

homeland security agencies need to do their work. And since September 11, 2001, Congress has worked tirelessly with the administration to identify and address our national vulnerabilities, culminating with the creation of the new Department of Homeland Security.

The fiscal year 2006 security appropriation will meet the needs of our first responders, make it harder for terrorists and criminals to pierce our borders, better prepare our Nation for emergencies, and help us stay one step ahead of our enemies.

Second, we will provide for the 2006 budgets for the Department of the Interior and environment-related agencies.

It makes sense these two bills will be the first we take up. After all, our homeland security agencies protect our people and our infrastructure while our interior agencies protect everything in between.

For these and the rest of the fiscal year 2006 spending bills, Madam Speaker, the House will lead the way not only chronologically but responsibly. We will continue to build on the record we have established these last 10 years, making sure every dollar is put to its best use and making sure we only spend those dollars we must.

For another appropriation season is upon us and we will spend it wisely.

CALLING FOR U.S. WITHDRAWAL FROM IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I would like to read to the Members from excerpts from an op-ed that the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) and I published in "USA Today."

"The military occupation of Iraq will not turn Iraq into a democratic nation. Longstanding rivalries will do more to shape that country's future. Those forces will not be controlled by American boots on the ground no matter how many we put there or how long they remain.

"In Iraq there are no front lines, no easy way to tell friend from foe, no clear way to measure success. Iraq is a quagmire. It has become a recruiting post for Osama bin Laden. Are we to keep fighting indefinitely, losing more troops every week, spending billions of dollars, and increasing the strain on our Armed Forces, especially the Reserve and the National Guard?

"Iraq has already added \$200 billion to our national debt and costs U.S. taxpayers more than \$1 billion per month. It jeopardizes the strategic interests of the United States. It alienates allies in the Muslim world, and it is hindering efforts to create a united global front against al Qaeda.

"Unlike World War II, where the enemy surrendered and the troops came home, there is no such prospect in Iraq. We must define an endpoint. We will soon introduce legislation to

achieve that goal by bringing the occupation of Iraq to a close. The troops have done their jobs. It is up to Congress and the President to forge a policy worthy of their sacrifices."

HONORING GENERAL ANDREW JACKSON GOODPASTER

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

Mr. SHIMKUS. Madam Speaker, I attended West Point from 1976 to 1980. The Academy was going through much change dealing with a cheating scandal and the integration of the first women at West Point.

To effect change, the Army turned to a world renowned retired four star general, Andrew Jackson Goodpaster, a West Point graduate.

General Goodpaster, from Granite City, Illinois, led Army troops in World War II, Vietnam, and oversaw NATO and U.S. troops in Europe in the 1970s. General Goodpaster served at various times as an aid to Presidents Eisenhower, Kennedy, Johnson, and Nixon.

General Goodpaster died yesterday at the age of 90 here in D.C. at Walter Reed Army Medical Center. He is survived by his wife, Dorothy; two daughters, Susan and Anne; and seven grandchildren.

As their alma mater states: "And when our work is done, our course on earth is done, may it be said well done, be thou at peace."

Well done, Supe. Be thou at peace.

SAVINGS INCENTIVES

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, as we continue debating the future of Social Security, it is important to remember for more Americans they cannot save enough for their retirement.

In fact, over half of all Americans do not participate in employer-sponsored retirement plans, and for 28 million households in America they have no other retirement security outside of Social Security.

For America's families retirements are less, not more secure. United Airline employees last week learned that painful lesson.

For that reason it is crucial that we strengthen, not weaken, Social Security, as well as enable more Americans to save for their retirement.

Specifically, step one, we should encourage companies to automatically enroll their employees in their 401(k) plans. At R.R. Donnelley, a Chicago company, auto enrollment dramatically increased 401(k) participation when they did automatic participation, up to 92 percent.

Second, we should make the Saver's Credit fully refundable and permanent. A recent H&R Block study shows, when offered a matching contribution, Americans save more.

Third, we should allow taxpayers to directly deposit their tax refund into a savings account.

And, fourth, finally, we should create universal 401(k)s for all Americans to consolidate the different savings plans that exist.

MEDIA NEEDS TO SHOW RESPONSIBILITY IN REPORTING

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, "Newsweek" last night finally retracted a story that had deadly consequences. The incident underscores how high the stakes are for the news media. There is a prestige for organizations to get the story first. But that prestige often trumps factual reporting of issues. And the "gotcha" factor is often the motivation for running stories that are not as well researched as they could or should be. It is the "gotcha" bias that leads to shoddy reporting. This may be fine when they are covering the Michael Jackson case.

The problem with the War on Terror reporting is that terrorists are watching. When stories are reported here that fit their PR plan, terrorists use them to incite violence and hatred around the world. In the very next news cycle, their response can be heard. That means that mistakes are very costly and the damage done is outrageous.

In this case "Newsweek's" mistake cost the lives of 17 people in riots in Afghanistan and set back the cause of democracy there. This is inexcusable and irresponsible. And while it is good that Newsweek issued a correction, they should lead the way in setting a higher standard of reporting in the first place, particularly when we are talking life and death, war and peace.

ABUSE OF POWER

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, today I rise to denounce the Republican attack on our system of checks and balances that has existed in our country for well over 200 years.

Led by the Senate majority leader, the Senate Republicans are creating an unnecessary showdown over judicial nominations that will hurt the American public and especially women.

The truth is that since President Bush took office, the Senate has confirmed 208 of his judicial nominations and turned back only 10, which is a 95 percent confirmation rate.

There are reasons the Democrats are concerned about the judicial nominations. As Chair of the Democratic Women's Working Group, I am concerned about the nominations of Janice Rogers Brown and Priscilla Owen to the circuit court seats. Both these