—

(A) cease distribution of the food;

(B) notify all persons—

(i) processing, distributing, or otherwise handling the food to immediately cease such activities with respect to the food; or

(ii) to which the food has been distributed, transported, or sold, to immediately cease distribution of the food;

(C) recall the food;

(D) in conjunction with the Administrator, provide notice of the finding of the Administrator—

(i) to consumers to whom the food was, or may have been, distributed; and

(ii) to State and local public health officials; or

(E) take any combination of the measures described in this paragraph, as determined by the Administrator to be appropriate in the circumstances.

(2) MANDATORY ACTIONS.—If a person referred to in paragraph (1) refuses to or does not adequately carry out the actions described in that paragraph within the time period and in the manner prescribed by the Administrator, the Administrator shall—

(A) have authority to control and possess the food, including ordering the shipment of the food from the food establishment to the Administrator—

(i) at the expense of the food establishment; or

(ii) in an emergency (as determined by the Administrator), at the expense of the Administration; and

(B) by order, require, as the Administrator determines to be necessary, the person to immediately—

(i) cease distribution of the food; and

(ii) notify all persons—

(I) processing, distributing, or otherwise handling the food to immediately cease such activities with respect to the food; or

(II) if the food has been distributed, transported, or sold, to immediately cease distribution of the food.

(3) NOTIFICATION TO CONSUMERS BY ADMINISTRATOR.—The Administrator shall, as the Administrator determines to be necessary, provide notice of the finding of the Administrator under paragraph (1)—

(A) to consumers to whom the food was, or may have been, distributed; and

(B) to State and local public health officials.

(4) NONDISTRIBUTION BY NOTIFIED PERSONS.—A person that processes, distributes, or otherwise handles the food, or to which the food has been distributed, transported, or sold, and that is notified under paragraph (1)(B) or (2)(B) shall immediately cease distribution of the food.

(5) AVAILABILITY OF RECORDS TO ADMINISTRATOR.—Each person referred to in paragraph (1) that processed, distributed, or otherwise handled food shall make available to the Administrator information necessary to carry out this subsection, as determined by the Administrator, regarding—

(A) persons that processed, distributed, or otherwise handled the food; and

(B) persons to which the food has been transported, sold, distributed, or otherwise handled.

(c) INFORMAL HEARINGS ON ORDERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator shall provide any person subject to an order under subsection (b) with an opportunity for an informal hearing, to be held as soon as practicable but not later than 2 business days after the issuance of the order.

(2) SCOPE OF THE HEARING.—In a hearing under paragraph (1), the Administrator shall consider the actions required by the order and any reasons why the food that is the subject of the order should not be recalled.

(d) POST-HEARING RECALL ORDERS.—

(1) AMENDMENT OF ORDER.—If, after providing an opportunity for an informal hearing under subsection (c), the Administrator determines that there is a reasonable probability that the food that is the subject of an order under subsection (b), if consumed, would present a threat to the public health, the Administrator, as the Administrator determines to be necessary, may—

(A) amend the order to require recall of the food or other appropriate action;

(B) specify a timetable in which the recall shall occur;

(C) require periodic reports to the Administrator describing the progress of the recall; and

(D) provide notice of the recall to consumers to whom the food was, or may have been, distributed.

(2) VACATION OF ORDERS.—If, after providing an opportunity for an informal hearing under subsection (c), the Administrator determines that adequate grounds do not exist to continue the actions required by the order, the Administrator shall vacate the order.

(e) REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE.—The remedies provided in this section shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available.

SEC. 404. INJUNCTION PROCEEDINGS.

(a) JURISDICTION.—The district courts of the United States, and the United States courts of the territories and possessions of the United States, shall have jurisdiction, for cause shown, to restrain a violation of section 202, 203, 204, 207, or 401 (or a regulation promulgated under that section).

(b) TRIAL.—In a case in which violation of an injunction or restraining order issued under this section also constitutes a violation of the food safety law, trial shall be by the court or, upon demand of the accused, by a jury.

SEC. 405. CIVIL AND CRIMINAL PENALTIES.

(a) CIVIL SANCTIONS.—

(1) CIVIL PENALTY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any person that commits an act that violates the food safety law (including a regulation promulgated or order issued under a Federal food safety law) may be assessed a civil penalty by the Administrator of not more than $10,000 for each such act.

(B) SEPARATE OFFENSE.—Each act described in subparagraph (A) and each day during which that act continues shall be considered a separate offense.

(2) OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—

(A) WRITTEN ORDER.—The civil penalty described in paragraph (1) shall be assessed by the Administrator by a written order, which shall specify the amount of the penalty and the basis for the penalty under subparagraph (B) considered by the Administrator.

(B) AMOUNT OF PENALTY.—Subject to paragraph (1)(A), the amount of the civil penalty shall be determined by the Administrator, after considering—

(i) the gravity of the violation;

(ii) the degree of culpability of the person;

(iii) the size and type of the business of the person; and

(iv) any history of prior offenses by the person under the food safety law.

(C) REVIEW OF ORDER.—The order may be reviewed only in accordance with subsection (c).

(b) CRIMINAL SANCTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), a person that knowingly produces or introduces into commerce food that is unsafe or otherwise adulterated or misbranded shall be imprisoned for not more than 1 year or fined not more than $10,000, or both.

(2) SEVERE VIOLATIONS.—A person that commits a violation described in paragraph (1) after a conviction of that person under this section has become final, or commits such a violation with the intent to defraud or mislead, shall be imprisoned for not more than 3 years or fined not more than $100,000, or both.

(3) EXCEPTION.—No person shall be subject to the penalties of this subsection—

(A) for having received, proffered, or delivered in interstate commerce any food, if the receipt, proffer, or delivery was made in good faith, unless that person refuses to furnish (on request of an officer or employee designated by the Administrator)—

(i) the name, address and contact information of the person from whom that person purchased or received the food;

(ii) copies of all documents relating to the person from whom that person purchased or received the food; and

(iii) copies of all documents pertaining to the delivery of the food to that person; or

(B) if that person establishes a guaranty signed by, and containing the name and address of, the person from whom that person received in good faith the food, stating that the food is not adulterated or misbranded within the meaning of this Act.

(c) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An order assessing a civil penalty under subsection (a) shall be a final order unless the person—

(A) not later than 30 days after the effective date of the order, files a petition for judicial review of the order in the United States court of appeals for the circuit in which that person resides or has its principal place of business or the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; and

(B) simultaneously serves a copy of the petition by certified mail to the Administrator.

(2) FILING OF RECORD.—Not later than 45 days after the service of a copy of the petition under paragraph (1)(B), the Administrator shall file in the court a certified copy of the administrative record upon which the order was issued.

(3) STANDARD OF REVIEW.—The findings of the Administrator relating to the order shall be set aside only if found to be unsupported by substantial evidence on the record as a whole.

(d) COLLECTION ACTIONS FOR FAILURE TO PAY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If any person fails to pay a civil penalty assessed under subsection (a) after the order assessing the penalty has become a final order, or after the court of appeals described in subsection (b) has entered final judgment in favor of the Administrator, the Administrator shall refer the matter to the Attorney General, who shall institute in a United States district court of competent

jurisdiction a civil action to recover the amount assessed.

(2) LIMITATION ON REVIEW.—In a civil action under paragraph (1), the validity and appropriateness of the order of the Administrator assessing the civil penalty shall not be subject to judicial review.

(e) PENALTIES PAID INTO ACCOUNT.—The Administrator—

(1) shall deposit penalties collected under this section in an account in the Treasury; and

(2) may use the funds in the account, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitation—

(A) to carry out enforcement activities under food safety law; or

(B) to provide assistance to States to inspect retail commercial food establishments or other food or firms under the jurisdiction of State food safety programs.

(f) DISCRETION OF THE ADMINISTRATOR TO PROSECUTE.—Nothing in this Act requires the Administrator to report for prosecution, or for the commencement of an action, the violation of the food safety law in a case in which the Administrator finds that the public interest will be adequately served by the assessment of a civil penalty under this section.

(g) REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE.—The remedies provided in this section may be in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available.

SEC. 406. PRESUMPTION.

In any action to enforce the requirements of the food safety law, the connection with interstate commerce required for jurisdiction shall be presumed to exist.

SEC. 407. WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—No Federal employee, employee of a Federal contractor or subcontractor, or any individual employed by a company (referred to in this section as a ''covered individual''), may be discharged, demoted, suspended, threatened, harassed, or in any other manner discriminated against, because of any lawful act done by the covered individual to—

(1) provide information, cause information to be provided, or otherwise assist in an investigation regarding any conduct that the covered individual reasonably believes constitutes a violation of any law, rule, or regulation, or that the covered individual reasonably believes constitutes a threat to the public health, when the information or assistance is provided to, or the investigation is conducted by—

(A) a Federal regulatory or law enforcement agency;

(B) a Member or committee of Congress; or

(C) a person with supervisory authority over the covered individual (or such other individual who has the authority to investigate, discover, or terminate misconduct);

(2) file, cause to be filed, testify, participate in, or otherwise assist in a proceeding or action filed or about to be filed relating to a violation of any law, rule, or regulation; or

(3) refused to violate or assist in the violation of any law, rule, or regulation.

(b) ENFORCEMENT ACTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered individual who alleges discharge or other discrimination by any person in violation of subsection (a) may seek relief under subsection (c) by filing a complaint with the Secretary of Labor. If the Secretary of Labor has not issued a final decision within 180 days after the date on which the complaint is filed and there is no showing that such delay is due to the bad faith of the claimant, the claimant may bring an action at law or equity for de novo review in the appropriate district court of the United States, which shall have jurisdiction over such an action without regard to the amount in controversy.

(2) PROCEDURE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An action under paragraph (1) shall be governed under the rules and procedures set forth in section 42121(b) of title 49, United States Code.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Notification under section 42121(b)(1) of title 49, United States Code, shall be made to the person named in the complaint and to the person's employer.

(C) BURDENS OF PROOF.—An action brought under paragraph (1) shall be governed by the legal burdens of proof set for in section 42121(b) of title 49, United States Code.

(D) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—An action under paragraph (1) shall be commenced not later than 90 days after the date on which the violation occurs.

(c) REMEDIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—A covered individual prevailing in any action under subsection (b)(1) shall be entitled to all relief necessary to make the covered individual whole.

(2) COMPENSATORY DAMAGES.—Relief for any action described in paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) reinstatement with the same seniority status that the covered individual would have had, but for the discrimination;

(B) the amount of any back pay, with interest; and

(C) compensation for any special damages sustained as a result of the discrimination, including litigation costs, expert witness fees, and reasonable attorney's fees.

(d) RIGHTS RETAINED BY THE COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to diminish the rights, privileges, or remedies of any covered individual under any Federal or State law, or under any collective bargaining agreement.

SEC. 408. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For the efficient administration and enforcement of the food safety law, the provisions (including provisions relating to penalties) of sections 6, 8, 9, and 10 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 46, 48, 49, and 50) (except subsections (c) through (h) of section 6 of that Act), relating to the jurisdiction, powers, and duties of the Federal Trade Commission and the Attorney General to administer and enforce that Act, and to the rights and duties of persons with respect to whom the powers are exercised, shall apply to the jurisdiction, powers, and duties of the Administrator and the Attorney General in administering and enforcing the provisions of the food safety law and to the rights and duties of persons with respect to whom the powers are exercised, respectively.

(b) INQUIRIES AND ACTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator, in person or by such agents as the Administrator may designate, may prosecute any inquiry necessary to carry out the duties of the Administrator under the food safety law in any part of the United States.

(2) POWERS.—The powers conferred by sections 9 and 10 of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 49 and 50) on the United States district courts may be exercised for the purposes of this chapter by any United States district court of competent jurisdiction.

SEC. 409. CITIZEN CIVIL ACTIONS.

(a) CIVIL ACTIONS.—A person may commence a civil action against—

(1) a person that violates a regulation (including a regulation establishing a performance standard), order, or other action of the Administrator to ensure the safety of food; or

(2) the Administrator (in his or her capacity as the Administrator), if the Administrator fails to perform an act or duty to ensure the safety of food that is not discretionary under the food safety law.

(b) COURT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The action shall be commenced in the United States district court for the district in which the defendant resides, is found, or has an agent.

(2) JURISDICTION.—The court shall have jurisdiction, without regard to the amount in controversy, or the citizenship of the parties, to enforce a regulation (including a regulation establishing a performance standard), order, or other action of the Administrator, or to order the Administrator to perform the act or duty.

(3) DAMAGES.—The court may—

(A) award damages, in the amount of damages actually sustained; and

(B) if the court determines it to be in the interest of justice, award the plaintiff the costs of suit, including reasonable attorney's fees, reasonable expert witness fees, and penalties.

(c) REMEDIES NOT EXCLUSIVE.—The remedies provided for in this section shall be in addition to, and not exclusive of, other remedies that may be available.

TITLE V—IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 501. DEFINITION.

For purposes of this title, the term ''transition period'' means the 12-month period beginning on the effective date of this Act.

SEC. 502. REORGANIZATION PLAN.

(a) SUBMISSION OF PLAN.—Not later than 180 days after the effective date of this Act, the President shall transmit to the appropriate congressional committees a reorganization plan regarding the following:

(1) The transfer of agencies, personnel, assets, and obligations to the Administration pursuant to this Act.

(2) Any consolidation, reorganization, or streamlining of agencies transferred to the Administration pursuant to this Act.

(b) PLAN ELEMENTS.—The plan transmitted under subsection (a) shall contain, consistent with this Act, such elements as the President determines appropriate, including the following:

(1) Identification of any functions of agencies designated to be transferred to the Administration pursuant to this Act that will not be transferred to the Administration under the plan.

(2) Specification of the steps to be taken by the Administrator to organize the Administration, including the delegation or assignment of functions transferred to the Administration among the officers of the Administration in order to permit the Administration to carry out the functions transferred under the plan.

(3) Specification of the funds available to each agency that will be transferred to the Administration as a result of transfers under the plan.

(4) Specification of the proposed allocations within the Administration of unexpended funds transferred in connection with transfers under the plan.

(5) Specification of any proposed disposition of property, facilities, contracts, records, and other assets and obligations of agencies transferred under the plan.

(6) Specification of the proposed allocations within the Administration of the functions of the agencies and subdivisions that are not related directly to ensuring the safety of food.

(c) MODIFICATION OF PLAN.—The President may, on the basis of consultations with the appropriate congressional committees, modify, or revise any part of the plan until that part of the plan becomes effective in accordance with subsection (d).

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The reorganization plan described in this section, including any modifications or revisions of the plan under

subsection (c), shall become effective for an agency on the earlier of—

(A) the date specified in the plan (or the plan as modified pursuant to subsection (c)), except that such date may not be earlier than 90 days after the date the President has transmitted the reorganization plan to the appropriate congressional committees pursuant to subsection (a); or

(B) the end of the transition period.

(2) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to require the transfer of functions, personnel, records, balances of appropriations, or other assets of an agency on a single date.

(3) SUPERCEDES EXISTING LAW.—Paragraph (1) shall apply notwithstanding section 905(b) of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 503. TRANSITIONAL AUTHORITIES.

(a) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE BY OFFICIALS.—Until the transfer of an agency to the Administration, any official having authority over or function relating to the agency immediately before the effective date of this Act shall provide the Administrator such assistance, including the use of personnel and assets, as the Administrator may request in preparing for the transfer and integration of the agency to the Administration.

(b) SERVICES AND PERSONNEL.—During the transition period, upon the request of the Administrator, the head of any executive agency may, on a reimbursable basis, provide services or detail personnel to assist with the transition.

(c) ACTING OFFICIALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the transition period, pending the advice and consent of the Senate to the appointment of an officer required by this Act to be appointed by and with such advice and consent, the President may designate any officer whose appointment was required to be made by and with such advice and consent and who was such an officer immediately before the effective date of this Act (and who continues to be in office) or immediately before such designation, to act in such office until the same is filled as provided in this Act.

(2) COMPENSATION.—While acting pursuant to paragraph (1), such officers shall receive compensation at the higher of—

(A) the rates provided by this Act for the respective offices in which they act; or

(B) the rates provided for the offices held at the time of designation.

(3) LIMITATION.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the advice and consent of the Senate to the appointment by the President to a position in the Administration of any officer whose agency is transferred to the Administration pursuant to this Act and whose duties following such transfer are germane to those performed before such transfer.

(d) TRANSFER OF PERSONNEL, ASSETS, OBLIGATIONS, AND FUNCTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, the personnel, assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds that relate to the functions transferred under subsection (a) from a Federal agency shall be transferred to the Administration.

(2) UNEXPENDED FUNDS.—Unexpended funds transferred under this subsection shall be used by the Administration only for the purposes for which the funds were originally authorized and appropriated.

SEC. 504. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

(a) COMPLETED ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIONS.—The enactment of this Act or the transfer of functions under this Act shall not affect any order, determination, rule, regulation, permit, personnel action, agreement, grant, contract, certificate, license, registration, privilege, or other administrative action issued, made, granted, or otherwise in effect or final with respect to that agency on the day before the transfer date with respect to the transferred functions

(b) PENDING PROCEEDINGS.—Subject to the authority of the Administrator under this Act—

(1) pending proceedings in an agency, including notices of proposed rulemaking, and applications for licenses, permits, certificates, grants, and financial assistance, shall continue notwithstanding the enactment of this Act or the transfer of the agency to the Administration, unless discontinued or modified under the same terms and conditions and to the same extent that such discontinuance could have occurred if such enactment or transfer had not occurred; and

(2) orders issued in such proceedings, and appeals therefrom, and payments made pursuant to such orders, shall issue in the same manner on the same terms as if this Act had not been enacted or the agency had not been transferred, and any such order shall continue in effect until amended, modified, superceded, terminated, set aside, or revoked by an officer of the United States or a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(c) PENDING CIVIL ACTIONS.—Subject to the authority of the Administrator under this Act, any civil action commenced with regard to that agency pending before that agency on the day before the transfer date with respect to the transferred functions shall continue notwithstanding the enactment of this Act or the transfer of an agency to the Administration.

(d) REFERENCES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—After the transfer of functions from a Federal agency under this Act, any reference in any other Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, directive, document, or other material to that Federal agency or the head of that agency in connection with the administration or enforcement of the food safety laws shall be deemed to be a reference to the Administration or the Administrator, respectively.

(2) STATUTORY REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—Statutory reporting requirements that applied in relation to such an agency immediately before the effective date of this Act shall continue to apply following such transfer if they refer to the agency by name.

SEC. 505. CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

(a) EXECUTIVE SCHEDULE.—Section 5313 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following new item: ''Administrator of Food Safety.''.

(b) REPEAL OF CERTAIN PROVISIONS.—Section 18 of the Poultry Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 467), section 401 of the Federal Meat Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 671), and section 18 of the Egg Products Inspection Act (21 U.S.C. 1047) are repealed.

SEC. 506. ADDITIONAL TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.

Not later than 60 days after the submission of the reorganization plan under section 502, the President shall prepare and submit proposed legislation to Congress containing necessary and appropriate technical and conforming amendments to the Acts listed in section 3(15) of this Act to reflect the changes made by this Act.

SEC. 507. REGULATIONS.

The Administrator may promulgate such regulations as the Administrator determines are necessary or appropriate to perform the duties of the Administrator.

SEC. 508. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to carry out this Act.

SEC. 509. LIMITATION ON AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

For the fiscal year that includes the effective date of this Act, the amount authorized to be appropriated to carry out this Act shall not exceed—

(1) the amount appropriated for that fiscal year for the Federal agencies identified in section 102(b) for the purpose of administering or enforcing the food safety law; or

(2) the amount appropriated for those agencies for that purpose for the preceding fiscal year, if, as of the effective date of this Act, appropriations for those agencies for the fiscal year that includes the effective date have not yet been made.

SEC. 510. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This Act takes effect on the date of enactment of this Act.

By Mr. LEAHY (for himself and Ms. SNOWE):

S. 730. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to establish requirements concerning the operation of fossil fuel-fired electric utility steam generating units, commercial and industrial boiler units, solid waste incineration units, medical waste incinerators, hazardous waste combustors, chlor-alkali plants, and Portland cement plants to reduce emissions of mercury to the environment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. LEAHY. Mr. President, today I again will discuss mercury pollution and the serious and immediate health risks it poses to the health of citizens across our Nation.

This is not a new issue. We have known about mercury pollution for decades, and it remains one of, if not the last, major toxic pollutant without a comprehensive plan to control its release. We know where the sources mercury pollution are, we know where the pollution deposits, and we definitely know what harm it causes to people and to wildlife.

We need to confront mercury pollution because it is a threat to pregnant women and children. The Environmental Protection Agency's own scientists estimate that one of every six women of child-bearing age has elevated levels of mercury in her body above safe thresholds.

Mercury can cause neurological harm to children exposed to increased mercury levels while in the womb and during the first few years of their lives, which can lead to increased risk for learning disabilities, developmental delays, and other serious problems.

Just last year EPA scientists nearly doubled the previous estimate of the number of children at increased risk from exposure to elevated mercury levels in their mothers' wombs from 300,000 to over 600,000. This finding should alarm all of us and spur this Administration to promptly develop strong controls on mercury pollution from power plants that meet the requirements of the Clean Air Act and that fully protect women and children.

Yet unfortunately, this Administration has not done that. The Administration's new mercury rule and the so-

called ''Clear Skies'' proposal turn back progress, ignore available clean air technology, and will leave more toxic mercury in our air, water, and fish and for a longer time than is necessary.

Because of this, on behalf of Senator SNOWE and myself, I am reintroducing legislation today that will confront this problem directly and that will reduce mercury pollution from all sources.

Our bill will reduce mercury emissions from coal-fired power plants by 90 percent by 2010. The cap-and-trade approach the Administration is pushing for in both the mercury rule and the President's Clear Skies proposal would only reduce emissions by less than 50 percent in the near future and possibly 70 percent over the next 15 years.

I introduce this legislation on the heels of two recent reports about the proposed EPA mercury rule, one from the Government Accountability Office and one from the EPA Inspector General. Both the IG and GAO reports severely criticize this Administration's mercury rulemaking process, saying it violated EPA policy, OMB guidance, Presidential Executive Orders and, in some instances, important provisions of the Clean Air Act.

I find this extremely troublesome. These are serious problems that greatly undermine the credibility of this Administration and that led them to create policies that fail to adequately protect the children in my state of Vermont and those all across the country. Rather than develop unbiased science-based limits on mercury pollution, they instead developed limits to fit predetermined numbers found in the President's industry friendly Clear Skies proposal.

The GAO found critical flaws with the economic analysis that basically prevent anyone from actually verifying the supposed benefits of the cap-and-trade approach proposed in both EPA's rule and in the Clear Skies plan. In simple terms you could call it another example of the smoke and mirrors this Administration has used to support its flawed dirty air pollution policies.

Not only were the supposed benefits of the cap-and-trade proposal virtually undocumented, they did not even bother to analyze whatsoever the health benefits to women and children from controlling toxic mercury. If protecting the health of women and children is truly important to this Administration, then why would they skip such an important analysis?

Not surprisingly, the EPA Inspector General confirmed what the GAO found. That EPA staff were directed to ignore the Clean Air Act and instead write a mercury rule to fit the weak mercury caps in the President's Clear Skies initiative.

Rather than let EPA's capable scientists and engineers do their jobs, they decided to play politics and bow to special interest groups. How else did industry favorable policies and analyses found in memos written by industry lobbyists make it into the rule, verbatim?

Both the GAO and IG reports make it clear that EPA staff were pressured to ignore parts of the Clean Air Act and to propose weaker mercury reductions than what are technically feasible and required under the law.

The President's Clear Skies proposal formed the basis for the flawed mercury rule, so it obviously shares the same flaws. These two reports confirm what many of us already suspected, that Clear Skies is based on biased analyses, inadequate and faulty justifications.

This Administration must stop the shenanigans. They need to stop downplaying the health risks of mercury pollution and stop catering to the special interests of the power industry and their lobbyists.

The clarity and diversity of voices opposed to their poor mercury policies are unprecedented in the 30-year history of EPA. Now is the time for them to listen to the voices of more than 600,000 citizens and more than one million sportsmen and women nationwide that sent EPA letters opposing the weak mercury rule.

Now is the time to listen to the nearly 100 national and local church leaders, representing dozens of denominations and millions of congregants, who sent a letter to President Bush expressing ''grave moral concern'' about his misleadingly titled Clear Skies Initiative.

I call on the Administration to take immediate action to correct the serious problems in EPA's proposed power plant mercury rules. Instead, I hope that we can begin to meet the targets set out in this bill and start protecting the health of women and children.

I ask unanimous consent that a summary of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

OVERVIEW OF THE OMNIBUS MERCURY EMISSIONS REDUCTION ACT OF 2005

Sponsored by Senators Patrick Leahy and Olympia Snowe

What will the Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reduction Act of 2005 do?

The Omnibus Mercury Emissions Reduction Act of 2005 mandates substantial reductions in mercury emissions from all major sources in the United States. It is the only comprehensive legislation to control mercury emissions from all major sources. It directs EPA to issue new standards for unregulated sources and to monitor and report on the progress of currently regulated sources. It sets an aggressive timetable for these reductions so that mercury emissions are reduced as soon as possible.

With these emissions reductions, the bill requires the safe disposal of mercury recovered from pollution control systems, so that the hazards of mercury are not merely transferred from one environmental medium to another. It requires annual public reporting—in both paper and electronic form—of facility-specific mercury emissions. It phases out mercury use in consumer products, requires product labeling, and mandates international cooperation. It supports research into the retirement of excess mercury, the handling of mercury waste, the effectiveness of fish consumption advisories, and the magnitude of previously uninventoried sources.

Section 3. Mercury emission standards for fossil fuel-fired electric utility steam generating units

The EPA's Mercury Study Report to Congress estimated 52 tons of mercury emissions occur per year from coal- and oil-fired electric utility steam generating units. More recently, an EPA inventory estimated 48 tons of mercury from coal-fired power plants. Collectively, these power plants constitute the largest source of mercury emissions in the United States. In December 2000, the EPA issued a positive determination to regulate these mercury emissions. But these rules will take years to write and implement, and there is already vigorous industry opposition. It is uncertain what form these rules will take or how long they may be delayed. This section requires EPA to set a Amaximum achievable control technology (MACT) standard for these emissions, such that nationwide emissions decrease by at least 90 percent.

Section 4. Mercury emission standards for coal- and oil-fired commercial and industrial boiler units

The EPA's report on its study estimates that 29 tons of mercury is emitted per year from coal- and oil-fired commercial and industrial boiler units. This section requires EPA to set a MACT standard for these mercury emissions, such that nationwide emissions decrease by at least 90 percent.

Section 5. Reduction of mercury emissions from solid waste incineration units

The EPA study estimates that 30 tons of mercury emissions are released each year from municipal waste combustors. These emissions result from the presence of mercury-containing items such as fluorescent lamps, fever thermometers, thermostats and switches, in municipal solid waste streams. In 1995, EPA promulgated final rules for these emissions, and these rules took effect in 2000. This section reaffirms those rules and requires stricter rules for units that do not comply. The most effective way to reduce mercury emissions from incinerators is to reduce the volume of mercury-containing items before they reach the incinerator. That is why this section also requires the separation of mercury-containing items from the waste stream, the labeling of mercury-containing items to facilitate this separation, and the phase-out of mercury in consumer products within three years, allowing for the possibility of exceptions for essential uses.

Section 6. Mercury emission standards for chlor-alkali plants

The EPA study estimates that 7 tons of mercury emissions are released per year from chlor-alkali plants that use the mercury cell process to produce chlorine. EPA has not issued rules to regulate these emissions. This section requires each chlor-alkali plant that uses the mercury cell process to reduce its mercury emissions by 95 percent. The most effective way to meet this standard would be to switch to the more energy efficient membrane cell process, which many plants already use.

Section 7. Mercury emission standards for Portland cement plants

The EPA study estimates that 5 tons of mercury emissions are released each year from Portland cement plants. In 1999 EPA promulgated final rules for emissions from cement plants, but these rules did not include mercury. This section requires each

Portland cement plant to reduce its mercury emissions by 95 percent.

Section 8. Report on implementation of mercury emission standards for medical waste incinerators

The EPA study estimates that 16 tons of mercury emissions are released per year from medical waste incinerators. In 1997 EPA issued final rules for emissions from hospital/medical/infectious waste incinerators. This section requires EPA to report on the success of these rules in reducing these mercury emissions.

Section 9. Report on implementation of mercury emission standards for hazardous waste combustors

The EPA study estimates that 7 tons of mercury emissions are released each year from hazardous waste incinerators. In 1999 EPA promulgated final rules for these emissions. This section requires EPA to report on the success of these rules in reducing these mercury emissions.

Section 10. Defense activities

This section requires the Department of Defense to report on its use of mercury, including the steps it is taking to reduce mercury emissions and to stabilize and recycle discarded mercury. This section also prohibits the Department of Defense from returning the nearly 5,000 tons of mercury in the National Defense Stockpile to the global market.

Section 11. International activities

This section directs EPA to work with Canada and Mexico to study mercury pollution in North America, including the sources of mercury pollution, the pathways of the pollution, and options for reducing the pollution.

Section 12. Mercury research

This section supports a variety of mercury research projects. First, it promotes accountability by mandating an interagency report on the effectiveness of this act in reducing mercury pollution. Second, it mandates an EPA study on mercury sedimentation trends in major bodies of water. Third, it directs EPA to evaluate and improve state-level mercury data and fish consumption advisories. Fourth, it mandates a National Academy of Sciences report on the retirement of excess mercury, such as stockpiled industrial mercury that is no longer needed due to plant closures or process changes. Fifth, it mandates an EPA study of mercury emissions from electric arc furnaces, a source not studied in the EPA's study report. Finally, it authorizes $2,000,000 for modernization and expansion of the Mercury Deposition Network, plus $10,000,000 over ten years for operational support of that network.

By Mr. CONRAD (for himself, Mr. BURNS, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. DORGAN, Mr. KOHL, Mr. DOMENICI, Mr. BINGAMAN, and Mr. THUNE):

S. 731. A bill to recruit and retain more qualified individuals to teach in Tribal Colleges or Universities; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

Mr. CONRAD. Mr. President, three years ago, Senator BURNS and I formed the bipartisan Task Force on Tribal Colleges and Universities to raise awareness of the important role that the tribal colleges and universities play in their respective communities as educational, economic, and cultural centers. The Task Force seeks to advance initiatives that help improve the quality education the colleges provide.

For more than three decades, tribal colleges have been providing a quality education to help Native Americans of all ages reach their fullest potential. More than 30,000 students from 250 tribes nationwide attend tribal colleges. Tribal colleges serve young people preparing to enter the job market, dislocated workers learning new skills, and people seeking to move off welfare. I am a strong supporter of our Nation's tribal colleges because, more than any other factor, they are bringing hope and opportunity to America's Indian communities.

Over the years, I have met with many tribal college students, and I am always impressed by their commitment to their education, their families and their communities. Tribal colleges and universities have been highly successful in helping Native Americans obtain a higher education. Congress has recognized the importance of these institutions and the significant gains they have achieved in helping more individuals obtain their education. While Congress has steadily increased its financial support of these institutions, many challenges still remain.

One of the challenges that the tribal college presidents have expressed to me is the frustration and difficulty they have in attracting qualified individuals to teach at the colleges. Recruitment and retention are difficult for many of the colleges because of their geographic isolation and low faculty salaries.

To help tackle the challenges of recruiting and retaining qualified teachers, I am introducing the Tribal Colleges and Universities Teacher Loan Forgiveness Act. This legislation will provide student loan forgiveness to individuals who commit to teach for up to five years in one of the tribal colleges nationwide. Individuals who have Perkins, Direct, or Guaranteed loans may qualify to receive up to $15,000 in loan forgiveness. This program will provide these institutions with extra help in attracting qualified teachers, and thus help ensure that deserving students receive a quality education.

I would be remiss if I did not recognize that former Senator Daschle was responsible for spearheading this initiative for a number of years. The tribal colleges lost a true champion, but I am pleased to carry forward his vision and support for the colleges.

I am pleased that Senators BURNS, JOHNSON, DORGAN, KOHL, DOMENICI, and BINGAMAN are original cosponsors of this bill, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this important legislation.

Mr. BURNS. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleague, Senator CONRAD, in sponsoring legislation to provide student loan forgiveness to educators who commit to teaching in our tribal colleges. This legislation will provide up to $15,000 in loan forgiveness—a strong recruitment and retention tool for tribal colleges which often can't pay the same salaries as larger institutions.

I am, and have been for years, a strong supporter of Montana's tribal colleges as well as tribal colleges nationwide. They contribute greatly to our Native American communities, providing the tools for our tribal children to succeed in the world of higher education. Graduates often continue their education at Montana State or the University of Montana and take this knowledge and expertise back to their communities. These students strengthen and improve both our tribal communities and our State as a whole. They add to the social, economic, political and cultural fabric that is unique to Indian Country.

I know how hard our tribal colleges work to achieve success and to maintain high standards. A talented faculty is key to those goals, but too often tight budgets for tribal colleges limit their ability to recruit and retain faculty. Our tribal colleges and their students deserve quality teachers, and providing loan forgiveness will help attract and keep good faculty in what can be very rural areas.

In addition to forgiveness for Perkins, direct or guaranteed loans, this legislation will also provide assistance for nursing faculty at tribal colleges. The nursing shortage is a nationwide problem, particularly in rural areas and specifically in Indian Country. Graduates of tribal colleges often stay near or return home, and that holds true for nursing graduates as well. Supporting nursing programs at tribal colleges addresses that shortage by training professionals who are familiar with the acute medical needs and cultural differences in rural areas and are often willing to stay and wage the battles. This legislation will provide nursing loan forgiveness to nursing instructors at tribal colleges and will help strengthen a valuable program in Montana and around the country.

By Mr. INHOFE:

S. 732. A bill to authorize funds to Federal aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes; from the Committee on Environment and Public Works; placed on the calendar.

Mr. INHOFE. Mr. President, I am introducing today the Safe, Accountable, Flexible and Efficient Transportation Equity Act of 2005, SAFETEA, which the Committee on Environment and Public Works reported out on March 16, 2005. This bill reauthorizes the Federal aid highway program which has been operating on extensions since it expired on September 30, 2003. The bill I am introducing today is essentially S. 1072 as passed by the Senate in the 108th Congress, with the exception that the overall funding level has been changed from $318 billion over 6 years to reflect the President's proposed funding level of $283.9 billion over 6 years.

Last year, this body voted 76 to 21 to adopt S. 1072. Clearly, there was overwhelming support for this measure

then, and in conversations with Members this year, I am confident that there is a real desire to get this bill done. We are already to take the bill up on the Senate floor just as soon as it is scheduled by the leadership.

It has been nearly 18 months since the current program, Transportation Equity Act for the 21 Century—TEA–21, expired. To date, we have done a total of six extensions with the current extension due to expire on May 31. This next deadline is fast approaching, and in addition to completing action on the floor, we still must conference with the House which has a very different formula program than proposed last year. We will have more challenging issues to address and need as much time as possible to do so.

Briefly, as in the bill passed by the Senate last year, the bill I am introducing today will address several critical issues in our transportation system. Specifically, the language improves on the existing program in the following areas:

Safety: Nearly 43,000 people died in 2002 on our Nation's highways. This represents the single greatest cause of accidental death in America. The Environment and Public Works Committee bill addresses this by creating a new core safety program and funding it accordingly.

Congestion: According to the Department of Transportation, time spent in congestion increased from 31.7 percent in 1992 to 33.1 percent in 2000. Based on this rate, a typical ''rush hour'' in an urbanized area is 5.3 hours per day. The problem is not in just urban areas; cities with populations less than 500,000 have experienced the greatest growth in travel delays, according to the DOT. Under this proposal, we would address the congestion problem by establishing a new Transportation Freight Gateway program which targets bottlenecks around ports and intermodal facilities.

Environment: This bill addresses the need to reduce delays in project delivery in several ways. The bill contains carefully balanced language on incorporating environmental concerns into planning and project review as early as practicable, while ensuring that disagreements over such concerns don't indefinitely delay much needed transportation projects. The language on the section 4(f) process will also help reduce unnecessary delays by enabling projects with de minimis impacts on 4(f) resources to proceed in a timely manner.

Also, the bill seeks to correct the inconsistencies between the transportation planning and air quality planning that must take place in areas in nonattainment under the Clean Air Act. The bill rationalizes the schedules for developing transportation plans and demonstrating conformity and aligns the length of the transportation plan considered under conformity with the length of the air quality plan.

Equity: The bill provides all States at least 10 percent growth over TEA–21 while increasing the rate of return for donor States from the current 90.5 percent to 92 percent by 2009. We maintain the TEA–21 scope of 92.5 percent.

The longer we delay enactment of a multiyear bill, we are negatively affecting economic growth. According to DOT estimates, every $1 billion of Federal Funds invested in highway improvements creates 47,000 jobs. The same $1 billion investment yields $500 million in new orders for the manufacturing sector and $500 million spread throughout other sectors of the economy.

States contract awards for the 2005 spring and summer construction season are going out to bid. If we fail to pass this bill soon, States will not know what to expect in Federal funding and the uncertainty will potentially force States to delay putting these projects out for bid. According to the American Association of State Highway Transportation Officials, AASHTO, an estimated 90,000 jobs are at stake. This problem is exacerbated for northern States which have shorter construction seasons. Many State transportation departments have advanced State dollars to construct projects eligible for Federal funding in anticipation of our action to reauthorize the program. Without a new bill, States are essentially left ''holding the bag.''

Over the past 6 years under TEA–21, we have made great progress in preserving and improving the overall physical condition and operation of our transportation system; however, more needs to be done. A safe, effective transportation system is the foundation of our economy. We are past due to fulfill an obligation to this country and the American people.

As mentioned earlier, the bill is essentially the same bill that was passed on the Senate floor last year—a bipartisan product of many months of hard work and compromise. It remains a very good piece of legislation.

The most significant difference with this bill, of course, is that it is drafted at the $283.9 billion level over 6 years. Since 2004 is behind us, the Environment and Public Works Committee bill includes only years 2005 to 2009 which is effectively $283.9 minus fiscal year 2004. S. 1072 passed the Senate last year and guaranteed all donor States a rate of return of 95 percent. At a lower funding level, we were able only to achieve a 92-percent rate of return but kept the 10 percent floor over TEA–21.

I am certain my colleagues share my strong desire to get a transportation reauthorization bill passed and signed into law by the President. I urge the leadership to schedule consideration of this bill this month so we can get it done.

By Mr. SPECTER:

S. 738. A bill to provide relief for the cotton shirt industry; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. SPECTER. Mr. President, today I seek recognition to introduce legislation entitled the ''Cotton Shirt Industry Tariff Relief and Technical Corrections Act.'' This legislation will strengthen our domestic dress shirt manufacturers and the pima cotton growers. My bill is a technical correction that levels the playing field by correcting an anomaly from previous trade agreements that has unfairly advantaged foreign producers and sent hundreds of jobs offshore.

This legislation reduces duties levied on cotton shirting fabric that is not made in the United States. Currently, U.S. law recognizes this lack of fabric availability and grants special favorable trade concessions to manufacturers in Canada, Mexico, the Caribbean, the Andean region, and Africa. The U.S. has allowed shirts to enter this country duty-free from many other countries, while we have failed to reduce tariffs on those manufacturers that stayed in the U.S. and were forced to compete on these uneven terms. My bill will correct this inequity.

This legislation also recognizes the need to creatively promote the U.S. shirting manufacturing and textiles sectors, and does so through the creation of a Cotton Competitiveness grant program, which is funded through a portion of previously collected duties.

Our country has experienced an enormous loss of jobs in the manufacturing sector. It is critical that our domestic manufacturers are able to compete on a level playing field. In the case of the domestic dress shirt industry, the problem is our own government imposing a tariff of up to eleven percent upon the import of fabric made from U.S. pima cotton. My legislation is a concrete step that this Congress can take to reduce the hemorrhaging of U.S. manufacturing jobs.

One group of beneficiaries of this amendment is a Gitman Brothers factory in Ashland, PA. The Ashland Shirt and Pajama factory was built in 1948 and employs 265 workers. This factory in the Lehigh Valley turns out world class shirts with such labels as Burberry and Saks Fifth Avenue that are shipped across the U.S. Currently, Gitman pays an average tariff of eleven percent on the fabric it imports to make shirts. Their shirts are made of pima cotton that is grown in the Southwestern U.S., but spun into fabric only by special mills in Western Europe. Gitman must compete against Canadian shirt companies that import the same fabric tariff-free and who can then ship their shirts into the U.S. tariff-free under NAFTA. These workers and their families deserve trade laws that do not chase their jobs offshore.

This legislation enjoys the support of the domestic shirting industry, UNITE, and the Pima cotton associations. I offer this legislation on behalf of the men and women of the Gitman factory in Ashland, the domestic dress shirting industry, and the pima cotton growers, so that for them free trade will indeed be fair trade as well.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 97—COMMENDING PATRICIA SUE HEAD SUMMITT, HEAD WOMEN'S BASKETBALL COACH AT THE UNIVERSITY OF TENNESSEE, FOR THREE DECADES OF EXCELLENCE AS A PROVEN LEADER, MOTIVATED TEACHER, AND ESTABLISHED CHAMPION

Mr. FRIST (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 97

Whereas Pat Summitt, in her 31st year as head coach of the Lady Volunteers (the ''Lady Vols''), has become the Nation's all-time winningest NCAA basketball coach (men's or women's) with her 880th career victory, surpassing the legendary coach Dean Smith of the University of North Carolina;

Whereas Pat Summitt, at the age of 22, took over the women's program at Tennessee in 1974, when there were no scholarships and she had to wash the uniforms and drive the team van;

Whereas Pat Summitt won her first game on January 10, 1975, and continued to win games as she became the youngest coach in the nation to reach 300 wins (34 years old), 400 wins (37 years old), 500 wins (41 years old), 600 wins (44 years old), 700 wins (47 years old), and 800 wins (50 years old);

Whereas Pat Summitt has coached the Lady Vols to 15 30-plus win seasons, including a perfect season of 39–0, 13 Southeastern Conference (SEC) regular-season titles, and 11 SEC tournament championships;

Whereas Pat Summitt has appeared in more NCAA tournament games (107), and has won more tournament games (89), than any other collegiate coach, including a record of 36–0 in the first two rounds, 16 NCAA Final Four appearances, and 6 NCAA Championship Titles, including the NCAA's first back-to-back-to-back women's titles in 1996, 1997, and 1998;

Whereas Pat Summitt played on the 1976 United States Olympic team and later coached the United States women's basketball team to its first Olympic gold medal in 1984;

Whereas Pat Summitt has been named SEC coach of the year 6 times and national coach of the year by several associations, including the Sporting News Coach of the Year, the Naismith Coach of the Year, and the Associated Press Coach of the Year;

Whereas Pat Summitt and the Lady Vols were selected by ESPN as the ''Team of the Decade'' (1990s), sharing the honor with the Florida State University Seminole's football team, and Summitt became the first female coach to appear on the cover of Sports Illustrated;

Whereas Pat Summitt was officially accepted to the Women's Basketball Hall of Fame in 1999, and was then inducted to the Basketball Hall of Fame on October 13, 2000, as only the 4th women's basketball coach to earn Hall of Fame honors;

Whereas Pat Summitt's Lady Vols have a remarkable graduation rate, as each student-athlete who has completed her eligibility at Tennessee has received her degree or is in the process of completing all of the requirements; and

Whereas Pat Summitt has recently been honored by the University of Tennessee, as the court at Thompson-Boling Arena will be named ''The Summitt'': Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate commends the University of Tennessee women's basketball coach, Patricia Sue Head Summitt, for three decades of excellence as a proven leader, motivated teacher, and established champion.

SENATE RESOLUTION 98—COMMENDING THE UNIVERSITY OF NORTH CAROLINA MEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2005 NATIONAL COLLEGIATE ATHLETIC ASSOCIATION DIVISION I MEN'S BASKETBALL CHAMPIONSHIP

Mr. BURR (for himself and Mrs. DOLE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 98

Whereas on April 4, 2005, the North Carolina Tar Heels defeated the Illinois Fighting Illini 75–70 in the finals of the National Collegiate Athletic Association (''NCAA'') Division I Men's Basketball Tournament in St. Louis, Missouri;

Whereas the Tar Heels now hold 5 men's basketball titles, including 4 NCAA tournament titles—the fourth-most in NCAA history;

Whereas the Tar Heels' men's team has won championships in 1924, 1957, 1982, 1993, and 2005;

Whereas Tar Heels head coach and Asheville, North Carolina, native Roy Williams won his first NCAA title in just his second year coaching the team, improving to 470–116 in 17 seasons as a head coach, and has the best record of any active coach in men's basketball;

Whereas seniors Jawad Williams, Jackie Manuel, Melvin Scott, Charlie Everett, and C.J. Hooker celebrated 4 years at North Carolina with a ''Final Four'' win;

Whereas Sean May was named Most Outstanding Player of the tournament, scoring 26 points and collecting 10 rebounds in the final game;

Whereas Tar Heels Raymond Felton and Rashad McCants joined Sean May on the All-Tournament Team, along with Illini players Luther Head and Deron Williams;

Whereas the North Carolina Tar Heels finished the 2004–2005 season with 33 wins and just 4 losses, and won the championship by defeating an Illinois team that tied an NCAA record for wins in a season at 37;

Whereas freshman Tar Heel Marvin Williams helped seal the victory with a tip-in with 1 minute and 26 seconds left to play;

Whereas the Tar Heel defense held Illinois to 27 percent from the field in the first half and prevented the Illini from scoring during the last 2 minutes and 37 seconds;

Whereas North Carolina defeated Michigan State 87–71 to earn a spot in the final contest;

Whereas the Tar Heels defeated Oakland and Iowa State in Charlotte, North Carolina, then Villanova and Wisconsin in Syracuse, New York, to advance to the ''Final Four'';

Whereas Albemarle, North Carolina, native Woody Durham has been the radio play-by-play voice of North Carolina's basketball programs since 1971, and this was his 11th ''Final Four'' with the Tar Heels and third national championship call;

Whereas the Tar Heel team members are excellent representatives of a fine university that is a leader in higher education, producing 38 Rhodes scholars, as well as many fine student-athletes and other leaders;

Whereas each player, coach, trainer, manager, and staff member dedicated this season and their efforts to ensure the North Carolina Tar Heels reached the summit of college basketball;

Whereas the Tar Heels showed tremendous dedication to each other, appreciation to their fans, sportsmanship to their opponents, and respect for the game of basketball throughout the 2005 season; and

Whereas residents of the Old North State and North Carolina fans worldwide are to be commended for their long-standing support, perseverance and pride in the team: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commends the champion North Carolina Tar Heels for their historic win in the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Tournament;

(2) recognizes the achievements of the players, coaches, students, and support staff who were instrumental in helping the University of North Carolina Tar Heels win the tournament; and

(3) directs the Secretary of the Senate to transmit a copy of this resolution to University of North Carolina Chancellor James Moeser and head coach Roy Williams for appropriate display.

SENATE RESOLUTION 99—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE TO CONDEMN THE INHUMANE AND UNNECESSARY SLAUGHTER OF SMALL CETACEANS, INCLUDING DALL'S PORPOISE, THE BOTTLENOSE DOLPHIN, RISSO'S DOLPHIN, FALSE KILLER WHALES, PILOT WHALES, THE STRIPED DOLPHIN, AND THE SPOTTED DOLPHIN IN CERTAIN NATIONS

Mr. LAUTENBERG (for himself, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. SARBANES, and Mr. LIEBERMAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations::

S. RES. 99

Whereas the United States has consistently worked to increase protections for marine mammals, such as dolphins and whales, since the enactment of the Marine Mammal Protection Act of 1972 (16 U.S.C. 1361 et seq.);

Whereas dolphins and whales are found worldwide, including in both of the polar regions, throughout the high seas, and along most coastal areas;

Whereas these unique, highly social, and intelligent animals have caught the imagination of the public not only in the United States, but in many nations around the world;

Whereas the over-exploitation of small cetaceans for decades has resulted in the serious decline, and in some cases, the commercial extinction, of those species;

Whereas each year tens of thousands of small cetaceans are herded into small coves in certain nations, are slaughtered with spears and knives, and die as a result of blood loss and hemorrhagic shock;

Whereas in many cases, those responsible for the slaughter prevent documentation or data from the events from being recorded or made public;

Whereas the deficient information on hunt yields and small cetacean populations indicates a lack of commitment to maintaining sustainable populations and prevents scrutiny of humaneness of killing methods;

Whereas for at least the past 4 years toxicologists have issued warnings regarding high levels of mercury and other contaminants in meat from small cetaceans caught off coastal regions;

Whereas some nations that participate in small cetacean slaughter are members of the United Nations Convention on the Law of

the Sea, done at Montego Bay, Jamaica, December 10, 1982, and are therefore bound to honor article 65 of that Convention, which declares that ''States shall cooperate with a view to the conservation of marine mammals and in the case of cetaceans shall in particular work through the appropriate international organizations for their conservation, management, and study'';

Whereas in 1946, 14 nations adopted the International Convention for the Regulation of Whaling with schedule of whaling regulations, signed at Washington December 2, 1946 (TIAS 1849), which established the International Whaling Commission to provide for the proper conservation of whales stocks; and

Whereas the International Whaling Commission on numerous occasions has called into question the slaughter by member nations of small cetaceans, has asked for the reduction of the number of animals killed, and has in certain instances urged for the halt of the slaughter altogether, including by passing resolutions condemning drive hunts of striped dolphins in 1992 and 1993 and resolutions criticizing exploitation of Dall's porpoises in 1990, 1999, and 2001: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That it is the sense of the Senate that—

(1) the United States strongly condemns the slaughter of small cetaceans in drive fisheries and urges nations that participate in small cetacean slaughter to end commercial hunts;

(2) at the 57th Annual Meeting of the International Whaling Commission in Korea, the United States should—

(A) negotiate regional and international agreements to decrease catch and bycatch of all cetaceans;

(B) advocate for clarification that the mandate of the International Whaling Commission includes small cetaceans;

(C) call on nations that participate in small cetacean slaughter to stop their commercial hunts;

(D) seek the inclusion of an agenda item in the Working Group on Whale Killing Methods and Associated Welfare Issues on killing methods for small cetaceans and implications for the welfare of small cetaceans;

(E) strongly urge all nations that engage in small cetacean hunts—

(i) to provide detailed information to the International Whaling Commission on primary and secondary killing methods used for each species of small cetacean killed, the method used to measure insensibility or death, and times of death; and

(ii) to share with the International Whaling Commission data on the sustainability of small cetacean populations; and

(F) initiate and support efforts—

(i) to firmly support the role and authority of the newly created Conservation Committee; and

(ii) to ensure an ambitious conservation agenda for all future meetings of the Committee; and

(3) the United States should make full use of all appropriate diplomatic mechanisms, relevant international laws and agreements, Federal laws, including the Fishermen's Protective Act of 1967 (commonly known as the Pelly Amendment) (22 U.S.C. 1971 et seq.), and other appropriate means to implement these goals.

Mr. LAUTENBERG. Mr. President, I rise to submit a resolution to condemn the inhumane and unnecessary slaughter of dolphins, porpoises, and small whales that occurs in certain nations around the world.

This resolution would send the U.S. delegation to this year's International Whaling Commission meeting with the message that the slaughter of these marine mammals must be stopped, and that the commission must protect them. I am pleased to be joined by my cosponsors, Senators LEVIN, SARBANES, and LIEBERMAN.

Each year, more than 20,000 dolphins, porpoises, and small whales, which are collectively called small cetaceans, are slaughtered by methods that are beyond inhumane.

These mammals are intelligent, they live in family groups, and they feel pain. In many cases, they are herded together into small coves, where they are confined with nets. Once they are trapped, the slaughter begins.

The first step is often to slice their throats with knives, causing them to bleed to death. This slow and painful method is used because cetaceans are hard to kill, due to their natural protective layer of blubber.

Very often, processing of these mammals begins before they are even dead. They are wrenched from the water with cranes, loaded while in a state of shock into trucks, and taken to warehouses where their flesh is removed to be sold as meat. All of this can occur while the animals are still alive.

Dolphins, porpoises, and small whales are some of the most advanced animals in the world, on land or at sea. They can feel pain the same way and to the same extent humans can.

I find this treatment of these remarkable animals abhorrent and inhumane. However, the process I have described is also objectionable for several other reasons.

The meat of these animals is sold as food, often mislabeled as ''whale meat,'' which to many people suggests open-ocean large whales that are still hunted by several nations despite a worldwide moratorium.

However, the meat of small cetaceans is not large whale meat. Small cetacean meat can be very unhealthy. These small animals are more likely than large whales to live along the coast, and they are higher up in the food chain, so their bodies are often contaminated with mercury and other pollutants. Levels of contaminants in some of this meat are often much higher than what is recommended by the nations where it is sold.

Another problem is that many of these small cetacean populations are being threatened by the loss of large numbers of animals. Over-exploitation of small cetaceans has resulted in the serious decline and even the commercial extinction of some populations.

Unfortunately, it is difficult to track the take and the populations of these animals, as the people who slaughter them don't allow full, and in some cases any, documentation of the killing. Their failure to keep accurate information indicates that they lack a commitment to maintaining sustainable populations.

The International Whaling Commission (IWC) has passed at least 5 resolutions condemning these types of small cetacean slaughters. Our resolution will send the United States delegation to the next IWC meeting with the message that this issue is not forgotten.

It will also ensure that the U.S. delegation works to clarify the IWC's mission to manage and protect small cetaceans.

SENATE RESOLUTION 100—DISAPPROVING THE REQUEST OF THE PRESIDENT FOR EXTENSION UNDER SECTION 2103(C)(1)(B)(I) OF THE BIPARTISAN TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2002, OF THE TRADE PROMOTION AUTHORITIES UNDER THAT ACT

Mr. DORGAN (for himself and Mr. BYRD) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Finance:

S. RES. 100

Resolved, That the Senate disapproves the request of the President for the extension, under section 2103(c)(1)(B)(i) of the Bipartisan Trade Promotion Authority Act of 2002, of the trade authorities procedures under that Act to any implementing bill submitted with respect to any trade agreement entered into under section 2103(b) of that Act after June 30, 2005.

Mr. DORGAN. Mr. President, today I am submitting a resolution to disapprove of the extension of ''trade promotion authority,'' better known as ''fast track,'' for trade agreements.

In 2002, the U.S. Congress decided to tie its hands behind its back when it comes to international trade.

The Constitution, at Article I, Section 8, gives the Congress the power to regulate foreign commerce. But in 2002 we handed that authority to the President, and effectively gave him a blank check. We gave the President the authority to negotiate trade agreements in secret, and to bring those agreements back to the Senate for a vote, without the possibility of a single amendment being offered.

What was the result? We saw the signing of agreements like the Central American Free Trade Agreement, or CAFTA. This is an agreement that would integrate our economy with those of Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and the Dominican Republic.

Do the American people think this is a good idea? Not on your life, certainly not after what they've seen with the NAFTA deal with Mexico. CAFTA promises more of the same: U.S. jobs going overseas, as companies try to take advantage of low-wage labor in countries with no environmental controls.

If we were able to offer amendments to CAFTA, we could, for instance, have meaningful prohibitions on child or sweatshop labor, or pollution by overseas factories. Provisions that would protect American workers from having to compete with children working in filthy factories for pennies a day.

But that's not the kind of CAFTA agreement that big business wants.

They want to pole vault over basic labor and environmental laws in our country, and just move their factories to countries like Guatemala or Honduras.

I am going to lead the fight against CAFTA in the U.S. Senate. But I want to make sure that we get rid of this fast track authority that helped create this awful agreement in the first place.

Well, the legislation that gave fast track authority to the president in 2002 said that Congress would get to decide in 2005 whether to extend fast track. Any Senator can come to the floor of the Senate and offer a resolution saying that we should not extend fast track. And I am availing myself of that opportunity today.

But there is a catch. The supporters of fast track authority buried a provision in the 2002 bill, which says that the Senate does not get to vote on this resolution unless the Finance Committee first approves it. And the staff of Chairman of the Finance Committee has indicated that there is no way they are going to allow the Senate to vote on such a resolution.

I don't want to see any more agreements like CAFTA being negotiated in secret, and then brought to the U.S. Senate without the possibility of even a single amendment. So I am offering today a resolution of disapproval for extension of fast track, in accordance with the law.

And I am going to do everything I can to see to it that the Senate gets a chance to vote on this resolution, one way or another.

SENATE RESOLUTION 101—RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE DEVELOPMENT OF THE SALK POLIO VACCINE AND ITS IMPORTANCE IN ERADICATING THE INCIDENCE OF POLIO

Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Mr. SPECTER, and Mr. LAUTENBERG) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 101

Whereas the epidemic of polio struck the citizens of the United States in the early 1950s, causing thousands of cases of lingering paralysis and death;

Whereas the epidemic of polio peaked in 1952, having affected nearly 58,000 people, mainly children and young adults;

Whereas many of those affected by polio needed the assistance of mechanical ventilators in order to breathe, while others were crippled and dependent upon crutches for mobility;

Whereas University of Pittsburgh faculty member Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers developed the first vaccine against polio;

Whereas, in April 1955, the results of an unprecedented and successful nationwide clinical trial of the polio vaccine were announced;

Whereas the Salk polio vaccine was approved for widespread public use at that time; and

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the pioneering achievement of Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh in the development of the Salk polio vaccine;

(2) expresses its appreciation to—

(A) the family of Dr. Salk for the elimination of polio, a disease that caused countless deaths and disabling consequences;

(B) the members of Dr. Salk's research team; and

(C) the individuals who generously agreed to participate in clinical trials to validate the efficacy of the polio vaccine; and

(3) celebrates with the University of Pittsburgh on the 50th anniversary of the approval and use of the Salk polio vaccine.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS—APRIL 4, 2005

SA 265. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. PROHIBITION ON REDUCTION IN NUMBER OF OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT CARRIERS OF THE NAVY.

(a) PROHIBITION.—No funds appropriated or otherwise made available by this Act, or by any other Act, for fiscal year 2005 may be obligated or expended to reduce the number of operational aircraft carriers of the Navy from 12 operational aircraft carriers to 11 operational aircraft carriers.

(b) OPERATIONAL AIRCRAFT CARRIER.—In this section, the term ''operational aircraft carrier'' includes an aircraft carrier that is unavailable due to maintenance or repair.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 292. Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 293. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 294. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 295. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 296. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 297. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

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SA 300. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 301. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 302. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 303. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 304. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 305. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 306. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 307. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 308. Mr. SALAZAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 309. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KOHL, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BURR, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. MIKULSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 310. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 311. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 312. Mr. SANTORUM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 313. Mr. DAYTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 314. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 315. Mr. NELSON, of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SA 316. Mr. NELSON, of Florida (for himself and Mr. CORZINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, supra; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations.

SA 317. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes.

SA 318. Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 319. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 320. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 321. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 322. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, supra.

SA 323. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 324. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 325. Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 326. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 327. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 328. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 329. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 330. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 331. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 332. Mrs. LINCOLN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 292. Mr. SANTORUM (for himself and Ms. MIKULSKI) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 74, between lines 2 and 3, insert the following:

SEC. 603. DESIGNATION OF POLAND AS A VISA WAIVER COUNTRY.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Since the founding of the United States, Poland has proven its steadfast dedication to the causes of freedom and friendship with the United States, exemplified by the brave actions of Polish patriots such as Casimir Pulaski and Tadeusz Kosciuszko during the American Revolution.

(2) Polish history provides pioneering examples of constitutional democracy and religious tolerance.

(3) The United States is home to nearly 9,000,000 people of Polish ancestry.

(4) Polish immigrants have contributed greatly to the success of industry and agriculture in the United States.

(5) Since the demise of communism, Poland has become a stable, democratic nation.

(6) Poland has adopted economic policies that promote free markets and rapid economic growth.

(7) On March 12, 1999, Poland demonstrated its commitment to global security by becoming a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

(8) On May 1, 2004, Poland became a member state of the European Union.

(9) Poland was a staunch ally to the United States during Operation Iraqi Freedom.

(10) Poland has committed 2,300 soldiers to help with ongoing peacekeeping efforts in Iraq.

(11) The Secretary and the Secretary of Homeland Security administer the visa waiver program, which allows citizens from 27 countries, including France and Germany, to visit the United States as tourists without visas.

(12) On April 15, 1991, Poland unilaterally repealed the visa requirement for United States citizens traveling to Poland for 90 days or less.

(13) More than 100,000 Polish citizens visit the United States each year.

(b) VISA WAIVER PROGRAM.—Effective on the date of the enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding section 217(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187(c)), Poland shall be deemed a designated program country for purposes of the visa waiver program established under section 217 of such Act.

SA 293. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 266, between lines 8 and 9, insert the following:

SEC. 2736. SUSPENSION OF FUNDS.

In any case in which there is credible evidence of sexual exploitation and abuse in a country by peacekeeping troops participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations and the government of such country is not investigating or punishing such exploitation and abuse, the United States shall suspend payment of peacekeeping funds to the United Nations in an amount proportionate to the operations in that country until the Secretary of State certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the United Nations peacekeepers are prosecuted through the judicial systems of such country.

SA 294. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON UNITED NATIONS TRAVEL ALLOWANCES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report including the following:

(1) The total the travel allowances for the past 3 calendar years, by conference and nation, including meals, lodging, travel, and related expenses, paid by the United Nations and member states and non-governmental organizations for delegates and experts to all worldwide conferences under the auspices of, or affiliated with, the United Nations.

(2) A description of the means by which the amount and distribution of such travel allowances are determined.

(3) A description of the means by which such travel allowance costs are assigned for payment by member states and nongovernmental organizations to United Nations or directly to the delegates and experts.

(4) Recommendations for policies, programs, and strategies of the United States Government to ensure that fiscal efficiency in such travel allowances is improved substantially.

SA 295. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 55, line 6, strike ''Section'' and insert the following:

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section

On page 55, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

(b) CALCULATION; DIRECT PAYMENTS.—

(1) CALCULATION.—The United States shall pay its share for United Nations Peacekeepers, pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (a), as calculated at such prevailing wage as military and civilian personnel are paid in their respective member states.

(2) DIRECT PAYMENTS TO PEACEKEEPERS.—The United States' share of the payments described in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be paid directly to the military and civilian personnel engaged in peacekeeping operations; and

(B) shall not be paid to the member states, some of which—

(i) have profiteered from peacekeeping operations; or

(ii) have been derelict in payment of its military and civilian personnel engaged in peacekeeping operations.

SA 296. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 405. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON UNITED NATIONS TRANSLATION EXPENSES.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, shall submit a report to Congress that contains—

(1) for the most recent 3 calendar years, a breakdown of the total of the translation expenses of the United Nations paid by the United Nations and member states and nongovernmental organizations;

(2) a description of the means by which the amount and distribution of such translation work are determined;

(3) a description of the means by which such translation costs are assigned for payment by member states and non-governmental organizations to United Nations;

(4) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from translation into a particular languages being performed in the nation or nations where such language is autochthonous;

(5) an analysis of any cost savings possible by paying translators the prevailing wage for such work as is paid in the nation or nations where such language is autochthonous;

(6) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from translation into a more refined, smaller set of languages for any possible purposes and occasions, as such analogous initiative has been suggested for the translation work performed for the European Union; and

(7) recommendations for policies, programs, and strategies of the United States Government to ensure that fiscal efficiency in such translation expenses is improved substantially.

SA 297. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, after line 3, add the following:

SEC. 107. PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TAXES, TARIFFS, OR FEES.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to authorize the appropriation of funds for the Department of State to promote or in any way advocate for international taxes, tariffs, or fees.

SA 298. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 187, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

(c) NATIONAL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) contract with the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (referred to in this subsection as the ''NMIPT'') to review national response plans and the training of first responders; and

(B) make use of the expertise of the NMIPT in carrying out activities under subsection (a).

(2) FINDINGS.—Established in 1997 by Public Law 105–58, the NMIPT is a nonprofit nongovernmental entity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, with a mission to prevent terrorism and assist the emergency responder community. The NMIPT provides a neutral forum for discussion of the issues associated with combating terrorism and provides an excellent setting for a world-class library of resources related to terrorism. The NMIPT sponsors and works with partners to explore counterterrorism research. One of the most important functions the NMIPT performs is to provide a means for emergency first responders to share information, the foundation of which information sharing effort is a manual of lessons learned by first responders.

SA 299. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 119, strike lines 8 through 21, and insert the following:

SEC. 2106. REMOVAL OF IRAQ FROM LIST OF COUNTRIES DENIED ASSISTANCE UNDER TITLE III OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2227(a)) is amended by striking ''Iraq,''.

SA 300. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 123, line 10, strike ''$680,735,000'' and insert ''$678,705,000''.

On page 143, line 17, strike ''$18,850,000'' and insert ''$20,850,000''.

SA 301. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 58, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

(7) The United Nations has experienced a proliferation of committees that perform essentially the same functions.

On page 58, line 18, strike ''and''.

On page 59, line 4, strike the period at the end and insert ''; and''

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

(3) the Secretary should instruct any United States representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to seek to enact significant and necessary changes to improve the accountability, increase the transparency, and streamline the functioning of the United Nations processes by seeking the elimination of the Second and Third Committees of the United Nations.

SA 302. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 138, line 21, strike ''Section'' and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section

On page 139, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the Sense of the Senate that regularly scheduled dues of the United States to the United Nations for its share of peacekeeping funding should not be paid by emergency, ''off-budget'' appropriations.

SA 303. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 15, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

(d) REPORT ON ALLEGED DIVERSION OF INTENDED MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the alleged diversion of funds intended for migration and refugee assistance.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall contain—

(A) for the previous three calendar years, a breakdown of the total expenses of the United States, nongovernmental organizations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and world food aid programs incurred in providing assistance to the Saharawis and all refugees from Rwanda to Uganda and the Sudan;

(B) a description of the intended purposes of such assistance;

(C) a review of the allegations, found in European, Moroccan, and other press outlets and reported by French, Scandinavian, and other nongovernmental organizations, of the diversion of such funds to other purposes, including to the black markets in Algeria and Mauritania;

(D) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from the prevention of any such diversion;

(E) an analysis of how many lives could be saved and improved by the prevention of any such diversion; and

(F) recommendations for policies, programs, and strategies of the United States Government to prevent any such diversion.

SA 304. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by

him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 405. RENOVATION OF UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds shall be used to process any acceptance of the offer of a loan for $1,200,000,000 at 5.5 percent interest, or any other loan amount at any other interest rate, for the renovation of the United Nations building in New York, New York, until the Secretary of State certifies the falsehood of reports from approximately 6 renovation experts with particular experience in the costs of renovating high-end facilities and structures in New York, New York that the costs proposed by the United Nations for such renovation is above commercial, fair market prices.

(b) ADDITIONAL OFFERS.—In examining such reports of severely inflated cost estimates (some estimating charges in excess of 200 percent of fair market value), the Secretary shall arrange a meeting of the Bureau of International Organizations to discuss and receive written offers for the renovation of the United Nations building in New York, New York from not less than 12 different renovation enterprises or experts.

SA 305. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 405. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON UNITED NATIONS DOUBLE-DIPPING.

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, shall submit a report, to the appropriate congressional committees and to United States Senator James Inhofe, that contains—

(1) for the most recent 3 calendar years, a breakdown of any and all monies paid concurrently by the United Nations to individuals in multiple capacities (commonly known as ''double-dipping'');

(2) a description of the means by which the decision to pay such monies are determined;

(3) a description of the means by which such costs are assigned for payment to the United Nations by member states and nongovernmental organizations;

(4) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from the elimination of the practice of ''double-dipping'';

(5) an analysis of any possible disincentives that can result from paying 2 or more revenue streams or salaries to an individual at once, including the United Nations Mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia; and

(6) recommendations for Federal policies, programs, and strategies to ensure that fiscal efficiency is achieved regarding ''double-dipping''.

SA 306. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 220, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(8) The United Nations Children's Fund, Maranatha Chapel, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, reports from international human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch's 1997 report, ''The Scars of Death: Children Abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda'', and Amnesty International's 1997 report, ''UGANDA: BREAKING GOD'S COMMANDS: THE DESTRUCTION OF CHILDHOOD BY THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY'', the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State's report ''COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES–2000'', and others have identified an international crisis involving a group named the Lord's Resistance Army, which is active in northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

(9) Since 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army has conducted a terror campaign against the people of Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan in an effort to overthrow the government of Uganda. The terror is still occurring in 2005, with recent abductions of children and adults and mutilation of those abducted through dismemberment.

On page 221, line 8, insert ''the atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army and'' after ''combat''.

On page 222, line 21, strike ''abuses and to'' and all that follows through line 22, and insert ''abuses, with specific attention to the atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army, and to increase independent judicial capacity in Sudan, Burundi,''.

On page 22, after line 24, add the following:

(d) REPORT ON LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN UGANDA.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, shall submit a report to Congress that contains an analysis of—

(1) the effect the guerilla type warfare described in subsection (a)(8) has had both physically and psychologically on the people of the region;

(2) action that could be taken by the international community, or by the United States, with Uganda to end this terror on the Acholi people;

(3) the reasons that so little has been done by the international community to address this situation; and

(4) the action taken by United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations to relieve this crisis.

SA 307. Mr. INHOFE submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peach Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, between lines 9 and 10, insert the following:

(d) REPORT TO CONGRESS ON UNITED NATIONS TRAVEL ALLOWANCES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report including the following:

(1) The total the travel allowances for the past 3 calendar years, by conference and nation, including meals, lodging, travel, and related expenses, paid by the United Nations and member states and non-governmental organizations for delegates and experts to all worldwide conferences under the auspices of, or affiliated with, the United Nations.

(2) A description of the means by which the amount and distribution of such travel allowances are determined.

(3) A description of the means by which such travel allowance costs are assigned for payment by member states and nongovernmental organizations to United Nations or directly to the delegates and experts.

(4) Recommendations for policies, programs, and strategies of the United States Government to ensure that fiscal efficiency in such travel allowances is improved substantially.

On page 14, between lines 22 and 23, insert the following:

(d) REPORT ON ALLEGED DIVERSION OF INTENDED MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the alleged diversion of funds intended for migration and refugee assistance.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall contain—

(A) for the previous three calendar years, a breakdown of the total expenses of the United States, nongovernmental organizations, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, and world food aid programs incurred in providing assistance to the Saharawis and all refugees from Rwanda to Uganda and the Sudan;

(B) a description of the intended purposes of such assistance;

(C) a review of the allegations, found in European, Moroccan, and other press outlets and reported by French, Scandinavian, and other nongovernmental organizations, of the diversion of such funds to other purposes, including to the black markets in Algeria and Mauritania;

(D) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from the prevention of any such diversion;

(E) an analysis of how many lives could be saved and improved by the prevention of any such diversion; and

(F) recommendations for policies, programs, and strategies of the United States Government to prevent any such diversion.

On page 15, after line 22, add the following:

SEC. 107. PROMOTION OF INTERNATIONAL TAXES, TARIFFS, OR FEES.

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to authorize the appropriation of funds for the Department of State to promote or in any way advocate for international taxes, tariffs, or fees.

On page 55, line 6, strike ''Section'' and insert the following:

(a) AMENDMENT.—Section

On page 55, between lines 11 and 12, insert the following:

(b) CALCULATION; DIRECT PAYMENTS.—

(1) CALCULATION.—The United States shall pay its share for United Nations Peacekeepers, pursuant to the amendment made by subsection (a), as calculated at such prevailing wage as military and civilian personnel are paid in their respective member states.

(2) DIRECT PAYMENTS TO PEACEKEEPERS.—The United States' share of the payments described in paragraph (1)—

(A) shall be paid directly to the military and civilian personnel engaged in peacekeeping operations; and

(B) shall not be paid to the member states, some of which—

(i) have profiteered from peacekeeping operations; or

(ii) have been derelict in payment of its military and civilian personnel engaged in peacekeeping operations.

On page 58, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

(7) The United Nations has experienced a proliferation of committees that perform essentially the same functions.

On page 58, line 18, strike ''and''.

On page 59, line 4, strike the period at the end and insert ''; and''

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

(3) the Secretary should instruct any United States representative to the United Nations to use the voice and vote of the United States to seek to enact significant and necessary changes to improve the accountability, increase the transparency, and streamline the functioning of the United Nations processes by seeking the elimination of the Second and Third Committees of the United Nations.

SEC. 405. REPORTS TO CONGRESS ON UNITED NATIONS TRANSLATION EXPENSES AND DOUBLE-DIPPING.

(a) UNITED NATIONS TRANSLATION EXPENSES.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, shall submit a report to Congress that contains—

(1) for the most recent 3 calendar years, a breakdown of the total of the translation expenses of the United Nations paid by the United Nations and member states and nongovernmental organizations;

(2) a description of the means by which the amount and distribution of such translation work are determined;

(3) a description of the means by which such translation costs are assigned for payment by member states and non-governmental organizations to United Nations;

(4) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from translation into a particular languages being performed in the nation or nations where such language is autochthonous;

(5) an analysis of any cost savings possible by paying translators the prevailing wage for such work as is paid in the nation or nations where such language is autochthonous;

(6) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from translation into a more refined, smaller set of languages for any possible purposes and occasions, as such analogous initiative has been suggested for the translation work performed for the European Union; and

(7) recommendations for policies, programs, and strategies of the United States Government to ensure that fiscal efficiency in such translation expenses is improved substantially.

(b) DOUBLE-DIPPING.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees and to United States Senator James Inhofe that contains—

(1) for the most recent 3 calendar years, a breakdown of any and all monies paid concurrently by the United Nations to individuals in multiple capacities (commonly known as ''double-dipping'');

(2) a description of the means by which the decision to pay such monies are determined;

(3) a description of the means by which such costs are assigned for payment to the United Nations by member states and nongovernmental organizations;

(4) an analysis of any possibility for cost savings resulting from the elimination of the practice of ''double-dipping'';

(5) an analysis of any possible disincentives that can result from paying 2 or more revenue streams or salaries to an individual at once, including the United Nations Mission to Eritrea and Ethiopia;

(6) recommendations for Federal policies, programs, and strategies to ensure that fiscal efficiency is achieved regarding ''double-dipping''.

SEC. 406. RENOVATION OF UNITED NATIONS BUILDING IN NEW YORK CITY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no Federal funds shall be used to process any acceptance of the offer of a loan for $1,200,000,000 at 5.5 percent interest, or any other loan amount at any other interest rate, for the renovation of the United Nations building in New York, New York, until the Secretary of State certifies the falsehood of reports from approximately 6 renovation experts with particular experience in the costs of renovating high-end facilities and structures in New York, New York that the costs proposed by the United Nations for such renovation is above commercial, fair market prices.

(b) ADDITIONAL OFFERS.—In examining such reports of severely inflated cost estimates (some estimating charges in excess of 200 percent of fair market value), the Secretary shall arrange a meeting of the Bureau of International Organizations to discuss and receive written offers for the renovation of the United Nations building in New York, New York from not less than 12 different renovation enterprises or experts.

On page 119, strike lines 8 through 21, and insert the following:

SEC. 2106. REMOVAL OF IRAQ FROM LIST OF COUNTRIES DENIED ASSISTANCE UNDER TITLE III OF FOREIGN ASSISTANCE ACT OF 1961.

Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2227(a)) is amended by striking ''Iraq,''. Section 307(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2227(a)) is amended by striking ''Iraq,''.

On page 123, line 10, strike ''$680,735,000'' and insert ''$678,705,000''.

On page 138, line 21, strike ''Section'' and insert the following:

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section

On page 139, between lines 3 and 4, insert the following:

(b) SENSE OF THE SENATE.—It is the Sense of the Senate that regularly scheduled dues of the United States to the United Nations for its share of peacekeeping funding shall not be paid by emergency, ''off-budget'' appropriations.

On page 143, line 17, strike ''$18,850,000'' and insert ''$20,850,000''.

On page 187, between lines 14 and 15, insert the following:

(c) NATIONAL MEMORIAL INSTITUTE FOR THE PREVENTION OF TERRORISM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall—

(A) contract with the National Memorial Institute for the Prevention of Terrorism (referred to in this subsection as the ''NMIPT'') to review national response plans and the training of first responders; and

(B) make use of the expertise of the NMIPT in carrying out activities under subsection (a).

(2) FINDINGS.—Established in 1997 by Public Law 105–58, the NMIPT is a nonprofit nongovernmental entity under section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, with a mission to prevent terrorism and assist the emergency responder community. The NMIPT provides a neutral forum for discussion of the issues associated with combating terrorism and provides an excellent setting for a world-class library of resources related to terrorism. The NMIPT sponsors and works with partners to explore counterterrorism research. One of the most important functions the NMIPT performs is to provide a means for emergency first responders to share information, the foundation of which information sharing effort is a manual of lessons learned by first responders.

On page 220, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(8) The United Nations Children's Fund, Maranatha Chapel, the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars, reports from international human rights organizations, including Human Rights Watch's 1997 report, ''The Scars of Death: Children Abducted by the Lord's Resistance Army in Uganda'', and Amnesty International's 1997 report, ''UGANDA: BREAKING GOD'S COMMANDS: THE DESTRUCTION OF CHILDHOOD BY THE LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY'', the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of State's report ''COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES–2000'', and others have identified an international crisis involving a group named the Lord's Resistance Army, which is active in northern Uganda and southern Sudan.

(9) Since 1987, the Lord's Resistance Army has conducted a terror campaign against the people of Northern Uganda and Southern Sudan in an effort to overthrow the government of Uganda. The terror is still occurring in 2005, with recent abductions of children and adults and mutilation of those abducted through dismemberment.

On page 221, line 8, insert ''the atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army and'' after ''combat''.

On page 222, line 21, strike ''abuses and to'' and all that follows through line 22, and insert ''abuses, with specific attention to the atrocities committed by the Lord's Resistance Army, and to increase independent judicial capacity in Sudan, Burundi,''.

On page 22, after line 24, add the following:

(d) REPORT ON LORD'S RESISTANCE ARMY OPERATIONS IN NORTHERN UGANDA.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, through the International Organizations Bureau of the Department of State, shall submit a report to Congress that contains an analysis of—

(1) the effect the guerilla type warfare described in subsection (a)(8) has had both physically and psychologically on the people of the region;

(2) action that could be taken by the international community, or by the United States, with Uganda to end this terror on the Acholi people;

(3) the reasons that so little has been done by the international community to address this situation;

(4) the action taken by United Nations agencies and nongovernmental organizations to relieve this crisis.

On page 266, between lines 8 and line, insert the following:

SEC. 2736. SUSPENSION OF FUNDS.

In any case in which there is credible evidence of sexual exploitation and abuse in a country by peacekeeping troops participating in United Nations peacekeeping operations and the government of such country is not investigating or punishing such exploitation and abuse, the United States shall suspend payment of peacekeeping funds to the United Nations in an amount proportionate to the operations in that country

until the Secretary of State certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the United Nations peacekeepers are prosecuted through the judicial systems of such country.

SA 308. Mr. SALAZAR proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 812. INTERNATIONAL POLICE TRAINING.

(a) REQUIREMENTS FOR INSTRUCTORS.—Prior to carrying out any program of training for police or security forces through the Bureau that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that—

(1) such training is provided by instructors who have proven records of experience in training law enforcement or security personnel;

(2) the Bureau has established procedures to ensure that the individual who receive such training—

(A) do not have a criminal background;

(B) are not connected to any criminal or insurgent group;

(C) are not connected to drug traffickers; and

(D) meet the minimum age and experience standards set out in appropriate international agreements; and

(3) the Bureau has established procedures that—

(A) clearly establish the standards an individual who will receive such training must meet;

(B) clearly establish the training courses that will permit the individual to meet such standards; and

(C) provide for certification of an individual who meets such standards.

(b) ADVISORY BOARD.—The Secretary shall establish an advisory board of 10 experts to advise the Bureau on issues related to cost efficiency and professional efficacy of police and security training programs. The board shall have not less than 5 members who are experienced United States law enforcement personnel.

(c) BUREAU DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''Bureau'' means the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than September 30 of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a report on the training for international police or security forces conducted by the Bureau. Such report shall include the attrition rates of the instructors of such training and indicators of job performance of such instructors.

SA 309. Mr. SCHUMER (for himself, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. BAYH, Mr. BUNNING, Mr. DODD, Mrs. DOLE, Mr. FEINGOLD, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. KOHL, Mr. REID, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. DEWINE, Mr. BURR, Mr. JOHNSON, and Ms. MIKULSKI) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 277, after line 8, add the following:

TITLE XXIX—CURRENCY VALUATION

SEC. 2901. NEGOTIATIONS REGARDING CURRENCY VALUATION.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The currency of the People's Republic of China, known as the yuan or renminbi, is artificially pegged at a level significantly below its market value. Economists estimate the yuan to be undervalued by between 15 percent and 40 percent or an average of 27.5 percent.

(2) The undervaluation of the yuan provides the People's Republic of China with a significant trade advantage by making exports less expensive for foreign consumers and by making foreign products more expensive for Chinese consumers. The effective result is a significant subsidization of China's exports and a virtual tariff on foreign imports.

(3) The Government of the People's Republic of China has intervened in the foreign exchange markets to hold the value of the yuan within an artificial trading range. China's foreign reserves are estimated to be over $609,900,000,000 as of January 12, 2005, and have increased by over $206,700,000,000 in the last 12 months.

(4) China's undervalued currency, China's trade advantage from that undervaluation, and the Chinese Government's intervention in the value of its currency violates the spirit and letter of the world trading system of which the People's Republic of China is now a member.

(5) The Government of the People's Republic of China has failed to promptly address concerns or to provide a definitive timetable for resolution of these concerns raised by the United States and the international community regarding the value of its currency.

(6) Article XXI of the GATT 1994 (as defined in section 2(1)(B) of the Uruguay Round Agreements Act (19 U.S.C. 3501(1)(B))) allows a member of the World Trade Organization to take any action which it considers necessary for the protection of its essential security interests. Protecting the United States manufacturing sector is essential to the interests of the United States.

(b) NEGOTIATIONS AND CERTIFICATION REGARDING THE CURRENCY VALUATION POLICY OF THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the provisions of title I of Public Law 106–286 (19 U.S.C. 2431 note), on and after the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, unless a certification described in paragraph (2) has been made to Congress, in addition to any other duty, there shall be imposed a rate of duty of 27.5 percent ad valorem on any article that is the growth, product, or manufacture of the People's Republic of China, imported directly or indirectly into the United States.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—The certification described in this paragraph means a certification by the President to Congress that the People's Republic of China is no longer acquiring foreign exchange reserves to prevent the appreciation of the rate of exchange between its currency and the United States dollar for purposes of gaining an unfair competitive advantage in international trade. The certification shall also include a determination that the currency of the People's Republic of China has undergone a substantial upward revaluation placing it at or near its fair market value.

(3) ALTERNATIVE CERTIFICATION.—If the President certifies to Congress 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act that the People's Republic of China has made a good faith effort to revalue its currency upward placing it at or near its fair market value, the President may delay the imposition of the tariffs described in paragraph (1) for an additional 180 days. If at the end of the 180-day period the President determines that China has developed and started actual implementation of a plan to revalue its currency, the President may delay imposition of the tariffs for an additional 12 months, so that the People's Republic of China shall have time to implement the plan.

(4) NEGOTIATIONS.—Beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the United States Trade Representative, shall begin negotiations with the People's Republic of China to ensure that the People's Republic of China adopts a process that leads to a substantial upward currency revaluation within 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act. Because various Asian governments have also been acquiring substantial foreign exchange reserves in an effort to prevent appreciation of their currencies for purposes of gaining an unfair competitive advantage in international trade, and because the People's Republic of China has concerns about the value of those currencies, the Secretary shall also seek to convene a multilateral summit to discuss exchange rates with representatives of various Asian governments and other interested parties, including representatives of other G–7 nations.

SA 310. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 274, beginning on line 21, strike ''Committees'' and all that follows through ''Representatives'' on line 24 and insert the following: ''Committees on Foreign Relations, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the Senate and the Committees on International Relations, Armed Services, and Appropriations of the House of Representatives''.

SA 311. Mr. WARNER submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Beginning on page 212, strike line 14 and all that follows through page 218, line 2, and insert the following:

''SEC. 403. (a) REPORT ON OBJECTIVES AND NEGOTIATIONS.—Not later than April 15 of each year, the President shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate a report prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Director of National Intelligence, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, on the status of United States policy and actions with respect to arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament. Such report shall include—

''(1) a detailed statement concerning the arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament objectives of the executive branch of Government for the forthcoming year; and

''(2) a detailed assessment of the status of any ongoing arms control, nonproliferation, or disarmament negotiations, including a comprehensive description of negotiations or other activities during the preceding year and an appraisal of the status and prospects for the forthcoming year.

''(b) REPORT ON COMPLIANCE.—Not later than April 15 of each year, the President shall submit to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate a report prepared by the Secretary of State with the concurrence of the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency and in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of Energy, and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on the status of United States policy and actions with respect to arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament compliance. Such report shall include—

''(1) a detailed assessment of adherence of the United States to obligations undertaken in arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament agreements, including information on the policies and organization of each relevant agency or department of the United States to ensure adherence to such obligations, a description of national security programs with a direct bearing on questions of adherence to such obligations and of steps being taken to ensure adherence, and a compilation of any substantive questions raised during the preceding year and any corrective action taken;

''(2) a detailed assessment of the adherence of other nations to obligations undertaken in all arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament agreements or commitments, including the Missile Technology Control Regime, to which the United States is a participating state, including information on actions taken by each nation with regard to the size, structure, and disposition of its military forces in order to comply with arms control, nonproliferation, or disarmament agreements or commitments, including, in the case of each agreement or commitment about which compliance questions exist—

''(A) a description of each significant issue raised and efforts made and contemplated with the other participating state to seek resolution of the difficulty;

''(B) an assessment of damage, if any, to United States security and other interests;

''(C) recommendations as to any steps that should be considered to redress any damage to United States national security and to reduce compliance problems; and

''(D) for states that are not parties to such agreements or commitments, a description of activities of concern carried out by such states and efforts underway to bring such states into adherence with such agreements or commitments;

''(3) a discussion of any material noncompliance by foreign governments with their binding commitments to the United States with respect to the prevention of the spread of nuclear explosive devices (as defined in section 830(4) of the Nuclear Proliferation Prevention Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6305(4)) by non-nuclear-weapon states (as defined in section 830(5) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 6305(5)) or the acquisition by such states of unsafeguarded special nuclear material (as defined in section 830(8) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 6305(8)), including—

''(A) a net assessment of the aggregate military significance of all such violations;

''(B) a statement of the compliance policy of the United States with respect to violations of those commitments; and

''(C) what actions, if any, the President has taken or proposes to take to bring any country committing such a violation into compliance with those commitments; and

''(4) a specific identification, to the maximum extent practicable in unclassified form, of each and every question that exists with respect to compliance by other countries with arms control, nonproliferation, and disarmament agreements and other formal commitments with the United States.

''(c) CHEMICAL WEAPONS CONVENTION COMPLIANCE REPORT REQUIREMENT SATISFIED.—The report submitted pursuant to subsection (b) shall include the information required under section 2(10)(C) of Senate Resolution 75, 105th Congress, agreed to April 24, 1997, advising and consenting to the ratification of the Convention on the Prohibition of Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction, with annexes, done at Paris January 13, 1993 and entered into force April 29, 1997 (popularly known as the 'Chemical Weapons Convention'; T.Doc. 103–21)

''(d) CLASSIFICATION OF REPORT.—The reports required by this section shall be submitted in unclassified form, with classified annexes, as appropriate. The report portions described in paragraphs (2) and (3) of subsection (b) shall summarize in detail, at least in classified annexes, the information, analysis, and conclusions relevant to possible noncompliance by other countries that are provided by United States intelligence agencies.

''(e) REPORTING CONSECUTIVE NONCOMPLIANCE.—If the President in consecutive reports submitted to the Congress under subsection (b) reports that any country is not in full compliance with its binding nonproliferation commitments to the United States, then the President shall include in the second such report an assessment of what actions are necessary to compensate for such violations.

''(f) ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENT.—Each report required by subsection (b) shall include a discussion of each significant issue described in subsection (b)(4) that was contained in a previous report issued under this section during 1995, or after December 31, 1995, until the question or concern has been resolved and such resolution has been reported in detail to the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate and the Committee on International Relations, the Committee on Armed Services, and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives.''.

SA 312. Mr. SANTORUM submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 277, after line 8, add the following:

TITLE XXIX—SUPPORT FOR TRANSITION TO DEMOCRACY IN IRAN

SEC. 2901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Iran Freedom and Support Act of 2005''.

Subtitle A—Codification of Sanctions Against Iran

SEC. 2911. CODIFICATION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) CODIFICATION OF SANCTIONS RELATED TO WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION.—United States sanctions, controls, and regulations relating to weapons of mass destruction with respect to Iran, as in effect on the date of the enactment of this title, shall remain in effect until the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Iran has permanently and verifiably dismantled its weapons of mass destruction programs and has committed to combating the proliferation of such weapons.

(b) NO EFFECT ON OTHER SANCTIONS RELATING TO SUPPORT FOR ACTS OF INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding a certification by the President under subsection (a), United States sanctions, controls, and regulations described in paragraph (2) as in effect on the date of the enactment of this title shall remain in effect.

(2) COVERED SANCTIONS.—The sanctions, controls, and regulations referred to in paragraph (1) are sanctions, controls, and regulations related to determinations under section 6(j)(1)(A) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (as in effect pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act; 50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), section 620A(a) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371(a)), and section 40(d) of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780(d)) regarding support by the Government of Iran for acts of international terrorism.

Subtitle B—Amendments to the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996

SEC. 2921. MULTILATERAL REGIME.

(a) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Section 4(b) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of the Iran Freedom and Support Act of 2005 and every six months thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report regarding specific diplomatic efforts undertaken pursuant to subsection (a), the results of those efforts, and a description of proposed diplomatic efforts pursuant to such subsection. Each report shall include—

''(1) a list of the countries that have agreed to undertake measures to further the objectives of section 3(a);

''(2) a description of those measures, including—

''(A) government actions with respect to public or private entities (or their subsidiaries) located in their countries that are engaged in business in Iran;

''(B) any decisions by the governments of such countries to rescind or continue the provision of credits, guarantees, or other governmental assistance to such entities; and

''(C) actions taken in international fora to further the objectives of section 3;

''(3) a list of the countries that have not agreed to undertake measures to further the objectives of section 3 with respect to Iran, and the reasons therefor; and

''(4) a description of any memorandums of understanding, political understandings, or international agreements to which the United States has acceded which affect implementation of this section or section 5(a).''.

(b) WAIVER.—Section 4(c) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(c) WAIVER.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may, on a case by case basis, waive for a period of not more than six months the application of section 5(a) with respect to a national of a country, if the President certifies to the appropriate congressional committees at least 30 days before such waiver is to take effect that—

''(A) such waiver is vital to the national security of the United States; and

''(B) the country of the national has undertaken substantial measures to prevent the acquisition and development of weapons of mass destruction by the Government of Iran.

''(2) SUBSEQUENT RENEWAL OF WAIVER.—If the President determines that a renewal of a waiver is appropriate, the President may, at the conclusion of the period of a waiver under paragraph (1), renew such waiver for a subsequent period of not more than six months.''.

SEC. 2922. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES.—Section 5(a) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking ''TO IRAN'' and inserting ''TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF PETROLEUM RESOURCES OF IRAN'';

(2) by striking ''(6)'' and inserting ''(5)''; and

(3) by striking ''with actual knowledge,''.

(b) SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OR OTHER MILITARY CAPABILITIES.—Section 5(b) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended to read as follows:

''(b) MANDATORY SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO DEVELOPMENT OF WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION OR OTHER MILITARY CAPABILITIES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the President shall impose two or more of the sanctions described in paragraphs (1) through (5) of section 6 if the President determines that a person has, on or after the date of the enactment of the Iran Freedom and Support Act of 2005, exported, transferred, or otherwise provided to Iran any goods, services, technology, or other items the provision of which has contributed to the ability of Iran to—

''(1) acquire or develop chemical, biological, or nuclear weapons or related technologies; or

''(2) acquire or develop destabilizing numbers and types of advanced conventional weapons.''.

(c) PERSONS AGAINST WHICH THE SANCTIONS ARE TO BE IMPOSED.—Section 5(c)(2) of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (B), by striking ''or'' at the end;

(2) in subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

''(D) is a private or government lender, insurer, underwriter, re-insurer, or guarantor of the person referred to in paragraph (1) if that private or government lender, insurer, underwriter, re-insurer, or guarantor, with actual knowledge, engaged in the activities referred to in paragraph (1).''.

(d) INVESTIGATIONS.—Section 5 of such Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is further amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(g) INVESTIGATIONS.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Upon public or private disclosure of activity related to investment in Iran by a person, the President shall direct the Secretary of the Treasury to initiate an investigation into the possible imposition of sanctions against such person as a result of such activity, to notify such person of such investigation, and to provide a recommendation to the President for such purposes.

''(2) DETERMINATION AND NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the disclosure of the activity described in paragraph (1), the President shall determine whether or not to impose sanctions against such person as a result of such activity and shall notify the appropriate congressional committees of the basis for such determination.

''(3) PUBLICATION.—Not later than 10 days after the President notifies the appropriate congressional committees under paragraph (2), the President shall ensure publication in the Federal Register of—

''(A) the identification of the persons against which the President has made a determination that the imposition of sanctions is appropriate, together with an explanation for such determination; and

''(B) the identification of the persons against which the President has made a determination that the imposition of sanctions is not appropriate, together with an explanation for such determination.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—Sanctions imposed pursuant to the amendments made by this section shall apply with respect to investments made in Iran on or after the date of the enactment of this title.

SEC. 2923. TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.

(a) REMOVAL OF LIBYA SANCTIONS.—Section 8 of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking the subsection designation and heading; and

(2) by striking subsection (b).

(b) ADDITIONAL CONDITION FOR REMOVAL OF IRAN SANCTIONS.—Such section, as amended by subsection (a), is further amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(C), by striking ''and'' at the end;

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking the period at the end and inserting ''; and''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

''(3) poses no threat to United States national security, interests, or allies.''.

SEC. 2924. SUNSET.

Section 13 of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) in the section heading, by striking ''**; SUNSET**'';

(2) in subsection (a), by striking the subsection designation and heading; and

(3) by striking subsection (b).

SEC. 2925. CLARIFICATION AND EXPANSION OF DEFINITIONS.

(a) PERSON.—Section 14(14)(B) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended—

(1) by inserting after ''trust'' the following: '', financial institution, insurer, underwriter, re-insurer, guarantor''; and

(2) by striking ''operating as a business enterprise''.

(b) PETROLEUM RESOURCES.—Section 14(15) of the Iran and Libya Sanctions Act of 1996 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note) is amended by inserting after ''includes petroleum'' the following: '', petroleum by-products,''.

Subtitle C—Democracy in Iran

SEC. 2931. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The people of the United States have long demonstrated an interest in the well-being of the people of Iran, dating back to the 1830s.

(2) Famous Americans such as Howard Baskerville, Dr. Samuel Martin, Jane E. Doolittle, and Louis G. Dreyfus, Jr., made significant contributions to Iranian society by furthering the educational opportunities of the people of Iran and improving the opportunities of the less fortunate citizens of Iran.

(3) Iran and the United States were allies following World War II, and through the late 1970s Iran was as an important regional ally of the United States and a key bulwark against Soviet influence.

(4) In November 1979, following the arrival of Mohammed Reza Shah Pahlavi in the United States, a mob of students and extremists seized the United States Embassy in Tehran, Iran, holding United States diplomatic personnel hostage until January 1981.

(5) Following the seizure of the United States Embassy, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, leader of the repressive revolutionary movement in Iran, expressed support for the actions of the students in taking American citizens hostage.

(6) Despite the presidential election of May 1997, an election in which an estimated 91 percent of the electorate participated, control of the internal and external affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran is still exercised by the courts in Iran and the Revolutionary Guards, Supreme Leader, and Council of Guardians of the Government of Iran.

(7) The election results of the May 1997 election and the high level of voter participation in that election demonstrate that the people of Iran favor economic and political reforms and greater interaction with the United States and the Western world in general.

(8) Efforts by the United States to improve relations with Iran have been rebuffed by the Government of Iran.

(9) The Clinton Administration eased sanctions against Iran and promoted people-to-people exchanges, but the Leader of the Islamic Revolution Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, the Militant Clerics' Society, the Islamic Coalition Organization, and Supporters of the Party of God have all opposed efforts to open Iranian society to Western influences and have opposed efforts to change the dynamic of relations between the United States and Iran.

(10) For the past two decades, the Department of State has found Iran to be the leading sponsor of international terrorism in the world.

(11) In 1983, the Iran-sponsored Hezbollah terrorist organization conducted suicide terrorist operations against United States military and civilian personnel in Beirut, Lebanon, resulting in the deaths of hundreds of Americans.

(12) The United States intelligence community and law enforcement personnel have linked Iran to attacks against American military personnel at Khobar Towers in Saudi Arabia in 1996 and to al Qaeda attacks against civilians in Saudi Arabia in 2004.

(13) According to the Department of State's Patterns of Global Terrorism 2001 report, ''Iran's Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps and Ministry of Intelligence and Security continued to be involved in the planning and support of terrorist acts and supported a variety of groups that use terrorism to pursue their goals,'' and ''Iran continued to provide Lebanese Hizballah and the Palestinian rejectionist groups—notably HAMAS, the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and the [Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command]—with varying amounts of funding, safehaven, training and weapons.''

(14) Iran currently operates more than 10 radio and television stations broadcasting in Iraq that incite violent actions against United States and coalition personnel in Iraq.

(15) The current leaders of Iran, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei and Hashemi Rafsanjani, have repeatedly called upon Muslims to kill Americans in Iraq and install a theocratic regime in Iraq.

(16) The Government of Iran has admitted pursuing a clandestine nuclear program, which the United States intelligence community believes may include a nuclear weapons program.

(17) The Government of Iran has failed to meet repeated pledges to arrest and extradite foreign terrorists in Iran.

(18) The United States Government believes that the Government of Iran supports terrorists and extremist religious leaders in Iraq with the clear intention of subverting

coalition efforts to bring peace and democracy to Iraq.

(19) The Ministry of Defense of Iran confirmed in July 2003 that it had successfully conducted the final test of the Shahab-3 missile, giving Iran an operational intermediate-range ballistic missile capable of striking both Israel and United States troops throughout the Middle East and Afghanistan.

SEC. 2932. DECLARATION OF CONGRESS REGARDING UNITED STATES POLICY TOWARD IRAN.

Congress declares that it should be the policy of the United States—

(1) to support efforts by the people of Iran to exercise self-determination over the form of government of their country; and

(2) to actively support a national referendum in Iran with oversight by international observers and monitors to certify the integrity and fairness of the referendum.

SEC. 2933. ASSISTANCE TO SUPPORT DEMOCRACY IN IRAN.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The President is authorized, notwithstanding any other provision of law, to provide financial and political assistance (including the award of grants) to foreign and domestic individuals, organizations, and entities that support democracy and the promotion of democracy in Iran. Such assistance may include the award of grants to eligible independent pro-democracy radio and television broadcasting organizations that broadcast into Iran.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS ON ELIGIBILITY FOR ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that financial and political assistance under this section be provided to an individual, organization, or entity that—

(1) opposes the use of terrorism;

(2) advocates the adherence by Iran to nonproliferation regimes for nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons and materiel;

(3) is dedicated to democratic values and supports the adoption of a democratic form of government in Iran;

(4) is dedicated to respect for human rights, including the fundamental equality of women;

(5) works to establish equality of opportunity for people; and

(6) supports freedom of the press, freedom of speech, freedom of association, and freedom of religion.

(c) FUNDING.—The President may provide assistance under this section using amounts made available pursuant to the authorization of appropriations under subsection (g).

(d) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 15 days before each obligation of assistance under this section, and in accordance with the procedures under section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–l), the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING COORDINATION OF POLICY AND APPOINTMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that in order to ensure maximum coordination among Federal agencies, if the President provides the assistance under this section, the President should appoint an individual who shall—

(1) serve as special assistant to the President on matters relating to Iran; and

(2) coordinate among the appropriate directors of the National Security Council on issues regarding such matters.

(f) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING DIPLOMATIC ASSISTANCE.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) support for a transition to democracy in Iran should be expressed by United States representatives and officials in all appropriate international fora;

(2) representatives of the Government of Iran should be denied access to all United States Government buildings;

(3) efforts to bring a halt to the nuclear weapons program of Iran, including steps to end the supply of nuclear components or fuel to Iran, should be intensified, with particular attention focused on the cooperation regarding such program—

(A) between the Government of Iran and the Government of the Russian Federation; and

(B) between the Government of Iran and individuals from China, Malaysia, and Pakistan, including the network of Dr. Abdul Qadeer (A. Q.) Khan; and

(4) officials and representatives of the United States should—

(A) strongly and unequivocally support indigenous efforts in Iran calling for free, transparent, and democratic elections; and

(B) draw international attention to violations by the Government of Iran of human rights, freedom of religion, freedom of assembly, and freedom of the press.

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Department of State $10,000,000 to carry out activities under this section.

SEC. 2934. REPORTING REQUIREMENT REGARDING DESIGNATION OF DEMOCRATIC OPPOSITION ORGANIZATIONS.

Not later than 15 days before designating a democratic opposition organization as eligible to receive assistance under section 2932, the President shall notify the appropriate congressional committees and the Committees on Appropriations of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the proposed designation. The notification may be in classified form.

SA 313. Mr. DAYTON submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 110, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following:

SEC. 812. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON MEMBERSHIP OF ISRAEL IN THE WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP AT THE UNITED NATIONS.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The election of member states of the United Nations to the major bodies of the United Nations is determined by groups organized within the United Nations, most of which are organized on a regional basis.

(2) Israel has been refused admission to the group comprised of member states from the Asian geographical region of the United Nations and is the only member state of the United Nations that remains outside its appropriate geographical region, and is thus denied full participation in the day-to-day work of the United Nations.

(3) On May 30, 2000, Israel accepted an invitation to become a temporary member of the Western European and Others Group of the United Nations.

(4) On May 21, 2004, Israel's membership to the Western European and Others Group was extended indefinitely.

(5) Israel is only allowed to participate in limited activities of the Western European and Others Group in the New York office of the United Nations, is excluded from discussions and consultations of the Group at the United Nations offices in Geneva, Nairobi, Rome, and Vienna, and, may not participate in United Nations conferences on human rights, racism, or other issues held in such locations.

(6) Membership in the Western European and Others Group includes the non-European countries of Canada, Australia, and the United States.

(7) Israel is linked to the member states of the Western European and Others Group by strong economic, political, and cultural ties.

(8) The Western European and Others Group, the only regional group of the United Nations that is not purely geographical, is comprised of countries that share a western democratic tradition.

(9) Israel is a free and democratic country and its voting pattern in the United Nations is consistent with that of the member states of the Western European and Others Group.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should direct the United States Permanent Representative to the United Nations to seek an immediate end to the persistent and deplorable inequality experienced by Israel in the United Nations;

(2) Israel should be afforded the benefits of full membership in the Western European and Others Group at the United Nations and such membership would permit Israel to participate fully in the United Nations system and would serve the interests of the United States; and

(3) the Secretary should submit to Congress, on a regular basis, a report that describes actions taken by the United States Government to encourage the member states of the Western European and Others Group to accept Israel as a full member of such Group and the responses of such member states to those actions.

SA 314. Mr. FEINGOLD submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VIII, insert the following:

SEC. 812. ASSESSMENTS AND STRATEGIC PLANNING FOR AIDS RELIEF.

(a) ASSESSMENTS.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally shall carry out an assessment of health sector workforce capacity in each of the countries described in section 1(f)(2)(B)(ii)(VII) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(f)(2)(B)(ii)(VII)). Each such assessment shall include a description of—

(A) the health sector workforce capacity required by the country to reach the goals of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 (22 U.S.C. 7601 et seq.) by 2008; and

(B) the health sector human resources required to meet internationally recognized goals related to infectious disease prevention and the promotion of maternal and child health.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the assessments required by paragraph (1).

(b) STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Coordinator of United States Government Activities to Combat HIV/AIDS Globally shall, in consultation with national governments and international donors, propose a strategic plan for each of the countries described in subsection (a)(1) to improve the health sector workforce capacity of each such country to enable each such country to meet the goals of the United States Leadership Against HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria Act of 2003 that are related to disease prevention, care, and treatment without diverting health care personnel from other primary health priorities. Each such plan should include a description of initiatives that could be carried out in the country to—

(A) retain health care staff;

(B) recruit and train health care workers;

(C) strengthen public health infrastructure; and

(D) extend services related to HIV/AIDS to under served areas.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Coordinator shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the strategic plans required by paragraph (1).

SA 315. Mr. NELSON of Florida submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. SECOND SUPPLIER TO THE ARMY OF SECURE TYPE–1 MULTI-BAND, HAND-HELD RADIO SYSTEMS.

(a) IDENTIFICATION OF SECOND SUPPLIER.—(1) The Secretary of the Army shall identify a person or entity who, as of September 15, 2005, has the capacity to act as an independent second supplier to the Army of secure type–1 multi-band, hand-held radio systems.

(2) Any person or entity identified under paragraph (1) shall have the capacity to fulfill any requirements applicable to the accelerated fielding of Joint Tactical Radio System (JTRS) technology.

(b) REPORT ON PLAN TO CONTRACT WITH SECOND SUPPLIER.—Not later than November 15, 2005, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report setting forth the plans of the Secretary to enter into a contract with the person or entity identified under subsection (a) for the supply to the Army of secure type–1 multi-band, hand-held radio systems.

SA 316. Mr. NELSON of Florida (for himself and Mr. CORZINE) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill H.R. 1268, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, and for other purposes; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ___. REPEAL OF REQUIREMENT OF REDUCTION OF SBP SURVIVOR ANNUITIES BY DEPENDENCY AND INDEMNITY COMPENSATION.

(a) REPEAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code is amended—

(1) in section 1450(c)(1), by inserting after ''to whom section 1448 of this title applies'' the following: ''(except in the case of a death as described in subsection (d) or (f) of such section)''; and

(2) in section 1451(c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2); and

(B) by redesignating paragraphs (3) and (4) as paragraphs (2) and (3), respectively.

(b) PROHIBITION ON RETROACTIVE BENEFITS.—No benefits may be paid to any person for any period before the effective date provided under subsection (e) by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a).

(c) PROHIBITION ON RECOUPMENT OF CERTAIN AMOUNTS PREVIOUSLY REFUNDED TO SBP RECIPIENTS.—A surviving spouse who is or has been in receipt of an annuity under the Survivor Benefit Plan under subchapter II of chapter 73 of title 10, United States Code, that is in effect before the effective date provided under subsection (e) and that is adjusted by reason of the amendments made by subsection (a) and who has received a refund of retired pay under section 1450(e) of title 10, United States Code, shall not be required to repay such refund to the United States.

(d) RECONSIDERATION OF OPTIONAL ANNUITY.—Section 1448(d)(2) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new sentences: ''The surviving spouse, however, may elect to terminate an annuity under this subparagraph in accordance with regulations prescribed by the Secretary concerned. Upon such an election, payment of an annuity to dependent children under this subparagraph shall terminate effective on the first day of the first month that begins after the date on which the Secretary concerned receives notice of the election, and, beginning on that day, an annuity shall be paid to the surviving spouse under paragraph (1) instead.''.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the later of—

(1) the first day of the first month that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the first day of the fiscal year that begins in the calendar year in which this Act is enacted.

SEC. ___. EFFECTIVE DATE FOR PAID-UP COVERAGE UNDER SURVIVOR BENEFIT PLAN.

Section 1452(j) of title 10, United States Code, is amended by striking ''October 1, 2008'' and inserting ''October 1, 2005''.

SA 317. Mr. SESSIONS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and International broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

''SEC. . UN HEADQUARTERS RENOVATION.

(a) LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, no loan in excess of $600,000,000 may be made available by the United States for renovation of the United Nations headquarters building, located in New York, New York.

(b) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Any such loan shall be contingent upon the satisfactory submission, by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, of a report to Congress containing a detailed analysis of the United Nations headquarters renovation.

SA 318. Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LIEBERMAN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title XXII, add the following:

SEC. 2239. APPLICABILITY OF ARMS EXPORT CONTROL ACT REQUIREMENTS TO VHXX EXECUTIVE HELICOPTER PROGRAM.

(a) TREATMENT AS COOPERATIVE PROJECT.—The VHXX Executive Helicopter Program (also known as the Marine One Presidential Helicopter Program) shall be treated as a cooperative project for purposes of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) as authorized under section 27 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2767).

(b) LICENSING AND NOTICE REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any licensing and notice to Congress requirements that apply to the sale of defense articles and services under the Arms Export Control Act shall apply to any foreign production (including the export of technical data related thereto) under the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program without regard to any dollar threshold or limitation that would otherwise limit the applicability of such requirements to such production under that Act.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Notwithstanding the treatment of the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program as a cooperative project for purposes of the Arms Export Control Act under subsection (a), section 27(g) of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2767(g)) shall not be applicable to the program, and the notice requirements of subsections (b) and (c) of section 36 of that Act (22 U.S.C. 2776) shall be complied with in the issuance of any letters of offer or licenses for the program as required by paragraph (1).

(c) LIMITATION ON ISSUANCE OF LICENSES.—No license may be issued under the Arms Export Control Act for any portion of the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program, including research and development and the sharing of technical data relating to the program, until each participant in the program agrees, in writing, not to enter into any contract, or otherwise do any business, with any party who is subject to the jurisdiction of a country that supports international terrorism for five years after the date of the completion of the participation of such participant in the program.

(d) COUNTRY THAT SUPPORTS INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ''country that supports international terrorism'' means any country whose government has repeatedly provided support for acts of international terrorism for purposes of either of the provisions of law as follows:

(1) Section 6(j) of the Export Administration Act of 1979 (50 U.S.C. App. 2405(j)).

(2) Section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371).

SA 319. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

TITLE XXIX—PEACEFUL TRANSITION IN CUBA

SEC. 2901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Cuba Transition Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2902. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Cuban people are seeking change in their country, including through the Varela Project, independent journalist activity, and other civil society initiatives.

(2) Civil society groups and independent, self-employed Cuban citizens will be essential to the consolidation of a genuine and effective transition to democracy from an authoritarian, communist government in Cuba, and therefore merit increased international assistance.

(3) The people of the United States support a policy of proactively helping the Cuban people to establish a democratic system of government, including supporting Cuban citizen efforts to prepare for transition to a better and more prosperous future.

(4) The Inter-American Democratic Charter adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS) provides both guidance and mechanisms for response by OAS members to the governmental transition in Cuba and that country's eventual reintegration into the inter-American system.

(5) United States Government support of pro-democracy elements in Cuba and planning for the transition in Cuba is essential for the identification of resources and mechanisms that can be made available immediately in response to profound political and economic changes on the island.

(6) Consultations with democratic development institutions and international development agencies regarding Cuba are a critical element in the preparation of an effective multilateral response to the transition in Cuba.

SEC. 2903. PURPOSES.

The purposes of this title are as follows:

(1) To support multilateral efforts by the countries of the Western Hemisphere in planning for a transition of the government in Cuba and the return of that country to the Western Hemisphere community of democracies.

(2) To encourage the development of an international group to coordinate multilateral planning to a transition of the government in Cuba.

(3) To authorize funding for programs to assist the Cuban people and independent nongovernmental organizations in Cuba in preparing the groundwork for a peaceful transition of government in Cuba.

(4) To provide the President with funding to implement assistance programs essential to the development of a democratic government in Cuba.

SEC. 2904. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) DEMOCRATICALLY ELECTED GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.—The term ''democratically elected government in Cuba'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023).

(2) TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.—The term ''transition government in Cuba'' has the meaning given the term in section 4 of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023).

SEC. 2905. DESIGNATION OF COORDINATOR FOR CUBA TRANSITION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State shall designate, within the Department of State, a coordinator who shall be responsible for—

(1) designing an overall strategy to coordinate preparations for, and a response to, a transition in Cuba;

(2) coordinating assistance provided to the Cuban people in preparation for a transition in Cuba;

(3) coordinating strategic support for the consolidation of a political and economic transition in Cuba;

(4) ensuring program and policy coordination among agencies of the United States Government in carrying out the policies set forth in this title; and

(5) pursuing coordination with other countries and international organizations, including international financial institutions, with respect to assisting a transition in Cuba.

(b) RANK AND STATUS OF THE TRANSITION COORDINATOR.—The coordinator designated in subsection (a) shall have the rank and status of ambassador.

SEC. 2906. MULTILATERAL INITIATIVES RELATED TO CUBA.

The Secretary of State is authorized to designate up to $5,000,000 of total amounts made available for contributions to international organizations to be provided to the Organization of American States for—

(1) Inter-American Commission on Human Rights activities relating to the situation of human rights in Cuba; and

(2) the funding of an OAS emergency fund for the deployment of human rights observers, election support, and election observation in Cuba as described in section 109(b) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6039(b)(1)).

SEC. 2907. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING CONSULTATION WITH WESTERN HEMISPHERE.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should begin consultation, as appropriate, with governments of other Western Hemisphere countries regarding a transition in Cuba.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING OTHER CONSULTATIONS.—It is the sense of Congress that the President should begin consultations with appropriate international partners and governments regarding a multilateral diplomatic and financial support program for response to a transition in Cuba.

SEC. 2908. ASSISTANCE PROVIDED TO THE CUBAN PEOPLE IN PREPARATION FOR A TRANSITION IN CUBA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law other than section 634A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2394–1) and comparable notification requirements contained in any Act making appropriations for foreign operations, export financing, and related programs, the President is authorized to furnish an amount not to exceed $15,000,000 in assistance and provide other support for individuals and independent nongovernmental organizations to support democracy-building efforts for Cuba, including assistance for—

(1) political prisoners and members of their families;

(2) persons persecuted or harassed for dissident activities;

(3) independent libraries;

(4) independent workers' rights activists;

(5) independent agricultural cooperatives;

(6) independent associations of self-employed Cubans;

(7) independent journalists;

(8) independent youth organizations;

(9) independent environmental groups;

(10) independent economists, medical doctors, and other professionals;

(11) establishing and maintaining an information and resources center to be in the United States interests section in Havana, Cuba;

(12) prodemocracy programs of the National Endowment for Democracy related to Cuba;

(13) nongovernmental programs to facilitate access to the Internet, subject to section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6032(g));

(14) nongovernmental charitable programs that provide nutrition and basic medical care to persons most at risk, including children and elderly persons; and

(15) nongovernmental charitable programs to reintegrate into civilian life persons who have abandoned, resigned, or been expelled from the Cuban armed forces for ideological reasons.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) INDEPENDENT NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ''independent nongovernmental organization'' means an organization that the Secretary of State determines, not less than 15 days before any obligation of funds to the organization, is a charitable or nonprofit nongovernmental organization that is not an agency or instrumentality of the Cuban Government.

(2) ELIGIBLE CUBAN RECIPIENTS.—The term ''eligible Cuban recipients'' is limited to any Cuban national in Cuba, including political prisoners and their families, who are not officials of the Cuban Government or of the ruling political party in Cuba, as defined in section 4(10) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023(10)).

SEC. 2909. SUPPORT FOR A TRANSITION GOVERNMENT IN CUBA.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as are necessary to the President to establish a fund to provide assistance to a transition government in Cuba as defined in section 4(14) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6023(14)).

(b) DESIGNATION OF FUND.—The fund authorized in subsection (a) shall be known as the ''Fund for a Free Cuba''.

(c) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subsection (a) are authorized to remain available until expended.

SA 320. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following:

SEC. 405. PROHIBITION OF WAR CRIMES PROSECUTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 118 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''§ 2442. International criminal court

''(a) OFFENSE.—Except as provided in subsection (b), it shall be unlawful for any person, acting under the authority of the International Criminal Court, another international organization, or a foreign government, to knowingly indict, apprehend, detain, prosecute, convict, or participate in the

imposition or carrying out of any sentence or other penalty on, any American in connection with any proceeding by or before the International Criminal Court, another international organization, or a foreign government in which that American is accused of a war crime.

''(b) EXCEPTION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply in connection with a criminal proceeding instituted by the government of a foreign country within the courts of such country with respect to a war crime allegedly committed—

''(1) on territory subject to the sovereign jurisdiction of such government; or

''(2) against persons who were nationals of such country at the time that the war crime is alleged to have been committed.

''(c) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—

''(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be fined not more than $5,000,000, imprisoned as provided in paragraph (2), or both.

''(2) PRISON SENTENCE.—The maximum term of imprisonment for an offense under this section is the greater of—

''(A) 5 years; or

''(B) the maximum term that could be imposed on the American in the criminal proceeding described in subsection (a) with respect to which the violation took place.

''(d) EXTRATERRITORIAL JURISDICTION.—There is extraterritorial jurisdiction over an offense under this section.

''(e) CIVIL REMEDY.—Any person who is aggrieved by a violation under subsection (a) may, in a civil action, obtain appropriate relief, including—

''(1) punitive damages; and

''(2) a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs.

''(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

''(1) the term 'American' means any citizen or national of the United States, or any other person employed by or working under the direction of the United States Government;

''(2) the term 'indict' includes—

''(A) the formal submission of an order or request for the prosecution or arrest of a person; and

''(B) the issuance of a warrant or other order for the arrest of a person,

by an official of the International Criminal Court, another international organization, or a foreign government;

''(3) the term 'International Criminal Court' means the court established by the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court adopted by the United Nations Diplomatic Conference of Plenipotentiaries on the Establishment of and International Criminal Court on July 17, 1998; and

''(4) the term 'war crime' means—

''(A) any offense now cognizable before the International Criminal Court; and

''(B) any offense hereafter cognizable before the International Criminal Court, effective on the date such offense becomes cognizable before such court.''.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in chapter 118 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Sec. 2442. International criminal court.''.

SA 321. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 59, between lines 4 and 5, insert the following new section:

SEC. 405. UNITED NATIONS OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL.

(a) WITHHOLDING OF PORTION OF CERTAIN ASSESSED CONTRIBUTIONS.—Twenty percent of the funds made available in each fiscal year under section 1O2(a) for the assessed contribution of the United States to the United Nations shall be withheld from obligation and expenditure until a certification is made under subsection (b).

(b) CERTIFICATION.—A certification under this subsection is a certification by the Secretary in the fiscal year concerned that the following conditions are satisfied:

(1) ACTIONS BY THE UNITED NATIONS.—

(A) The United Nations has met the requirements of paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 401(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236; 108 Stat. 446).

(B) The Office of Internal Oversight Services has fulfilled the directive in General Assembly Resolution 48/218B to make all of its reports available to the General Assembly, with modifications to those reports that would violate confidentiality or the due process rights of individuals involved in any investigation.

(C) The Office of Internal Oversight Services has an independent budget that does not require the approval of the United Nations Budget Office.

(2) ACTIONS BY THE OIOS.—The Office of Internal Oversight Service has authority to. audit, inspect, or investigate each program, project, or activity funded by the United Nations, and each executive board created under the United Nations has been notified in writing of that authority.

SA 322. Mr. ENSIGN proposed an amendment to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; as follows:

On page 11, line 15, striking ''There'' and insert the following:

(1) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There

On page 11, between lines 23 and 24, insert the following:

(2) NO GROWTH BUDGET.—Of the amounts appropriated pursuant to the authorization of appropriations in paragraph (1), $80,000,000 shall be withheld for each of the calendar years 2006 and 2007 unless the Secretary submits a certification to the appropriate congressional committees for each such calendar year that states that the United Nations has taken no action during the preceding calendar year to increase funding for any United Nations program without identifying an offsetting decrease elsewhere in the United Nations budget during that calendar year and that for such calendar years the United Nations will not exceed the spending limits of the initial 2004–2005 United Nations biennium budget adopted in December, 2003.

SA 323. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place insert:

Whereas in 2000, the United Nations, with strong backing by the United States, created the Special Court for Sierra Leone to prosecute persons who have committed and ''bear the greatest responsibility'' for war crimes, crimes against humanity, other serious violations of international humanitarian law, and other atrocities that occurred in Sierra Leone during that country's brutal civil war during the period after November 30, 1996;

Whereas United Nations Security Council resolution 1315 stated that the Security Council is ''[d]eeply concerned at the various serious crimes committed within the territory of Sierra Leone against the people of Sierra Leone . . . [and that] the international community will exert every effort to bring those responsible to justice . . .''

Whereas on June 4, 2003, the Special Court for Sierra Leone unsealed an indictment issued on March 3, 2003, against Charles Ghankay Taylor, former President of the Republic of Liberia, charging him with seventeen counts of war crimes, crimes against humanity, and other violations of international humanitarian law;

Whereas, INTERPOL, of which Nigeria is a member, issued a Red Notice for Mr. Taylor for ''crimes against humanity'' and ''grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Convention.''

Whereas on August 11, 2003, Charles Taylor departed Liberia for Calabar, Nigeria, where he was granted asylum and, according to press reports, agreed to end his involvement in Liberian politics;

Whereas in September 2003 the Government of the Federal Republic of Nigeria warned Taylor that it would ''not tolerate any breach of this condition and others which forbid him from engaging in active communications with anyone engaged in political, illegal or governmental activities in Liberia'';

Whereas, Jacques Klein, the UN Representative charged with rebuilding Liberia, reported that Charles Taylor has broken the terms of his exile by stating: ''We know that there are people who commute basically between Monrovia and where [Taylor] is . . . Now, he's no longer giving the guidance he did by telephone, for obvious reasons, but the messengers still go back and forth. And so he still is a cloud that hangs over much of what we do.''

Whereas the job of promoting regional peace and security cannot be completed until Mr. Taylor appears before the Special Court for Sierra Leone to answer to the charges against him.

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) it is the sense of the Senate that—

(A) the United States shall use its voice and vote at the United Nations Security Council to bring about the transfer of Charles Taylor to the Special Court for Sierra Leone.

(B) The actions called for in subsection (A) include supporting a Chapter VII Security Council resolution that would provide for the immediate transfer of Charles Taylor.

(2) the Senate urges the United States government to formulate a comprehensive, inter-agency strategy, consistent with section 585 of Public Law 108–447, aimed at bringing about the transfer of Charles Taylor well before the Liberian elections scheduled to occur in fall, 2005.

SA 324. Mr. LEAHY submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006

and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in the bill, insert the following:

PROTECTION OF THE GALAPAGOS

Sec. . (a) FINDINGS.—The Senate makes the following findings—

(1) The Galapagos Islands are a global treasure and World Heritage Site, and the future of the Galapagos is in the hands of the Government of Ecuador;

(2) The world depends on the Government of Ecuador to implement the necessary policies and programs to ensure the long term protection of the biodiversity of the Galapagos, including enforcing the Galapagos Special Law;

(3) There are concerns with the leadership of the Galapagos National Park Service and that the biodiversity of the Galapagos and the Marine Reserve are not being properly managed or adequately protected; and

(4) The Government of Ecuador has reportedly given preliminary approval for commercial airplane flights to the Island of Isabela, which may cause irreparable harm to the biodiversity of the Galapagos, and has allowed the export of fins from sharks caught accidentally in the Marine Reserve, which may encourage illegal fishing.

(b) Whereas, now therefore, be it

Resolved, that—

(1) the Senate strongly encourages the Government of Ecuador to—

(A) refrain from taking any action that could cause harm to the biodiversity of the Galapagos or encourage illegal fishing in the Marine Reserve;

(B) abide by the agreement to select the Directorship of the Galapagos National Park Service though a transparent process based on merit as previously agreed by the Government of Ecuador, international donors, and nongovernmental organizations; and

(C) enforce the Galapagos Special Law in its entirety, including the governance structure defined by the law to ensure effective control of migration to the Galapagos and sustainable fishing practices, and prohibit long-line fishing which threatens the survival of shark and marine turtle populations.

(2) The Department of State should—

(A) emphasize to the Government of Ecuador the importance the United States gives to these issues; and

(B) offer assistance to implement the necessary policies and programs to ensure the long term protection of the biodiversity of the Galapagos and the Marine Reserve and to sustain the livelihoods of the Galapagos population who depend on the marine ecosystem for survival.

SA 325. Mr. DODD (for himself and Mr. LEAHY) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle A of title XXI, add the following:

SEC. 2227. INTERNATIONAL MILITARY EDUCATION AND TRAINING ASSISTANCE FOR LATIN AMERICA COUNTRIES NOT ENTERING INTO AGREEMENTS UNDER ARTICLE 98 OF THE ROME STATUTE.

Section 2007 of the American Servicemembers' Protection Act of 2002 (22 U.S.C. 7426) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

''(e) ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION.—

''(1) EXEMPTION.—The prohibition of subsection (a) shall not apply to the provision of assistance under chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2347 et seq.), relating to International Military Education and Training, to a country in Latin America that is a party to the International Criminal Court, notwithstanding the lack of agreement between the United States and such country pursuant to Article 98 of the Rome Statute as described in subsection (c).

''(2) COUNTRY IN LATIN AMERICA DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term 'country in Latin America' means any country which is a participating member of the Organization of American States and that, but for this section, is eligible for assistance under chapter 5 of part II of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961, relating to International Military Education and Training.''.

SA 326. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 712. SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING IN OVERSEAS PROCUREMENTS.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND REAFFIRMATION OF EXISTING POLICY.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) small business contracting in support of overseas activities of the Federal Government strengthens the trade posture of the United States in the global marketplace;

(B) small business contractors are a vital component of the civilian and defense industrial base, and they have provided outstanding value in support of the activities of the Federal Government domestically and internationally, especially in the international reconstruction, stabilization, and assistance activities in the Global War on Terror;

(C) maintaining a vital small business industrial base protects the Federal Government from higher costs and reduced innovation that accompany undue consolidation of Government contracts;

(D) Congress has a strong interest in preserving the competitive nature of the Government contracting marketplace, particularly with regard to performance of Federal contracts and subcontracts overseas;

(E) small business contractors suffer competitive harm and the Federal Government suffers a needless reduction in competition and a needless shrinkage of its industrial base when Federal agencies exempt contracts and subcontracts awarded for performance overseas from the application of the Small Business Act;

(F) small businesses desiring to support the troops deployed in the Global War on Terror and the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan have faced needless hurdles to meaningful participation in Government contracts and subcontracts; and

(G) Congress has a strong interest in holding large prime contractors accountable for fulfilling their subcontracting plans on overseas assistance and reconstruction projects.

(2) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—In light of the findings in subparagraph (A), Congress reaffirms its policy contained in sections 2 and 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631, 644) and section 302 of the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 631a) to promote international competitiveness of United States small businesses and to ensure that small business concerns are awarded a fair portion of all Federal prime contracts, and subcontracts, regardless of geographic area.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency, office, and department having jurisdiction over acquisition regulations shall conduct regulatory reviews to ensure that such regulations require compliance with the Small Business Act in Federal prime contracts and subcontracts, regardless of the geographic place of award or performance, and shall promulgate any necessary conforming changes to such regulations.

(c) COOPERATION WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall be consulted for recommendations concerning regulatory reviews and changes required by this section.

(d) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS OF LAW.—In conducting any regulatory review or promulgating any changes required by this section, due note and recognition shall be given to the specific requirements and procedures of any other Federal statute or treaty which may exempt any Federal prime contract or subcontract from the application of the Small Business Act in whole or in part.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report containing their views on the compliance status of Federal agencies, offices, and departments in carrying out this section.

SA 327. Ms. SNOWE (for herself and Mr. COLEMAN) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title VII, insert the following:

SEC. 712. SMALL BUSINESS CONTRACTING IN OVERSEAS PROCUREMENTS.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS AND REAFFIRMATION OF EXISTING POLICY.—

(1) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

(A) small business contracting in support of overseas activities of the Federal Government strengthens the trade posture of the United States in the global marketplace;

(B) small business contractors are a vital component of the civilian and defense industrial base, and they have provided outstanding value in support of the activities of the Federal Government domestically and internationally, especially in the international reconstruction, stabilization, and assistance activities in the Global War on Terror;

(C) maintaining a vital small business industrial base protects the Federal Government from higher costs and reduced innovation that accompany undue consolidation of Government contracts;

(D) Congress has a strong interest in preserving the competitive nature of the Government contracting marketplace, particularly with regard to performance of Federal contracts and subcontracts overseas;

(E) small business contractors suffer competitive harm and the Federal Government suffers a needless reduction in competition and a needless shrinkage of its industrial base when Federal agencies exempt contracts and subcontracts awarded for performance overseas from the application of the Small Business Act;

(F) small businesses desiring to support the troops deployed in the Global War on Terror and the reconstruction of Iraq and Afghanistan have faced needless hurdles to meaningful participation in Government contracts and subcontracts; and

(G) Congress has a strong interest in holding large prime contractors accountable for fulfilling their subcontracting plans on overseas assistance and reconstruction projects.

(2) REAFFIRMATION OF POLICY.—In light of the findings in subparagraph (A), Congress reaffirms its policy contained in sections 2 and 15 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 631, 644) and section 302 of the Small Business Economic Policy Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 631a) to promote international competitiveness of United States small businesses and to ensure that small business concerns are awarded a fair portion of all Federal prime contracts, and subcontracts, regardless of geographic area.

(b) COMPLIANCE.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the head of each Federal agency, office, and department having jurisdiction over acquisition regulations shall conduct regulatory reviews to ensure that such regulations require compliance with the Small Business Act in Federal prime contracts and subcontracts, regardless of the geographic place of award or performance, and shall promulgate any necessary conforming changes to such regulations.

(c) COOPERATION WITH THE SMALL BUSINESS ADMINISTRATION.—The Administrator and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall be consulted for recommendations concerning regulatory reviews and changes required by this section.

(d) CONFLICTING PROVISIONS OF LAW.—In conducting any regulatory review or promulgating any changes required by this section, due note and recognition shall be given to the specific requirements and procedures of any other Federal statute or treaty which may exempt any Federal prime contract or subcontract from the application of the Small Business Act in whole or in part.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator and the Chief Counsel for Advocacy of the Small Business Administration shall submit to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and to the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report containing their views on the compliance status of Federal agencies, offices, and departments in carrying out this section.

SA 328. Mrs. FEINSTEIN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

In section 105(a), strike ''$10,000,000'' and insert ''$18,000,000''.

SA 329. Ms. LANDRIEU submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title XXV, add the following:

SEC. 2523. CONDITIONS ON ANY SUSPENSION OF IMMIGRATION PROCESSING OF ORPHANS.

(a) REQUIREMENTS OF DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit written notification to the Senate and the House of Representatives on the day on which the processing of petitions for classification of nationals of a country as orphans is suspended. The notification shall set forth the following:

(1) EXPLANATION.—Information, to the extent available, supporting the suspension, including the following:

(A) FAILURE TO OBTAIN BIRTH PARENT CONSENT.—Information indicating that in recent cases the consent of a birth parent to termination of parental rights or to the adoption was not obtained.

(B) FRAUD, DURESS, OR IMPROPER INDUCEMENT.—Information indicating that in recent cases the consent of a birth parent to termination of parental rights or to the adoption was obtained as a result of fraud, duress, or improper inducement.

(C) IMPROPER RELINQUISHMENT.—Information indicating that in recent cases birth parents have relinquished their children in return for improper reward.

(D) INADEQUATE SENDING COUNTRY ADOPTION PROCESS.—Information indicating that the system utilized by the sending country for the arrangement of international adoptions of orphans who are nationals of the sending country is inadequate and, as a result, the processing of cases according to the requirements of the Immigration and Nationality Act is compromised.

(E) DEPARTMENT OF STATE INABILITY TO PROCESS.—Information indicating that the system of the Department of State in that country for the processing of petitions for the classification of nationals of that sending country as orphans is insufficient, and as a result, the Department of State is unable to make an informed determination under section 101(b)(1)(F) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)(F)).

(F) INABILITY TO PROCESS.—Information indicating that the system of the United States Citizen and Immigration Services (referred to in this section as the ''USCIS'') in that country for the processing of petitions for the classification of nationals of that sending country as orphans is insufficient, and as a result, the USCIS is unable to make an informed determination under such section 101(b)(1)(F).

(G) COMBINATION OF CONDITIONS.—Information indicating the existence of a combination of the conditions listed in subparagraphs (A) through (F), such that the Department of State or the USCIS is unable to make an informed determination under such section 101(b)(1)(F).

(H) OTHER CONDITIONS.—Information indicating such other conditions that justify a suspension of orphan processing, as appropriate.

(2) SUMMARY OF PRIOR ACTION.—A summary of recent actions taken in the sending country and information regarding previous efforts to address conditions articulated in paragraph (1).

(3) PLAN.—A plan that includes—

(A) ways to remedy the circumstance or circumstances described in paragraph (1) justifying the suspension;

(B) a process to notify United States citizens who might be affected by the suspension;

(C) a way to process families awaiting completion of processing as of the date that the suspension is issued; and

(D) a good faith estimate of the time needed to remedy the circumstance or circumstances described in paragraph (1), which recognizes and addresses the degree to which resolution of circumstance or circumstances described in paragraph (1) depend upon the cooperation of the sending country.

(b) EXEMPTIONS FROM SUSPENSION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall give consideration to exempting from the suspension those adoptions involving extraordinary humanitarian concerns in accordance with section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)).

(c) PERIODIC CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—Not later than 180 days after a suspension takes effect after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 180 days until the suspension is terminated, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit a written report to Congress indicating—

(1) that the circumstances justifying the suspension still exist; and

(2) what actions have been taken, since the date of notification under subsection (a) or (f), to remedy the circumstances justifying the suspension.

(d) TRANSITION PROVISION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to Congress, for each country for which a suspension is in effect on the date of enactment of this Act, a report containing a summary of the evidence, plan, and estimate described in subsection (a).

(e) STATUTORY CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to require the inclusion of information that—

(1) reasonably could be expected to adversely affect or compromise a civil or criminal enforcement proceeding or investigation; or

(2) would disclose techniques and procedures for law enforcement investigations or prosecutions.

(f) REQUIREMENTS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.—The Secretary of State, or any other official of the Department of State, may not urge a foreign government to suspend the processing of international adoptions by United States citizens unless the Secretary of State provides written notification of such action to the Senate and the House of Representatives on the day such action is taken.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ORPHAN.—The term ''orphan'' means a child described in subparagraph (F) or (G) of section 101(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(b)(1)).

(2) SENDING COUNTRY.—The term ''sending country'' means the country with legal authority to process the adoption of the child in question.

(3) SUSPENSION.—The term ''suspension'' means, with respect to a country, the decision by the Attorney General to suspend the processing of petitions for classification of orphans who are natives of that country.

SA 330. Ms. LANDRIEU (for herself, Mr. DEMINT, and Mr. CRAIG) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed

by her to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, add the following new title:

TITLE IX—INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''Intercountry Adoption Reform Act of 2005'' or the ''ICARE Act''.

SEC. 902. FINDINGS; PURPOSES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) That a child, for the full and harmonious development of his or her personality, should grow up in a family environment, in an atmosphere of happiness, love, and understanding.

(2) That intercountry adoption may offer the advantage of a permanent family to a child for whom a suitable family cannot be found in his or her country of origin.

(3) There has been a significant growth in intercountry adoptions. In 1990, Americans adopted 7,093 children from abroad. In 2001, they adopted 19,237 children from abroad.

(4) Americans increasingly seek to create or enlarge their families through intercountry adoptions.

(5) There are many children worldwide that are without permanent homes.

(6) In the interest of children without a permanent family and the United States citizens who are waiting to bring them into their families, reforms are needed in the intercountry adoption process used by United States citizens.

(7) Before adoption, each child should have the benefit of measures taken to ensure that intercountry adoption is in his or her best interests and prevents the abduction, selling, or trafficking of children.

(8) In addition, Congress recognizes that foreign born adopted children do not make the decision whether to immigrate to the United States. They are being chosen by Americans to become part of their immediate families.

(9) As such these children should not be classified as immigrants in the traditional sense. Once fully and finally adopted, they should be treated as children of United States citizens.

(10) Since a child who is fully and finally adopted is entitled to the same rights, duties, and responsibilities as a biological child, the law should reflect such equality.

(11) Therefore, foreign born adopted children of United States citizens should be accorded the same procedural treatment as biological children born abroad to a United States citizen.

(12) If a United States citizen can confer citizenship to a biological child born abroad, then the same citizen is entitled to confer such citizenship to their legally and fully adopted foreign born child immediately upon final adoption.

(13) If a United States citizen cannot confer citizenship to a biological child born abroad, then such citizen cannot confer citizenship to their legally and fully adopted foreign born child, except through the naturalization process.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of this title are—

(1) to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child;

(2) to ensure that foreign born children adopted by United States citizens will be treated identically to a biological child born abroad to the same citizen parent; and

(3) to improve the intercountry adoption process by making it more citizen friendly and focused on the protection of the child.

SEC. 903. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) ADOPTABLE CHILD.—The term ''adoptable child'' has the same meaning given such term in section 101(c)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(c)(3)), as added by section 924(a) of this Act.

(2) AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.—The term ''Ambassador at Large'' means the Ambassador at Large for Intercountry Adoptions appointed to head the Office pursuant to section 911(b).

(3) COMPETENT AUTHORITY.—The term ''competent authority'' means the entity or entities authorized by the law of the child's country of residence to engage in permanent placement of children who are no longer in the legal or physical custody of their biological parents.

(4) CONVENTION.—The term ''Convention'' means the Convention on Protection of Children and Co-operation in Respect of Intercountry Adoption, done at The Hague on May 29, 1993.

(5) FULL AND FINAL ADOPTION.—The term ''full and final adoption'' means an adoption—

(A) that is completed according to the laws of the child's country of residence or the State law of the parent's residence;

(B) under which a person is granted full and legal custody of the adopted child;

(C) that has the force and effect of severing the child's legal ties to the child's biological parents;

(D) under which the adoptive parents meet the requirements of section 925; and

(E) under which the child has been adjudicated to be an adoptable child in accordance with section 926.

(6) OFFICE.—The term ''Office'' means the Office of Intercountry Adoptions established under section 911(a).

(7) READILY APPROVABLE.—A petition or certification is considered ''readily approvable'' if the documentary support provided demonstrates that the petitioner satisfies the eligibility requirements and no additional information or investigation is necessary.

Subtitle A—Administration of Intercountry Adoptions

SEC. 911. OFFICE OF INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTIONS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, there is to be established within the Department of State, an Office of Intercountry Adoptions which shall be headed by the Ambassador at Large for Intercountry Adoptions who shall be appointed pursuant to subsection (b).

(b) AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.—

(1) APPOINTMENT.—The Ambassador at Large shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, from among individuals who have background, experience, and training in intercountry adoptions, taking care to ensure that the individual who serves as Ambassador is free from any conflicts of interest that might inhibit such individual's ability to serve as Ambassador.

(2) AUTHORITY.—The Ambassador at Large shall report directly to the Secretary, in consultation with the Assistant Secretary for Consular Affairs. The Ambassador at Large has no independent regulatory authority.

(3) DUTIES OF THE AMBASSADOR AT LARGE.—In carrying out the functions of the Office, the Ambassador at Large shall have the following responsibilities:

(A) IN GENERAL.—The primary responsibilities of the Ambassador at Large shall be—

(i) to ensure that intercountry adoptions take place in the best interests of the child; and

(ii) to assist the Secretary in fulfilling the responsibilities designated to the central authority under title I of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14911 et seq.).

(B) ADVISORY ROLE.—The Ambassador at Large shall be a principal advisor to the President and the Secretary regarding matters affecting intercountry adoption and the general welfare of children abroad and shall make recommendations regarding—

(i) the policies of the United States with respect to the establishment of a system of cooperation among the parties to the Convention;

(ii) the policies to prevent abandonment, strengthen families, and to advance the placement of children in permanent families; and

(iii) policies that promote the protection and well-being of children.

(C) DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATION.—Subject to the direction of the President and the Secretary, the Ambassador at Large may represent the United States in matters and cases relevant to international adoption in—

(i) fulfillment of the responsibilities designated to the central authority under title I of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14911 et seq.);

(ii) contacts with foreign governments, intergovernmental organizations, and specialized agencies of the United Nations and other international organizations of which the United States is a member; and

(iii) multilateral conferences and meetings relevant to international adoption.

(D) INTERNATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT.—The Ambassador at Large shall advise and support the Secretary and other relevant Bureaus of the Department of State in the development of sound policy regarding child protection and intercountry adoption.

(E) REPORTING RESPONSIBILITIES.—The Ambassador at Large shall have the following reporting responsibilities:

(i) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador at Large shall assist the Secretary and other relevant Bureaus in preparing those portions of the Human Rights Reports that relate to the abduction, sale, and trafficking of children.

(ii) ANNUAL REPORT ON INTERCOUNTRY ADOPTION.—On September 1 of each year, the Secretary, with the assistance of the Ambassador at Large, shall prepare and transmit to Congress an annual report on intercountry adoption. Each annual report shall include—

(I) a description of the status of child protection and adoption in each foreign country, including—

(aa) trends toward improvement in the welfare and protection of children and families;

(bb) trends in family reunification, domestic adoption, and intercountry adoption;

(cc) movement toward ratification and implementation of the Convention; and

(dd) census information on the number of children in orphanages, foster homes, and other types of nonpermanent residential care as reported by the foreign country;

(II) the number of intercountry adoptions by United States citizens, including the country from which each child emigrated, the State in which each child resides, and the country in which the adoption was finalized;

(III) the number of intercountry adoptions involving emigration from the United States, including the country where each child now resides and the State from which each child emigrated;

(IV) the number of placements for adoption in the United States that were disrupted, including the country from which the child emigrated, the age of the child, the date of the placement for adoption, the reasons for the disruption, the resolution of the disruption, the agencies that handled the placement for adoption, and the plans for the child, and in addition, any information regarding disruption or dissolution of adoptions of children from other countries received pursuant to section 422(b)(14) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622(b)(14));

(V) the average time required for completion of an adoption, set forth by the country from which the child emigrated;

(VI) the current list of agencies accredited and persons approved under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14901 et seq.) to provide adoption services;

(VII) the names of the agencies and persons temporarily or permanently debarred under the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14901 et seq.), and the reasons for the debarment;

(VIII) the range of adoption fees involving adoptions by United States citizens and the median of such fees set forth by the country of origin;

(IX) the range of fees charged for accreditation of agencies and the approval of persons in the United States engaged in providing adoption services under the Convention; and

(X) recommendations of ways the United States might act to improve the welfare and protection of children and families in each foreign country.

(c) FUNCTIONS OF OFFICE.—The Office shall have the following 7 functions:

(1) APPROVAL OF A FAMILY TO ADOPT.—To approve or disapprove the eligibility of United States citizens to adopt foreign born children.

(2) CHILD ADJUDICATION.—To investigate and adjudicate the status of a child born abroad to determine their eligibility as an adoptable child.

(3) FAMILY SERVICES.—To provide assistance to United States citizens engaged in the intercountry adoption process in resolving problems with respect to that process and to track intercountry adoption cases so as to ensure that all such adoptions are processed in a timely manner.

(4) INTERNATIONAL POLICY DEVELOPMENT.—To advise and support the Ambassador at Large and other relevant Bureaus in the development of sound policy regarding child protection and intercountry adoption.

(5) CENTRAL AUTHORITY.—To assist the Secretary in carrying out duties of the central authority as defined in section 3 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14902).

(6) ENFORCEMENT.—To investigate, either directly or in cooperation with other appropriate international, Federal, State, or local entities, improprieties relating to adoption, including issues of child protection, birth family protection, and consumer fraud.

(7) ADMINISTRATION.—To perform administrative functions related to the functions performed under paragraphs (1) through (6), including legal functions and congressional liaison and public affairs functions.

(d) ORGANIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—All functions of the Office shall be performed by officers housed in a centralized office located in Washington, D.C. Within the Washington, D.C. office, there shall be 7 divisions corresponding to the 7 functions of the Office. All 7 divisions and their respective directors shall report directly to the Ambassador at Large.

(2) APPROVAL TO ADOPT.—The division responsible for approving parents to adopt shall be divided into regions of the United States as follows:

(A) Northwest.

(B) Northeast.

(C) Southwest.

(D) Southeast.

(E) Midwest.

(F) West.

(3) CHILD ADJUDICATION.—To the extent practicable, the division responsible for the adjudication of foreign born children as adoptable shall be divided by world regions which correspond to those currently used by other divisions within the Department of State.

(4) USE OF INTERNATIONAL FIELD OFFICERS.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to prohibit the use of international field officers posted abroad, as necessary, to fulfill the requirements of this Act.

(5) USE OF EXISTING SYSTEMS.—Whenever possible, the Office shall utilize systems currently in place that ensure protections against child trafficking.

(e) QUALIFICATIONS AND TRAINING.—In addition to meeting the employment requirements of the Department of State, officers employed in any of the 7 divisions of the Office shall undergo extensive and specialized training in the laws and processes of intercountry adoption as well as understanding the cultural, medical, emotional, and social issues surrounding intercountry adoption and adoptive families. The Ambassador at Large shall, whenever possible, recruit and hire individuals with background and experience in intercountry adoptions, taking care to ensure that such individuals do not have any conflicts of interest that might inhibit their ability to serve.

(f) USE OF ELECTRONIC DATABASES AND FILING.—To the extent possible, the Office shall make use of centralized, electronic databases and electronic form filing.

SEC. 912. RECOGNITION OF CONVENTION ADOPTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES.

Section 505(a)(1) of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14901 note) is amended by inserting ''301, 302,'' after ''205,''.

SEC. 913. TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENT.

Section 104 of the Intercountry Adoption Act of 2000 (42 U.S.C. 14914) is repealed.

SEC. 914. TRANSFER OF FUNCTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subject to subsection (c), all functions under the immigration laws of the United States with respect to the adoption of foreign born children by United States citizens and their admission to the United States that have been vested by statute in, or exercised by, the Commissioner of Immigration and Naturalization, the Immigration and Naturalization Service (or any officer, employee, or component thereof), of the Department of Homeland Security (or any officer, employee, or component thereof) immediately prior to the effective date of this title, are transferred to the Office on the effective date of this title for exercise by the Ambassador at Large in accordance with applicable laws and subtitle B of this title.

(b) EXERCISE OF AUTHORITIES.—Except as otherwise provided by law, the Ambassador at Large may, for purposes of performing any function transferred to the Ambassador at Large under subsection (a), exercise all authorities under any other provision of law that were available with respect to the performance of that function to the official responsible for the performance of the function immediately before the effective date of the transfer of the function pursuant to this subtitle.

(c) LIMITATION ON TRANSFER OF PENDING ADOPTIONS.—If an individual has filed a petition with the Immigration and Naturalization Service or the Department of Homeland Security with respect to the adoption of a foreign born child prior to the date of enactment of this subtitle, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall have the authority to make the final determination on such petition and such petition shall not be transferred to the Office.

SEC. 915. TRANSFER OF RESOURCES.

Subject to section 1531 of title 31, United States Code, upon the effective date of this title, there are transferred to the Ambassador at Large for appropriate allocation in accordance with section 916, the assets, liabilities, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balance of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds employed, held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available to the Immigration and Naturalization Service or the Department of Homeland Security in connection with the functions transferred pursuant to this subtitle.

SEC. 916. INCIDENTAL TRANSFERS.

The Ambassador at Large may make such additional incidental dispositions of personnel, assets, liabilities, grants, contracts, property, records, and unexpended balances of appropriations, authorizations, allocations, and other funds held, used, arising from, available to, or to be made available in connection with such functions, as may be necessary to carry out this title. The Ambassador at Large shall provide for such further measures and dispositions as may be necessary to effectuate the purposes of this subtitle.

SEC. 917. SAVINGS PROVISIONS.

(a) LEGAL DOCUMENTS.—All orders, determinations, rules, regulations, permits, grants, loans, contracts, agreements, including collective bargaining agreements, certificates, licenses, and privileges—

(1) that have been issued, made, granted, or allowed to become effective by the President, the Ambassador at Large, the former Commissioner of the Immigration and Naturalization Service, their delegates, or any other Government official, or by a court of competent jurisdiction, in the performance of any function that is transferred pursuant to this subtitle; and

(2) that are in effect on the effective date of such transfer (or become effective after such date pursuant to their terms as in effect on such effective date);

shall continue in effect according to their terms until modified, terminated, superseded, set aside, or revoked in accordance with law by the President, any other authorized official, a court of competent jurisdiction, or operation of law, except that any collective bargaining agreement shall remain in effect until the date of termination specified in the agreement.

(b) PROCEEDINGS.—

(1) PENDING.—The transfer of functions under section 914 shall not affect any proceeding or any application for any benefit, service, license, permit, certificate, or financial assistance pending on the effective date of this subtitle before an office whose functions are transferred pursuant to this subtitle, but such proceedings and applications shall be continued.

(2) ORDERS.—Orders shall be issued in such proceedings, appeals shall be taken therefrom, and payments shall be made pursuant to such orders, as if this Act had not been enacted, and orders issued in any such proceeding shall continue in effect until modified, terminated, superseded, or revoked by a duly authorized official, by a court of competent jurisdiction, or by operation of law.

(3) DISCONTINUANCE OR MODIFICATION.—Nothing in this section shall be considered to prohibit the discontinuance or modification of any such proceeding under the same terms

and conditions and to the same extent that such proceeding could have been discontinued or modified if this section had not been enacted.

(c) SUITS.—This subtitle shall not affect suits commenced before the effective date of this subtitle, and in all such suits, proceeding shall be had, appeals taken, and judgments rendered in the same manner and with the same effect as if this subtitle had not been enacted.

(d) NONABATEMENT OF ACTIONS.—No suit, action, or other proceeding commenced by or against the Department of State, the Immigration and Naturalization Service, or the Department of Homeland Security, or by or against any individual in the official capacity of such individual as an officer or employee in connection with a function transferred pursuant to this section, shall abate by reason of the enactment of this Act.

(e) CONTINUANCE OF SUIT WITH SUBSTITUTION OF PARTIES.—If any Government officer in the official capacity of such officer is party to a suit with respect to a function of the officer, and pursuant to this subtitle such function is transferred to any other officer or office, then such suit shall be continued with the other officer or the head of such other office, as applicable, substituted or added as a party.

(f) ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURE AND JUDICIAL REVIEW.—Except as otherwise provided by this subtitle, any statutory requirements relating to notice, hearings, action upon the record, or administrative or judicial review that apply to any function transferred pursuant to any provision of this subtitle shall apply to the exercise of such function by the head of the office, and other officers of the office, to which such function is transferred pursuant to such provision.

SEC. 918. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This subtitle shall take effect 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

Subtitle B—Reform of United States Laws Governing Intercountry Adoptions

SEC. 921. AUTOMATIC ACQUISITION OF CITIZENSHIP FOR ADOPTED CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.

(a) AMENDMENTS OF AUTOMATIC CITIZENSHIP PROVISIONS.—Section 320 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1431) is amended—

(1) by amending the section heading to read as follows: ''CHILDREN BORN OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES; CONDITIONS UNDER WHICH CITIZENSHIP AUTOMATICALLY ACQUIRED''; and

(2) in subsection (a), by striking paragraphs (1) through (3) and inserting the following:

''(1) Upon the date the adoption becomes full and final, at least 1 parent of the child is a citizen of the United States, whether by birth or naturalization, who has been physically present in the United States or its outlying possessions for a period or periods totaling not less than 5 years, at least 2 of which were after attaining the age of 14 years. Any periods of honorable service in the Armed Forces of the United States, or periods of employment with the United States Government or with an international organization as that term is defined in section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288) by such citizen parent, or any periods during which such citizen parent is physically present abroad as the dependent unmarried son or daughter and a member of the household of a person—

''(A) honorably serving with the Armed Forces of the United States; or

''(B) employed by the United States Government or an international organization as defined in section 1 of the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288); may be included in order to satisfy the physical presence requirement of this paragraph.

''(2) The child is an adoptable child described in section 101(c)(3).

''(3) The child is the beneficiary of a full and final adoption decree entered by a foreign government or a court in the United States.

''(4) For purposes of this subsection, the term 'full and final adoption' means an adoption—

''(A) that is completed under the laws of the child's country of residence or the State law of the parent's residence;

''(B) under which a person is granted full and legal custody of the adopted child;

''(C) that has the force and effect of severing the child's legal ties to the child's biological parents;

''(D) under which the adoptive parents meet the requirements of section 925 of the Intercountry Adoption Reform Act of 2005; and

''(E) under which the child has been adjudicated to be an adoptable child in accordance with section 926 of the Intercountry Adoption Reform Act of 2005.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect as if enacted on January 1, 1950.

SEC. 922. REVISED PROCEDURES.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the following requirements shall apply with respect to the adoption of foreign born children by United States citizens:

(1) Upon completion of a full and final adoption, the Secretary shall issue a United States passport and a Consular Report of Birth for a child who satisfies the requirements of section 921 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1431), as amended by section 921 of this Act, upon application by a United States citizen parent.

(2) An adopted child described in paragraph (1) shall not require the issuance of a visa for travel and admission to the United States but shall be admitted to the United States upon presentation of a valid, unexpired United States passport.

(3) No affidavit of support under section 213A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1183a) shall be required in the case of any adoptable child.

(4)(A) The Secretary shall require that agencies provide prospective adoptive parents an opportunity to conduct an independent medical exam and a copy of any medical records of the child known to exist (to the greatest extent practicable, these documents shall include an English translation) on a date that is not later than the earlier of the date that is 2 weeks before the adoption, or the date on which prospective adoptive parents travel to such a foreign country to complete all procedures in such country relating to adoption.

(B) The Secretary shall not require an adopted child described in paragraph (1) to undergo a medical exam for the purpose of excluding the child's immigration to the United States.

(5) The Secretary shall take necessary measures to ensure that all prospective adoptive parents adopting internationally are provided with training that includes counseling and guidance for the purpose of promoting a successful intercountry adoption before such parents travel to adopt the child or the child is placed with such parents for adoption.

(6) The Secretary shall take necessary measures to ensure that—

(A) prospective adoptive parents are given full disclosure of all direct and indirect costs of intercountry adoption before they are matched with child for adoption;

(B) fees charged in relation to the intercountry adoption be on a fee for service basis not on a contingent fee basis; and

(C) that the transmission of fees between the adoption agency, the country of origin, and the prospective adoptive parents is carried out in a transparent and efficient manner.

(7) The Secretary shall take all measures necessary to ensure that all documents provided to a country of origin on behalf of a prospective adoptive parent are truthful and accurate.

SEC. 923. NONIMMIGRANT VISAS FOR CHILDREN TRAVELING TO THE UNITED STATES TO BE ADOPTED BY A UNITED STATES CITIZEN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)) is amended—

(1) by striking ''or'' at the end of subparagraph (U);

(2) by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (V) and inserting ''; or''; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

''(W) an adoptable child who is coming into the United States for adoption by a United States citizen and a spouse jointly or by an unmarried United States citizen at least 25 years of age, who has been approved to adopt.''.

(b) TERMINATION OF PERIOD OF AUTHORIZED ADMISSION.—Section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(s) In the case of a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(W), the period of authorized admission shall terminate on the earlier of—

''(1) the date on which the adoption of the nonimmigrant is completed by the courts of the State where the parents reside; or

''(2) the date that is 4 years after the date of admission of the nonimmigrant into the United States, unless a petitioner is able to show cause as to why the adoption could not be completed prior to such date and the Secretary of State extends such period for the period necessary to complete the adoption.''.

(c) TEMPORARY TREATMENT AS LEGAL PERMANENT RESIDENT.—Notwithstanding any other law, all benefits and protections that apply to a legal permanent resident shall apply to a nonimmigrant described in section 101(a)(15)(W) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by subsection (a), pending a full and final adoption.

(d) EXCEPTION FROM IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENT FOR CERTAIN ADOPTED CHILDREN.—Section 212(a)(1)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(1)(C)) is amended—

(1) in the heading by striking ''10 YEARS'' and inserting ''18 YEARS''; and

(2) in clause (i), by striking ''10 years'' and inserting ''18 years''.

(e) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 924. DEFINITION OF ADOPTABLE CHILD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 101(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(3) The term 'adoptable child' means an unmarried person under the age of 18—

''(A)(i) whose biological parents (or parent, in the case of a child who has one sole or surviving parent) or other persons or institutions that retain legal custody of the child—

''(I) have freely given their written irrevocable consent to the termination of their legal relationship with the child, and to the child's emigration and adoption and that such consent has not been induced by payment or compensation of any kind and has not been given prior to the birth of the child;

''(II) are unable to provide proper care for the child, as determined by the competent authority of the child's residence; or

''(III) have voluntarily relinquished the child to the competent authorities pursuant to the law of the child's residence; or

''(ii) who, as determined by the competent authority of the child's residence—

''(I) has been abandoned or deserted by their biological parent, parents, or legal guardians; or

''(II) has been orphaned due to the death or disappearance of their biological parent, parents, or legal guardians;

''(B) with respect to whom the Secretary of State is satisfied that the proper care will be furnished the child if admitted to the United States;

''(C) with respect to whom the Secretary of State is satisfied that the purpose of the adoption is to form a bona fide parent-child relationship and that the parent-child relationship of the child and the biological parents has been terminated (and in carrying out both obligations under this subparagraph the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, may consider whether there is a petition pending to confer immigrant status on one or both of the biological parents);

''(D) with respect to whom the Secretary of State, is satisfied that there has been no inducement, financial or otherwise, offered to obtain the consent nor was it given before the birth of the child;

''(E) with respect to whom the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security, is satisfied that the person is not a security risk; and

''(F) whose eligibility for adoption and emigration to the United States has been certified by the competent authority of the country of the child's place of birth or residence.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 204(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(d)) is amended by inserting ''and an adoptable child as defined in section 101(c)(3)'' before ''unless a valid home-study''.

SEC. 925. APPROVAL TO ADOPT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Prior to the issuance of a visa under section 101(a)(15)(W) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 923(a) of this Act, or the issuance of a full and final adoption decree, the United States citizen adoptive parent shall have approved by the Office a petition to adopt. Such petition shall be subject to the same terms and conditions as are applicable to petitions for classification under section 204.3 of title 8 of the Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) EXPIRATION OF APPROVAL.—Approval to adopt under this Act is valid for 24 months from the date of approval. Nothing in this section may prevent the Secretary of Homeland Security from periodically updating the fingerprints of an individual who has filed a petition for adoption.

(c) EXPEDITED REAPPROVAL PROCESS OF FAMILIES PREVIOUSLY APPROVED TO ADOPT.—The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as may be necessary to provide for an expedited and streamlined process for families who have been previously approved to adopt and whose approval has expired, so long as not more than 3 years have lapsed since the original application.

(d) DENIAL OF PETITION.—

(1) NOTICE OF INTENT.—If the officer adjudicating the petition to adopt finds that it is not readily approvable, the officer shall notify the petitioner, in writing, of the officer's intent to deny the petition. Such notice shall include the specific reasons why the petition is not readily approvable.

(2) PETITIONERS RIGHT TO RESPOND.—Upon receiving a notice of intent to deny, the petitioner has 30 days to respond to such notice.

(3) DECISION.—Within 30 days of receipt of the petitioner's response the Office must reach a final decision regarding the eligibility of the petitioner to adopt. Notice of a formal decision must be delivered in writing.

(4) RIGHT TO AN APPEAL.—Unfavorable decisions may be appealed to the Department of State and, after the exhaustion of the appropriate appeals process of the Department, to a United States district court.

(5) REGULATIONS REGARDING APPEALS.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate formal regulations regarding the process for appealing the denial of a petition.

SEC. 926. ADJUDICATION OF CHILD STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Prior to the issuance of a full and final adoption decree or a visa under section 101(a)(15)(W) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 923(a) of this Act—

(1) the Office shall obtain from the competent authority of the country of the child's residence a certification, together with documentary support, that the child sought to be adopted meets the description of an adoptable child; and

(2) not later than 15 days after the date of the receipt of the certification referred to in paragraph (1), the Office shall make a final determination on whether the certification and the documentary support are sufficient to meet the requirements of this section or whether additional investigation or information is required.

(b) PROCESS FOR DETERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Ambassador at Large shall work with the competent authorities of the child's country of residence to establish a uniform, transparent, and efficient process for the exchange and approval of the certification and documentary support required under subsection (a).

(2) NOTICE OF INTENT.—If the Office finds that the certification submitted by the competent authority of the child's country of origin is not readily approvable, the Office shall—

(A) notify the competent authority and the prospective adoptive parents, in writing, of the specific reasons why the certification is not sufficient; and

(B) provide the competent authority and the prospective adoptive parents the opportunity to address the stated insufficiencies.

(3) PETITIONERS RIGHT TO RESPOND.—Upon receiving a notice of intent to find that a certification is not readily approvable, the prospective adoptive parents shall have 30 days to respond to such notice.

(4) DECISION.—Not later than 30 days after the date of receipt of a response submitted under paragraph (3), the Office must reach a final decision regarding the child's eligibility as an adoptable child. Notice of such decision must be in writing.

(5) RIGHT TO AN APPEAL.—Unfavorable decisions on a certification may be appealed to the Department of State and, after the exhaustion of the appropriate appeals process of the Department, to a United States district court.

Subtitle C—Funding

SEC. 931. FUNDS.

The Secretary shall provide the Ambassador at Large with such funds as may be necessary for—

(1) the hiring of staff for the Office;

(2) investigations conducted by the Office; and

(3) travel and other expenses necessary to carry out this Act.

Subtitle D—Enforcement

SEC. 941. ENFORCEMENT.

(a) CIVIL PENALTIES.—A person shall be subject, in addition to any other penalty that may be prescribed by law, to a civil money penalty of not more than $50,000 for a first violation, and not more than $100,000 for each succeeding violation if such person—

(1) violates a provision of this title or an amendment made by this title;

(2) makes a false or fraudulent statement, or misrepresentation, with respect to a material fact, or offers, gives, solicits, or accepts inducement by way of compensation, intended to influence or affect in the United States or a foreign country—

(A) a decision for an approval under title II;

(B) the relinquishment of parental rights or the giving of parental consent relating to the adoption of a child; or

(C) a decision or action of any entity performing a central authority function; or

(3) engages another person as an agent, whether in the United States or in a foreign country, who in the course of that agency takes any of the actions described in paragraph (1) or (2).

(b) CIVIL ENFORCEMENT.—

(1) AUTHORITY OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—The Attorney General may bring a civil action to enforce subsection (a) against any person in any United States district court.

(2) FACTORS TO BE CONSIDERED IN IMPOSING PENALTIES.—In imposing penalties the court shall consider the gravity of the violation, the degree of culpability of the defendant, and any history of prior violations by the defendant.

(c) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Whoever knowingly and willfully commits a violation described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) shall be subject to a fine of not more than $250,000, imprisonment for not more than 5 years, or both.

SA 331. Mr. SMITH submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of title IV, add the following new section:

SEC. 405. UNITED NATIONS REFORM.

(a) POLICY STATEMENTS.—It shall be the policy of the United States to use its voice, vote and influence—

(1) to strengthen the effectiveness and independence of the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Service;

(2) to ensure a credible, respectable Human Rights organization within the United Nations whose participating members uphold the values enumerated in the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights;

(3) to urge the United Nations to implement management reforms to improve its operational ability and utility, including—

(A) the adoption of a General Assembly resolution that provides for the automatic sunsetting of all United Nations programs, projects, or activities without explicit reauthorization by the General Assembly and the inclusion of a sunset provision in every new General Assembly resolution that establishes a program, project, or activity; and

(B) the adoption of a General Assembly resolution that prevents growth in the total number of United Nations personnel or positions, including outside contractors, from the number that are currently employed or contracted by the United Nations as of the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(4) to actively pursue weighted voting on budgetary and financial matters both in the

Administrative and Budgetary Committee and the General Assembly of the United Nations in accordance with the level of financial contributions of the Member States to the regular budget of the United Nations.

(b) WITHHOLDING OF CONTRIBUTIONS.—Fifty percent of the funds made available in each fiscal year for the assessed contribution of the United States to the United Nations regular budget shall be withheld from obligation and expenditure until the Secretary has submitted to the appropriate congressional committees the certification described in subsection (c) and the report described in subsection (d).

(c) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the following conditions have been met:

(1) The United Nations has met the requirements under paragraphs (1) through (6) of section 401(b) of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (Public Law 103–236; 108 Stat. 446).

(2) The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Service has fulfilled the directive in General Assembly Resolution 48/218B to make all of its reports available to the General Assembly, with modifications to those reports that would violate confidentiality or the due process rights of individuals involved in any investigation.

(3) The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Service is not subject to the budget or organizational authority of any entity within the United Nations other than the Secretary-General for purposes of nomination of its Director.

(4) The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Service receives the totality of operational and budgetary resources through appropriations by the United Nations General Assembly and is not dependent upon any other bureau, division, department, or specialized agency of the United Nations for such funding.

(5) Any official of any bureau, division, department, or specialized agency of the United Nations, including the Secretary-General, may make a recommendation to the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Service to initiate an investigation of any aspect of the United Nations system.

(6) The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Service has the authority to audit, inspect, or investigate each program, project, or activity funded by the United Nations, including the Secretary-General, and each executive board created under the United Nations has been notified in writing of that authority.

(7) The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Service Director is authorized to accept informational leads and testimony on allegations of wrongdoing by United Nations officials and entities pursuant to or initiating a formal Office of Internal Oversight Service investigation.

(8) The following human rights reforms have been adopted by the United Nations:

(A) Any Member State of the United Nations that fails to uphold the values enumerated in the 30 articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights shall be ineligible for membership on any United Nations human rights body.

(B) Any Member State that is subject to sanctions by the United Nations Security Council shall be ineligible for membership on any United Nations human rights body.

(C) Any Member State that is currently subject to an agenda item 9 country-specific resolution or has been the subject of an item 9 country-specific resolution within the last 2 years shall be ineligible for membership on any United Nations human rights body.

(D) Any Member State that violates the principles of a United Nations human rights body it aspires to join shall be ineligible for membership on such body.

(E) Agenda item 8 is abolished.

(9) The Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights has been given greater authority in field operation activities, such as in Darfur and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in furtherance of the purpose and mission of the United Nations.

(d) REPORT ON UNITED NATIONS REFORM.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on United Nations reform.

(2) CONTENT.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall describe—

(A) the status of the implementation of management reforms within the United Nations and its specialized agencies;

(B) the number of outputs, reports, or other items generated by General Assembly resolutions that have been eliminated, including those that were eliminated as a result of the results based budgeting process;

(C) the continued utility and relevance of the Economic and Financial Committee and the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee, given the duplicative agendas of those committees and the Economic and Social Council;

(D) the extent to which the Board of External Auditors is an independent entity within the United Nations and not subject to the budget authority or organizational authority of any authority within the United Nations other than the Secretary-General for purposes of nomination of its Director;

(E) the need for a United Nations Office of Special Investigator to investigate senior United Nations officials or allegations of serious misconduct involving United Nations activities in circumstances where an investigator independent of the United Nations is necessary to maintain public confidence in the integrity of the investigation; and

(F) the need for an independent United Nations Ethics Office within the United Nations to establish and monitor general rules of ethics and conduct, including the program of financial disclosure.

(e) PEACEKEEPING CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) WITHHOLDING OF FUNDS.—Beginning 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, 50 percent of the funds made available in each fiscal year for the assessed contribution of the United States to the United Nations peacekeeping operations budget shall be withheld from obligation and expenditure unless the certification described in paragraph (2) has been transmitted to the appropriate congressional committees.

(2) CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State shall certify to the appropriate congressional committees that the following reforms have been instituted by the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations:

(A) Adoption of a uniform Code of Conduct for United Nations peacekeeping operations that applies equally to all military and civilian personnel, regardless of category, which would include measures to prevent the employees, contractor personnel, and peacekeeping forces of the United Nations from trafficking in persons, exploiting victims of trafficking, or committing acts of illegal sexual exploitation.

(B) Mechanisms for the enforcement of the Code of Conduct described in subparagraph (A) have been implemented, including—

(i) the compilation and maintenance of a data base to track violators of the Code of Conduct in order to ensure that they may never again serve in a United Nations peacekeeping operation;

(ii) the inclusion of provisions for the conduct of court martial proceedings while violators are still in-country in each Status of Forces Agreement (SOFA) or other official document creating, outlining, or governing the peacekeeping operation;

(iii) the creation of a model Memorandum of Understanding between the United Nations and each troop contributing country which requires each troop contributing country to refer any investigation of a violation of the Code of Conduct or other criminal activity by its nationals to its competent national or military authority for prosecution; and

(iv) the establishment of performance evaluations for program managers and area commanders that includes an assessment of efforts to prevent and address allegations of abuse of the Code of Conduct or other criminal activities by those under their authority.

(C) An independent investigative and audit function has been established within each United Nations peacekeeping mission.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees detailing—

(A) the financial compensation provided by the United Nations to countries that contribute troops to United Nations peacekeeping operations for each current peacekeeping mission in operation;

(B) the financial compensation each troop contributing country provides to individual peacekeepers who participate in United Nations peacekeeping operations; and

(C) the amount of money that the United Nations contributes to troop contributing countries to United Nations peacekeeping operations that is not directly provided to individuals serving in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

SA 332. Mrs. LINCOLN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of division A, insert the following new title:

TITLE IX—INTERNATIONAL PARENTAL CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION

SEC. 901. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the ''International Parental Child Abduction Prevention Act of 2005''.

SEC. 902. INADMISSIBILITY OF ALIENS SUPPORTING INTERNATIONAL CHILD ABDUCTORS AND RELATIVES OF SUCH ABDUCTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 212(a)(10)(C)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(10)(C)(ii)) is amended by striking subclause (III) and inserting the following:

''(III) is a spouse (other than a spouse who is the parent of the abducted child), son or daughter (other than the abducted child), grandson or granddaughter (other than the abducted child), parent, grandparent, sibling, cousin, uncle, aunt, nephew, or niece of an alien described in clause (i), or is a spouse of the abducted child described in clause (i), if such person has been designated by the Secretary of State, at the Secretary of State's sole and unreviewable discretion,

is inadmissible until the child described in clause (i) is surrendered to the person granted custody by the order described in that clause, and such person and child are permitted to return to the United States or

such person's place of residence, or until the abducted child is 21 years of age (unless the Secretary determines that an abducted child who is 21 years of age or older is unable to travel freely in accordance with such individual's wishes).''.

(b) AUTHORITY TO CANCEL CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS; IDENTIFICATION OF ALIENS SUPPORTING ABDUCTORS AND RELATIVES OF ABDUCTORS; ENTRY OF ABDUCTORS AND OTHER INADMISSIBLE ALIENS IN THE CONSULAR LOOKOUT AND SUPPORT SYSTEM.—Section 212(a)(10)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(10)(C)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''(iv) AUTHORITY TO CANCEL CERTAIN DESIGNATIONS.—The Secretary of State may, at the Secretary of State's sole and unreviewable discretion, at any time, cancel a designation made pursuant to clause (ii)(III).

''(v) IDENTIFICATION OF ALIENS SUPPORTING ABDUCTORS AND RELATIVES OF ABDUCTORS.—In all instances in which the Secretary of State knows that an alien has committed an act described in clause (i), the Secretary of State shall take appropriate action to identify the individuals who are potentially inadmissible under clause (ii).

''(vi) ENTRY OF ABDUCTORS AND OTHER INADMISSIBLE PERSONS IN CONSULAR LOOKOUT AND SUPPORT SYSTEM.—In all instances in which the Secretary of State knows that an alien has committed an act described in clause (i), the Secretary of State shall take appropriate action to cause the entry into the Consular Lookout and Support System of the name or names of, and identifying information about, such individual and of any persons identified pursuant to clause (v) as potentially inadmissible under clause (ii).

''(vii) DEFINITIONS.—In this subparagraph:

''(I) CHILD.—The term 'child' means an individual who was a child at the time the individual was detained or retained, or at the time custody of the individual was withheld, as described in clause (i) regardless of marital status.

''(II) SIBLING.—The term 'sibling' includes step-siblings and half-siblings.''.

(c) ANNUAL REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and each February 1 thereafter for 4 years, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees, the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives, an annual report that describes the operation of section 212(a)(10)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(10)(C)), as amended by this section, during the prior calendar year to which the report pertains.

(2) CONTENT.—Each annual report submitted in accordance with paragraph (1) shall specify, to the extent that corresponding data is reasonably available, the following:

(A) The number of cases known to the Secretary, disaggregated according to the nationality of the aliens concerned, in which a visa was denied to an applicant on the basis of the inadmissibility of the applicant under section 212(a)(10)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as so amended) during the reporting period.

(B) The cumulative total number of cases known to the Secretary, disaggregated according to the nationality of the aliens concerned, in which a visa was denied to an applicant on the basis of the inadmissibility of the applicant under section 212(a)(10)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as so amended) since the beginning of the first reporting period.

(C) The number of cases known to the Secretary, disaggregated according to the nationality of the aliens concerned, in which the name of an alien was placed in the Consular Lookout and Support System on the basis of the inadmissibility of the alien or potential inadmissibility under section 212(a)(10)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as so amended) during the reporting period.

(D) The cumulative total number of names, disaggregated according to the nationality of the aliens concerned, known to the Secretary to appear in the Consular Lookout and Support System on the basis of the inadmissibility of the alien or potential inadmissibility under section 212(a)(10)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (as so amended) at the end of the reporting period.

NOTICES OF HEARINGS/MEETINGS

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. DOMENICI. Mr. President, I would like to announce for the information of the Senate and the public that the following hearing has been scheduled before the Committee On Energy and Natural Resources.

The hearing will be held on Thursday, April 14, at 10 a.m. in room 366 of the Dirksen Senate Office Building in Washington, DC.

The purpose of the hearing is to receive testimony on S. 388, a bill that would direct the Secretary of Energy to promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas intensity, provide credit-based financial assistance and investment protection for projects that employ advanced climate technologies or systems and establish a national greenhouse gas registry.

Because of the limited time available for this hearing, witnesses may testify by invitation only. However, those wishing to submit written testimony for the hearing record should send two copies of their testimony to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, United States Senate, SD–364 Dirksen Senate Office Building, Washington, DC 20510–6150.

For further information, please contact: Shane Perkins at 202–224–7555.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on Agriculture, Nutrition and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 6, 2005. The purpose of this hearing will be to consider the nomination of Charles F. Conner to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture for the United States Department of Agriculture.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on banking, housing, and urban affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 6, 2005, at 9:30 a.m. to conduct a hearing on ''Regulatory Reform of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises.''

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the committee on energy and natural resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 6, at 10 a.m.

The purpose of the hearing is to consider the nomination of David Garman to be Under Secretary of Energy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENTAL AND PUBLIC WORKS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President. I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Environment and Public Works be authorized to meet on Wednesday, April 6, 2005, at 9:15 a.m. to conduct a hearing regarding the following nominations:

Panel I: Stephen Johnson, nominated by the President to be the Administrator of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

Panel II: Luis Luna—nominated by the President to be EPA's Assistant Administrator for Administration and Resource Management; John Paul Woodley, Jr.—nominated by the President to be Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works; Major General Don Riley, United States Army—nominated by the President to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission; Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, United States Army—nominated by the President to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission; D. Michael Rappoport—nominated by the President to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Foundation; and Michael Butler—nominated by the President to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Foundation.

The hearing will be held in SD 406.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR AND PENSIONS

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions be authorized to hold a hearing during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, April 6, 2005 at 9:30 a.m. in SD–562.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 6, 2005 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed briefing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON AIRLAND

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Airland be authorized to

meet during the session of the Senate on April 6, 2005, at 2:30 p.m., in open session to receive testimony on tactical aviation programs, in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON READINESS AND MANAGEMENT SUPPORT

Mr. LUGAR. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on April 6, 2005, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on military installation programs in review of the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2006.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT—H.R. 1268

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent at 3 p.m. on Monday, the Senate begin consideration of Calendar No. 67, H.R. 1268, the supplemental appropriations bill.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENTS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the appointment of Paul Gherman, of Tennessee, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair announces, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the re-appointment of Alan C. Lowe, of Tennessee, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

NOMINATION OF JOHN B. BELLINGER, TO BE LEGAL ADVISOR OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate immediately proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination on today's Executive Calendar: Calendar No. 30, John Bellinger, to be Legal Advisor to the Department of State.

I further ask unanimous consent that the nomination be confirmed, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate then return to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The nomination considered and confirmed is as follows:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

John B. Bellinger, of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State.

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SALK POLIO VACCINE

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 101, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 101) recognizing the 50th anniversary of the development of the Salk polio vaccine and its importance in eradicating the incidence of polio.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. ENZI. I ask unanimous consent that resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 101) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, is as follows:

S. RES. 101

Whereas the epidemic of polio struck the citizens of the United States in the early 1950s, causing thousands of cases of lingering paralysis and death;

Whereas the epidemic of polio peaked in 1952, having affected nearly 58,000 people, mainly children and young adults;

Whereas many of those affected by polio needed the assistance of mechanical ventilators in order to breathe, while others were crippled and dependent upon crutches for mobility;

Whereas University of Pittsburgh faculty member Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers developed the first vaccine against polio;

Whereas, in April 1955, the results of an unprecedented and successful nationwide clinical trial of the polio vaccine were announced;

Whereas the Salk polio vaccine was approved for widespread public use at that time; and

Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the pioneering achievement of Dr. Jonas Salk and his team of researchers at the University of Pittsburgh in the development of the Salk polio vaccine;

(2) expresses its appreciation to—

(A) the family of Dr. Salk for the elimination of polio, a disease that caused countless deaths and disabling consequences;

(B) the members of Dr. Salk's research team; and

(C) the individuals who generously agreed to participate in clinical trials to validate the efficacy of the polio vaccine; and

(3) celebrates with the University of Pittsburgh on the 50th anniversary of the approval and use of the Salk polio vaccine.

HONORING THE LIFE AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF YOGI BHAJAN

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H. Con. Res. 34, just received from the House and at the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the concurrent resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the concurrent resolution.

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the concurrent resolution and preamble be agreed to en bloc, the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table, and that any statements relating thereto be printed in the RECORD, without intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 34) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. on Thursday, April 7. I further ask consent that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then begin a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, tomorrow the Senate will be in a period of morning business throughout the day. A number of our colleagues will be traveling to Rome to attend the funeral of Pope John Paul II. We will return next week and begin consideration of the Iraq-Afghanistan supplemental appropriations bill. Senators should expect a busy week with rollcall votes throughout. Senators should be aware that we will have a Monday evening vote at approximately 5:15, and we will lock that in tomorrow morning.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. ENZI. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate stand in adjournment under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 8 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, April 7, 2005, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate April 6, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

MARIA CINO, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF TRANSPORTATION, VICE KIRK VAN TINE.

IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be lieutenant general

MAJ. GEN. MICHAEL A. HAMEL, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 531.

To be colonel

JOHN J. KUPKO II, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT IN THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 531 AND 1552:

To be lieutenant colonel

GREGG W. ALLRED, 0000
JEFFREY A. FISHER, 0000
KEVIN S. GROVE, 0000
GERALD C. LEAKE, JR., 0000
ALBERT C. OESTERLE, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

To be lieutenant colonel

STEPHEN E. VANGUNDY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE, UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624 AND 1552:

To be major

BRETT L. SWAIN, 0000

IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL'S CORPS AND FOR REGULAR APPOINTMENT (IDENTIFIED BY AN ASTERISK(*)) UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 624, 531, AND 3064:

To be major

SUNNY S. * AHN, 0000
OLGA M. * ANDERSON, 0000
DAVID O. * ANGLIN, 0000
REBECCA E. * AUSPRUNG, 0000
JAMES A. * BAGWELL, 0000
BRIAN R. * BATTLES, 0000
JASON M. BELL, 0000
MARK J. * BLASKO, 0000
BRADLEY W. BLOODWORTH, 0000
PATRICIA C. * BRADLEY, 0000
DEIRDRE G. BROU, 0000
JAMES E. * BROUSEK, 0000
JOHN M. * COOPER, 0000
JOHN P. * DEVER, JR., 0000
WILLIAM J. DOBOSH, JR., 0000
MARIA Z. * DOUCETTPERRY, 0000
JERRETT W. * DUNLAP, JR., 0000
SEBASTIAN A. EDWARDS, 0000
HEATHER J. * FAGAN, 0000
JANINE P. * FELSMAN, 0000
ERIC J. * FEUSTEL, 0000
GRACE M. * GALLAGHER, 0000
JESSICA A. * GOLEMBIEWSKI, 0000
CHRISTOPHER G. * GRAVELINE, 0000
JOHN A. * HAMNER II, 0000
MICHELLE A. * HANSEN, 0000
TIMOTHY P. * HAYES, JR., 0000
WILLIAM M. * HELIXON, 0000
RICHARD J. * HENRY, 0000
HOWARD H. HOEGE III, 0000
THEODORE C. * HOUDEK, 0000
CRYSTAL L. JENNINGS, 0000
GARY T. * JOHNSON, 0000
PETER * KAGELEIRY, 0000
SAMUEL W. KAN, 0000
KEVEN J. KERCHER, 0000
EUGENE Y. * KIM, 0000
JENNIFER L. KNIES, 0000
CHARLES J. * KOVATS, JR., 0000
CHARLES A. * KUHFAHL, JR., 0000
JAMES D. * LEVINE II, 0000
ERIC D. MAGNELL, 0000
MARK D. * MATTHEWS, 0000
JOHN M. * MCCABE, 0000
MATTHEW J. * MCDONALD, 0000
RUSSELL N. * PARSON, 0000
CARLA T. * PETERS, 0000
KELLI L. * PETERSEN, 0000
CHARLES L. * PRITCHARD, JR., 0000
TIMOTHY J. * RYAN, 0000
STEPHANIE D. * SANDERSON, 0000
LUISA * SANTIAGO, 0000
EMILY C. SCHIFFER, 0000
THOMAS E. SCHIFFER, 0000
CHRISTINE M. SCHVERAK, 0000
DAVID T. * SCOTT, 0000
TROY K. * STABENOW, 0000
JON M. * STANFIELD, 0000
JOHN H. * STEPHENSON II, 0000
KARIN G. TACKABERRY, 0000
MARGARET F. THOMAS, 0000
JACKIE L. * THOMPSON, JR., 0000
MARY C. * VERGONA, 0000
PATRICK L. * VERGONA, 0000
AARON A. WAGNER, 0000
LAURA T. * WELLS, 0000
ERIC W. * YOUNG, 0000

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

JAMES W. CALDWELL, JR., 0000
RICHARD F. EICH, JR., 0000
MARTY G. LUTHER, 0000
RICHARD J. PAPESCA, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

DAVID K. CHAPMAN, 0000
JOSHUA L. COHEN, 0000
MICHAEL S. FLANAGAN, 0000
BRIAN J. HALL, 0000
JAMES M. OMALLEY, 0000
FRANK V. PORCELLINI, JR., 0000
STEVE W. SHULTZ, 0000
ERIK G. STARK, 0000
PAUL C. VICINANZO, 0000
WILLIAM V. WEINMAN, JR., 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

ROBERT W. WORRINGER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

MELISSA J. MACKAY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

THOMAS J. CUFF, 0000
GERALD A. LEMAY, 0000
CARVEN A. SCOTT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

STEVEN F. MOMANO, 0000
AGUSTIN L. OTERO, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

LARRY THOMAS, 0000
DAVID J. WRAY, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

KERI A. BUCK, 0000
JON C. HENRY, 0000
JOHN N. ROGERS, 0000
WILLIAM J. WILSON III, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

NICHOLAS A. FILIPPONE, 0000
SUSAN C. KINNEY, 0000
KYLE L. MCCOLLOM, 0000
KARI A. PEREZ, 0000
NANCY S. VEGEL, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

EDWARD Y. ANDRUS, 0000
ALESSANDRO V. CUEVAS, 0000
KAY A. GRIFFITHS, 0000
MARK W. RUSSELL, 0000
BRIAN W. SAXMAN, 0000
THOMAS E. STOWELL, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

REBEKAH R. BARRISH, 0000
VICTORIA BOYD, 0000
STEVEN M. CARLEY, 0000
DOUGLAS C. DERRICK, 0000
MICHAEL J. DEVINE, 0000
TIMOTHY W. DORSEY, 0000
JAMES J. GARRETT, 0000
MARK W. GIBSON, 0000
DUANE A. GILES, 0000
JEFFERY B. GOLDMAN, 0000
DONALD P. HENRY, 0000
CAROL W. HUMPHRIES, 0000
KEITH A. LOWRY, 0000
ANNE M. MALIWAUKI, 0000
JAMES B. MILLER, 0000
GREGORY L. MITSOFF, 0000
MICHAEL J. MURPHY, 0000
LAWRENCE J. NOLAN, 0000
DAVID G. PASTULA, 0000
VICTOR D. PRATT, 0000
CHRISTINE E. REIDELL, 0000
JEFFREY L. ROBERSON, 0000
GRANT W. SODERSTROM, 0000
PAUL E. STEPHAN, 0000
SAMUEL G. SUMWALT, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

CHARLES E. ADAMS, 0000
RODOLFO Q. ADVINCULA, 0000
JOHN L. BEAN, 0000
ROBERT J. DECESARI, 0000
ALLAN R. FLUHARTY, 0000
DAVID M. GIBBS, 0000
MICHAEL J. GOLDEN, 0000
LYNETTE M. HALBERT, 0000
KENNETH L. HAMPTON, 0000
MARTIN R. KRUGER, 0000
BRUCE W. MIXER, 0000
TIMOTHY J. POLICH, 0000
MARK D. RAHMES, 0000
JAMES H. RODMAN, JR., 0000
TERREL J. SPEARS, 0000
GREGORY D. SPRIGGS, 0000
KATHERINE A. WALTER, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

WALTER J. ADELMANN, JR., 0000
DOUGLAS C. BEYER, 0000
REY S. CONSUNJI, 0000
JOHN D. CROCE, 0000
GAIL A. EMOW, 0000
MICHAEL J. FOSTER, 0000
EDWARD G. GALLREIN III, 0000
RODELIO LACO, JR., 0000
ROBERT S. MCKENNA, 0000
RUSSELL N. MIELKE, 0000
JOSEPH A. MURACH, 0000
CLIFFORD A. PISH, 0000
STEPHEN V. PLATAMONE, 0000
JOHN J. REAPE, JR., 0000
BRIAN T. SMITH, 0000
DOUGLAS W. SWANSON, 0000
RICHARD S. TEDMON, 0000
CLAYTON G. TETTELBACH, 0000

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVAL RESERVE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

To be captain

RUSSELL E. ALLEN, 0000
TODD R. ALLEN, 0000
BRIAN D. ALTMAN, 0000
CHARLES D. BALDWIN, 0000
RUSSELL A. BAZEMORE, 0000
STEVEN P. BECK, 0000
THOMAS E. BECK, 0000
SYDNEY J. BEEM, 0000
ROBERT W. BERTRAND, 0000
GLENN P. BERUBE, 0000
GUY A. BONY, 0000
JOHN M. BOYD, 0000
SCOTT R. BOYER, 0000
WILLIAM L. BRACKIN, 0000
THOMAS E. BRANDT, 0000
FRANKLIN D. I. BRANGACCIO, 0000
THOMAS T. BRICE, 0000
JEFFREY A. BRITTON, 0000
DAVID A. BRUMLEY, 0000
DANIEL P. BURNS, 0000
PAUL A. BUSHROW, 0000
LEWIS S. BYINGTON, 0000
MICHAEL W. CALVERT, 0000
STEVEN J. CAMACHO, 0000
MICHAEL A. CANNON, 0000
LANCE S. CARR, 0000
ANDREW L. CASSITY, 0000
DONALD F. CHASE, 0000
STEVEN L. CHRISTENSEN, 0000
JEFFREY D. COBB, 0000
JOSEPH R. COOK, 0000
ANTHONY T. COWDEN, 0000
LISA A. CUMMING, 0000
GLENN H. DAUGHTERY, 0000
ANDREW J. DEEM, 0000
THOMAS F. DENIO, JR., 0000
HAROLD P. DUNNING, 0000
THOMAS L. EGBERT, 0000
NOEL M. ENRIQUEZ, 0000
JAMES R. FACINELLI, 0000
PETER T. FINNEY, 0000
JOHN B. FLUHART, 0000
CHRISTOPHER D. FOX, 0000
ROBERT E. J. FRONCILLO, 0000
GORDON C. FRY, 0000
JOHN W. FULCHER IV, 0000
ROBERT A. GANCAS, 0000

KENNETH R. GARBER, 0000
JOSE F. GARCIA III, 0000
CHRISTOPHER G. GILBERT, 0000
ALBERT K. GIVEN, 0000
RONALD G. GREIFF, 0000
PAUL F. HANKINS, 0000
DENNIS M. HANSEN, 0000
BRIAN R. HASTINGS, 0000
JOHN D. HATCH, 0000
LEONARD HATTON, 0000
KAREN D. HAYNES, 0000
HENRY F. HERBIG IV, 0000
GREGORY A. HERUTH, 0000
RUSTAN J. HILL, 0000
ALAN L. HOLLINGSWORTH, 0000
LAWRENCE B. JACKSON, 0000
LIONEL D. JENKINS, 0000
JAMES G. JENNINGS, 0000
SCOTT B. J. JERABEK, 0000
PATRICK J. KERSHAW, 0000
FRANCIS A. KIES, 0000
THOMAS P. KIM, 0000
GREGORY S. KIRSCHNER, 0000
KEVIN G. KNIGHT, 0000
MICHAEL D. LAMBING, 0000
JAMES D. LANE, 0000
WILLIAM M. LAPRISE, 0000
PHILIP J. LAWVER, 0000
JAMES R. LEACH, 0000
MARK L. LEAVITT, 0000
DAVID A. LEMMON, 0000
LAVERN D. LUTES, 0000
JOHN P. MADDEN, 0000
GREGORY P. MARVIL, 0000
DANIEL T. MASTERSON, 0000
JON G. MATHESON, 0000
CRAIG N. MCCARTNEY, 0000
JAMES M. MCGEE, 0000
MICHAEL P. MCMAHON, 0000
CRAIG S. MILLER, 0000
DEANE D. K. MUHLENBERG, 0000
BRIAN L. NEELEY, 0000
MICHAEL J. NEVINS, 0000
CALVIN C. NG, 0000
MATTHEW J. ODONOGHUE, 0000
THOMAS W. OKEEFE, 0000
TERRENCE J. OLAUGHLIN, 0000
JAMES S. OSTACH, 0000
JAMES K. OTTO, 0000
ROBERT B. OWEN, 0000
THOMAS M. OWENS, 0000
RAUL F. PALENZUELA, 0000
ANTHONY PANTOJA, 0000
MARK A. PATTERSON, 0000
JAMES D. PEGRAM, 0000
ROBERT J. PERRY, JR., 0000
GREGORY J. PERTLE, 0000
CRAIG A. PETERSEN, 0000
THOMAS R. PLENEFISCH, 0000
KERIM L. POWELL, 0000
MICHAEL L. PREAS, 0000
JOHN M. PRESKI, 0000
GEORGE S. QUIN, JR., 0000
RICHARD R. REICHEL, JR., 0000
JON L. ROBY, 0000
CHARLES J. ROGERS, 0000
PAUL S. ROSEN, 0000
THOMAS W. SAVIDGE, 0000
TIMOTHY G. SCHAEFER, 0000
KURT V. SCOTT, 0000
MICHAEL E. SEARS, 0000
JOSEPH C. SHARP, 0000
JAMES E. SHAW II, 0000
RICHARD W. SISK, 0000
STEPHEN M. SNYDER, 0000
STEVEN B. SNYDER, 0000
KENNETH P. SOURS, 0000
CARY M. STEVENS, 0000
KURT D. STOREY, 0000
THOMAS M. STROSCHEIN, 0000
RICHARD E. SWEETMAN, JR., 0000
DAVID Z. TAYLOR, 0000
PRAKASH THOMAS, 0000
GERARD P. TIGHE, 0000
JOHN W. TOKAREWICH, 0000
THOMAS M. TOMP, 0000
MICHAEL D. TURNER, 0000
MARTIN L. VANDENBOSCH, 0000
PETER M. VANSTEE, 0000
JAMES A. VITTON, 0000
PHILLIP D. VOELLER, 0000
JOHN P. WALISH, 0000
STEVEN D. WATKINS, 0000
MILDRED R. WEARS, 0000
MARK R. WEGGE, 0000
JOHN F. WEIGOLD, 0000
JOHN E. WEIRES, 0000
MICHAEL J. WELLINGTON, 0000
KENNETH D. WHIDDEN, JR., 0000
DOUGLAS C. WIED, 0000
ALEXANDER L. WILSON, JR., 0000
RONALD R. WOODS, 0000
KIMO K. ZAIGER, 0000
STEPHEN E. ZINI, 0000

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

TIMOTHY D. ADAMS, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY, VICE JOHN B. TAYLOR.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by the Senate Wednesday, April 6, 2005:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN B. BELLINGER, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE LEGAL ADVISER OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

THE ABOVE NOMINATION WAS APPROVED SUBJECT TO THE NOMINEE'S COMMITMENT TO RESPOND TO REQUESTS TO APPEAR AND TESTIFY BEFORE ANY DULY CONSTITUTED COMMITTEE OF THE SENATE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN PAUL GARCIA

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Paul Garcia joined the Army when he was 19 years old. He served throughout Europe for 7 years on various assignments for the United States. During his stay in service, he received the Instructor of the Year Award in 1997 and the Joseph Hibbs Award. He was also awarded of the Kentucky Colonel Award from the Governor of Kentucky. In 1998, he retired after 20 years of service in the military.

Mr. Garcia is currently serving his second term as Alderman Place 1. He works on several committees and fundraisers within the community. Currently Paul Garcia has been playing an active role in the establishment of a park in Charlotte.

Paul Garcia lives in Charlotte with his wife Frances and they have two children together. As a pillar of his local community, he is a route manager for all of San Antonio and the surrounding country.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have been given this opportunity to recognize Alderman Paul Garcia of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

A TRIBUTE TO MANUEL VARGAS

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in honor of Manuel Vargas who is being honored at the Brooklyn Caribe Lions Club dinner dance as ''Real Estate Broker of the Year.''

Manuel is a successful licensed real estate broker in New York and Florida. He graduated magna cum laude from New York University with a Bachelor of Science degree in Real Estate. Manuel has more than 10 years of experience in the real estate market. A Hall of Fame member for a large franchise in the new millennium, Manuel decided to start PAN/AMERICAN Realty.

Amongst his reasons for doing so was because he wanted to deliver excellent, personalized service to his clients and to establish a household name that would be synonymous with honesty, professionalism and efficient marketing techniques. His goal was to give realty advice to clients and customers about all facets of the real estate industry.

Throughout his career, Manuel has learned that he can also make a positive impact in the community that he works in by helping those in need. He has received numerous awards for all of the support and dedication he has given to different organizations.

Mr. Speaker, Manuel Vargas has been a leader in his community and has been a wonderful example of how dedication and perseverance can lead to success. As such, he is more than worthy of receiving our recognition today and the award of Real Estate Broker of the Year. Thus, I urge my colleagues to join me in honoring this truly remarkable person.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION DESIGNATING THE ED EILERT POST OFFICE

HON. DENNIS MOORE

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. MOORE of Kansas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce legislation designating the United States Postal Service facility located at 12433 Antioch Road in Overland Park, Kansas, as the ''Ed Eilert Post Office Building.'' I am joined in sponsoring this measure by my colleagues from Kansas: Representatives TODD TIAHRT, JIM RYUN and JERRY MORAN, and I am grateful for their support of this bipartisan legislation.

Later this month, an era will come to an end in Overland Park. Ed Eilert will step down as Mayor of Overland Park, an office to which he was elected six times and held for twenty-four years. Since he was sworn into office in 1981, Overland Park has grown to become Kansas' second largest city. Its population has nearly doubled to over 165,000, the number of people working within the city's limits has more than tripled, with roughly 120,000 jobs in Overland Park today, and hotel capacity has increased from about 800 rooms to 5,100 rooms. During his tenure, 21,897 single family and 19,533 multifamily residences have been added in Overland Park, along with 23.7 million square feet of office, retail and industrial space. Over the years, the city has seen the arrival of the Sprint campus, three new hospitals, the University of Kansas Edwards campus, the Carlsen Center at Johnson County Community College, and a city convention center.

Additionally, under Ed Eilert's leadership the city has added the landmark Clock Tower Plaza and the Farmer's Market in the downtown area, a neighborhood conservation program, the Arboretum and Botanical Gardens, the International Trade Center, the W. Jack Sanders Justice Center, and interchanges at 1–435 at both Nall Avenue and Quivira Road. Mayor Eilert also supported construction of the Fire Training Center, used by many other city and county fire departments in the Kansas City metropolitan area, and he worked with Johnson County Community College to create a training facility for Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway employees on the college campus. And during Mayor Eilert's tenure, the city's land area expanded by 36 percent, to nearly 62 square miles. Finally, Overland Park enjoys a top rating for a solid financial condition. It has received numerous awards as an outstanding city. For years, Overland Park has had the lowest property tax rate of any first-class city in Kansas.

Ed Eilert was first elected to the Overland Park City Council in 1977 and became Council president in 1980. A former teacher at Shawnee Mission North High School, he knows firsthand how Overland Park has benefited significantly from its nationally recognized school systems. He had made his first visit to the city in 1960 because it was the home of Jan Bush, who he met while studying at Emporia State University and would marry two years later. The Eilerts moved to Overland Park in 1965 when he completed graduate school. In 1977, he began his first campaign for political office and has been a public servant continuously since then. He also has been a financial consultant with A.G. Edwards & Sons and serves on the board of directors of Metcalf Bank.

When you consider the daunting array of challenges that Ed Eilert faced in his twenty four years as mayor of Overland Park, you cannot help but agree with Bob Sigmund, the opinion page editor of the Johnson County Sun, who recently wrote that Eilert ''provided the vision and leadership in shaping Overland Park's success as an ideal place to live, work and raise a family . . . Eilert's political skills have been especially useful in easing tensions—and maintaining an acceptable balance—between the older, established neighborhoods in northern Overland Park and the rapidly expanding new subdivisions in the south.''

I am proud to call Ed Eilert my friend. While we are members of different political parties, I have always been impressed by his sound judgment, diligence, and dedication to his community and to the public welfare. When he sought the Republican nomination for the U.S. House in 1996, however, he lost narrowly to then-State Representative Vince Snowbarger for the nomination to succeed Representative Jan Meyers. I often tell Third District residents that I would have not sought election to Congress myself had Ed Eilert been elected two years before I became a candidate for the office.

Dedication of this Postal Service facility in Overland Park is a small but fitting tribute to a man who has dedicated most of his adult life to public service at the community level, working tirelessly to bring people together while ensuring quality economic development and competence in the delivery of local services. I commend Mayor Ed Eilert and again thank my colleagues in the Kansas House delegation for their support. I hope the House can move quickly to approve this legislation so we can soon see it signed into law.

COMMENDING OUTSTANDING EFFORTS OF ARMED FORCES AND EMPLOYEES OF THE STATE DEPARTMENT AND USAID IN RESPONSE TO EARTHQUAKE AND TSUNAMI OF DECEMBER 26, 2004

SPEECH OF

HON. ENI F.H. FALEOMAVAEGA

OF AMERICAN SAMOA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 120, commending the outstanding efforts of our military and civilian personnel who responded to the humanitarian crisis engendered by the earthquake and tsunami of December 26, 2004. I commend my colleagues, Mr. BLUMENAUER and Mr. LEACH, for submitting this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I traveled to Southeast Asia in January to help assess the damage caused by the tsunami. I saw firsthand the overwhelming scale of the human tragedy that killed over 250,000 people. Without the heroic efforts of the U.S. Armed Forces personnel and the civilian employees of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development, the death toll would have been far worse.

These men and women worked tirelessly to help provide necessities, like drinking water, food, and medical supplies, to survivors of the tragedy. In addition, many worked to coordinate the relief efforts of donors, relief organizations, aid agencies, and governments. The civilian employees worked to identify and assist U.S. citizens who were affected by the tsunami.

Because of the courageous efforts of these Americans, I have no doubt that many lives were saved. This selfless giving in a time of crisis was beyond the call of duty. Their efforts deserve great recognition and I am proud to support this resolution commending them.

GREEK INDEPENDENCE DAY

SPEECH OF

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 5, 2005

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the 184th anniversary of Greece's declaration of independence from the Ottoman Empire. Against impossible odds, the Greeks defeated one of the most powerful empires in history and gained their independence.

In March 1821, after 400 years of Ottoman rule, Bishop Germanos of Patras raised the traditional Greek flag at the monastery of Agia Lavras, inciting his countrymen to rise against the Ottoman army. The Bishop timed this act of revolution to coincide with the Greek Orthodox holiday celebrating the archangel Gabriel's announcement that the Virgin Mary was pregnant with the divine child. Bishop Germanos's message to his people was clear: a new spirit was about to be born in Greece.

Greek Independence Day is an appropriate time to reflect upon the strong ties between Greece and the United States. Indeed, when the Greeks of 1821 fought for independence from the Ottoman Empire, they drew inspiration from the ideals and institutions of the fledgling United States. During their War of Independence, the Greeks also received encouragement from many Americans, including Presidents James Madison and James Monroe and Representatives Daniel Webster and Henry Clay, each of whom gave memorable speeches in Congress in support of the Greek revolutionaries. Just as our defeat of the British army was remarkable, so too was the Greek triumph over the Ottoman Army, a momentous achievement in world history.

As many of my colleagues know, New York City is home to the largest Hellenic population outside of Greece and Cyprus. Western Queens, which I have the honor of representing, is often called Little Athens because of the large Hellenic population in that neighborhood.

New Yorkers celebrate Greek Independence Day with a parade on Fifth Avenue in Manhattan, along with a great many cultural events and private gatherings. These events, hosted by the Federation of Hellenic Societies and other Hellenic and Philhellenic organizations and friends, remind us of the Hellenic-American community's many contributions to our nation's history and culture.

On April 10, the President of the Federation of Hellenic Societies, Nikos Diamontidis, along with the organization's officers and board members, will join Parade Committee Chairman Dinos Rallis, Co-Chairmen Tasos Manesis and Philip Christopher and Co-Chairwoman Georgia Kaloidis in reminding New Yorkers of the glory of Greece, the joy of the Olympics and the hope of freedom and human rights for all. The Grand Marshals of this year's parade are my distinguished colleague, Senator PAUL SARBANES, his wife, Christine, Anthony Diamataris, the Editor and Publisher of the National Herald and his wife, Litsa. Adding to the day's ethnic pride will be parade emcees Nick Gregory, Anthoula Katsimatides and Petros Fourniotis.

In 2004, the Athens Olympics united the world. Today, while New Yorkers pay tribute to Greece's accomplishments, we also seek to add our hometown to the list of great Olympic host cities. It is my hope that one of Greece's most enduring contributions to world history will finally come to New York City in 2012.

As the founder and co-Chairperson of the Hellenic Caucus in Congress, I ask the nation to join me in celebrating Greece's independence. Additionally, it is my sincere pleasure to pay tribute to New York's Hellenic-American community for its many contributions to our city and nation.

"Zeto E Eleftheria!" (Long Live Freedom!)

IN CELEBRATION OF GROUP A BOYS' BASKETBALL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

HON. ROBERT C. SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with great pride to call attention to a group of young students from Surry County, Virginia, who have distinguished themselves, their school, their community, and the Commonwealth of Virginia.

The Surry High School Cougars boys' basketball team had a remarkable season and I believe the Cougars deserve formal recognition for their accomplishments. On March 12, 2005, the Cougars won their first Group A Boys' Basketball State Championship at the Virginia Commonwealth University Siegel Center in Richmond. Surry completed its 2005 season with a truly impressive record of 26–4.

The Cougars have dedicated this year's championship run to their Head Coach, Joe Ellis. Mr. Ellis was diagnosed with colon and stomach cancer twenty months ago. Despite his diagnosis and subsequent chemotherapy treatments, Mr. Ellis has continued to coach the Cougars, missing only one game during their championship season. His dedication and commitment to the team have given his players a model of how to face adversity both on the basketball court and in life.

Along with the State Championship, the Cougars won this year's Tri-Rivers District Tournament and the Region A Tournament. Coach Ellis was awarded Coach of the Year by the Virginia High School Coaches Association. Junior center Edward Barham was also honored as Player of the Year.

I want to extend my enthusiastic congratulations for a job well done to Coach Ellis and the Surry High School Cougars—the 2005 Group A Virginia High School League Boys' Basketball State Champions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JIM DAVIS

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. DAVIS of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 90, had I been present, I would have voted "no".

HONORING DR. CONSTANTINE P. KIAMOS AND STEINMETZ ACADEMIC CENTRE

HON. RAHM EMANUEL

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of one of Chicago's great educators, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, former Principal of the Steinmetz Academic Centre.

Steinmetz Academic Centre stands in the heart of Chicago's Belmont-Cragin neighborhood, and has served the people of this community for over ninety years. Dr. Kiamos retired from Steinmetz last year after two decades of distinguished leadership, and was recently honored at a school event.

During his tenure, Steinmetz underwent many changes, including a major increase in enrollment. Through all of the changes, Steinmetz maintained its commitment to providing students with a high caliber education.

Dr. Kiamos has always believed in the importance of public education. Before he was the principal of Steinmetz Academic Centre, he served as Principal of Lovett School; Assistant Principal at Carpenter School and was a teacher at Medill Elementary.

Steinmetz's mission is to provide equal access to education for all students in an environment that is intellectually, physically and

emotionally stimulating, and to develop productive citizens competent in academic and life skills, accepting of themselves and others, and capable of lifelong learning. Dr. Kiamos' leadership and teaching style was an important factor in carrying out this mission.

Over the years, Steinmetz has provided many opportunities for students to excel, through programs such as the Illinois State Scholars, Advanced Placement classes, the Academic Decathlon team, the Chicago Debate League and competitive sports teams. Many of Steinmetz's students who took advantage of these opportunities have excelled and achieved tremendous progress in a wide variety of fields.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Fifth Congressional District of Illinois and indeed all of Chicago, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing a lifetime of service and dedication to our community by a great Chicagoan, Dr. Constantine P. Kiamos, and Steinmetz Academic Centre that he so proudly served.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. XAVIER BECERRA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, March 21, 2005, I did not cast my Floor vote on roll call number 90 on the motion to suspend the rules and pass S. 686, a private bill for the relief of the parents of Theresa Marie Schiavo. Had I been present, I would have voted nay.

My personal beliefs on religious morality belong to me, in my home and in my church, with my family and with my God. The Schiavos deserved this same level of privacy and respect. The good people of the 31st Congressional District did not elect me to impose my religious mores upon them or the American people through legislative acts in Congress.

Members of Congress should never have legislated on this very personal family matter—the Schiavos told us this and so even did the courts.

The mere fact that we took up this legislation sets a dangerous precedent where if the Congress dislikes a court's decision we pursue a law to overturn our own constitutional system of checks and balances. In passing S. 686, this Congress complicated what has already been a long and difficult journey for the Schiavos these past 15 years. May Theresa Schiavo now rest in peace.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ALDERMAN AUGUSTINE MUNOZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz for his public service to the city of Charlotte, Texas.

Augustine Munoz is no stranger to serving his country. A veteran of the Korean Conflict, he served as an artillery trainer. It was this same patriotism and dedication that later led him into the service of his local community.

Augustine Munoz has lived in Charlotte for over 72 years. His experience spans across many trades, including work in construction and the oil fields. He currently works on numerous committees and has spent time working with the Democratic Party.

As a longstanding community participant, he has dedicated much of his life to improving the City of Charlotte. While times may have changed, Augustine Munoz remains a steadfast community leader and organIzer.

Augustine Munoz has been married for over fifty years. He is a devoted family man who loves to spend time with his children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I am deeply proud to have this opportunity to recognize Alderman Augustine Munoz of Charlotte for his dedicated public service.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDGE HECTOR J. LIENDO

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the important contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo in Laredo, TX in my Congressional District.

Born July 10, 1950, Judge Liendo attended Leyendecker Elementary School, L.J. Christen Jr. High and Martin High School. He later attended Laredo Junior College and received his Associates Degree in Computer Science.

Judge Hector J. Liendo enlisted in the military and chose the U.S. Navy right after high school. Through the navy he traveled to south East Asia, China, Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Thailand, Borneo, Pakistan, Australia, Singapore, Okinawa, Japan, a brief tour to the ship's maiden name, ''The Anchorage Alaska'' and crossed the equator twice with a big celebration.

While in the navy, he made five tours to Vietnam during his four-year enlistment. He was awarded the Vietnam service medal, the Vietnam campaign medal, the combat action ribbon and the Philipino Presidential Citation. He received an honorable discharge in February 1973.

Shortly after arriving in Laredo, Judge Liendo left for Michigan where he worked as a crane operator for the Pontiac Motor Company. Later in 1973, he worked at the Laredo City Drug Store in downtown Laredo. He got married in June 17, 1974 and started attending Laredo Junior College, full time.

In 1978, Judge Liendo went to Houston, to work in the Seismic Processing Department. He was employed as a computer operator and his duties entailed payroll, accounts payable & receivables, and accounting general ledger.

He then worked for Entex as a marketing representative and served as a City Councilman for District VII from 1988–1992.

In 1993 he was elected Justice of the Peace, Precinct One, Place One and ran unopposed for a second term in 1997. As Justice of the Peace Judge Liendo deals with civil cases, criminal cases, traffic citations, fines and court hearings.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to have this opportunity to recognize the contributions of Judge Hector J. Liendo.

IN HONOR OF DEANNE FITZMAURICE ON WINNING THE PULITZER PRIZE

HON. NANCY PELOSI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Deanne Fitzmaurice of the San Francisco Chronicle for winning the Pulitzer Prize for feature photography. This award, the most prestigious in American journalism, is presented to only one photographer every year for a distinguished example of feature photography.

Deanne Fitzmaurice earned this award for her moving photo essay on an Oakland hospital's effort to mend an Iraqi boy nearly killed by an explosion. Her powerful photographic narrative captures the story of this young child as doctors strive to give him a chance at a new life. With the accompanying articles written by Meredith May, these poignant photographs tell an overlooked but significant side of the Iraq war.

Deanne has worked at the San Francisco Chronicle for the past 16 years. Her work has been featured in numerous publications including TIME, Newsweek, and U.S. News and World Report. She was named the Bay Area Press Photographers Association's Photographer of the Year in 2002.

Deanne's collection is indicative of the high quality of work at the San Francisco Chronicle. The Chronicle is committed to excellence in journalism, as evidenced by Deanne's photography and its fine reporting. Congratulations to Deanne Fitzmaurice and the San Francisco Chronicle on this magnificent honor.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

SPEECH OF

HON. JOHN F. TIERNEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 17, 2005

The House in Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union had under consideration the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res 95) establishing the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2006, revising appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal year 2005, and setting forth appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2007 through 2010:

Mr. TIERNEY. Mr. Chairman, throughout the year, Members often express support for certain policies and programs or advocate for fiscal discipline. However, during the consideration of the Budget Resolution our true commitment to those priorities comes to light.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more concerned with advancing a narrow ideological agenda. Carefully making sure to allow for a total of $106 billion in tax cuts over five years for high-end earners, this GOP Budget Resolution carelessly exacts severe cuts to critical services that benefit students of all ages, veterans, first responders, poor and working families, and communities interested in economic development.

What this Republican Budget Resolution reveals is that the Majority is more interested in

advancing a reckless, unsustainable economic policy than restoring fiscal responsibility. In fact, the Majority's proposal calls for a deficit of $376 billion in 2006—$78 billion more than the Congressional Budget Office's estimate. This budget, which only accounts for five years, never reaches balance.

The Republican Budget signifies a failure in honest accounting not just because of what is included, but also for what it disingenuously leaves out. Excluded from this Budget are the details of the President's estimated $754 billion 10-year Social Security privatization plan ($20 Billion over the next decade), the cost of the over $800 billion (and growing) Medicare drug bill, the longer term costs of the war in Iraq, the cost to stop the alternative minimum tax from penalizing regular families, and the implications of extending the tax cuts.

Feigning fiscal discipline and fundamentally at odds with what I believe are the real priorities and concerns of the American people, this GOP Budget Resolution also offers no 21st Century competitive strategy for our country and further shreds what is left of our ever-fraying safety net.

A much needed competitive strategy would start with education, which is the vehicle through which students of all ages can achieve and become what they may never have otherwise dreamed possible. Going to college and attaining a degree is, unfortunately, not a right of passage for the vast majority in our country. Achieving this goal must not be minimized. Each year, a young man or woman becomes the first member of his or her family to graduate from college. For them, and for all their relatives and loved ones, obtaining a diploma means progress and instills pride. A college degree translates into hard dollars: over their lifetime, college graduates will earn on average $1 million more than they would have if they did not attend post-secondary school.

Schools continue to serve as the source where we can view the promise of America in progress, and our country's legacy depends upon how well we educate our young people. For those not completing four years of college, higher job skills and technical abilities acquired through vocational and technological training and education are the path to the middle class.

The Majority's budget cuts education programs by $2.5 billion in 2006 and $38 billion over the next five years and completely eliminates 48 programs, including the $1.3 billion vocational education program, the $437 million Safe and Drug-Free Schools Program, the $306 million GEAR-UP program, and the $225 million Even Start family literacy program.

These cuts come at a time when the cost of attending a four-year public college has increased more than $2,300. In fact, according to the 2003 National Center for Public Policy and Higher Education survey, Massachusetts had the largest tuition increase in four-year public institutions (24 percent), and the second largest in community colleges (26 percent). They attack our increasingly successful community college and vocational-technical training programs.

These cuts come at a time when there is an increased need to college access programs, including GEAR-UP and TRIO, that help high school students prepare for, apply to, and find financial aid for college.

These cuts come at a time when many communities across the country are struggling with a growing methamphetamine and opiate problem. In Massachusetts, according to statistics from the state's Department of Public Health, the number of deaths from opiates has risen over 300%—from 108 in 1991 to 468 in 2001, which is the most recent year for which statistics are available.

The Safe and Drug-Free Schools and Communities State Grants program has assisted states and school districts in developing youth anti-drug education initiatives, which has, in turn, helped parents and teachers learn more about the prevalence of drugs in the community. The program has been a source through which Massachusetts has been successful in obtaining $40 million in funds over the past five years.

It is not just those who are looking to improve themselves through education that this GOP Budget Resolution betrays, but it also advances the Administration's all-out assault against those that depend on our longstanding safety net, those programs that assist the poor, children, elderly, and people with disabilities. Meanwhile, let me reiterate, the Republican proposal calls for $106 billion in additional tax cuts. According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center, 46% of those who will benefit from these tax cuts in 2005 will be households who earn $1 million, which comprise only .2 percent of all households nationwide. The average tax cut for this income bracket was greater than $30,000 in 2003.

This GOP Budget Resolution finances its hundred billion-dollar tax cut for the highest income earners at the expense of the most vulnerable and least fortunate in society. That is wrong.

As required by the Republican Budget, the Agriculture Committee would be forced to cut spending by more than $5 billion over five years. With the general reluctance to alter or scale back farm subsidies, the food stamp program would bear the brunt of these cuts. This is not a program that has been riddled with so-called ''waste, fraud, and abuse.'' The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities calculates that ''over 95 percent of food stamp benefits go to households with income below the federal poverty level. Virtually all of the remainder goes to the elderly and people with disabilities.''

Further, their budget makes deeper cuts in Medicaid than the President's budget, directing the Ways and Means Committee and the Energy and Commerce Committee to cut $19 and $20 billion respectively. It is expected that the bulk of such cuts will fall on low-income programs such as the Earned Income Tax Credit, the Child Tax Credit, unemployment benefits, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, foster care, and Medicaid.

According to the Center for Budget and Policy Priorities, ''these Medicaid cuts are likely to push hard-pressed states to eliminate coverage for a substantial number of low income people, increasing the ranks of the uninsured and the underinsured.''

The Center for Budget and Policy Priorities estimates that, should these cuts affect all states proportionally, this would translate into a loss of over $117 million for Massachusetts.

This is not the direction in which this country should be headed. What is being proposed in the Republican Majority's Budget Resolution is not a blueprint for success.

Certainly, our constituents want to know that their tax dollars are being well spent. There is no question about that.

But parents also do not want to pass on huge amounts of debt to their children, which is what the GOP Budget Resolution does.

Parents do not want their children to be denied opportunities to learn and advance in ways beyond what they achieved in life. Moms and dads want to ensure that their kids are educated about drugs. They want their kids to know how to maximize their chances of gaining acceptance at a college and have programs available to help minimize the cost.

They want to know there are enough police and fire fighters on the street to be able to respond effectively to emergencies, they want our country's veterans to receive adequate care after they return home from service, and they want to protect the environment so their sons and daughters inherit cleaner air and safer drinking water.

At the same time, they take offense to denying food stamps or eliminating Medicaid coverage for those who depend on such services just to make room for another hundred billion dollar tax cut for the already well-off. That doesn't meet their standard of fundamental fairness.

Their Budget Resolution does nothing to improve upon our long-term fiscal outlook, fails students, and exploits the poor. We must do better. We implement solutions that honestly and effectively address the budget deficit, chart a course that allows our students to competitively excel, and adequately provide for those who need the most help.

A Better Way: The Democratic Budget is a more fiscally responsible approach to balancing the budget. It achieves balance by 2012, while accumulating less debt and wastes fewer resources on interest payments needed to service the national debt.

The Democratic alternative is based on essential two-sided pay-as-you-go budget enforcement rules that led to a balanced budget in the 1990's. The cost of any additional spending, or any new tax cut, must be paid for by curbing spending, offsetting spending cuts, or new revenues. The 1990 pay-as-you-go rules had bipartisan support, including the support of the first President Bush. Those rules turned record deficits into record surpluses in large part because they subjected all parts of the budget, discretionary and mandatory spending, as well as revenues, to budget discipline. The Republican budget contains no such enforcement provisions.

The Democratic budget provides $4.5 billion more for education and training programs than the Republican budget for 2006 and $41 billion more over the next five years. It rejects the $21 billion in cuts that the Republican budget requires the Education and the Workforce Committee to make over five years, increases the maximum Pell Grant by $100 in each of the next ten years—twice the Republican increase—and eliminates the program's current $4.3 billion funding shortfall.

The Democratic budget provides $2 billion more than the Republican budget for 2006 and $9 billion more over five years for community and regional development, blocking the President's proposal to eliminate the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG). Cuts in food stamps, housing, elderly services and other safety-net protections would not be necessary.

The Democratic Budget works towards elimination of the deficit, paring it down dramatically in the next five years, and thus saving us from huge interest payments needed to service the national debt.

We pay for all this by not extending the tax cuts for those earning over $200,000. According to the Urban Institute-Brookings Institution Tax Policy Center this would provide $223.5 billion between calendar year 2005 and 2010.

The tax cuts were originally promoted as temporary—if extended, they will cost $1.5 trillion over the next 10 years. Coupled with the costly challenges in Iraq and Afghanistan and the need to invest in our future, the tax cuts prove an unbalanced approach that creates huge deficits and shortchanges America's priorities.

It is time to seize the opportunity to restore sanity and candor to the budget process and to pass a budget that promotes the security and values of the American people without imposing increased social inequities and crushing debt to future generations.

IN RECOGNITION OF CHARLES G. WELLS, JR.

HON. MIKE ROGERS

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, Warrant Officer 1 Charles G. Wells, Jr., 32, originally of Montgomery, Alabama, died on March 30, 2005, in Iraq. Warrant Officer Wells was assigned to the Marine Forces Reserve's 6th Motor Transport Battalion, 4th Force Service Support Group of Orlando, Florida, and according to initial reports died in action from an improvised explosive device. His survivors include his wife Freda Nicole and his daughter Cierra; his mother Orlean Johnson Wells of Montgomery, Alabama; and his father Charles Gary Wells, Sr., also of Montgomery.

Charles Wells, Jr. was a proud Marine and eager to serve his country, Mr. Speaker. He willingly signed up for a third tour of duty in Iraq after having just completed his second. Back home, Mr. Wells had planned a career serving the community as a firefighter, yet dutifully left behind his family and loved ones to serve our country overseas.

Words cannot express the sense of sadness we have for his family, and for the gratitude our country feels for his service. Warrant Officer Wells died serving not just the United States, but the entire cause of liberty, on a noble mission to help spread the cause of freedom in Iraq and liberate an oppressed people from tyrannical rule. He was a true American.

We will forever hold him closely in our hearts, and remember his sacrifice and that of his family as a remembrance of his bravery and willingness to serve. Thank you, Mr. Speaker, for the House's remembrance on this mournful day.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF THE HONORABLE TOM BEVILL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. BONNER. Mr. Speaker, the Fourth District of Alabama, and indeed the entire state, recently lost a dear friend, and I rise today to honor him and pay tribute to his memory.

Congressman Tom Bevill was a devoted family man and dedicated public servant throughout his entire life, and has the distinction of being the longest-serving congressman ever to come from Alabama. I am certain many in this chamber recall with great fondness and vividness their memories of working closely with this tireless advocate for the needs of his constituents and his state.

Born on March 27, 1921, and a native of Walker County, Alabama, Congressman Bevill spent his childhood in the mining community of Townley, witnessing the ravages of the Great Depression on his family, his friends, and his neighbors. He was a 1943 graduate of the University of Alabama School of Commerce and Business Administration. Within a short time following his graduation, he joined the United States Army and rose to the rank of captain, leading one of the units which went ashore in France on June 6, 1944. Ultimately, Congressman Bevill retired from the U.S. Army Reserves with the rank of lieutenant colonel. In 1948, he completed his legal studies at the University of Alabama School of Law and embarked on an 18-year career practicing law in Jasper, Alabama.

All told, Congressman Bevill spent 38 years in public office. Elected to the Alabama State House of Representatives in 1958, he served for eight years before embarking on a campaign which would ultimately lead to his winning the seat for the Seventh (later Fourth) Congressional District at the end of 1966. He would go on to serve 15 terms in this chamber and become one of the most effective and well-respected advocates for the state of Alabama ever to serve in the United States Congress.

Congressman Bevill became such an effective representative for his district and for the state—and became such an influential member of the House of Representatives that he was often referred to as "Alabama's third senator." Indeed, the work he accomplished during his three decades in this chamber, particularly as a member of the full Committee on Appropriations and, for nine terms, as chairman of the Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water Development, had important and long-lasting effects on the economic growth of the state of Alabama.

To this day, signs of his influence and successful efforts on behalf of his district and his state can be found throughout Alabama, and his name has been attached to some of the most important public centers anywhere in the state. These include the Tom Bevill Chair of Law at the University of Alabama, the Tom Bevill Energy, Mineral, and Material Science Research Building, also at the University of Alabama, and the Tom Bevill Center for Advanced Manufacturing Technology at Gadsden.

In addition to his long and successful career in the House of Representatives, Congressman Bevill received numerous awards and citations in recognition of his distinguished career. Along with honorary doctorates he received from Livingston University, the University of North Alabama, and Troy State University, he was inducted into both the Alabama Academy of Honor and the Alabama Senior Citizens Hall of Fame.

Perhaps more than any other two projects, Congressman Bevill should be remembered for his work on two of the most significant transportation projects in Alabama history: the Memphis-to-Birmingham highway known as "Corridor X," and the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway. "Corridor X," when completed, will provide a vital link between the two cities in Alabama and Tennessee and will provide tremendous benefits and incentive for further economic development in north Alabama. The Waterway has already provided incalculable benefits for Alabama's economy and has resulted in thousands of jobs for men and women throughout our state.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in remembering a dedicated public servant and long-time advocate for the state of Alabama, a man whose significant impact and dedication to the needs and interests of his constituents will be felt for many years to come. Congressman Bevill, who was preceded in death in 2001 by his beloved wife of 58 years, Lou, will be deeply missed by his family—his daughters, Susan Bevill Livingston and Patricia Bevill Warren, his son, Don Bevill, his six grandchildren, and his three great-grandchildren—as well as the countless friends he leaves behind. Our thoughts and prayers are with them all at this difficult time.

TAUNTON GAZETTE DOCUMENTS THE VALUE OF CDBG

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the Taunton Gazette recently ran a very comprehensive series documenting the social and economic importance of the Community Development Block Grant Program. Taunton, Massachusetts, which I am privileged to represent, is a very good example of how when this program is well administered, as it has been in Taunton, it can be of such enormous benefit in a variety of ways to its citizens. Joanna James of the Taunton Gazette deserves a great deal of credit for her thorough and insightful reporting, and the Taunton Gazette deserves a great deal of credit for devoting the space to this story. Too often today people are given only snippets of information about important public policy issues. The Taunton Gazette's in depth exploration of how the CDBG Program works in that city is a tribute to the program itself, and to its continued importance, to the people in the City of Taunton led by Mayor Nunes who administer it, to Joanna James for the quality of her reportage and to the Taunton Gazette for giving so much space to such an important public policy issue.

I find it hard to believe that anyone could read this series of articles and still feel that this is a program ought to be substantially diminished, as the President's budget would do.

(By Joanna James)

TAUNTON.—President George W. Bush's recommendation to dismantle the Community

Development Block Grant Program (CDBG) in his proposed budget would filter down the federal bureaucracy in no time and aim directly at the heart of each community nationwide, according to local and state elected officials.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD), predicts a looming crisis targeting the community, whether or not the CDBG program is cut. Taunton received $1.2 million from its funding for 2004.

If the program isn't eliminated, then the question will be how much funding will be allocated to it, according to Bachrach. Bachrach said if it's significantly cut that will cause unnecessary Congressional pressure to take money out of other programs.

''These are huge resources that only government can will upon the community.'' Bachrach said. ''It's a shame that the cuts are even a suggestion.''

Bush proposed to eliminate the community funding program and replace it under the Department of Commerce while cutting its funding by 35 percent. The CDBG aids statewide municipalities with low income housing, public enhancements such as park and street renovations and a plethora of other community resources left to the discretion at the local level.

Mayor Robert G. Nunes said the CDBG is a ''tremendous program'' that will have dire effects on Taunton if it is cut. Nunes said over the last 10 years, the program has provided $15 million to Taunton. The funds have been used on community issues such as housing, public safety, infrastructure, parks, roads and the hiring of police officers.

''There's a national, bipartisan effort from mayors lobbying heavy on this,'' Nunes said.

Last week Nunes attended a roundtable discussion on the CDBG cuts in Boston with seven other Massachusetts mayors hosted by Rep. Michael E. Capuano, D-Mass.

''We discussed the impact the cuts would have across the country.'' Nunes said, ''not just our communities.''

As the former mayor of Somerville, Capuano spoke from first-hand experience on how the CDBG funding was critically important to the quality of life in communities.

''President Bush said in his State of the Union address that he wants to help the faith-based and community groups . . . yet he's cutting the very programs that help kids stay away from drugs, provide housing and opportunity,'' Capuano said.

Bush's CDBG proposal fueled mayors nationwide to take a stance against it because the CDBG program offers them flexibility to decide where to direct the funding at a local level.

Locally, Nunes is working with the person who utilizes the CDBG program the most. Bachrach's Office of Community Development is the second largest in the city to receive federal level funds (the first is Title I education).

''The CDBG is a significant tool,'' Bachrach said, ''It's hard to fathom what will happen without the funds.''

Currently the CDBG is funding 12 programs under the Office of Community Development; whereas if the grant was eliminated Bachrach would have to competitively find 12 separate grants toward neighborhood revitalization, head starts for small businesses, elder services, police detail and teachers—to name a few.

Over the past three years, the Office of Community Development has used the CDBG to benefit: 515 elderly, 740 single-parent households, 96 disabled persons, 348 youth and 622 families. The CDBG has also impacted Taunton's business growth and infrastructure improvements.

''We're going to have to reevaluate the direction of money,'' Nunes said, ''less money, then less money toward infrastructure and other community needs.''

Although locally there has been a collective effort to prevent the cuts, Nunes said at this point there is nothing more that can be done other than wait for Congress's decision.

TAUNTON.—President George W. Bush stands firmly by tax cuts as a means to economic growth, promoting the creation of more small businesses. Yet in Bush's 2006 proposed budget he supports cutting a grant that area officials and business people say is at the heart of creating small businesses.

The Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) has helped many local business owners take the first step in making their dream come true from working as an employee to becoming an employer.

Over the past three years, the CDBG program has helped create 26 new local jobs, provided 10 businesses with loans totaling over $218,000 and provided more than 30 start-up businesses with training, according to the Mayor's Office of Community Development.

Mezzaluna Deli on the Taunton Green is one of the businesses which got its start—and has also sustained itself—from the CDBG program. Holly and Harold Roderick, owners of the delicatessen, received $25,000 from the CDBG and used its entrepreneurial workshop to learn how to create a business plan and present it for financing.

''If the city doesn't have the program, a lot of small businesses aren't going to get started,'' Holly said. ''A lot of the new restaurants will be chains and the city will lose that little downtown business.''

The Rodericks both earned bachelor's degrees from Johnson & Wales University and Harold (known as Butch) always wanted to own his own business. Holly said most banks won't finance restaurants because of the high risk involved, so they needed to get creative to find money. Holly said they attended the Taunton Entrepreneurial Workshop, which showed them how to create a business plan and helped them to apply for financing.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development, said his office and the Southeastern Economic Development Corp. (SEED) often collaborate to get business owners started.

''Once someone is funded and business savvy, then SEED is the next step,'' Bachrach said.

The community development office provides funds from the CDBG program to Weir Corporation, which is a local community development organization. Weir Corp. provided the Rodericks with the first-tier help for them to get the entrepreneurial training they needed and to obtain $25,000 for renovations.

Weir Corp. provides loans to approximately 25 small businesses per year, and training to more than 100 small businesses per year. Jill Cowie, Weir Corp. co-director, said the organization would not have been able to help in the creation of such local small businesses such as Golden Years, Ultimate Fitness or recently Dyetex without the CDBG.

''We wouldn't be able to do it anymore,'' Cowie said. ''The CDBG is the source of our loan pool, our core funding.''

Cowie said once the businesses need more than $25,000, the risk is spread by working with SEED Corp. which will put up to 40 percent of the loan, while a bank will finance up to 50 percent.

SEED Corp. acted as a conduit for the Rodericks. The Rodericks were financed $85,000 from SEED Corp. and Mechanics Cooperative Bank financed the rest of the $179,900, so they could buy the property and start the business.

Mezzaluna will celebrate its third anniversary this November, and Holly said they have seen a 40 percent increase in sales from last year. Holly pondered about the time when she and Harold couldn't find any bank to finance them, and how the CDBG program was the only way they got started and spurred their success.

''If I went out of business tomorrow a lot of people would say, 'where am I going to eat lunch now,' '' Holly said. ''I really hope they keep the program in effect.''

Bachrach said there has been a philosophical change with the Bush administration in terms of helping the community.

''For Bush, community problems can be met with the open market,'' Bachrach said. ''The administration no longer sees the need for the private and public working together.''

The business collaboration by these different venues from the CDBG program provides sound community investments and creates opportunity in the community for more jobs, according to Bachrach.

''This is beyond myself because I have plenty of opportunity for work, it's the people we serve who don't have these options,'' Bachrach said. 'It's going to be heartbreaking.''

FUNDS THAT HELP REPAVE STREETS MAY FACE ELIMINATION

(By Joanna James)

TAUNTON.—One local official worries that motorists who drive through city streets will think bombs have been dropped and the streets were never repaved.

The official—David Bachrach. director of the Mayor's Community Development Office—now fears that the potential loss of federal funding for repair projects may make the situation worse.

For the coming summer, Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) money will provide $1 million toward repaving roads and other infrastructure projects. Yet the federal funding may be eliminated if President George Bush's proposed budget is approved by Congress.

Even with more than a million dollars from the CDBG going toward roads and other infrastructure projects, city officials said borrowing will be necessary to repair potholes and repave streets.

Mayor Robert G. Nunes said he is confident the allocated CDBG money will remain for the upcoming projects, but he is nervous about the future.

''It [CDBG elimination] will have a devastating impact in terms of infrastructure,'' Nunes said. ''The CDBG supplements operating projects for the next five years.''

Forty-three percent of all Taunton streets need resurfacing, according to statistics provided by the Department of Public Works (DPW). In 2004, the CDBG paid $360,000 toward local DPW projects, and $640,000 for 2002 and 2003 improvements. For just the coming summer, CDBG will provide $1 million for city projects.

Frank Nichols, director of the Department of Public Works, said the city already has a hard time filling potholes, and the situation will grow worse if the extra help from the CDBG was lost.

''Ultimately the city would have to come up with the money for the loss and I don't know from where,'' Nichols said. ''Absolutely, it helps relieve some of the issues we would have to deal with.''

Bachrach said Weir, High and Adam streets are three of the 11 streets where CDBG money helped pay for 8,000 linear feet of road reconstruction and 5,000 linear feet of new water lines over the last five years.

However Bachrach said the Whittenton Area is in dire need of road and water line reconstruction and is next on the list of projects.

''If you drove the streets you'd think they accidentally dropped bombs in this area,'' Bachrach said. However Whittenton is an upcoming project site funded by the CDBG.

''Once it's done they're going to be dancing in the streets,'' Bachrach said.

Debbie Maloney, owner of End of the Road T-shirts on Weir Street, said she is grateful Weir Street was repaved from CDBG funds. Maloney's business is also one of the local small businesses which received $25,000 start-up help from CDBG funds.

''This road is really good compared to others,'' Maloney said. ''I know I wouldn't be happy if it [CDBG) was cut, a lot of my customers complain the roads of Taunton are disgusting.''

Other types of infrastructure completed from CDBG funds were the Paul Bunker Drive basketball courts, the Hopewell pool and 15,000 sq. ft. of new sidewalks including Park Street.

IN JEOPARDY

(By Joanna James)

TAUNTON.—Here are some faces hidden behind the numbers. Here are some people's stories hidden behind the political speak.

Local residents and officials said they would be heartbroken if services provided by the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) were eliminated. If Congress accepts President George W. Bush's 2006 budget proposal to eliminate the CDBG—three-year-olds, to high school students, to senior citizens—will feel the loss and city officials said they couldn't bear the burden.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development (MOCD), said 348 youths have benefited from the CDBG over the last three years.

Project Achieve received approximately $25,000 this year towards MCAS tutoring and providing after school jobs to 17- and 18-year-old students who may be the only bread-winners in their families.

Leonard Hull, budget coordinator for Project Achieve, said many of the students Project Achieve helps are born into difficult environments that they had no control over and can easily lose hope.

''We're trying to help them believe that the American dream is still a possibility,'' Hull said. ''They can make something of themselves, and in the long run the community gets a lot more back.''

Three students—who work two hours, five days per week after attending full-time classes at Taunton High School and receive MCAS tutoring a few hours per week—said they now believe in the American dream because of Project Achieve.

Yarelis Rivera, 17, works at JC Penney in customer service and hopes to be a nurse or flight attendant one day after graduating from a community college.

''Once you set a goal and you have people to help you, you can make it come true,'' Rivera said, regarding her experience with Project Achieve.

Cheryl Bileau, 17, helps her mother by working after school at Redcats U.S.A./Chadwicks and babysitting her cousin and younger siblings. Since Bileau's father died last Christmas from a massive heart attack she said it has been ''tough'' on the family, but she has been surrounded by supportive people from Project Achieve.

Once Bileau graduates, she has been offered a full-time job from Redcats. She said she is saving her money to attend Rob Roy Academy to become a cosmetologist.

Edwina Orelus, 19, came to the U.S. from Haiti in 2003 to conquer the American dream, and from the CDBG funding, her parents' dream for their daughter to get an education may come true.

Orelus first took the MCAS a few months after she came to the U.S. and failed from not knowing the English language well. Presently two years after, Orelus is more confident speaking English, and if she passes the MCAS, she has already been accepted to a community college in Staten Island, N.Y.

All three girls said they would be very disappointed if the CDBG was cut because it has funded a program that they said ''everyone deserves the extra help and support of.''

In a full year, the CDBG funds the Department of Human Services with $81,000, which has helped 515 elderly people over the past three years, according to the MOCD.

Anne Bisson, assistant director of the department of human services for 21 years, said almost 100 percent of the program's elders are low income and would be devastated if the program was cut.

''They really rely on the staff and services. Some have no family or their spouse died and they need some support,'' Bisson said.

Lois Meunier, 71, moved from her mobile home after her husband died in 1999 and now lives in Caswell Grove Housing. Meunier has no children or local family and said the highlight of her week is the visit from her caseworker, Betty Charette.

''She's just so wonderful,'' Meunier said. ''She's a Godsend for me.''

Charette is one of the five caseworkers who go to senior citizens' homes to keep them company, talk and help them by filling out insurance forms, meals, or in Meunier's case, getting her hair done.

Other than the case workers, the CDBG also funds a visiting nurse to help with medicines and a computer center for elderly to use the Internet.

If the CDBG stopped funding the Department of Human Services, the case workers and nurse wouldn't exist anymore.

''I would feel very badly about it [if Charette's position was cut],'' Meunier said. ''I just look forward to it so much, she's been such a comfort for me.''

More than 622 families and 740 single parent households have used the CDBG funds over the past three years, according to the MOCD.

The literacy program for families at educational risk provides parents with the confidence to know they can be their children's best teachers, according to Debbi Jenkins, program's coordinator.

Home visitors bring educational toys, books, puzzles and other tools to teach children shapes, numbers and how to appreciate reading and learning. Every other week the parents get to keep whatever educational toy is brought to continue teaching the kids.

Jill Humann saw how much the program helped her daughter and wanted her son James, 3, to get the same experience. Both children were slow to speak and express themselves.

However, after their home visitor Lisa Smith has been coming to their house for two half-hour visits per week, the children have excelled.

''They really learn a lot, I love it,'' Humann said. ''I think it's [CDBG funding towards the program] the best thing for kids. They'd be lost without it.''

Humann said she has learned so much from Smith that she continues the lessons with her children when Smith isn't around.

Smith said when she first started lessons with the three-year-old, she faced behavioral issues and had to make him trust her.

''He loves social praise, how smart he is and how he wants to show Mommy all his work,'' Smith said. ''Now he's conversing and he's doing so well, I'm so proud of him.''

Bachrach said these success stories are just a few examples of how the CDBG has impacted the community.

Both the House of Representatives and the Senate passed resolutions to reinstate the CDBG program from receiving such a powerful, national grass roots advocacy.

However, Bachrach said the real advocacy must begin now that the Appropriations Committee decides how to focus the funds.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass, will attend next Tuesday's City Council meeting to discuss the CDBG program.

TAUNTON.—Congressman Barney Frank, D–Mass, congratulated and thanked city officials and residents last night for helping save the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) program from elimination under President George W. Bush's 2006 budget proposal.

Frank said a nation-wide, bipartisan effort over the past few months has secured the CDBG program while proving ''democracy is still very alive.'' ''The efforts of people from all over the country made this happen, and I can tell you right now this vote is going to come out the right way,'' Frank said.

Frank said more than 50 senators from both parties signed a March 2 letter to the Senate Appropriations Committee asking to save the CDBG program and keep its current funding level.

The people who filled the standing-room-only City Council chambers last night and worked hard to keep the program alive heard what they hoped for from Frank.

David Bachrach, director of the Mayor's Office of Community Development, has worked tirelessly to save the CDBG program and said it was hard for him to put into words how happy he was.

''This is a huge relief. I'm totally psyched,'' Bachrach said. Local residents stood up and gave testimonials on how they benefited from the grant program.

After buying a city home that was in need of major renovations, Jeanne-Marie Beatty was laid off from her job. She had nowhere to turn and no money. Beatty saw a CDBG advertisement and said it was ''too good to be true'' when she realized the program would help her finish her house.

''I couldn't be happier. I'm thrilled the program will continue,'' Beatty said. ''It's a win-win situation for so many people and it all goes back to the community.''

Frank said the administration had no horror stories to tell about the CDBG program, because there were none. Rather. Frank said the only reason President Bush proposed the CDBG cut is because the Bush realized he has to reduce the deficit, yet he's committed to tax cuts and the war, ''so to do all three he can't.''

''It shows the president's philosophy that tax cuts to the wealthy and his commitment to the war in Iraq come first and everything else needs to get cut,'' Frank said before he spoke at the council meeting. ''The president is denying that we have value on our city programs.''

Some other city programs funded by the CDBG that local residents spoke about were the business training and lending programs for small business owners. City students also benefited from Project Achieve through the Taunton Area School to Career program.

Bonnie Brown, 17, and Cheryl Bileau, 17, both juniors at Taunton High School, work after school with provided transportation and get MCAS tutoring because the CDBG partly funds Project Achieve. Frank said people should not settle in just yet. City programs suffered from Section 8 cutbacks last year, and Frank said keeping the CDBG should not be used as a bargaining chip to hurt other programs.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF ATTORNEY JOAQUIN L. RODRIGUEZ

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 6, 2005

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize attorney Joaquin L. Rodriguez for his many years of service and civic involvement.

Born and raised in Uvalde, Texas, Mr. Rodriguez first attended Southwest Texas Junior College before transferring to University of Texas at Austin and attaining a B.A. in Government. Later, Mr. Rodriguez attended the Texas Tech School of Law and obtained a Doctor of Jurisprudence from the University of Texas School of Law.

After passing the Texas Bar in 1982, Mr. Rodriguez started his legal career and quickly became partner at Knickerbocker, Cowan, Heredia & Rodriguez law firm in Eagle Pass, TX. Over the years of his career, Mr. Rodriguez has mainly dealt within the area of personal injury and the representation of Plaintiffs.

In 1997, Mr. Rodriguez became a founding partner at Rodriguez & Muniz-Berain Law Firm and worked there for 11 years. Afterwards, Mr. Rodriguez found Joaquin L. Rodriguez & Associates in 1999 and has since been working there, serving the citizens of Eagle Pass.

While living and working in Eagle Pass, TX, Mr. Rodriguez has continued to involve himself and serve in the civic community. Among his involvements, Mr. Rodriguez has served as Chairman of the Eagle Pass Housing Authority, Legal Counsel of the City of Eagle Pass Library Foundation, and as Advisory Board Member on a number of local Texas banks. Mr. Rodriguez was also elected as Mayor of Eagle Pass with an impressive 94 percent vote in May, 2002.

Among his honors and awards, Mr. Rodriguez was distinguished as ''Professional of the Year'' in 1999 by the Eagle Pass Business Journal. He also became a Keeton Fellow of the University of Texas School of Law Alumni Association in 2001.

Mr. Speaker, it has been my pleasure today to recognize the accomplishments and services of Mr. Joaquin L. Rodriguez.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate on February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place, and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled, and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, April 7, 2005 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 11

9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Robert Bolton, of Maryland, to be U.S. Representative to United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador and U.S. Representative in the Security Council of the United Nations, and Representative to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations.
SD–419

2 p.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine S. 241, to amend section 254 of the Communications Act of 1934 to provide that funds received as universal service contributions and the universal service support programs established pursuant to that section are not subject to certain provisions of title 31, United States Code, commonly known as the Antideficiency Act.
SR–253

Armed Services
Emerging Threats and Capabilities Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the Chemical Demilitarization Program of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.
SR–222

APRIL 12

9:30 a.m.
Armed Services
To receive a closed briefing regarding assessment of Iraqi Security Forces.
SR–222

10 a.m.
Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Michael D. Griffin, of Virginia, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Joseph H. Boardman, of New York, to be Administrator of the Federal Railroad Administration, Nancy Ann Nord, of the District of Columbia, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, William Cobey, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Floyd Hall, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak), and Enrique J. Sosa, of Florida, to be a Member of the Reform Board (Amtrak).
SR–253

Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine developing a reliable supply of oil from domestic oil shale and oil sands resources, focusing on opportunities to advance technology that will facilitate environmentally friendly development of oil shale and oil sands resources.
SD–366

2:30 p.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
National Parks Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine management and planning issues for the National Mall, including the history of the development, security projects and other planned construction, and future development plans.
SD–366

Armed Services
SeaPower Subcommittee
To hold closed hearings to examine Navy shipbuilding and industrial base status in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006; to be followed by an open hearing in SR-232A.
SR–222

Aging
To hold hearings to examine role of employer-sponsored retirement plans in increasing national savings.
SD–106

APRIL 13

9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Daniel Fried, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of State for European Affairs, and Robert Joseph, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of State for Arms Control and International Security.
SD–419

Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine Indian Health.
SR–485

Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine securing electronic personal data, focusing on striking a balance between privacy and commercial and governmental use.
SD–226

10 a.m.
Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
To hold hearings to examine the Federal Home Loan Bank System.
SD–538

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider the nomination of Lester M. Crawford, of Maryland, to be Commissioner of Food and Drugs, Department of Health and Human Services.
SD–430

Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine high risk areas in the management of the Department of Defense in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.
SR–232A

11:30 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–366

1:30 p.m.
Armed Services
Personnel Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine active and Reserve military civilian personnel programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.
SR–232A

2 p.m.
Judiciary
Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine judicial activism regarding federal and state marriage protection initiatives.
SD–226

APRIL 14

10 a.m.
Energy and Natural Resources
To hold hearings to examine S. 388, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to direct the Secretary of Energy to carry out activities that promote the adoption of technologies that reduce greenhouse gas intensity and to provide credit-based financial assistance and investment protection for projects that employ advanced climate technologies or systems, to provide for the establishment of a national greenhouse gas registry.
SD–366

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine lifelong education opportunities.
SD–430

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Military Officers Association of America, the National Association of State Director of Veterans Affairs, AMVETS, the American Ex-Prisoners of War, and Vietnam Veterans of America.
345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
Immigration, Border Security and Citizenship Subcommittee
Terrorism, Technology and Homeland Security Subcommittee
To hold joint hearings to examine deportation and related issues relating to strengthening interior enforcement.
SD–226

APRIL 19

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the Near East and South Asian experience relating to combating terrorism through education.
SD–419

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine S. 334, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the importation of prescription drugs.
SD–430

APRIL 20

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Education and Early Childhood Development Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine early childhood development.
SD–430

Small Business and Entrepreneurship
To hold hearings to examine the small business health care crisis, focusing on alternatives for lowering costs and covering the uninsured.
SR–428A

2 p.m.
Armed Services
Readiness and Management Support Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine the readiness of military units deployed in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom and Operation Enduring Freedom in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006.
SR–222

APRIL 21

9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine the anticorruption strategies of the African Development Bank, Asian Development Bank and European Bank on Reconstruction and Development.
SD–419

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine Association Health Plans.
SD–430

Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentations of the Fleet Reserve Association, the Air Force Sergeants Association, the Retired Enlisted Association, and the Gold Star Wives of America.
345 CHOB

2:30 p.m.
Judiciary
To hold hearings to examine the patent system today and tomorrow.
SD–226

APRIL 26

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine pensions.
SD–430

APRIL 27

9:30 a.m.
Indian Affairs
To hold oversight hearings to examine regulation of Indian gaming.
SR–485

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.
SD–430

APRIL 28

10 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. Assistance to Sudan and the Darfur Crisis.
SH–216

Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
To hold hearings to examine Higher Education Act.
SD–430

MAY 11

9:30 a.m.
Judiciary
To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Federal Bureau of Investigation's translation program.
SD–226

SEPTEMBER 20

10 a.m.
Veterans' Affairs
To hold joint hearings with the House Committee on Veterans Affairs to examine the legislative presentation of the American Legion.
345 CHOB

CANCELLATIONS

APRIL 19

10 a.m.
Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
Retirement Security and Aging Subcommittee
To hold hearings to examine pensions.
SD–430

POSTPONEMENTS

APRIL 12

9:30 a.m.
Foreign Relations
To hold hearings to examine U.S. agricultural sales to Cuba.
SD–419

Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

The House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3237–S3340

Measures Introduced: Twenty-six bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 713–738, and S. Res. 97–101. **Pages S3277–78**

Measures Reported:

H.R. 1268, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 109–52)

S. 732, to authorize funds to Federal aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. (S. Rept. No. 109–53) **Page S3277**

Measures Passed:

Commending the University of North Carolina Men's Basketball Team: Senate agreed to S. Res. 98, commending the University of North Carolina men's basketball team for winning the 2005 National Collegiate Athletic Association Division I Men's Basketball Championship. **Page S3238**

Commending Patricia Sue Head Summitt: Senate agreed to S. Res. 97, commending Patricia Sue Head Summitt, head women's basketball coach at the University of Tennessee, for three decades of excellence as a proven leader, motivated teacher, and established champion. **Pages S3238–39**

50th Anniversary of Salk Polio Vaccine: Senate agreed to S. Res. 101, recognizing the 50th anniversary of the development of the Salk polio vaccine and its importance in eradicating the incidence of polio. **Page S3338**

Honoring Sikh Leader Yogi Bhajan: Senate agreed to H. Con. Res. 34, honoring the life and contributions of Yogi Bhajan, a leader of Sikhs, and expressing condolences to the Sikh community on his passing. **Page S3338**

State Department Authorization: Senate continued consideration of S. 600, to authorize appropriations for the Department of State and international broadcasting activities for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for the Peace Corps for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, for foreign assistance programs for fiscal years 2006 and 2007, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S3240–62, S3265–67**

Adopted:

Lugar Amendment No. 266, to strike the amendment to the limitation on the United States share of assessments for the United Nations Peacekeeping operations. **Page S3241**

Dodd Amendment No. 318, to specify requirements under the Arms Export Control Act applicable to the VHXX Executive Helicopter Program (also known as the Marine One Presidential Helicopter Program). **Pages S3255–57**

Rejected:

By 40 yeas to 57 nays (Vote No. 84), Biden Amendment No. 286 (in lieu of the language proposed to be stricken by Lugar Amendment No. 266), relative to the United States' share of assessment for United Nations Peacekeeping operations. **Page S3241**

Dorgan/Wyden Amendment No. 284, to prohibit funds from being used for television broadcasting to Cuba. (By 65 yeas to 35 nays (Vote No. 85), Senate tabled the amendment.) **Pages S3241–48**

Pending:

McCain/DeWine Amendment No. 267, to authorize the extension of nondiscriminatory treatment (normal trade relations treatment) to the products of Ukraine. **Page S3240**

Baucus Amendment No. 281, to facilitate the sale of United States agricultural products to Cuba, as authorized by the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. **Page S3240**

Craig/Roberts Amendment No. 282 (to Amendment No. 281), to clarify the payment terms under the Trade Sanctions Reform and Export Enhancement Act of 2000. **Page S3240**

Dodd Amendment No. 283, to express the sense of the Senate concerning recent provocative actions by the People's Republic of China. **Page S3240**

Salazar Amendment No. 308, to increase the accountability and effectiveness of international police training. **Page S3241**

Schumer Amendment No. 309, to authorize appropriate action if the negotiations with the People's Republic of China regarding China's undervalued currency are not successful. (By 33 yeas to 67 nays (Vote No. 86), Senate earlier failed to table the amendment.) **Pages S3243, S3249–53**

Ensign Amendment No. 319, to encourage multilateral cooperation and authorize a program of assistance to facilitate a peaceful transition in Cuba. **Pages S3259–60**

Ensign Amendment No. 320, to amend chapter 118 of title 18, United States Code, to prohibit foreign war crimes prosecutions of Americans. **Page S3260**

Ensign Amendment No. 321, to ensure the independence of the Inspector General of the United Nations. **Page S3260**

Ensign Amendment No. 322, to ensure the United Nations maintains a no-growth budget. **Page S3260**

Sessions Amendment No. 290, to require aliens to affirm certain oaths prior to admission to the United States. **Page S3260**

Sessions Amendment No. 291, to strike the authority to provide living quarters and allowances to the United States Representative to the United Nations. **Page S3260**

Sessions Amendment No. 317, to provide for accountability in the United Nations Headquarters renovation project. **Pages S3261–62**

Supplemental Appropriations—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 3 p.m., on Monday, April 11, 2005, Senate begin consideration of H.R. 1268, Making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence. **Page S3338**

Appointments:

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Secretary of the Senate, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the appointment of Paul Gherman, of Tennessee, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. **Page S3338**

Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress: The Chair announced, on behalf of the Majority Leader, pursuant to Public Law 101–509, the re-appointment of Alan C. Lowe, of Tennessee, to the Advisory Committee on the Records of Congress. **Page S3338**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

John B. Bellinger, of Virginia, to be Legal Adviser of the Department of State. **Pages S3338, S3340**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Maria Cino, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Transportation.

Timothy D. Adams, of Virginia, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury.

Air Force nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Navy. **Pages S3338–40**

Messages From the House: **Page S3276**

Measures Placed on Calendar: **Page S3276**

Executive Communications: **Pages S3276–77**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S3278–80**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S3280–S3318**

Additional Statements: **Pages S3274–76**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S3318–37**

Notices of Hearings/Meetings: **Page S3337**

Authority for Committees to Meet: **Pages S3337–38**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—86) **Pages S3241, S3248, S3253**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:32 a.m., and adjourned at 8 p.m., until 10 a.m., on Thursday, April 7, 2005, p.m. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S3338.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

NOMINATION

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Charles F. Conner, of Indiana, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Lugar, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the National Institutes of Health, after receiving testimony from Elias Zerhouni, Director, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Resources.

APPROPRIATIONS: AIR FORCE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Air Force, after receiving testimony from Michael L. Dominguez, Acting Secretary for Manpower and Reserve Affairs, and General John P. Jumper, Chief of Staff, both of the U.S. Air Force.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Appropriations: Committee ordered favorably reported H.R. 1268, making emergency supplemental appropriations for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2005, to establish and rapidly implement regulations for State driver's license and identification document security standards, to prevent terrorists from abusing the asylum laws of the United States, to unify terrorism-related grounds for inadmissibility and removal, to ensure expeditious construction of the San Diego border fence, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

ORGANIZATIONAL

Committee on Appropriations: Committee announced the following subcommittee assignments:

Subcommittee on District of Columbia: Senators Brownback (Chairman), DeWine, Allard, Landrieu, and Durbin.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water, and Related Agencies: Senators Domenici (Chairman), Cochran, McConnell, Bennett, Burns, Craig, Bond, Hutchison, Allard, Reid, Byrd, Murray, Dorgan, Feinstein, Johnson, Landrieu, and Inouye.

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch: Senators Allard (Chairman), Cochran, DeWine, Durbin, and Johnson.

Subcommittee on Military Construction and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies: Senators Hutchison (Chairman), Burns, Craig, DeWine, Brownback, Allard, McConnell, Feinstein, Inouye, Johnson, Landrieu, Byrd, and Murray.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST: MILITARY INSTALLATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine military installation programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from Phillip W. Grone, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment; Geoffrey G. Prosch, Principal Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Army for Installations and Environment; B.J. Penn, Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Installations and Environment; and Nelson F. Gibbs, Assistant Secretary of the Air Force for Installations, Environment, and Logistics.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION: TACTICAL AVIATION PROGRAMS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Airland concluded a hearing to examine tactical aviation programs in review of the Defense Authorization request for fiscal year 2006, after receiving testimony from Joseph E. Schmitz, Inspector General, Department of Defense; Michael J. Sullivan, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, General Accountability Office; Christopher Bolkcom, Specialist on National Defense, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; Michael W. Wynne, Acting Under Secretary of Defense for Acquisition, Technology and Logistics; John J. Young, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Research, Development and Acquisition, and Vice Admiral Joseph A. Sestak, Jr., USN, Deputy Chief of Naval Operations for Warfare, Requirements, and Programs, both of the United States Navy; Major General Stanley Gorenc, USAF, Director, Operational Capabilities and Requirements, United States Air Force; and Brigadier General Martin Post, USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant for Aviation, United States Marine Corps.

GOVERNMENT–SPONSORED ENTERPRISES

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the role of housing-related government-sponsored enterprises (GSEs) in our economy, focusing on promoting mortgage securitization, after receiving testimony from Alan Greenspan, Chairman, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

NOMINATION

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of David Garman, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Energy, after the nominee testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

NOMINATIONS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Stephen L. Johnson, of Maryland, to be Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Luis Luna, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency for Administration and Resource Management, John Paul Woodley, Jr., of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Army for Civil Works, Major General Don T. Riley, United States Army, to be a Member and President of the Mississippi River Commission, Brigadier General William T. Grisoli, United States Army, to be a Member of the Mississippi River Commission, and D. Michael Rappoport, of Arizona, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Morris K. Udall Scholarship and Excellence in National Environmental Policy Foundation, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

NON–AMBULATORY PERSONS HEALTH CARE

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: Committee concluded a hearing to examine health care provided to non-ambulatory persons, focusing on the medical, scientific, and ethical issues involved in the diagnosis, treatment, and decision-making for patients with disorders of consciousness resulting from severe brain damage, after receiving testimony from Rud Turnbull, University of Kansas Beach Center on Disability, Lawrence; James L. Bernat, Dartmouth Medical School, Hanover, New Hampshire, on behalf of the American Academy of Neurology; Deborah L. Warden, Defense and Veterans Head Injury Program, Washington, D.C.; and J. Donald Schumacher, National Hospice and Palliative Care Association, Alexandria, Virginia.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Measures Introduced: 42 public bills, H.R. 1489–1530; 2 private bills, H.R. 1531, H. Res. 201; and 14 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 124–126, and H. Res. 190–200, were introduced. **Pages H1844–46**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1846–48**

Reports Filed: No reports were filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Majority Leader Tom DeLay to act as Speaker Pro Tempore for today. **Page H1783**

Chaplain: The prayer was offered today by Rev. L.H. Hardwick, Jr., Pastor, Christ Church in Nashville, Tennessee. **Page H1783**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:06 a.m. for the purpose of receiving His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine and reconvened at 12:16 p.m.; and agreed that the proceedings had during the Joint Meeting be printed in the Record. **Page H1784**

Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine: The House and Senate met in a Joint Meeting to receive His Excellency Viktor Yushchenko, President of Ukraine. He was escorted into the Chamber by a Committee comprised of Representatives Blunt, Pryce (OH), Kingston, Doolittle, Gallegly, Weldon (PA), Pelosi, Hoyer, Menendez, Lantos, Harman, and Kaptur and Senators Frist, McConnell, Stevens, Santorum, Hutchison, Kyl, Dole, Lugar, Reid, Durbin, Stabenow, and Clinton. **Page H1784**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Realtime Investor Protection Act: H.R. 1077, amended, to improve the access of investors to regulatory records with respect to securities brokers, dealers, and investment advisers; **Pages H1788–90**

Increased Capital Access for Growing Business Act: H.R. 436, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to provide incentives for small business investment; **Pages H1790–91**

Mortgage Servicing Clarification Act: H.R. 1025, amended, to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to exempt mortgage servicers from certain requirements of the Act with respect to federally related mortgage loans secured by a first lien;

Pages H1791–94

Native American Housing Enhancement Act of 2005: H.R. 797, to amend the Native American Housing Assistance and Self-Determination Act of 1996 and other Acts to improve housing programs for Indians; **Pages H1794–97**

Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month: H. Res. 148, supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month, by a 2/3 yea-and-nay vote of 409 yeas to 2 nays, Roll No. 95;

Pages H1797–H1802, H1821–22

Recognizing and honoring firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation: H. Res. 188, recognizing and honoring firefighters for their many contributions throughout the history of the Nation; and **Pages H1802–06**

Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building Designation Act: H.R. 1460, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6200 Rolling Road in Springfield, Virginia, as the "Captain Mark Stubenhofer Post Office Building".

Pages H1806–07

Honoring the life and achievements of Pope John Paul II: The House agreed to H. Res. 190, honoring the life and achievements of His Holiness Pope John Paul II and expressing profound sorrow on his death, by a yea-and-nay vote of 415 yeas with none voting "nay", Roll No. 94. **Pages H1807–21**

The measure was considered under a unanimous consent agreement reached yesterday, April 5.

House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards: The Chair announced the Speaker's appointment of the following Members to the House Commission on Congressional Mailing Standards: Representatives Ney, Aderholt, Sweeney, Millender-McDonald, Holt, and Sherman. **Page H1822**

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourns today it adjourn to meet at 10 a.m. on Friday, April 8, and further, when the House adjourns on that day, it adjourn to meet at 12:30 p.m. on Tuesday, April 12 for Morning Hour debate.

Page H1823

Calendar Wednesday: Agreed to dispense with the Calendar Wednesday business of Wednesday, April 13. **Page H1823**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1821 and H1822 . There were no quorum calls.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:30 p.m.

Committee Meetings

AGRICULTURE, RURAL DEVELOPMENT, FDA, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Natural Resources and Environment. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the USDA: Mark E. Rey, Under Secretary, Natural Resources and Environment; Bruce I. Knight, Chief, Natural Resources Conservation Service; Wade Daniel Runnels, Director, Budget Planning and Analysis Division; and Dennis Kaplan, Budget Office.

DEFENSE APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense met in executive session to hold a hearing on Army Acquisition. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of the Army: Claude M. Bolton, Jr., Assistant Secretary; and LTG Joseph Yakovac, Jr., Deputy Assistant Secretary, both with Acquisitions and Logistics.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Testimony was heard from Julie L. Gerberding, M.D., Director, Center for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior, Environment and Related Agencies held a hearing on the Kennedy Center. Testimony was heard from Michael M. Kaiser, President, Kennedy Center and Keith Cuttingham and Mark Goldstein, both with GAO.

MILITARY QUALITY OF LIFE, AND VETERANS AFFAIRS, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a hearing on Defense Health Program, the United States Court of Appeals for

Veterans Claims, the American Battle Monuments Commission, the Arlington National Cemetery, and on the Armed Forces Retirement Home. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: William Winkenwerder, Jr., M.D., Assistant Secretary, Health Affairs; LTG Kevin C. Kiley, M.D., U.S. Army Surgeon General Commander, U.S. Army Medical Command; LTG George Peach Taylor, Jr., M.D., Surgeon General, U.S. Air Force; and VADM Donald C. Arthur, Medical Corps Surgeon General Chief, Bureau of Medicine and Surgery; Donald Ivers, Chief Judge; and William Greene, Judge, both with the U.S. Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims; GEN Fredrick M. Franks, Jr., U.S. Army (ret.), Chairman; and BG John W. Nicholson, U.S. Army (ret.), Secretary, American Battle Monuments Commission; John Paul Woodley, Office of the Assistant Secretary of the Army, (Civil Works) and Timothy C. Cox, Chief Operating Officer, Armed Forces Retirement Home.

IRAQ'S PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Held a hearing on Iraq's past, present and future. Testimony was heard from the following former officials of the Department of Defense: GEN Wesley Clark, USA (ret.), Combatant Commander, European Command; and Richard Perle, Assistant Secretary, International Security Policy.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness held a hearing on Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Military Service's Requirement on Reconstitution of Equipment. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: LTG Claude V. Christianson, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G–4, U.S. Army; RADM Mark A. Hugel, USN, Deputy Director, Fleet Readiness (OPNAV N43B), Staff of the Chief of Naval Operations, U.S. Navy; LTG Jan C. Huly, USMC, Deputy Commandant, Plans, Policies, and Operations, Headquarters, U.S. Marine Corps; and LTG Donald J. Wetekam, USAF, Deputy Chief of Staff, Installations and Logistics, U.S. Air Force; and Douglas Holtz-Eakin, Director, CBO.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request—Destruction of the U.S. Chemical Weapons Stockpile—Program Status and Issues. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Defense: Dale Klein, Assistant to the Secretary (Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs); Claude Bolton, Assistant Secretary, Army (Acquisition, Logistics, and Technology); Pat Wakefield, Deputy Assistant to the Secretary (Chemical Demilitarization and Counterproliferation); and Mike Parker, Director, U.S. Army Chemical Materiel Agency; Craig Conklin, Chief, Nuclear and Chemical Hazards Branch Preparedness Division, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security; and Thomas Sinks, Acting Director, National Center, Environmental Health/Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

SINGLE-EMPLOYER PENSION PLANS

Committee on Education and the Workforce: Ordered reported unfavorably H. Res. 134, Requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives certain information relating to plan assets and liabilities of single-employer pension plans.

ENERGY POLICY ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Began markup of the Energy Policy Act of 2005.

Will continue April 12.

COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BUDGET

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing entitled "Strengthening America's Communities: A Review of the Administration's FY 2006 Budget Initiative." Testimony was heard from Carlos M. Gutierrez, Secretary of Commerce; Alphonso Jackson, Secretary of Housing and Urban Development; and Clay Johnson III, Deputy Director, Management, OMB.

FANNIE MAE—OFHEO's EFFORTS TO ENSURE SAFE AND SOUND OPERATIONS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Capital Markets, Insurance and Government Sponsored Enterprises held a hearing entitled "Additional Accounting and Management Failures at Fannie Mae—OFHEO's Efforts to Ensure Safe and Sound Operations." Testimony was heard from Armando Falcon, Director, Office of Federal Housing Enterprise Oversight, Department of Housing and Urban Development.

ENERGY SECURITY POLICY

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Energy and Resources held a hearing entitled "America's Energy Needs as Our National Security Policy." Testimony was heard from Jeffrey Clay Sell, Deputy Secretary, Department of Energy; R. James Woolsey, former Director, CIA; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—CHINA'S ANTI-SECESSION LAW

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Asia and the Pacific held an oversight hearing on China's Anti-Secession Law and Developments across the Taiwan Strait. Testimony was heard from Randall G. Schriver, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of State; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—BOSNIA-HERZEGOVINA: UNFINISHED BUSINESS

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Europe and Emerging Threats held an oversight hearing on Bosnia-Herzegovina: Unfinished Business. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—CHINA'S WESTERN HEMISPHERE INFLUENCE

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere held an oversight hearing on China's Influence in the Western Hemisphere. Testimony was heard from Roger F. Noriega, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of State; Rogelio Pardo-Maurer, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Western Hemisphere Affairs, Department of Defense; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—USA PATRIOT ACT—REAUTHORIZATION

Committee on the Judiciary: Held an oversight hearing on the USA PATRIOT Act: A Review for the Purpose of its Reauthorization. Testimony was heard from Alberto R. Gonzales, the Attorney General, Department of Justice.

OVERSIGHT—DIGITAL MUSIC

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Courts, the Internet, and Intellectual Property held an oversight hearing on Digital Music Interoperability and Availability. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—NATIONAL PARK SERVICE CONCESSIONS ACT OF 1998 IMPLEMENTATION

Committee on Resources: Subcommittee on National Parks held an oversight hearing on the Implementation of the National Park Service Concessions Act of 1998. Testimony was heard from Steve Martin, Director, Intermountain Region, National Park Service, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES; EXPORT-IMPORT BANK PROGRAMS

Committee on Small Business: Ordered reported the following resolutions: H. Res. 130, Recognizing the contributions of environmental systems and the technicians who install and maintain them to the quality of life of all Americans and supporting the goals and ideals of National Indoor Comfort Week; and H. Res. 22, as amended, Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that American small businesses are entitled to a Small Business Bill of Rights.

The Committee also held a hearing on the commitment of the Export-Import Bank of the United States (Ex-Im) to assist small business exporters. Testimony was heard from Philip Merrill, President and Chairman, Export-Import Bank of the United States; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—PANDEMIC THREAT/AIR TRAVEL

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held an oversight hearing on Efforts to Prevent Pandemics by Air Travel. Testimony was heard from Jon L. Jordan, M.D., Federal Air Surgeon, Office of Aerospace Medicine, FAA, Department of Transportation; CAPT Anne Schuchat, M.D., Acting Director, National Center for Infectious Diseases, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

BRIEFING—WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to receive a briefing on Weapons of Mass Destruction. The Committee was briefed by departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

SCHNEERSON COLLECTION

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe (Helsinki Commission): Commission concluded a hearing to examine the efforts of the Chabad community and the U.S. Government to recover the "Schneerson Collection" of sacred and irreplaceable Jewish books and manuscripts from the Russian Government, after receiving testimony from Ambassador Edward B. O'Donnell, Jr., Special Envoy for Holocaust Issues, Department of State; Boruch Shlomo Cunin, Los Angeles, California, Isaac Kogan, Moscow, Russia, and Sholom Ber Levinson, and Yehuda Krinsky, both of Brooklyn, New York, all of Agudas Chasidel Chabad-Lubavitch; Marshall B. Grossman, Alschuler Grossman Stein and Kahan, LLP, Santa Monica, California; Yosef Aronoc, Chabad, Ksar Chabad,

Israel; Leon Fuerth, The George Washington University, Washington, D.C.; Jon Voight, Los Angeles, California; and Joseph Wineberg, Miami, Florida.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, APRIL 7, 2005

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury and General Government, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Internal Revenue Service, 9:30 a.m., SD–138.

Subcommittee on Energy and Water, to hold hearings to examine the proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2006 for the Corps of Engineers and the Bureau of Reclamation, 2 p.m., SD–138.

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, to hold hearings to examine Ballistic Missile Defense Programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2006, 2:30 p.m., SR–222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to continue hearings to examine regulatory reform of the Government-Sponsored Enterprises, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider S. 378, to make it a criminal act to willfully use a weapon with the intent to cause death or serious bodily injury to any person while on board a passenger vessel, S. 119, to provide for the protection of unaccompanied alien children, S. 629, to amend chapter 97 of title 18, United States Code, relating to protecting against attacks on railroads and other mass transportation systems, and the nominations of Terrence W. Boyle, of North Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Priscilla Richman Owen, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, Robert J. Conrad, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Western District of North Carolina, James C. Dever III, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of North Carolina, and Thomas B. Griffith, of Utah, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit, 9:30 a.m., SD–226.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jonathan Brian Perlin, of Maryland, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Health, 10 a.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to hold closed hearings to examine certain intelligence matters, 1:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, on Research, Education, and Extension, 9:30 a.m., 2362A Rayburn.

Subcommittee on the Department of Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies, on OSHA, on Mine Safety and Health Administration, and on National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, 10 a.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Departments of Transportation, Treasury, and Housing and Urban Development, the Judiciary, District of Columbia, and Independent Agencies, on GSA, 3 p.m., 2358 Rayburn.

Subcommittee Military Quality of Life, and Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies, on BRAC/Global Posture Review; 9:30 a.m., and on public witnesses, 1:30 p.m., H–143 Capitol.

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2006 National Defense Authorization budget request-Military Resale and Morale Welfare and Recreation Overview, 1 p.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Committee on Government Reform, hearing entitled ''No Computer Left Behind: A Review of the Federal Government's D+Information Security Grade,'' 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn.

Joint Meetings

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: to hold hearings to examine the recent revolution in Kyrgyzstan and the prospects now for consolidating democracy, focusing on the implications for Central Asia, Belarus, Russia and the United States, 1 p.m., SR–428A.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, April 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Friday, April 8

House Chamber

Program for Friday: The House will meet at 10 a.m. in pro forma session.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Becerra, Xavier, Calif., E557
Bonner, Jo, Ala., E559
Cuellar, Henry, Tex., E555, E557, E557, E562
Davis, Jim, Fla., E556
Emanuel, Rahm, Ill., E556
Faleomavaega, Eni F.H., American Samoa, E556
Frank, Barney, Mass., E559
Maloney, Carolyn B., N.Y., E556
Moore, Dennis, Kans., E555
Pelosi, Nancy, Calif., E557
Rogers, Mike, Ala., E559
Scott, Robert C., Va., E556
Towns, Edolphus, N.Y., E555z

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