

Unfortunately, it has not worked out that way because the Bush administration has more than 50,000 National Guardsmen and Reservists stationed in Iraq. That amounts to just over 40 percent of the total U.S. military forces there.

The Army's Guard and Reserve units are supposed to be our Nation's emergency force, America's defenders of last resort. Yet the Army's Web site actually defines the Army reserve as being "like a part-time job that enables soldiers to keep their civilian careers while they continue to train near home."

But the President has 50,000 of them fighting in a war very, very far from home, shouldering a disproportionate share of the burden in Iraq. He has them suffering for a war that was supposedly about weapons of mass destruction and then about Saddam's link to al Qaeda and then about bringing democracy to Iraq. But no matter how we slice it, the war in Iraq was never a war of last resort. The emergency units should have remained here at home in case of a real emergency. In fact, all 3,700 of Louisiana's National Guardsmen are currently stationed in Iraq and will not return home to help their devastated State or their own families, for that matter, for another week. Unfortunately, it was only a matter of time before the deployment of thousands of Guardsmen and Reservists to Iraq ended up hurting Americans right here at home.

The city of New Orleans and the rest of the gulf coast has learned that lesson in a painful way, losing family members, loved ones, friends, and pets that could have been saved if their government had provided more human support and a smarter approach to dealing with Katrina's aftermath.

It is my hope that our national over-reliance on military solutions during the past 4 years, made painfully clear by the Katrina hurricane, will lead us to a smarter national security strategy in the future. That is why I have introduced SMART Security: a Sensible, Multilateral, American Response to Terrorism. SMART is based on the belief that we should pursue the military solution only in the most extreme circumstances and after every diplomatic solution has been exhausted. SMART would divert resources for military spending and foreign wars to homeland security and energy independence, from outdated weapons systems to an ambitious development plan for the troubled regions both in the United States and around the world.

Democracy-building, international aid, human rights education, small business development, these are the cures to poverty, to oppression, to hopelessness that plague both the people of Iraq and the survivors in the gulf, particularly in New Orleans. SMART projects protect America by relying on the very best of America, not violence and conquest, but our capacity for global leadership, our belief

in freedom, and our compassion for the vulnerable people here at home and around the world.

Mr. Speaker, Katrina's aftermath has given us a firsthand look at what happens when a nation's forces are stretched thin. That is why it is time for us to start bringing our troops home. The Iraqi people need the United States, they need the U.S. National Guard out of Iraq, and no less important, the American people need them here at home where they belong.

STATEMENT REQUIRED BY SECTION 402(a)(3) OF H. CON. RES. 95, THE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2006

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

Mr. LEWIS of California. Mr. Speaker, the funds provided in H.R. 3673 to meet the urgent needs arising from the consequences of Hurricane Katrina are designated as emergency requirements for the purposes of section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95, 109th Congress. The requirements funded in the bill meet criteria outlined in section 402(c) since they are in response to a situation which poses a direct threat to life and property, is sudden, is urgent and compelling, is unpredictable, and is not permanent in nature. The funds are also essential to the continuing recovery effort.

The devastation that has occurred in New Orleans and around the Gulf Coast as the result of Hurricane Katrina is of monumental proportions. It already is the most costly natural disaster in the Nation's history, and most government natural disaster assistance experts anticipate recovery needs far beyond the \$62.3 billion to be provided by Congress in the first two Hurricane Katrina supplemental measures. The funds in H.R. 3673 will provide urgently needed food, shelter, security, and reconstruction. The funds will help to save lives. Clearly, the funds meet emergency needs and are consistent with the criteria outlined in the budget resolution.

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

(Mr. HINCHEY addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from New York.

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

There was no objection.

PAY INEQUITY AND THE WAGE GAP IN THE UNITED STATES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentle-

woman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, earlier this week we observed Labor Day. We take this important opportunity every year to honor this Nation's workers.

Tonight I want to shed light on one way that this country can really honor a group of workers that make up almost half of this Nation's workforce, and those are our women.

Mr. Speaker, the Department of Labor estimates that women will account for 55 percent of the increase in total labor-force growth between 2002 and 2012. However, in 2004 women made up 46 percent of the total United States workers. In that same year 68 million women were either working or looking for work.

Women work in every sector of our economy. They are professionals, managers, nurses, salespersons, factory workers, and business owners. More and more women are entering into non-traditional occupations. We are an essential component of the American workforce.

Then why is it that a full-time working woman receives only 73 cents to every dollar received by a man? That figure is worse for women of color. African American women earn 65 cents for every dollar paid to a white male. Hispanic women receive only 53 cents for each dollar earned by a white male. This means that Hispanic women are paid only slightly more than half of what white men earn. Even in jobs where women make up the majority of the workforce, and that is over 70 percent, men still earn close to 20 percent more than the women.

This trend must stop. Anyone would be hard pressed to find statistical evidence proving that women work is less arduous than their male counterparts or that they underperform comparatively. There is no logical explanation why a woman, who is often times still responsible for her children and family, in addition to working full time, should earn less than a male doing the same work.

This is not an issue that is going to go away, Mr. Speaker. Pay inequity is affecting the American family. If women earned the same amount of money as men who work the same hours doing the same job, their families' annual income would increase by \$4,000 per year. This would cut poverty rates in half. Equal pay for equal work will increase women's spending capability. Equal pay for equal work will empower women to plan for their children's education and their own retirement.

Over 40 years have passed since the enactment of the Equal Pay Act. In that time we have only closed the wage gap by one-third of 1 cent per year. Mr.

Speaker, this is unacceptable. We must do more to correct this disparity.

HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Speaker, the whole country continues to be focused on the millions of Americans who have been displaced by Hurricane Katrina. As we begin to understand the enormity of the situation in the gulf region, it is becoming clear that this is one of the worst natural disasters to ever strike our country. My thoughts and prayers go out to the families grieving the loss of their loved ones and to the survivors who are struggling to cope and to find shelter, food, and medical care in the wake of this terrible disaster.

These are the moments that we realize that we are our brothers' keepers. It is clear that we must all come together to help our fellow citizens. And Americans are donating record amounts of money, time, and supplies to help those who are displaced by the hurricane. The most important thing right now is to make sure that we are saving lives and we are providing the food, shelter, and medical care for the people affected by this tragedy.

As has happened in many other States, four jetliners arrived yesterday in my home State of Illinois with the first group of 540 hurricane evacuees; and Illinois expects to provide housing, food, and medical care for up to 10,000 evacuees.

I am pleased that Congress was called back to Washington last week for a special session to pass the \$10.5 billion in relief funding for the victims of this horrific natural disaster. This funding is only the first step on a long and challenging path to recovery for the entire gulf coast region.

Unfortunately, many of the victims have had to endure not only the natural disaster of Katrina but also the unnatural disaster of the delayed and deeply flawed relief effort. In this time immediately following the disaster, we have an obligation to correct the mistakes in crisis response. We must find answers to basic questions that the American people are asking right now as they watch the aftermath unfolding on their television screens minute by minute and hour by hour. They are saying over and over again to themselves, How could this have happened in the United States of America, the most powerful country on the Earth? How could our country allow people to die without getting them water, food, and medical care?

One thing that is clear is that the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, must assume a large share of the blame for the woefully inadequate response to the hurricane. Somehow FEMA has lost its way. During the Clinton administration, FEMA

was transformed into an exemplary and effective cabinet-level agency under the leadership of James Lee Witt, a veteran emergency director. Unfortunately, as part of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, the President and Congress moved FEMA from an independent, cabinet-level rank to a sub-agency of the Department of Homeland Security under the authority of the Secretary of Homeland Security.

It is time for us to return FEMA to its status as a cabinet-level agency that reports directly to the President and establish it once again as an independent agency.

□ 1900

I have signed on to legislation to do this, and I urge my colleagues to quickly and carefully review this bill.

We have important questions to answer about how the Federal Government could have better handled the events that unfolded as a result of this catastrophe. These are serious questions on which we all need to work together. We need to make sure that we are responding quickly not only to those in need today, but also prepare for anything that may happen in the future.

Today, we live under the specter of terrorist attacks, and we may face a situation much worse than we have faced with Katrina. We have to be ready. We have to learn from this catastrophe, from the mistakes and the lack of adequate response, and we have to quickly fix the problems. As we have all too painfully seen, the lives of millions of Americans depend on how we handle this, depend on how FEMA handles these emergencies. So it depends on what we here in Congress do to correct this situation so it never happens again.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT'S SHAMEFUL RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. LEE. Mr. Speaker, the devastation wrought by Hurricane Katrina has torn down the curtain and exposed the dirty secret that divides our Nation like an open wound, and the entire world is watching. If anyone ever doubted that there were two Americas, Hurricane Katrina and our government's shameful response have made the division very clear for all to see.

New Orleans is a city where 67 to 70 percent of its population was black. Nearly 30 percent, one in three, were living below the poverty line. Twenty-one percent of the households earned less than \$10,000 a year. Eighty-four percent of the people living in poverty in New Orleans were black.

So when a disaster came such as this one, the people who had cash in the bank and a car in the garage, they es-

caped, and those who did not were shamefully left to fend for themselves, and the majority were poor and black.

The Bush administration's response to Katrina has been nothing short of shameful, and they must account for their actions. Why did Federal officials ignore predictions of a disastrous flood and hurricane in New Orleans? Why did FEMA turn away assistance, telling Amtrak it did not need to help evacuating survivors, denying the Red Cross access to New Orleans, turning away three trailer trucks from Wal-Mart that were loaded with water, and preventing the Coast Guard from delivering 1,000 gallons of diesel fuel?

How many people died as a result of this delayed response? And why has the FEMA budget been cut since 2003? Why have the last two directors of FEMA been political appointees who had no experience with disaster management?

As one commentator recently said, he said, "Actions have consequences. No one could predict that a hurricane the size of Katrina would hit this year, but the slow Federal response when it did happen was no accident. It was the result of 4 years of deliberate Republican policy and budget choices that favor ideology and partisan loyalty at the expense of operational competence. It is the Bush administration in a nutshell."

Quite frankly, the director of FEMA, Michael Brown, should resign immediately, or he should be fired. And we must help put people's lives back together immediately by providing the health care and the housing and the mental health care and the services and the education, all of the basics that people deserve, who live in the wealthiest country in the world.

The incompetence and the indifference demonstrated by the administration in responding to this tragedy was shocking, but it was not really surprising. Does anyone doubt that if this sort of devastation had taken place in the communities where the small percentage of people who are benefiting from the Bush administration tax cuts live, the response would have been swift and efficient? Can you imagine Bush fund-raisers desperately clinging to their roofs, waiting for days to be rescued?

This indifference to the most vulnerable among us is not isolated to this tragedy; it is part and parcel of a systemic problem that seeks to make a large sector of our population invisible.

Many people viewing the human tragedy left in Katrina's wake could not recognize the images that they were seeing. They thought they were witnessing a tragedy in Somalia or Haiti or the Sudan. They think to themselves, they think, this does not look like the America that I know. Some have even come to refer to the survivors of this catastrophe as refugees, as if the image of the survivors they are seeing are too foreign for them to recognize them as Americans.

The people you see on television are not refugees; they are Americans. They