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House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Washington, DC, September 21, 2005.

I hereby appoint the Honorable CANDICE S. MILLER to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

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

PRAYER

The Reverend Monsignor Kenneth Velo, Office of Catholic Collaboration, DePaul University, Chicago, Illinois, offered the following prayer:

E Pluribus Unum, out of many one, is not only an expression fundamental to these United States but also a reality we experience so often and one you visit each day as you seek consensus in this great Chamber.

So many differences, yet one great Nation, America. If there is one desire we all have, I believe it is peace. We bow our heads this morning, for though there are varied religious traditions here, it is faith and service that calls us together.

Our prayer this day includes family and friends, young and old. Our thoughts embrace the poor, the sick, the less fortunate. Our remembrances recall our beloved dead. For the people of the Middle East, for our women and men in uniform serving there and beyond, give peace, O God, give peace again.

For our brothers and sisters on the gulf coast and in particular New Orleans, Biloxi, and these days Texas as well, give peace, O God, give peace again.

For those who suffer in mind or body, those in pain from grief or loss, give peace, O God, give peace again.

May those who are homeless have shelter, the sick have comfort, and the dying have dignity. May those who are hungry have bread, and may we who have bread hunger for justice and peace.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. REYES 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.

WELCOMING MONSIGNOR KENNETH VELO

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Madam Speaker, it is my great pleasure to recognize and welcome Monsignor Velo, one of Chicago's most distinguished religious leaders, as today's guest chaplain.

Born on Chicago's south side, the Monsignor was ordained in 1973. In 1985, Monsignor Velo became the executive assistant to the late Joseph Cardinal Bernardin, a position he held for 14 years. Monsignor Velo and Cardinal Bernardin were close friends, and it was Monsignor Velo who cared for Cardinal Bernardin's mother after the Cardinal passed away.

Impressed by his reputation as a public servant, the late Pope John Paul, II appointed Monsignor Velo to be president of the Catholic Church Extension Society. Today he is senior executive of the Office of Catholic Collaboration at DePaul University, the largest Catholic university in the country, located in Chicago's Lincoln Park.

Monsignor Velo is an important Chicagoan with an impressive background and résumé. But more important, Monsignor Velo is a humanitarian who has dedicated his life to God and to improving the lives of everyone around him. Chicago is blessed by Monsignor Velo. Madam Speaker, I thank him for his service and for being here today.

NATIONAL EMPLOY THE OLDER WORKER WEEK

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise today to highlight that we are currently celebrating National Employ the Older Worker Week. This week, which is sponsored by the American Legion, has been observed for over 40 years. It is appropriate to recognize and appreciate this growing demographic workforce.

After all, our country is witnessing major growth in the number of Americans that are nearing the traditional retirement age. It is estimated that by 2008 nearly half of the workforce will be over 45 years old.

As our population continues to grow older, these citizens will play an even more important role in our economy. Older workers bring many assets to the workplace, including good work ethics, motivation, experience, and knowledge. My hat goes off to our older

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workers who are learning new skills and are exercising the many skills they already know in order to give back to society.

I am a firm believer that every single person at any age has certain gifts and talents from God. I am pleased our older workers are committed to sharing their talents with others. It is my hope that employers around the country will continue to recognize the many benefits of hiring older workers and expand job opportunities for these fine citizens.

THE NEED FOR AN EXIT STRATEGY IN IRAQ

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, 3 years ago we heard the drums of war beating in this House Chamber, and Congress voted to take this Nation to war against Iraq.

We later learned that Iraq had no weapons of mass destruction, was not trying to get uranium from Niger, had no intention nor capability of attacking the United States. Yet we went to war and war against Iraq remains.

We went to war without any thought of how we would get out of that war. We went to war with a big buildup; but when it came to talking about an exit from Iraq, there was very little or no discussion except for the one thing, Democrats and Republicans alike to come together, in support of House Joint Resolution 55, a resolution that requires the administration to produce, by the end of the year, an exit strategy and to begin the execution of that strategy by October 1 of 2006.

We owe it to those who serve. We owe it to the troops who gave their lives. We owe it to their parents and to their families, to have an exit strategy so that we can let the world community take the burden of the years ahead in Iraq.

CONGRATULATING NORFOLK PUBLIC SCHOOLS

(Mrs. DRAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. DRAKE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride that I congratulate Norfolk public schools for winning the Broad Prize for Urban Education. Eighty-two school districts participated. Five finalists were selected. Yesterday the winner was announced: Norfolk public schools.

The criterion for this award is significantly improving student achievement and reducing the performance gap. Congratulations to Norfolk, Virginia, for their hard work, their dedication and their creativity, and a heartfelt thanks to the Broad Foundation for their vision and their commitment to America's children.

These models and programs will be used across America to improve the quality of education for all children.

DO THE KATRINA RECOVERY RIGHT

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

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, we are united not just in our compassion for the victims of Katrina, but a sincere interest in doing recovery right.

Republicans and Democrats, both ends of the political spectrum, can agree that we do not want some Stalinist plan imposed on a manufactured community doomed to fail.

We need the courage to be partners respectfully, the wisdom to define the role carefully, the stamina to follow through thoroughly, and the integrity to avoid partisanship. We must meet the immediate needs of the refugees affected; but we must restore communities that are stronger, safer, and more sustainable.

We must involve all Americans with the skills and concerns starting with locals, wherever they may be. We must make this a model for how to do it right because it is not just about rescuing a damaged region; it is about how to make the Federal Government more effective.

KATRINA ABUSE

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, as the skies have cleared in the aftermath of Katrina, and the howling winds and rain of Rita develop in the gulf and head for Texas, we have learned that giving away American money in the form of emergency debit cards should be reevaluated.

There are reports in Houston of evacuees using their taxpayer debit cards to buy expensive jewelry, $800 Louis Vuitton purses. $2,000 cards are exchanged on the black market for cash in order to buy drugs, alcohol, and as they say, street entertainment.

There are reports of individuals using multiple stolen identifications to get numerous cards. At the Astrodome there are reports of dice games with the pot being debit cards.

Madam Speaker, we are also hearing the topless clubs are doing a booming business thanks to the evacuees. A local bartender has reported that the debit cards are used at his topless club to gain admission and purchase lap dances. Maybe these are emergency lap dances for the displaced and distressed evacuees.

Madam Speaker, when American money is given away in the name of compassion without adequate control, we see the above abuse. Those who take advantage of this disaster should be held accountable.

As the saying goes, Madam Speaker, no good deed goes unpunished. This ought not to be.

RECOGNIZING THE 80TH ANNIVERSARY OF CATHEDRAL HIGH SCHOOL OF EL PASO, TEXAS

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

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I am proud to rise today in recognition of the 80th anniversary of Cathedral High School located in my district in El Paso, Texas.

Since Cathedral High School opened its doors with a faculty of four LaSallian brothers in 1925, it has woven itself into the fabric of the El Paso-Ciudad Juarez community.

The school has educated and taught the histories of two cultures and two nations to the sons of both. Over the years, Cathedral has produced thousands of college-bound graduates, many of whom have become great civic leaders and accomplished professionals. Among these men we count Ambassador Raymond Telles.

Ambassador Telles' Cathedral education prepared him to become the first Hispanic mayor of El Paso and to be appointed ambassador to Costa Rica, among many distinguished posts which he held.

He is an inspiration to generations of Cathedral graduates, to El Pasoans, and to Hispanics across the United States. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the 80th anniversary of Cathedral High School and wishing them continued success and excellence.

IN TRIBUTE TO AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to the firefighters, police officers, and other first responders who have answered the call of duty and traveled from around the country to the gulf coast in order to help their fellow citizens and communities who have been devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

Many in this country sometimes forget that men and women put their lives on the line every day seeking not headlines or glory, but the simple satisfaction of helping and saving their fellow citizens. Their brave deeds, good work, and tremendous dedication deserve and demand the grateful respect and recognition of all.

And now more than ever, in recent days we have literally seen thousands of firefighters, police officers, EMS workers, and others pour into New Orleans and other devastated gulf coast areas to bolster relief efforts and save hundreds, if not thousands, of lives.

I am particularly proud to recognize those who have volunteered from around Ohio's 18th District as well as a number of our own United States Capitol Hill police officers who are currently on their way to the gulf coast.

These men and women are a shining example of everything that is good about our country today. The least we can do is to honor them and recognize them on the floor.

KATRINA AND RELIEF FOR LATINOS

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

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, I am discouraged to learn that FEMA's approach towards Latinos seeking hurricane relief assistance is woefully inadequate.

Yesterday the Los Angeles Times highlighted the neighborhood in Kenner, Louisiana, that has failed to receive emergency shelter assistance from FEMA. The article quoted a FEMA spokesperson who stated, ''Part of the problem for the Hispanic community is that if you are illegal, you cannot apply for housing.''

It is unfortunate, however, that FEMA made such an ignorant and false assumption. About 1,500 to 1,800 people living in the HUD subsidized apartments are legal residents. Legal. And they qualify for assistance according to city officials.

□ 1015

Latinos contribute significantly to the social and economic fabric of the gulf coast, working in casinos, in the poultry industry, in hotels, and on construction sites. These communities should also be eligible for emergency aid and ensure that their families are safe and healthy. They should not be made victims because of someone's ignorance.

Just as Hurricane Katrina did not discriminate when it swooped along the gulf coast, neither should FEMA make such a gross, negligent, and ignorant assumption about a person's immigration status.

HONORING SIMON WIESENTHAL

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

Mr. STEARNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Holocaust survivor and freedom advocate Simon Wiesenthal. An extraordinary man of courage, he believed there can be no freedom without justice.

Dedicating his life to this pursuit, he was responsible for finding and bringing to trial over 1,100 Nazi war criminals. A survivor of several different concentration camps through the course of World War II, he was finally liberated May 5, 1945. Sadly, most of his family had perished in the camps, over 89 persons. However, he cherished their memories and was strengthened with purpose.

In an interview years later he said, ''I want to be their mouthpiece. I want to keep their memory alive, to make sure the dead live on in that memory.''

Simon Wiesenthal is a legendary example of what a person with a vision and a will can do. They can change the world.

CANDLELIGHT VIGIL

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, as we have begun to attempt to rebuild the gulf coast region, tonight the Congressional Black Caucus and the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation will host and hold a candlelight vigil on the west steps of the United States Capitol at 8 p.m. As we do that, we hope that it will recommit both this government and our Nation to the survival of the survivors and the rebuilding of their region.

Might I also say that I join in offering the immigration relief for hurricane victims' legislation that will be on the floor, which is H.R. 3827, that will provide for benefits for immigrants that may have lost those papers or documents relevant to their pending case, and we should be concerned.

Finally, as Hurricane Rita comes upon us in the gulf coast, in my city of Houston, might I ask for FEMA to be prepared and on the ground. And might I say to Houstonians and Galvestonians and others, follow the instructions, go to the evacuation sites, and make sure that all of the people of that region are safe. Our prayers are with you.

SHARED SACRIFICE

(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, much has been said about leadership in the Katrina response. Some elected leaders failed because they were not decisive and did not make tough choices when the times called for them. We should not repeat those mistakes.

True leaders make tough choices and inspire shared sacrifice when times get tough. President Bush outlined an unprecedented Federal commitment to cleaning up the mess left by Hurricane Katrina, and this body will give him a plan that largely reflects what he wants.

The devil, as it is said, is in the details. How do we pay for this? We cannot just throw money into programs and ideas. A successful plan to rebuild the region will be limited in scope, targeted to specific needs, and its cost offset from other areas of the budget.

It is wrong to use this tragedy as an excuse to pile more debt onto future generations. Let us help Katrina's victims but let us also tighten our belts and pay for it today.

REMEMBERING SIMON WIESENTHAL

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

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, I too rise to reflect on the life and contributions of Simon Wiesenthal who passed away 2 days ago at the age of 96.

Simon Wiesenthal is known by many to be the ''conscience of the Holocaust,'' for after the atrocities ended, he spent his entire life researching and locating former Nazis to bring them to justice.

Throughout the course of the Holocaust, Simon Wiesenthal and his wife lost a total of 89 family members. American soldiers liberated him from the Mauthausen concentration camp in 1945. He was barely alive, weighing less than 100 pounds.

As a prisoner in 12 concentration camps, Simon Wiesenthal memorized the names of his perpetrators and later he embarked on his mission to bring them to justice. He created the Jewish Documentation Center to assemble evidence for trial. His most famous cases included the capture of Adolf Eichmann, the man who supervised the implementation of the ''Final Solution.'' Wiesenthal also helped locate the Gestapo officer who arrested Anne Frank. In total, he helped trace some 1,100 Nazis.

In a conversation with a former concentration camp inmate, Wiesenthal explained, when we come to the other world and meet the millions of Jews who died in the camps and they ask us, What have you done, there will be many answers. But I will say, we did not forget you.

Now it is our turn to say to Mr. Wiesenthal, we will not forget you. We will honor his life and his work by continuing to bring perpetrators to justice and continuing to fight intolerance and anti-Semitism wherever it exists.

SINGAPORE SHINES IN AFTERMATH OF HURRICANE KATRINA

(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. Madam Speaker, our Nation has been appreciative of the tremendous outpouring of support from other nations for the survivors of Hurricane Katrina.

After playing a critical role in the tsunami relief efforts earlier this year, the Republic of Singapore was one of the first countries that understood the devastation in our Nation and immediately reached out to help those left in Katrina's wake.

In the beginning of September, Singapore's Air Force deployed four Chinook helicopters to Fort Polk, Louisiana, to assist in relief operations. As they worked side by side with members of the Texas Army National Guard, Singapore's airmen flew more than 80 sorties to transport over 800 evacuees and security personnel. They also flew more than 540 tons of equipment, humanitarian supplies, and sand to help

fix the breaches in the levees of New Orleans.

Ambassador Chan Heng Chee's leadership and support has been particularly helpful during this time of crisis. As our nations continue to work together, America remains grateful for its strong friendship with Singapore as allies in the war on terrorism.

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

FREEDOM'S PROGRESS

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the people of Afghanistan on the elections they just held.

The saying that ''freedom is not free'' rings true for those who defied the Taliban, defied the warlords, and made history by freely electing their leaders this past Sunday.

During the past 4 years, people have forgotten what the Taliban stood for: public executions at soccer stadiums; banning the Internet, music, television and education; preventing women from going to school or work outside the home. A woman caught wearing fingernail polish may have had her fingertips chopped off.

This week however, Afghans, 12 million strong, have shown the world that they will not go back to tyranny, they will not take a step back into oppression, and will not buckle when taking on the challenges of democracy.

Madam Speaker, Afghanistan demonstrates the most recent chapter in freedom's march. It is a glorious story whose success should be recognized and applauded.

OPERATION OFFSET

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam Speaker, today at 11:30 I will join some of my colleagues in a press conference for Operation Offset.

I want to thank the leadership for the opportunity to participate in providing offsets as we look at ways to fund Hurricane Katrina's disaster relief program. I want to thank them for leading the way with the 2006 budget that this body recently passed. And I want to thank them for the opportunity to focus on what I think is the heart and soul of our conference, fiscal stewardship.

As I make my remarks today, my focus is going to be on government overpayments, one of which is the earned income tax credit which is overpaid by $9 billion annually over a 10-year period. A savings of $90 billion could be realized here. The GAO, the CBO, and the Inspectors General have numerous ideas and suggestions and ways that we can rein in government spending. It is time for us to heed our own advice.

PROPER CONGRESSIONAL INVESTIGATION

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

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, we are starting to hear a lot of talk about where is the proper place for the investigation into the response and the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

Madam Speaker, I submit that the proper place for that investigation is here in the United States Congress. We have the responsibility, indeed, we have the constitutional obligation to be the ones responsible for this oversight investigation. In fact, my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, maintains a standing subcommittee called the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, a committee that already has subpoena power, a committee that has a history of bipartisanship.

No matter which party was in power, this committee does have a history of bipartisanship, and I think it is the correct committee to investigate the response in the aftermath to the hurricane.

An independent commission, as we have already seen in the last year, can become a side show for partisanship, and yet we still have to convene our own congressional committees in order to write the legislation.

No, the correct path for this Congress to take is to use an already established committee for the investigation of the response and aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

THANKING AMERICA'S FIRST RESPONDERS

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

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to America's first responders, the men and women who work every day to safeguard our communities. This Nation owes so much to the firemen, the EMTs and other emergency workers who put themselves in harm's way to keep us and our loved ones safe.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, our country is once again reminded of the dedication and bravery of our first responders. Their contributions in the gulf coast were felt by every person rescued from a rooftop, by every person receiving medical care, and every person evacuated from a flooded city.

These past few weeks, we have been able to watch the valor of our first responders on TV and we have read about it in the newspapers, but we should remember that these men and women are protecting our community every single day, not just when a disaster strikes. And while it may not be televised every day, their heroism is certainly valued every day.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join me in thanking America's first responders.

APPLAUDING GOVERNOR HALEY BARBOUR

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, we just had the opportunity this morning, some of us, to hear from the Governor of Mississippi, Haley Barbour.

What a refreshing example of leadership Mr. Barbour has offered our country. Unfortunately, as compared to the Governor of his neighboring State, Louisiana, faced with the same disasters, faced with loss of life, faced with billions of dollars in property damage, Mr. Barbour did not take the opportunity to bash Washington, to whine about what the Federal Government did or did not do; but, rather, on a local level, with folks like the mayor of Biloxi and the mayors of all the other towns and the police chiefs and the police forces and the local emergency management agencies, faced up to the disaster, did everything that they could to show folks that yes, this is tough, and unfortunately government is not the answer to everything, but we can work together, we can face up to this thing and we can bring Mississippi back and bring Mississippi back strong.

I applaud Governor Barbour for the leadership he has provided. He gave us a case of one police force where the police station was flooded. The police officers did not cut and run. They did not evacuate. They went to the top floor. The top floor got flooded. They went to the roof of the building. It got flooded. They swam to nearby tree tops. They spent the night on trees. And yet the next morning rather than whine and say, oh, pity me, they came back to work and never evacuated, even though on a personal level all of those police officers from this particular precinct lost all their houses. Their homes were gone and their families had to evacuate for many weeks of separation.

That is the face of some of the great American people that we are seeing, not just in Mississippi but also in Louisiana and Alabama, but I particularly applaud Governor Barbour for his leadership.

RED TAPE HINDERING AID TO EVACUEES

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

Ms. MCKINNEY. Madam Speaker, it is amazing to me that American troops can get sick off Halliburton food, yet

Halliburton continues to get contract after contract after contract after contract. But when tons of British food rations are provided to the Hurricane Katrina survivors, all they get is red tape from the FDA and the Bush administration. For crying out loud.

If the report is to be believed, tons of British aid donated to help Hurricane Katrina survivors is to be burned by the Americans because U.S. red tape is stopping it from reaching the hungry evacuees. But these are the same food rations that are eaten by the British troops in Iraq, and the USDA has condemned them as unfit for human consumption while Halliburton continues to serve unfit rations to our troops in Afghanistan and Iraq.

It is a crying shame. When will the incompetence end?

□ 1030

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). 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.

PROVIDING FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF PO'PAY FOR PLACEMENT IN NATIONAL STATUARY HALL

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 242) providing for acceptance of a statue of Po'Pay, presented by the State of New Mexico, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. CON. RES. 242

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring),

SECTION 1. ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF PO'PAY FROM THE PEOPLE OF NEW MEXICO FOR PLACEMENT IN NATIONAL STATUARY HALL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The statue of Po'Pay, furnished by the people of New Mexico for placement in National Statuary Hall in accordance with section 1814 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (2 U.S.C. 2131), is accepted in the name of the United States, and the thanks of the Congress are tendered to the people of New Mexico for providing this commemoration of one of New Mexico's most eminent personages.

(b) PRESENTATION CEREMONY.—The State of New Mexico is authorized to use the Rotunda of the Capitol on September 22, 2005, for a presentation ceremony for the statue. The Architect of the Capitol and the Capitol Police Board shall take such action as may be necessary with respect to physical preparations and security for the ceremony.

(c) DISPLAY IN ROTUNDA.—The statue shall be displayed in the Rotunda of the Capitol for a period of not more than 6 months, after which period the statue shall be moved to its permanent location in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

SEC. 2. TRANSMITTAL TO GOVERNOR OF NEW MEXICO.

The Clerk of the House of Representatives shall transmit an enrolled copy of this concurrent resolution to the Governor of New Mexico.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY).

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

I rise today in support of House Concurrent Resolution 242. As the chairman of the Joint Committee on the Library, which has the privilege and responsibility for the acceptance and placement of statues, the National Statuary Hall collection, I want to first thank my colleagues from the New Mexico delegation and their constituents for the statue of the Indian Pueblo leader Po'Pay. This resolution was introduced by the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON) and also supported by the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE). I also want to thank all three of those Members for bringing this resolution before us.

Po'Pay was the San Juan Pueblo Indian leader and organizer of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 that drove the Spanish colonials from Pueblo lands. It was not until after his death that the Spanish recolonized the land. But because of Po'Pay, they granted the Pueblo more rights and freedoms during their recolonization.

This statue will join the six other Native American leaders honored in the collection. It is significant because not only is it New Mexico's second; it is the 100th and final original statute to be accepted into the National Statuary Hall collection.

Approximately 3 years after the bare 7.5-ton mass of Tennessee marble arrived in New Mexico, Native American sculptor Cliff Fragua unveiled his statue of Po'Pay at San Juan Pueblo.

Again, I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE), and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL). I want to thank the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD), who serves as our ranking member but also as a member of the Joint Committee on the Library for helping us get this work product out so swiftly and for her concern about this issue.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Madam Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support House Concurrent Resolution 242, authorizing use of the Capitol Rotunda on September 22 for a ceremony to receive the statue of the Indian leader Po'Pay, leader of the Pueblo Revolt of 1680 against the Spanish, from the State of New Mexico.

This is New Mexico's second statute to be submitted for the National Statuary Hall Collection and the last of the 100 statues authorized to be submitted by the States since the collection was established by law in 1864. The collection is now finally complete, though in the future, some States may choose to replace their existing statues with different significant historical figures.

In 1998, the New Mexico legislature selected Po'Pay as a subject of the State's second statue for the National Statuary Hall Commission and created the New Mexico Statuary Hall Commission, whose members were appointed by the Governor. Sculptor Cliff Fragua, a Pueblo Indian himself, was awarded the commission to create the statue in December 1999.

The 7-foot-high statue is carved from pink Tennessee marble and will stand on a 3-foot-high pedestal comprised of a steel frame clad in black granite.

Po'Pay was born around 1630 in the San Juan Pueblo, in what is now called New Mexico. As an adult, he became a medicine man and was responsible for his people's spiritual life. He also shared their suffering at the hands of Spanish settlers and missionaries, who forced them to provide labor and food to support the Spanish community. The Spaniards also pressured them to give up their religion and way of life and to adopt Christianity, and those found practicing their religion were tortured and flogged, while others were executed.

In 1675, Po'Pay and 46 other Pueblo leaders were convicted of sorcery. He was among those flogged while others were executed.

In 1680, Po'Pay organized the Pueblo Revolt against the Spanish. To coordinate the timing of the uprising, he and his followers sent runners to each pueblo with knotted deerskin strips. One knot was to be untied each day, and the revolt would begin on the day the last one was untied. After the Spaniards arrested two of the runners, the pueblos were quickly notified to accelerate the revolt. The attacks began on August 10, 2 days before the last knot would have been untied. The Spaniards took refuge at Santa Fe; the besieging Indians cut off their water supply, but soon permitted them to leave the area.

While the Spanish ultimately returned in 1692 and restored control over New Mexico as a Spanish territory, their interest in and ability to disrupt the native cultures were severely diminished. The Pueblo Revolt helped to ensure the survival of the Pueblo culture and shaped the history of the American Southwest.

Madam Speaker, as a member of the Joint Committee on the Library, which supervises the National Statuary Hall Collection, I am pleased to participate in this significant milestone for such a piece of art to be placed in the Nation's Capitol Building.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON).

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague very much for bringing this resolution forward today. I wanted to thank the Statuary Hall Commission for its work and particularly to recognize the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) and his wife, Jill Cooper, who serves on that commission, and thank her for her work, as well as the sculptor, Cliff Fragua from Jemez Pueblo.

This has been a great effort on the part of New Mexico, and it completes a collection here in the Capitol that was started in 1864. Every State can provide two statues of people from their States that are significant in the history of their States to a collection that is housed here in the Capitol. This statue will complete that collection for the first time in 141 years of this Nation's history, and this new statue will now be here so that the people of the country, the some 2 million visitors who come here each year, can see this collection.

Po'Pay represents a time in New Mexico's history that really shapes our heritage and our culture to this day. As my colleague mentioned, and explained the history of this very important man, when Francisco Vasquez de Coronado came to New Mexico in 1540 and then de Onate came in 1598, they took formal possession of New Mexico for Spain.

In 1598, 7 years before the English landed at Jamestown, New Mexico was permanently settled by a European power. But the way they treated the Indians at that time was nothing to be proud of. The Indians were forced to work on Spanish grants. They were not recognized in their religion. At that time, Juan de Onate tried to exterminate the Pueblo religion. The treatment of the Indians led to a revolt in 1680 led by Po'Pay.

Po'Pay is not without controversy. He suppressed others and served as kind of a dictator from Santa Fe for several years until his death. But he did have an important effect on New Mexico's history, because when Diego de Vargas returned in 1692 to New Mexico, the attitude toward the Pueblo people was profoundly different.

The Spanish established an office of Indian protection that recognized the territorial integrity of the Pueblos and offered protection from outsiders. Where in other parts of America the Indian culture and territory were all displaced, in New Mexico they were protected.

In particular, they allowed the blending of cultures; and while de Vargas brought with him priests and Catholicism was established and proselytized in New Mexico, they continued to recognize and allow the unique Pueblo religion, which is why in New Mexico today, just about two miles north of my home at Sandia Pueblo, is one of the most beautiful, newest Catholic churches in New Mexico on Sandia Pueblo, which also has its own unique traditional religious rights.

The blending of cultures in New Mexico is one of the things that makes it unique. Po'Pay's revolt is one of the things that made that possible. It is with tremendous honor that this week we will offer this statue from the State of New Mexico and its people to the Capitol collection.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) who really this Po'Pay would have been his constituent had we had a country at that time.

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, as a cosponsor of the resolution before us, I rise in strong support of its passage and am looking forward to the unveiling of this beautiful statue at tomorrow's ceremony in the rotunda. My district is home to 14 of the 19 Pueblos in New Mexico, and I am very pleased this moment has finally arrived.

Today and tomorrow are exciting days for our State as we at long last unveil our second statue in the United States Capitol. As every New Mexican knows, we are proud of our other statue, that of Senator Dennis Chavez, El Senador, the first Hispanic Member of the United States Senate and a champion of civil rights.

The statue of Po'Pay has had a long journey to get here. The journey began in 1997 when State Senator Manny Aragon and State Representative Nick Salazar introduced Senate bill 404 to the New Mexico State legislature which formally nominated Po'Pay to be the second figure placed in Statuary Hall to represent our State. The bill was soon passed and signed by the Governor, leading to the creation of the Statuary Hall Commission and Foundation which was responsible for determining the statue's appearance and fundraising.

The appearance of Po'Pay was a particularly difficult problem because there are no pictures or physical descriptions of him. Nevertheless, the stunning sculpture that will be unveiled tomorrow gives us a powerful glimpse of who Po'Pay was.

And who was Po'Pay? Very little is known of this man's life; but he was a native of San Juan Pueblo, soon to officially change its name to what it was before Spanish missionaries arrived in New Mexico more than 400 years ago, Ohkay Owingeh, located in northern New Mexico and which I today have the honor of representing in the Congress. He was by most accounts a religious leader. But in 1680 he organized a widespread rebellion against the Spanish throughout the region on a single day.

Po'Pay is considered to be the leader of the first American Revolution. He has been recognized throughout history as the man who made it possible for Pueblo culture to live and to sustain itself through the centuries. The 19 New Mexico Pueblos and Hopi villages in Arizona attribute their ability to continue their traditions and way of life to the efforts of the Pueblo revolt and its leader Po'Pay.

The Pueblo Revolt of 1680, as it is now known, was the single most successful act of resistance by Native Americans against a European colonial power. It established Indian independence in the Pueblos for more than a decade; and even after Spanish rule was reimposed, it forced the imperial authorities to observe religious tolerance. Ever since the 17th century, the cross and the kiva have existed side by side in Pueblo communities.

It is for these reasons that Po'Pay is being honored with a statue in the Capitol. It is fitting that Po'Pay is joining Senator Dennis Chavez as our State's representative in the Halls of Congress. As one member of the Statuary Hall Commission stated recently, ''The selection of Po'Pay to be placed in Statuary Hall serves as a unique reminder to the world that two unique cultures can coexist without destruction of their traditional cultural values and beliefs.''

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Cliff Fragua, the sculptor who crafted this rendering of Po'Pay out of a 7-foot slab of Tennessee marble, also deserves a word of praise for his beautiful work. Thousands of visitors to Washington, D.C., each year will see this work and gain a sense of New Mexico's history and our country's history. I would also like to point out that this statue created by Mr. Fragua will be the first in Statuary Hall created by a Native American.

Madam Speaker, passage of this resolution today is a precursor to what will be a great day and celebration tomorrow for our State. I am honored to be a part of it. I would also like to recognize my wife Jill's role on the Statuary Hall Commission and to thank Chris Romero and Theresa Aguilar of my staff for all the hard work they have put in with the commission during the planning of this event. I would also like to recognize Mr. Benny Shendo, secretary of the Department of Indian Affairs in New Mexico, who will be in Washington for this ceremony. And to close, to thank the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. NEY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD) for yielding me the time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE).

Mr. PEARCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 242 and join with the other members of New Mexico's congressional delegation to celebrate the presentation of the Po'Pay statue for placement in the National Statuary Hall here in the United States Capitol.

My colleagues have mentioned most of the specifics already, but the event

is particularly an honor for the State of New Mexico as the Po'Pay statue is the 100th and last presented to the hall, completing the Capitol's collection which began in 1864. The statue also completes the Capitol's collection in another way. As the gentleman from New Mexico mentioned, Mr. Fragua is the only American Indian sculptor who will be represented among the 100 statues here in Statuary Hall.

It is fitting that the last vacancy memorializing America's heroes be filled by a statue that represents not only New Mexico's rich and unique multicultural heritage, but America's great multicultural composition of many languages, customs, and traditions.

In facing the monumental task of creating Po'Pay out of a 7.5-ton block of pink Tennessee marble, sculptor Cliff Fragua began with no physical references of his subject. There was no drawing, no description of Po'Pay's features, only a rich oral history manifesting a humble man who, caring deeply about the survival of his culture, became a hero for defending his way of life.

Madam Speaker, what a superb way to complete America's storybook of characters. America has no one face, no one color, no one feature from which to reference its likeness, only a humble determination for freedom and liberty that unites us all.

Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD. Madam Speaker, I fully support H. Con. Res. 242, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Again I want to thank the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Mrs. WILSON), the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. PEARCE) and the gentleman from New Mexico (Mr. UDALL) for bringing this important resolution to us and, again, our ranking member from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) for her service on both committees. Also, I would note we are going to have an historic unveiling today at 2 o'clock with the gentlewoman from California (Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FATTAH) of Representative Rainey, who was the first elected African American to the U.S. House, and will be the first time an African American portrait will be placed in the House, which is going to be a glorious ceremony we will be sharing with our ranking member. So we are busy today with the committees. It has been a pleasure to be a part of this.

Ms. NORTON. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the New Mexico delegation and urge the House to approve this resolution placing a second statue honoring a New Mexico citizen in Statuary Hall. I must take this opportunity as well to urge the House to do the same for the District of Columbia. Our citizens do not have even one statue. Surely, the time is overdue for the District to receive at least this small recognition of our citizenship for all to see.

The District of Columbia was born with the Nation itself. The city has more than two centuries of its very own rich and uniquely American history. The District boasts distinguished figures in history from whom selections for statues could readily be made. It should go without saying that the almost 600,000 American citizens who live in the Nation's capital deserve the honor of having two of their history makers represented in the Capitol as citizens of New Mexico and all 50 States have long enjoyed. D.C. residents have not yet obtained the same full political equality and voting rights as States, but they have always had every one of the responsibilities of the States, including paying all Federal taxes and serving in all wars. Every time we allow the District to be excluded from its place among the 50 States, we undermine our own leadership role for democracy around the world. Authorizing two District statues has special importance for our residents because the statues would be seen by millions of visitors every year, reinforcing our proud citizenship and unity with other Americans, whose historical figures are commemorated.

A bill for the District has failed to get the necessary word from the Speaker, which is necessary for hearings, despite my request and the written request from Leader Pelosi. Yet, this recognition for the District of Columbia, whose citizens are serving our country as I speak, in Iraq, Afghanistan, and throughout the world is no more controversial—nor should it be—than the New Mexico bill.

New Mexico and its citizens deserve this honor and get it simply because they are American citizens. As we pass this resolution for New Mexico and its citizens today, I ask the House to remember that we are all equal in this country, and that it is time that our legislature and the halls where these statues will stand reflected that equality.

Mr. NEY. 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 Ohio (Mr. NEY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the concurrent resolution, H. Con. Res. 242.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. NEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject of H. Con. Res. 242.

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

There was no objection.

UNITED STATES PAROLE COMMISSION EXTENSION AND SENTENCING COMMISSION AUTHORITY ACT OF 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill (S. 1368) to extend the existence of the Parole Commission, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

S. 1368

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 ''United States Parole Commission Extension and Sentencing Commission Authority Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF EXISTENCE OF THE PAROLE COMMISSION.

For purposes of section 235(b) of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984 (98 Stat. 2032) as such section relates to chapter 311 of title 18, United States Code, and the United States Parole Commission, each reference in such section to ''eighteen years'' or ''eighteen-year period'' shall be deemed a reference to ''21 years'' or ''21-year period'', respectively.

SEC. 3. PROVISION OF EMERGENCY AMENDMENT AUTHORITY FOR SENTENCING COMMISSION.

In accordance with the procedure set forth in section 21(a) of the Sentencing Act of 1987 (Public Law 100–182), as though the authority under that Act had not expired, the United States Sentencing Commission shall—

(1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines, commentary, and policy statements to implement section 6703 of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–458); and

(2) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, amend the Federal sentencing guidelines, commentary, and policy statements to implement section 3 of the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004 (Public Law 108–358).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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 S. 1368, the Senate bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of S. 1368, the United States Parole Commission Extension and Sentencing Commission Authority Act of 2005. This bill extends the Parole Commission for an additional 3 years and provides the Sentencing Commission with authority to adopt emergency guideline changes for obstruction of justice and anabolic steroids offenses.

Congress initially created the Parole Commission in 1976. However, with the creation of Federal sentencing guidelines, the Parole Commission was slated to expire 5 years after the new sentencing system was implemented.

Since the enactment of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, Congress has extended the Parole Commission on several occasions. Without further congressional action, the Parole Commission is currently scheduled to expire on October 31, 2005.

The Parole Commission is responsible for handling parole cases for offenders who were sentenced prior to the enactment of the Sentencing Reform Act of 1984, which created the Sentencing Commission, and eventually led to the elimination of Federal parole for offenders sentenced after 1987. Additionally, in 1997, the Parole Commission was assigned responsibility for supervising offenders in the District of Columbia, which were previously supervised by the D.C. Board of Parole. Enacting this bill is necessary in order for the Parole Commission to continue to carry on these important functions.

The provisions in this bill relating to the Sentencing Commission's authority are needed to ensure that the Commission can expeditiously adopt new sentencing guidelines pursuant to two laws enacted during the previous Congress. Under this legislation, the Sentencing Commission will have 60 days to implement the new sentencing guidelines of section 6703 of the Intelligence Reform Terrorism Prevention Act of 2004, which increases penalties for obstruction of justice offenses involving international or domestic terrorism.

Additionally, this legislation directs the Commission within 180 days to amend the Federal sentencing guidelines to reflect the seriousness of steroid offenses in accordance with the Anabolic Steroid Control Act of 2004. Granting emergency amendment authority to the Commission in these two areas will permit the Commission to promulgate appropriate amendments as quickly as possible.

I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, S. 1368, which passed the Senate by unanimous consent, is identical to H.R. 3020, which was reported out of the Committee on the Judiciary by voice vote without apparent opposition.

For the reasons outlined by the chairman of the Committee on the Judiciary, the bill will reauthorize the U.S. Parole Commission for an additional 3 years. It will also give the Sentencing Commission emergency authority to promulgate sentencing guidelines which will implement sentencing policies reflective of recent changes in Federal law relating to sentencing in areas of obstruction of justice and anabolic steroids. Both provisions are necessary to continue to properly implement Federal sentencing laws, and I, therefore, urge my colleagues to support the bill.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 1368.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

IMMIGRATION RELIEF FOR HURRICANE KATRINA VICTIMS ACT OF 2005

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3827) to preserve certain immigration benefits for victims of Hurricane Katrina, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3827

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 ''Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT STATUS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), the Secretary of Homeland Security may provide an alien described in subsection (b) with the status of a special immigrant under section 101(a)(27) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a(27)), if the alien—

(1) files with the Secretary of Homeland Security a petition under section 204 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) for classification under section 203(b)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)(4)); and

(2) is otherwise eligible to receive an immigrant visa and is otherwise admissible to the United States for permanent residence, except in determining such admissibility, the grounds for inadmissibility specified in section 212(a)(4) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(4)) shall not apply.

(b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—

(1) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—An alien is described in this subsection if—

(A) the alien was the beneficiary of—

(i) a petition that was filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security on or before August 29, 2005—

(I) under section 204 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1154) to classify the alien as a family-sponsored immigrant under section 203(a) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)) or as an employment-based immigrant under section 203(b) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)); or

(II) under section 214(d) (8 U.S.C. 1184(d)) of such Act to authorize the issuance of a nonimmigrant visa to the alien under section 101(a)(15)(K) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(15)(K)); or

(ii) an application for labor certification under section 212(a)(5)(A) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(5)(A)) that was filed under regulations of the Secretary of Labor on or before such date; and

(B) such petition or application was revoked or terminated (or otherwise rendered null), either before or after its approval, due to a specified hurricane disaster that had as a consequence—

(i) the death or disability of the petitioner, applicant, or alien beneficiary; or

(ii) loss of employment due to physical damage to, or destruction of, the business of the petitioner or applicant.

(2) SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—An alien is described in this subsection if—

(i) the alien was, on August 29, 2005, the spouse or child of a principal alien described in paragraph (1); and

(ii) the alien—

(I) is accompanying such principal alien; or

(II) is following to join such principal alien not later than August 29, 2007.

(B) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of construing the terms ''accompanying'' and ''following to join'' in subparagraph (A)(ii), any death of a principal alien that is described in paragraph (1)(B)(i) shall be disregarded.

(3) GRANDPARENTS OF ORPHANS.—An alien is described in this subsection if the alien is a grandparent of a child, both of whose parents died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, if either of such deceased parents was, on August 29, 2005 a citizen or national of the United States or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

(c) PRIORITY DATE.—Immigrant visas made available under this section shall be issued to aliens in the order in which a petition on behalf of each such alien is filed with the Secretary of Homeland Security under subsection (a)(1), except that if an alien was assigned a priority date with respect to a petition described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(i), the alien may maintain that priority date.

(d) NUMERICAL LIMITATIONS.—For purposes of the application of sections 201 through 203 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151–1153) in any fiscal year, aliens eligible to be provided status under this section shall be treated as special immigrants described in section 101(a)(27) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)) who are not described in subparagraph (A), (B), (C), or (K) of such section.

SEC. 3. EXTENSION OF FILING OR REENTRY DEADLINES.

(a) AUTOMATIC EXTENSION OF NONIMMIGRANT STATUS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding section 214 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1184), in the case of an alien described in paragraph (2) who was lawfully present in the United States as a nonimmigrant on August 29, 2005, the alien may remain lawfully in the United States in the same nonimmigrant status until the later of—

(A) the date such lawful nonimmigrant status otherwise would have terminated if this subsection had not been enacted; or

(B) 1 year after the death or onset of disability described in paragraph (2).

(2) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—

(A) PRINCIPAL ALIENS.—An alien is described in this paragraph if the alien was disabled as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster.

(B) SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.—An alien is described in this paragraph if the alien was, on August 29, 2005, the spouse or child of—

(i) a principal alien described in subparagraph (A); or

(ii) an alien who died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster.

(3) AUTHORIZED EMPLOYMENT.—During the period in which a principal alien or alien spouse is in lawful nonimmigrant status under paragraph (1), the alien shall be provided an ''employment authorized'' endorsement or other appropriate document signifying authorization of employment not later

than 30 days after the alien requests such authorization.

(b) NEW DEADLINES FOR EXTENSION OR CHANGE OF NONIMMIGRANT STATUS.—

(1) FILING DELAYS.—In the case of an alien who was lawfully present in the United States as a nonimmigrant on August 29, 2005, if the alien was prevented from filing a timely application for an extension or change of nonimmigrant status due to a circumstance described in paragraph (3)(A) that is a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, the alien's application shall be considered timely filed if it is filed not later than 180 days after it otherwise would have been due.

(2) DEPARTURE DELAYS.—In the case of an alien who was lawfully present in the United States as a nonimmigrant on August 29, 2005, if the alien was prevented from timely departing the United States due to a circumstance described in paragraph (3)(B) that is a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, the alien shall not be considered to have been unlawfully present in the United States during the period beginning on August 30, 2005, and ending on the date of the alien's departure, if such departure occurs on or before December 31, 2005.

(3) CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTING TIMELY ACTION.—

(A) FILING DELAYS.—For purposes of paragraph (1), circumstances preventing an alien from filing a timely application are—

(i) injury;

(ii) office closures;

(iii) mail or courier service cessations or delays; and

(iv) other closures, cessations, or delays affecting case processing or travel necessary to satisfy legal requirements.

(B) DEPARTURE DELAYS.—For purposes of paragraph (2), circumstances preventing an alien from timely departing the United States are—

(i) injury;

(ii) office closures;

(iii) airline flight cessations or delays; and

(iv) other closures, cessations, or delays affecting case processing or travel necessary to satisfy legal requirements.

(c) DIVERSITY IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) WAIVER OF FISCAL YEAR LIMITATION.—Notwithstanding section 203(e)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(e)(2)), an immigrant visa number issued to an alien under section 203(c) of such Act for fiscal year 2005 may be used by the alien during the period beginning on October 1, 2005, and ending on April 1, 2006, if the alien establishes that the alien was prevented from using it during fiscal year 2005 due to a circumstance described in paragraph (4) that is a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster.

(2) WORLDWIDE LEVEL.—In the case of an alien entering the United States as a lawful permanent resident, or adjusting to that status, under paragraph (1) or (3), the alien shall be counted as a diversity immigrant for fiscal year 2005 for purposes of section 201(e) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(e)), unless the worldwide level under such section for such year has been exceeded, in which case the alien shall be counted as a diversity immigrant for fiscal year 2006.

(3) TREATMENT OF FAMILY MEMBERS OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—In the case of a principal alien issued an immigrant visa number under section 203(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(c)) for fiscal year 2005, if such principal alien died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, the aliens who were, on August 29, 2005, the spouse and children of such principal alien shall, until June 30, 2006, if not otherwise entitled to an immigrant status and the immediate issuance of a visa under subsection (a), (b), or (c) of section 203 of such Act, be entitled to the same status, and the same order of consideration, that would have been provided to such alien spouse or child under section 203(d) of such Act as if the principal alien were not deceased and as if the spouse or child's visa application had been adjudicated by September 30, 2005.

(4) CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTING TIMELY ACTION.—For purposes of paragraph (1), circumstances preventing an alien from using an immigrant visa number during fiscal year 2005 are—

(A) office closures;

(B) mail or courier service cessations or delays;

(C) airline flight cessations or delays; and

(D) other closures, cessations, or delays affecting case processing or travel necessary to satisfy legal requirements.

(d) EXTENSION OF EXPIRATION OF IMMIGRANT VISAS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding the limitations under section 221(c) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1201(c)), in the case of any immigrant visa issued to an alien that expires or expired before February 26, 2006 if the alien was unable to effect entry into the United States due to a circumstance described in paragraph (2) that is a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, then the period of validity of the visa is extended until February 26, 2006, unless a longer period of validity is otherwise provided under this Act.

(2) CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTING ENTRY.—For purposes of paragraph (1), circumstances preventing an alien from effecting entry into the United States are—

(A) destruction of, or damage rendering uninhabitable, the intended residence of the alien;

(B) a legal prohibition on inhabiting or accessing the intended residence of the alien;

(C) office closures;

(D) airline flight cessations or delays; and

(E) other closures, cessations, or delays affecting case processing or travel necessary to satisfy legal requirements.

(e) GRANTS OF PAROLE EXTENDED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any parole granted by the Secretary of Homeland Security under section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) that expires on a date on or after August 26, 2005, if the alien beneficiary of the parole was unable to return to the United States prior to the expiration date due to a circumstance described in paragraph (2) that is a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, the parole is deemed extended for an additional 90 days.

(2) CIRCUMSTANCES PREVENTING RETURN.—For purposes of paragraph (1), circumstances preventing an alien from timely returning to the United States are—

(A) office closures;

(B) airline flight cessations or delays; and

(C) other closures, cessations, or delays affecting case processing or travel necessary to satisfy legal requirements.

(f) VOLUNTARY DEPARTURE.—Notwithstanding section 240B of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229c), if a period for voluntary departure of an alien under such section expired during the period beginning on August 26, 2005, and ending on October 26, 2005, and the alien was unable voluntarily to depart as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, such voluntary departure period is deemed extended for an additional 60 days.

SEC. 4. HUMANITARIAN RELIEF FOR CERTAIN SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN.

(a) TREATMENT AS IMMEDIATE RELATIVES.—

(1) SPOUSES.—Notwithstanding the second sentence of section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i)), in the case of an alien who was the spouse of a citizen of the United States at the time of the citizen's death and was not legally separated from the citizen at the time of the citizen's death, if the citizen died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, the alien (and each child of the alien) shall be considered, for purposes of section 201(b) of such Act, to be an immediate relative after the date of the citizen's death, but only if the alien files a petition under section 204(a)(1)(A)(ii) of such Act within 2 years after such date and only until the date the alien remarries. For purposes of such section 204(a)(1)(A)(ii), an alien granted relief under the preceding sentence shall be considered an alien spouse described in the second sentence of section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act.

(2) CHILDREN.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an alien who was the child of a citizen of the United States at the time of the citizen's death, if the citizen died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, the alien shall be considered, for purposes of section 201(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)), to remain an immediate relative after the date of the citizen's death (regardless of changes in age or marital status thereafter), but only if the alien (or a parent or guardian of the alien) files a petition under subparagraph (B) within 2 years after such date.

(B) PETITIONS.—An alien (or parent or guardian) described in subparagraph (A) may file a petition with the Secretary of Homeland Security for classification of the alien under section 201(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1151(b)(2)(A)(i)). For purposes of such Act, such a petition shall be considered a petition filed under section 204(a)(1)(A) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1154(a)(1)(A)).

(3) UNCONDITIONAL STATUS.—An alien who obtains the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to this subsection shall not be considered to have obtained such status on a conditional basis, and shall not be subject to section 216 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a).

(b) SPOUSES, CHILDREN, UNMARRIED SONS AND DAUGHTERS OF LAWFUL PERMANENT RESIDENT ALIENS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any spouse, child, or unmarried son or daughter of an alien described in paragraph (3) who is included in a petition for classification as a family-sponsored immigrant under section 203(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(a)(2)) that was filed by such alien before August 29, 2005, shall be considered (if the spouse, child, son, or daughter has not been admitted or approved for lawful permanent residence by such date) a valid petitioner for preference status under such section with the same priority date as that assigned prior to the death described in paragraph (3)(A). No new petition shall be required to be filed. Such spouse, child, son, or daughter may be eligible for deferred action and work authorization.

(2) SELF-PETITIONS.—Any spouse, child, or unmarried son or daughter of an alien described in paragraph (3) who is not a beneficiary of a petition for classification as a family-sponsored immigrant under section 203(a)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act may file a petition for such classification with the Secretary of Homeland Security, if the spouse, child, son, or daughter was present in the United States on August 29, 2005. Such spouse, child, son, or daughter may be eligible for deferred action and work authorization.

(3) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this paragraph if the alien—

(A) died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster; and

(B) on the day of such death, was lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States.

(4) UNCONDITIONAL STATUS.—An alien who obtains the status of an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence pursuant to this subsection shall not be considered to have obtained such status on a conditional basis, and shall not be subject to section 216 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1186a).

(c) APPLICATIONS FOR ADJUSTMENT OF STATUS BY SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF EMPLOYMENT-BASED IMMIGRANTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who was, on August 29, 2005, the spouse or child of an alien described in paragraph (2), and who applied for adjustment of status prior to the death described in paragraph (2)(A), may have such application adjudicated as if such death had not occurred.

(2) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this paragraph if the alien—

(A) died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster; and

(B) on the day before such death, was—

(i) an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States by reason of having been allotted a visa under section 203(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1153(b)); or

(ii) an applicant for adjustment of status to that of an alien described in clause (i), and admissible to the United States for permanent residence.

(d) APPLICATIONS FOR ASYLUM OR ADMISSION AS REFUGEE BY SURVIVING SPOUSES AND CHILDREN OF ASYLEES AND REFUGEES.—

(1) ASYLUM.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who was, on August 29, 2005, the spouse or child of an individual described in subparagraph (B), may have the alien's eligibility to be granted asylum determined under section 208(b)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(3)) as if such individual had not died.

(B) PRINCIPALS DESCRIBED.—An individual is described in this subparagraph if the individual—

(i) died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster; and

(ii) before such death, was granted asylum under section 208 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1158).

(2) ADMISSION AS A REFUGEE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Any alien who was, on August 29, 2005, the spouse or child of an individual described in subparagraph (B), may have the alien's eligibility to be admitted to the United States as a refugee determined under section 207(c)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1157(c)(2)) as if such individual had not died.

(B) PRINCIPALS DESCRIBED.—An individual is described in this subparagraph if the individual—

(i) died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster; and

(ii) before such death, was admitted to the United States as a refugee under section 207 of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1157).

(e) WAIVER OF PUBLIC CHARGE GROUNDS.—In determining the admissibility of any alien accorded an immigration benefit under this section, the grounds for inadmissibility specified in section 212(a)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(4)) shall not apply.

SEC. 5. NATURALIZATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—With respect to an applicant for naturalization who resided, on August 29, 2005, within a portion of a district of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that was declared by the President to be affected by a specified hurricane disaster, the Secretary of Homeland Security may administer the provisions of title III of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1401 et seq.) without regard to any provision of such title otherwise requiring residence to be maintained, or any other action to be taken, in any specific State or district of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

(b) COURT AUTHORITY TO ADMINISTER OATHS.—Notwithstanding section 310(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1421(b)(1)), with respect to an applicant for naturalization described in subsection (a), an eligible court (as defined in section 310(b)(5) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1421(b)(5))) may administer the oath of allegiance under section 337(a) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1448(a)) to the applicant regardless of whether the applicant is permanently residing within the jurisdiction of the court.

SEC. 6. FOREIGN STUDENTS AND EXCHANGE PROGRAM PARTICIPANTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an nonimmigrant alien described in subsection (b), the alien's nonimmigrant status shall be considered to have been maintained during the period beginning on August 29, 2005, and ending on February 1, 2006, if, on February 1, 2006, the alien is enrolled in a course of study, or participating in a designated exchange visitor program, sufficient to satisfy the terms and conditions of the alien's nonimmigrant status on August 29, 2005.

(b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this subsection if the alien—

(1) was, on August 29, 2005, lawfully present in the United States in the status of a nonimmigrant described in subparagraph (F), (J), or (M) of section 101(a)(15) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S. C. 1101(a)(15)); and

(2) fails to satisfy a term or condition of such status as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster.

SEC. 7. NOTICES OF CHANGE OF ADDRESS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any notice of change of address otherwise required to be submitted to the Secretary of Homeland Security by an alien described in subsection (b)—

(1) if the notice relates to a change of address occurring during the period beginning on August 29, 2005, and ending on November 15, 2005, the alien shall have until December 1, 2005, to submit such notice; and

(2) if the notice relates to a change of address occurring during the period beginning on November 16, 2005, and ending on February 16, 2006, the alien shall have until February 28, 2006, to submit such notice.

(b) ALIENS DESCRIBED.—An alien is described in this subsection if the alien—

(1) resided, on August 29, 2005, within a district of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services that was declared by the President to be affected by a specified hurricane disaster; and

(2) is required, under section 265 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1305) or any other provision of law, to notify the Secretary of Homeland Security in writing of a change of address.

SEC. 8. TEMPORARY ADMINISTRATIVE RELIEF.

The Secretary of Homeland Security, for humanitarian purposes or to ensure family unity, may provide temporary administrative relief to any alien who—

(1) was lawfully present in the United States on August 29, 2005;

(2) was on such date the spouse, parent, or child of an individual who died or was disabled as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster; and

(3) is not otherwise entitled to relief under any other provision of this Act.

SEC. 9. EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION DURING EFFECTIVENESS OF MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 274A(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A), by striking ''The person'' and inserting ''Subject to subparagraph (F), the person''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

''(F) SPECIAL RULE DURING MAJOR DISASTER DECLARATION.—In a case in which the President has declared a major disaster under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.), the Secretary of Homeland Security may provide, in the Secretary's sole and unreviewable discretion and only during the period in which such declaration is in effect, that a person or other entity hiring, recruiting, or referring an individual for employment in the United States is not required to make the attestation or conduct the verification required under subparagraph (A) until, at the latest, 90 days after the hiring, recruitment, or referral, if the individual hired, recruited or referred attests under penalty of perjury at the time of being hired, recruited, or referred that the individual does not possess the documents necessary to satisfy clause (i) or (ii) of subparagraph (A) as a result of such disaster.''.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 274A(b)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(2)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

''Paragraph (1)(F) shall not be construed to affect the obligation under the preceding sentence.''.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to hiring, recruitment, or referral of an individual for employment in the United States occurring on or after August 29, 2005.

SEC. 10. REPLACEMENT OF DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING IDENTITY AND EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION FOR VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) IMMEDIATE ASSISTANCE.—

(1) DOCUMENT REPLACEMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to provide immediate assistance in States in which persons displaced by a specified hurricane disaster are residing for the purpose of replacing for such persons documents that were—

(A) previously issued by the Secretary and described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of section 274A(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)); and

(B) lost, stolen, or destroyed due to such disaster.

(2) SUBSTITUTE.—Where replacement of a document described in paragraph (1) is not feasible, the Secretary of Homeland Security may provide to a displaced person described in such paragraph a temporary substitute document.

(b) PROCEDURES FOR DOCUMENT REPLACEMENT.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure that, when the Secretary replaces (or provides a temporary substitute for) a document relating to an alien and described in subparagraph (B), (C), or (D) of section 274A(b)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)(1)) that was lost, stolen, or destroyed due to a specified hurricane disaster, the Secretary—

(1) authenticates information using biometric identifiers contained in records of the Department of Homeland Security; and

(2) annotates the records in U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services information systems in such a way as to indicate that the replacement or substitute document was issued in the absence of an original due to such disaster.

(c) WAIVER OF FEES FOR DATABASE ACCESS.—

(1) U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES.—The Director of U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services is authorized to waive fees and costs associated with a request, made by a person or agency described in paragraph (2), for use of the Verification Information System database associated with the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements Program in order to verify immigration status or employment eligibility with respect to a displaced person described in subsection (a)(1).

(2) REQUESTING PERSONS.—The persons described in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) Employers.

(B) State or local government agencies.

(C) The American National Red Cross.

(D) Organizations described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from tax under section 501(a) of such Code whose mission is to assist displaced persons described in subsection (a)(1).

SEC. 11. AGE-OUT PROTECTIONS.

In administering Federal immigration laws, the Secretary of Homeland Security may grant any application or benefit notwithstanding the applicant or beneficiary (including a derivative beneficiary of a principal applicant or beneficiary) reaching an age that would render the applicant or beneficiary ineligible for the relief or benefit sought, if the failure to meet the age requirement is a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster.

SEC. 12. EVIDENCE OF DEATH, DISABILITY, OR LOSS OF EMPLOYMENT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish appropriate standards for evidence demonstrating, for purposes of this Act, that any of the following occurred as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster.

(1) Death.

(2) Disability.

(3) Loss of employment due to physical damage to, or destruction of, a business.

(b) DEATH CERTIFICATES.—The standards established under subsection (a) shall authorize the Secretary to make a determination of death in the absence of a death certificate, where appropriate.

(c) AFFIDAVIT OF SURVIVING SPOUSE.—For purposes of a benefit under section 2, or subsection (b) or (c) of section 4, that is conditioned on the beneficiary having been the spouse of an individual who died as a consequence of a specified hurricane disaster, the standards established under subsection (a) shall authorize the Secretary to make a determination of death based on the sworn affidavit of such surviving spouse, in the absence of evidence to the contrary.

SEC. 13. WAIVER OF REGULATIONS.

The Secretary of Homeland Security shall carry out this Act as expeditiously as possible. The Secretary of Homeland Security is not required to promulgate regulations prior to implementing this Act.

SEC. 14. DEFINITIONS.

(a) APPLICATION OF IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT PROVISIONS.—Except as otherwise specifically provided in this Act, the definitions used in the Immigration and Nationality Act (excluding the definitions applicable exclusively to title III of such Act) shall apply in the administration of this Act.

(b) SPECIFIED HURRICANE DISASTER.—For purposes of this Act, the term ''specified hurricane disaster'' means any major disaster resulting from Hurricane Katrina declared by the President under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. 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.R. 3827, the bill currently under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Hurricane Katrina has devastated the lives of hundreds of thousands of individuals living along the gulf coast. This population includes legal aliens who may now face hardships under our immigration laws as a result of being displaced by the storm or, worse yet, due to the loss of a loved one. Today we have the opportunity to provide humanitarian relief to these hurricane victims by passing H.R. 3827.

I have worked with my ranking member, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS), to develop this legislation to help law-abiding aliens and their families avoid unfair consequences and get back on their feet. It is similar to the relief that we provided in the USA PATRIOT Act of 2001 for the legal immigrant victims of September 11. I will briefly outline some of the bill's most significant provisions.

First, the bill provides special immigration status to individuals whose immigration petitions were nullified as a result of Hurricane Katrina. This relief would be available to aliens who were the beneficiary of an immigration petition or labor certification application before Katrina struck if the petitioner or applicant died or was disabled or, in the case of an employment-based petition, the placement was destroyed.

Grandparents of orphans are also provided special immigration status in cases where both parents died as a result of the hurricane, if at least one of those parents was a citizen or legal permanent resident.

The bill also allows spouses and children of citizens and legal permanent residents who died as a consequence of the hurricane to continue their petitions as if the death had not occurred. Without this relief, many spouses and children would have their visa petitions nullified. This legislation also provides similar relief for the immediate relatives of asylees and refugees who died because of the hurricane.

Many people were displaced from their homes and stranded in other locations during and after Hurricane Katrina. As a result, there may be instances in which an alien might not be able to meet the deadline set forth in our immigration laws. This bill provides an extension of status until December 31 for nonimmigrant aliens who were lawfully present on the date of the hurricane but who were unable to timely depart the country as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

H.R. 3827 also provides relief for individuals who were the recipients of immigrant visas but who were not able to use them immediately as a consequence of the hurricane. Additionally, this bill assists aliens, lawfully in the United States on student visas, by preventing them from falling out of status due to hurricane-related circumstances, provided they are reenrolled in another qualifying school by February 1, 2006.

Undoubtedly, some lawful aliens lost their green cards and other federally issued work authorization documents as a result of Hurricane Katrina.

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In order to help these people get back on their feet as soon as possible, this bill authorizes expeditious replacement of these documents. Further, the bill allows employers to make jobs available to citizens and aliens who lost their work authorization documents in the hurricane. Employers will be required to check the documents of these workers within 90 days after the worker has received replacement documents. Individuals will be able to begin working and supporting themselves and their families while providing sufficient time for the employee to obtain replacement documents.

Finally, for individuals who resided in the hurricane-affected regions, this legislation allows individuals to take the oath of citizenship in any Federal court without regard to residence.

Mr. Speaker, the Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act of 2005 is one more way we can help gulf coast residents rebuild their lives. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

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

H.R. 3827 was introduced by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Chairman SENSENBRENNER); the ranking member of the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. CONYERS); and the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

Mr. Speaker, among the many tragic consequences of Hurricane Katrina, immigrants and foreign visitors lost important immigration benefits; as the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) indicated, spouses who had filed family-based visa petition on behalf of their family members who may have died, and that obviously nullifies those petitions. This bill would provide special immigration status for the surviving family members.

Another example is the plight of foreign students who lost their schools in

the hurricane. This bill would allow them to continue their student status at a new school if they can resume their studies by February 1. This bill was the result of bipartisan cooperation, and I urge my colleagues to support the Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act of 2005.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, hurricane Katrina may be the worst natural disaster to hit the United States in the last hundred years. As of September 15, 2005, Federal disaster declarations have been issued which cover 90,000 square miles of affected areas. More than 71,100 federal personnel have been deployed; 122,000 people are housed in shelters throughout the 50 states and the District of Columbia; and 509,000 households have received $1.1 billion in disaster assistance.

As the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security, and Claims, I also am concerned about the impact the hurricane has had on the foreign nationals who were residing in the disaster area. I rise today in support of a bipartisan bill that was introduced by my colleague Congressman F. JAMES SENSENBRENNER which would provide relief to these disaster victims too, the Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act of 2005. I am pleased to be an original cosponsor of this bill.

I want to thank Congressman SENSENBRENNER for his leadership on this issue and for his willingness to work with me and with my colleague, Congressman JOHN CONYERS, in drafting the provisions of the bill. The Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act is an example of what can be accomplished when we work together.

Among other things, it would provide special immigrant status for aliens who were the beneficiaries of immigrant petitions or labor certification applications pending on the date of Hurricane Katrina's arrival. It also would provide special immigrant status for the grandparents of orphans in cases where both parents died as a consequence of the hurricane and one of the parents was a citizen or a lawful permanent resident.

It would provide nonimmigrant status for aliens who were disabled, or whose spouse or parent died or was disabled, as a consequence of Hurricane Katrina. It would provide that the spouses and children of citizens who died as a consequence of the hurricane would continue to be considered "immediate relatives" for visa petition purposes.

It would provide further that the spouses, children, and unmarried sons and daughters of lawful permanent residents who died as a consequence of the hurricane while a visa petition was pending in their behalf, would continue to be eligible for the preference classification they would have had if the deaths had not occurred.

The Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act would provide relief for nonimmigrant students and exchange program participants by giving them enough time to enroll in a new program.

The Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act also would provide a variety of fixes for administrative problems. For instance, it would extend the deadline for notifying the Department of Homeland Security regarding a change of address. It would allow the Secretary of Homeland Security to postpone employment eligibility requirements for employers for a 90-day period when a natural disaster has been declared.

It would authorize the Secretary to provide immediate assistance for replacing documents issued by the Secretary that were lost, stolen, or destroyed due to the hurricane. Where replacement of a document is not feasible, the Secretary would be authorized to issue temporary substitute documents.

One of my goals in working on this bill was to ensure that people will be able to establish eligibility for the relief that they are entitled to receive. For instance, it may not be possible to obtain a death certificate as proof that a spouse or parent was killed by the hurricane. The Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act would provide the Secretary with the authority to make a determination of death in the absence of a death certificate where this is appropriate. In other situations, it would authorize the Secretary to make the death determination solely on the basis of a sworn affidavit.

I urge you to vote for the Immigration Relief for Hurricane Katrina Victims Act of 2005.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3827.

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.

KARL MALDEN STATION

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3667) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South Barrington Street in Los Angeles, California, as the "Karl Malden Station".

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3667

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

SECTION 1. KARL MALDEN STATION.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 South Barrington Street in Los Angeles, California, shall be known and designated as the "Karl Malden Station".

(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 "Karl Malden Station".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) 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 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the Committee on Government Reform, I rise to consider H.R. 3667. This worthwhile legislation, introduced by the distinguished ranking member of the committee, the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN), designates the postal facility located at 200 South Barrington Street in Los Angeles, California, as the Karl Malden Station.

Born to immigrant parents in Chicago in 1912, Karl Malden worked for several years within the steel factories of Gary, Indiana. He attended acting school, and as a young man he moved to New York City. At age 25, he made his Broadway debut in 1937. Malden's promising career was interrupted during World War II when he served the Nation in the Air Force.

Following the war, Mr. Malden transitioned from stage to screen where he immediately won an Oscar for his portrayal of Mitch in "A Streetcar Named Desire," the famous Tennessee Williams show. Mr. Malden's list of other prestigious films includes "On the Waterfront," "Baby Doll," and "Cheyenne Autumn."

Mr. Malden became a television star. Perhaps his most notable TV role was in the 1970s police drama, "The Streets of San Francisco." The show ran from 1972 until 1977 and starred Malden as Detective Lt. Mike Stone alongside a young actor by the name of Michael Douglas as Inspector Steve Keller.

Notably, Malden won an Emmy for his performance in the 1984 TV miniseries "Fatal Vision." Malden's career peaked when he was elected president of the Academy of the Motion Picture Arts and Sciences in 1988. Mr. Malden recently completed a book entitled, "When Do I Start: A Memoir."

In October of 2003, Malden was named the 40th recipient of the Screen Actor's Guild's Life Achievement Award for career achievement and humanitarian accomplishments.

This post office in Los Angeles, California, will be a fitting tribute to his legacy and his pursuit of excellence in the theater arts.

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

Mrs. MALONEY. 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 join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3667, legislation naming a post office in Los Angeles, California, after Karl Malden. This bill, which was jointly introduced by the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from New

York (Mr. MCHUGH) on September 7, 2005, was unanimously reported by our committee on September 15.

Karl Malden was born in Chicago, and at the age of 5 moved to Gary, Indiana. After high school, he attended and graduated from the Goodman Theater Dramatic School. He met his wife at Goodman, and they moved to New York City, my hometown, when Broadway called.

Karl began his acting career on Broadway in 1937 before entering the film industry in 1940. His acting career was interrupted by World War II where he served as a noncommissioned officer in the U.S. 8th Air Force. When he returned from the war, Karl Malden moved from Broadway to film.

His first appearance on the small screen was the movie ''They Knew What They Wanted'' in 1940, and in 1951 he won the Academy Award for the Best Supporting Actor in ''A Streetcar Named Desire.'' He appeared in over 50 different films. These films included ''On the Waterfront'' in 1954, ''Pollyanna'' in 1960, ''How the West Was Won'' in 1962, and ''Patton'' in 1970, in which he played the role of Omar Bradley. His notable TV appearances included ''The Streets of San Francisco'' and the film ''The Hijacking of Achille Lauro'' in 1989, and a series of commercials for American Express in the 1970s and 1980s in which he delivered the now-famous line ''Don't leave home without it.''

In October 2003, Karl Malden was named the 40th recipient of the Screen Actors Guild's Lifetime Achievement Award. Mr. Malden has lived in Brentwood, California since 1960 and served for nearly 15 years as a member of the Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee which selects the subjects and design of postal issues. I am pleased to note that four of Mr. Malden's colleagues on the advisory committee, Cary Brick, Michael Brock, Jean Firstenberg and Ron Robinson, contacted the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) requesting that this legislation naming the Brentwood post office in Mr. Malden's honor be introduced and passed. His colleagues viewed the designation as a fitting tribute to his dedication and service, and we agreed and reported it out unanimously from the committee.

I commend my colleagues for seeking to honor the legacy of Karl Malden, a distinguished actor and active member of his community. I would like to thank the House leadership and the gentleman from Virginia (Chairman TOM DAVIS) for moving so quickly on this legislation, and I would also like to acknowledge the hard work of the gentleman from California (Mr. WAXMAN) and his staff; the gentleman from New York (Mr. MCHUGH) and his chief of staff, Robert Taub; and Michael Layman of the chairman's staff. I join my colleagues on the committee in urging the swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. WAXMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in support of H.R. 3667, which names a post office in Brentwood, California after Karl Malden. This bill, jointly sponsored by me and my colleague, Representative MCHUGH was unanimously reported by the Government Reform Committee on September 15, 2005.

Mr. Malden, a 93-year-old World War II veteran and Oscar-winning actor, has lived in Brentwood, California since 1960. He has served for nearly 15 years as a member of the United States Postal Service Citizens' Stamp Advisory Committee, which selects the subjects and design of postal issues.

Mr. Malden's colleagues on the Advisory Committee believe that naming a post office in his honor would be a fitting tribute to his many years of service to the mission of the United States Postal Service. I agree, and I am very pleased that this bill will make that happen.

I wish to thank my colleague, Representative MCHUGH, Chairman DAVIS, and the members of the Citizen's Stamp Advisory Committee for their work to honor Mr. Malden. I want to extend a special thank you to Michael Layman, professional staff member to Chairman DAVIS, and Robert Taub, chief of staff to Representative MCHUGH for their hard work in getting this bill through committee to the House floor.

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

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

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 pass the bill, H.R. 3667.

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.

JACOB L. FRAZIER POST OFFICE BUILDING

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3767) to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Oak Street in St. Charles, Illinois, as the ''Jacob L. Frazier Post Office Building''.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.R. 3767

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

SECTION 1. JACOB L. FRAZIER POST OFFICE BUILDING.

(a) DESIGNATION.—The facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2600 Oak Street in St. Charles, Illinois, shall be known and designated as the ''Jacob L. Frazier 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 ''Jacob L. Frazier Post Office Building''.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) 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 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. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 3767. This legislation, introduced by the very distinguished Speaker of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), and cosponsored by the entire Illinois State delegation, recognizes the remarkable life of an amazing young man.

Staff Sergeant Jacob Frazier of the 169th Air Support Operation Squadron, 182nd Airlift Wing, Illinois Air National Guard loved his family, and he loved his country.

Growing up, he was an outstanding football player and golfer. He was also a member of the school choir at Burlington Central High School in Burlington, Illinois. After graduation from high school, he joined the Illinois Air National Guard. Sergeant Frazier was an integral contributor to America's fight in the war on terror.

Sadly, he was killed during an ambush on his reconnaissance convoy in southern Afghanistan on March 29, 2003. He was 24 years old. During the mission, Jacob was bravely serving with the Army's Green Berets as part of a special operations team.

Mr. Speaker, Jacob was survived by his fiancee, Jessica Fregin; his loving parents, Joyce and Jim Frazier; and four loyal siblings, two sisters, Jessica and Kathryn, and two brothers, Zachary and Daniel.

I know this legislation meant a great deal to the Speaker, and I salute him for advancing H.R. 3767. This is such a deserved memorial for Jacob, to whom all American citizens owe a solemn debt. I know my colleagues will join the Speaker and me in support of this bill to honor Jacob Frazier's priceless life and his immeasurable contributions to our Nation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as a member of the Committee on Government Reform, I am very pleased to join my colleagues in the consideration of H.R. 3767, which designates a postal service in St. Charles, Illinois, after the late Jacob L. Frazier.

This legislation was introduced by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT) on September 14 and unanimously passed out of the Committee on Government Reform on September 15. This legislation has the support and cosponsorship of the entire Illinois delegation.

Jacob Frazier, 24, was a staff sergeant in the U.S. Air Force attached to special forces. A native of St. Charles, he enlisted in the Illinois Air National Guard in 1997. He was assigned to the 169th Air Support Operations Squadron, 182nd Airlift Wing in Peoria, Illinois.

Sadly, Staff Sergeant Frazier died on March 23, 2003, from wounds sustained from an ambush in Geresk, southern Afghanistan. He was the Illinois Air National Guard's first combat casualty in Afghanistan.

Jacob Frazier leaves behind his parents, Jim and Joyce; four younger siblings, sisters Jessica and Kathryn, and twin brothers, Zachary and Daniel; his fiancee, Jessica Fregin; and a host of other family members.

□ 1115

Mr. Speaker, it is always an honor to stand on the House floor and recognize the ultimate sacrifice of a soldier. Our thoughts and prayers are with the Frazier family and Ms. Fregin. It is indeed proper and fitting that we honor Staff Sergeant Jacob Frazier by designating the St. Charles Post Office, and I urge the swift passage of this legislation.

Mr. HASTERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3767, a bill to designate the U.S. postal facility at 2600 Oak Street in St. Charles, Illinois, the Jacob L. Frazier Post Office Building.

I thank the entire Illinois delegation for cosponsoring this legislation honoring Jacob L. Frazier, the first soldier from my district to lose his life in the War on Terror.

Staff Sergeant Jacob Frazier served as a tactical air controller with the Illinois National Guard 182nd Airlift Wing based in Peoria, Illinois.

Jacob was killed while working with the Army's elite Green Berets on March 29, 2003.

His team was ambushed in a southern province of Afghanistan as it returned from touring a clinic and school that were recently built with American aid.

Staff Sergeant Jacob Frazier was 24 years old.

He left behind his proud and loving family, parents Joyce and Jim, sisters Jessica and Kathryn, brothers Zachary and Daniel, and fiancee Jessica Fregin.

To his family, Jacob was more than a brother and son—he was a compassionate and loyal friend.

To his classmates at Burlington Central High School in Burlington, Illinois, Jacob was a natural leader who consistently thought of others before himself.

And to his fellow soldiers, Jacob was the tireless worker who never turned down a mission.

Faced with unlimited potential in his young life, Jacob made the courageous and conscious decision to put himself in harm's way to defend the people and ideals of his country.

It is only because of such selflessness that our Nation enjoys peace and freedom at home—and we must never forget his sacrifice.

By dedicating the St. Charles postal facility in Jacob's name, we ensure that his legacy will carry on for years to come.

Family, friends and community members will have an enduring reminder of the man they knew and loved.

And those who never had the honor of meeting Jacob will be reminded of the American patriot who set aside his self-interest and safety to achieve a greater good.

Further, the Jacob L. Frazier Post Office will serve as a memorial to all the brave men and women from the Fox Valley who have given their lives while serving this great Nation.

Once again, I thank the members of the Illinois delegation for co-sponsoring this legislation and urge my colleagues to approve H.R. 3767 and create a lasting memory for this truly great American.

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in passage of H.R. 3767.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3767.

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.

CONGRATULATING THE WEST OAHU LITTLE LEAGUE BASEBALL TEAM FOR WINNING THE 2005 LITTLE LEAGUE WORLD SERIES

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 429) congratulating the West Oahu Little League Baseball team for winning the 2005 Little League Baseball World Series.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 429

Whereas on Sunday, August 28, 2005, the West Oahu Little League baseball team of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, defeated the Curacao Little League team by a score of 7–6 to win the 2005 Little League World Series Championship at South Williamsport, Pennsylvania;

Whereas the Championship game was one of the most exciting in Little League history, with West Oahu overcoming a 3-run deficit and winning the game in the seventh inning;

Whereas the 2005 West Oahu Little League World Championship team consists of players Layson ''Kaeo'' Aliviado, Harrison Kam, Ty Tirpak, Zachary Ranit, Ethan Javier, Vonn Fe'ao, Quentin Guevara, Sheyne Baniaga, Michael Memea, Zachary Rosete, Myron ''Kini'' Enos, Jr., Alaka'i Aglipay, Manager Layton Aliviado, Dugout Coach Tyron Kitashima, and First Base Coach Clint Tirpak;

Whereas the championship victory of the West Oahu Little League Baseball Team testifies to the sportsmanship, hard work, and dedication of its members; and

Whereas the achievement of the West Oahu Little League Baseball Team is the cause of enormous pride for the Nation, the State of Hawaii and the community of Ewa Beach: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives congratulates the West Oahu Little League Baseball Team on its victory in the 2005 Little League World Series Championship games.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) 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 the resolution under consideration.

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 the West Oahu Little League Baseball team in Ewa Beach, Hawaii defeated Curacao by a score of 7–6 to win the 2005 Little League World Series Championship at South Williamsport, Pennsylvania on August 28. This resolution congratulates the team, their coaches, their parents, families, and friends for their incredible journey to the world championship.

Mr. Speaker, this was the first American team to win the World Series since Louisville, Kentucky defeated Japan in 2002. The road to the world championship and the experience of playing against the best players in the world at their age will be remembered and cherished by these young men for the rest of their lives.

I thank the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) for introducing this measure on behalf of the Ewa Beach Little League championship team.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, on August 28, 2005, the West Oahu Little League Baseball team, hailing from Ewa Beach, Hawaii, won the Little League World Series championship in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They beat the defending champions from Willemstad, Curacao by a score of 7–6 in dramatic fashion.

Trailing for much of the game, the West Oahu team rallied in the bottom of the sixth inning, evening the score at 6–6 and sending the game into extra innings. The first batter in the bottom of the seventh inning hit a spectacular home run over the center field wall to seal the victory for the West Oahu team, the first Little League World Series champions in the history of the State of Hawaii.

The West Oahu victory in the 59th Little League World Series championship is and likely will remain one of the most exciting finishes in the championship's storied history. The hard work and dedication of West Oahu team members and their coaches and

their families and friends are reflected in this tremendous accomplishment.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating this team in their momentous achievement in winning the Little League World Series championship.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from the great State of Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE), the author of this resolution.

Mr. ABERCROMBIE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in favor of House Resolution 429, as one might imagine.

As has been indicated, on Sunday August 28, 2005, the West Oahu Little League team from Ewa Beach, Hawaii won the Little League World Series in South Williamsport, Pennsylvania. They overcame a three-run deficit to win the world championship by defeating the Curacao team 7–6 in an extra-inning cliff-hanger.

It was one of the most exciting championship games in Little League history. And I thank many of the Members, Mr. Speaker, who commented upon it to me when I returned to the House. They enjoyed it as well.

The 2005 West Oahu Little League championship team consists of players Layson ''Kaeo'' Aliviado, Harrison Kam, Ty Tirpak, Zachary Ranit, Ethan Javier, Vonn Fa'eo, Quentin Guuevera, Sheyne Baniaga, Michael Memea, Zachary Rosete, Myron ''Kini'' Enos, Jr., Alaka'i Aglipay, and Manager Layton Aliviado, dugout coach Tyron Kitashima, and first base coach Clint Tirpak.

In their quest for the championship, the West Oahu Little League team demonstrated the highest level of achievement, commitment, self-discipline, and sportsmanship. Their achievement has generated enormous pride in their hometown of Ewa Beach, throughout the State of Hawaii, and across the Nation.

Aloha, and a well-earned congratulations to the world championships: the West Oahu Little League team.

And may I conclude, Mr. Speaker, by thanking the chairman and the good representative from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) for their help in putting this resolution forward and for their support.

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. CASE).

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I am very happy to join the gentleman from Hawaii (Mr. ABERCROMBIE) in introducing this resolution. I also thank our colleagues for bringing it forward on to the floor to give us a chance to show our pride in our great Hawaii as well as our country.

I remember as a young boy being given a book by my parents. It was one of those Reader's Digest books of annotated inspirational stories, and in that book was a story of an American team who came from great odds to win the Little League World championship. I wish I could remember today what year that was or what team that was, but never in my wildest dreams would I have expected to be standing here on the floor of the House congratulating a team from my Hawaii for doing the exact same thing so many decades later.

Anybody that watched this team come through the brackets to win the championship of our Nation could not help but have incredible pride at their achievements, and anybody that watched that game watched one of the great sporting events in history when the team came back from incredible odds to tie the score and then go on through fierce determination to win the championship of the world, and a team from Ewa Beach, Hawaii. Such an amazing, amazing accomplishment for the boys from Ewa Beach. And as we watched that game, we saw not only the epitome of Little League, not only the epitome of our country, but the very epitome of team spirit and team aloha. We saw parents urging that team on. We saw willpower. We saw commitment. We saw fire coming out of that pitcher's eyes in the bottom of that last inning, and we saw that home run being hit off of sheer determination.

We are so proud in Hawaii of our Ewa Beach World Series champions. We are so proud of what we have accomplished. We are so proud to do this on behalf of our entire country.

I wish all of our team the very best as they go forward with their lives, having had the experience of their lives. And I wish to this House and to the Senate and to this Congress a great gratitude for being able to stand here and brag about the great team from Hawaii. Mahalo aloha.

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

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

I do want to just personally, as one who loves baseball, who believes that baseball is America's pastime, congratulate this wonderful team and all of its supporters in the aloha State for bringing the trophy back to the United States of America.

Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 429 congratulating the West Oahu Little League baseball team for winning the 2005 Little League Baseball World Series. I commend my good friends Mr. ABERCROMBIE and Mr. CASE for introducing this Resolution.

The West Oahu Little League baseball team truly deserves the accolades this Resolution bestows upon these young boys deserve to be recognized for their tremendous accomplishment as the first Little League World Series Champions from the state of Hawaii.

With one swing of the bat, the simple joy of baseball was transformed into a monumental achievement as Michael Memea's home run lifted the West Oahu Team to the Little League World Championship title. Now, this team is a source of great pride for Hawaii and for all Americans. Throughout the Series, people in Hawaii were glued to their television sets for news of the progress of the West Oahu team. When the travel-weary, newly crowned Champions arrived at the airport in Honolulu, they were greeted by a crowd of over 700 people, including Governor Lingle, Mayor Mufi Hanneman, and the state representatives from Ewa Beach.

The young men on this team and their coaches deserve the highest praise for winning the Little League World Series and I am proud to support this Resolution honoring their achievement.

Mr. CASE. Mr. Speaker, I rise with deep pride today to honor and congratulate the West Oahu Little League Baseball Team of Ewe Beach, Hawaii for winning the 2005 Little League World Series Championship in one of the most exciting championship games ever played, in any sport, any league!

It was almost a miracle that these champions, the very best of our Hawaii and country, even made it to the championship, fighting their way through some of the toughest brackets and past great teams from throughout our nation. And in the bottom of the sixth and last inning, down 6–3, their great coach, Layton Aliviado, told them: ''If you guys want it, let's go get it.''

That's exactly what the team did, scoring three runs to tie the game and send it into extra innings. Then, in the top of the first extra inning, a fiery and determined Vonn Fe'ao shut down opposing Curacao, last year's world champs, striking out the batters in order. And in the bottom of that inning, Jason Memea blasted a walk-off solo home run to win the game and world championship.

To all the members of our West Oahu team—Alaka'i Aglipay, Layson Aliviado, Sheyne Baniaga, Myron ''Kini'' Enos, Vonn Fe'ao, Quentin Guevara, Ethan Javier, Harrison Kam, Michael Memea, Zachary Ranit, Zachary Rosete, Ty Tirpak—and their coaches—Layton Aliviado, Tyron Kitashima and Clint Tirpak—mahalo nui loa—(thank you very much) for representing our state of Hawaii and the rest of our Nation with great pride and aloha that exemplifies ''one team, one dream.'' You showed the heart of champions, epitomizing the best of baseball, sport, our Hawaii and the indomitable spirit of our country.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as Chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus in strong support of H. Res. 429, introduced by my colleagues from Hawaii, Representatives ABERCROMBIE and CASE, to congratulate this year's Little League World Series Champions.

On Sunday, August 28, 2005, the West Oahu Little League Baseball team was thrust into the international spotlight by winning the Little League Baseball World Series. This victory brought enormous pride to the United States as well as the Asian and Pacific Islander American (APIA) community. In one of the most exciting championship game in Little League history, athletes and coaches from Eva Beach, Hawaii, primarily of APIA decent, exemplified the American ''can-do-spirit'' with a come from behind victory over the equally talented Little League team from Curacao.

For many of the international participants in the Little League World Series Championships, this tournament held in Williamsport, Pennsylvania is their first trip to the continental United States. This was also true for the team from West Oahu. Their dramatic victory is a testament to their determination, courage and perseverance.

Although the championship was ultimately delivered with one dramatic swing of the bat, getting to that position results from tremendous work, commitment and sacrifices made by players, coaches, volunteers, municipal park employees, teachers and most importantly the families of the players.

Mr. Speaker, let us encourage our young champions from Eva Beach to keep swinging for the fence, on and off the field and let them be role models for all of us.

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

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. 429.

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.

SUPPORTING GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 61) supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

The Clerk read as follows:

H.J. RES. 61

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers have suffered the supreme sacrifice of motherhood by losing sons and daughters who served in the Armed Forces, and thus perpetuate the memory of all whose lives were sacrificed in our wars;

Whereas the American Gold Star Mothers assist veterans of the Armed Forces and their dependents in the presentation of claims to the Veterans' Administration, and aid the men and women who served and died or were wounded or incapacitated during hostilities;

Whereas the services rendered to the United States by the mothers of America have strengthened and inspired our Nation throughout our history;

Whereas we honor ourselves and the mothers of America when we revere and emphasize the role of the home and the family as the true foundations of our Nation;

Whereas by doing so much for the home, the American mother is a source of moral and spiritual guidance for the people of the United States and thus acts as a positive force to promote good government and peace among all mankind; and

Whereas September 25, 2005, is being recognized as Gold Star Mothers Day: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That the Congress—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day; and

(2) requests that the President issue a proclamation calling upon the people of the United States to observe such day with appropriate ceremonies and activities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) and the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY) 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 therein on the joint resolution under consideration.

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.

Gold Star Mothers is an organization that was founded back in 1928, and it is an organization that no one would ever want to join.

For the benefit of those who do not know, there is only one way that one can become a member of the Gold Star Mothers Association, and that is that they receive a message from the Pentagon, and normally that comes in the form of two uniformed officers coming to their door to inform them that they have lost a son or a daughter in combat.

The organization was started back in 1928 by a group of mothers who thought that they could help each other in the healing process by coming together. They also thought it was important to advance the goals of the United States of America and to continue to remind us about our patriotic responsibilities as Americans.

The Gold Star Mothers have been around a long time. In 1936 President Franklin Delano Roosevelt signed a proclamation designating that the fourth Sunday in September will be Gold Star Mothers Day, and, unfortunately, we as Americans began to forget that the fourth Sunday in September was designated as Gold Star Mothers Day.

A year ago I was at a special celebration in Rochester, Minnesota at our veterans memorial where they unveiled a new statue depicting a Gold Star Mother, and many of the veterans that were there and some of the leaders of that group asked if I would do all that I could to remind Americans that there is a special day for Gold Star Mothers and to do what I could to at least bring attention to the fact that the fourth Sunday this year, September 25, is Gold Star Mothers Day. So we began that process almost a year ago of putting together this joint resolution of doing what we can to call attention to the fact, that they do have a special day and they deserve special recognition not only by Members of this House and the United States Congress but by all Americans. So we have put together this joint resolution. I am happy to say that we have well over 200 cosponsors in the House. And, frankly, I suspect if we were given enough time, we would have virtually every Member of this House in support of this joint resolution.

This is not about making any political statement of any kind. These are very special people. They deserve our recognition. This Sunday, September 25, is their day. So this joint resolution is just calling attention not only to the House, but hopefully to all Americans, that Gold Star Mothers are special people, they have a special day, and we recognize them on September 25.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the American Gold Star Mothers is an organization of women whose sons and daughters gave their lives in the service of their country. It is a group no one wishes to be a member of, but as their children answered the call of duty, so do mothers who are left behind.

Grace Darling Seibold was compelled to help others grieve and veterans heal upon learning of her own son's death in 1918 during World War I. ''Realizing that self-contained grief is self-destructive,'' Seibold formed a group of grieving mothers to comfort not only each other but wounded soldiers as well.

□ 1130

The group of 25 mothers who bonded by sacrifice and tragedy was formally established as Gold Star Mothers, Inc., on January 5, 1929. The Gold Star Mothers organization now consists of over 900 members. The organization assists veterans with benefit claims, families with funeral arrangements, and, of course, mothers with grief. The Gold Star Mothers are a true representation of the many levels of service and sacrifice that exists in the defense of our country.

The Gold Star Mothers are a true testament to American patriotism and should be recognized for their sacrifice. Mr. Speaker, I move that my colleagues in the Senate and the House of Representatives join me in recognizing the establishment of Gold Star Mothers Day.

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to my distinguished colleague from the State of New Jersey (Mr. SMITH).

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Chairman GUTKNECHT), for offering this legislation. It is very timely and extremely important. I also thank him for his sensitivity to our Nation's Gold Star Mothers who have suffered so much.

I am proud to rise today, Mr. Speaker, to strongly support H.J. Res. 61, which recognizes a group of very, very special women, American's Gold Star Mothers. These women are from different parts of our great country and have different backgrounds, are of varying age, hold different beliefs, and practice different religions.

Despite so many differences, they share the same experience. Each of these women raised a young man or

woman who served their country in the Armed Forces. Their children helped to bring freedom and promote peace and justice for those who have never felt its touch. Sadly, Mr. Speaker, each raised a young man or woman who gave their life for their country, the ultimate sacrifice.

These special women, the Gold Star Mothers of America, are members of a congressionally chartered organization. They are part of a group that had its beginning in the first great conflict of the 20th century, World War I. At the time, service flags were displayed on homes that had family members serving the country and blue stars were displayed for each family member in the Armed Forces. Eventually, as casualties grew, the blue stars were turned to gold stars in recognition of each servicemember who died for their country. In 1936, as my friend and colleague, the gentleman from Minnesota (Chairman GUTKNECHT), said, Congress designated the last Sunday in September as Gold Star Mothers Day.

Mr. Speaker, as we know, their loss is unimaginable, their pain is unspeakable; yet these women find the spirit to walk together simply for the benefit of others and to work very hard for the benefit of others, to make sure that each of us remembers the sacrifice of their son or beloved daughter. They have a unique ability to remind us of our noble cause, ensuring that we will forever remember that America's freedom originated and is maintained through a constant struggle that is still being fought today.

In addition, they remind us that the decision to send troops into harm's way is made with severe consequence, the loss of the precious life of a young American. The way in which these ladies channel their sorrow, their grief, their anger, to further the ideals to which their sons and daughters gave their lives, is truly remarkable.

The actions of these women are amazing. I have met them for years as a Member of this Congress. Every year we would have them testify before the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and then in meetings afterwards, as well as in my own district and State, and I have met with so many Gold Star Mothers who tell their stories of their son or daughter, often accompanied with tears.

But they can also teach us a very important lesson, Mr. Speaker. At a time when overt partisanship seems rampant, while our country yearns so desperately for its people to come together on so many fronts, the Gold Star Mothers represent the very best of American values and ideals. If they, despite their grief, can come together to provide so much to other veterans and the community at large, surely we can all take the time to let them know that their country is proud of them and salutes them on their Mothers Day.

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

Mr. GUTKNECHT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. I want to thank my colleague, the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY); and I especially want to thank my colleague, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), for his very, very special speech that he just gave.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to recognize personally five very special women from my congressional district who have received that call or had that visit from military officials.

First, let me recognize Vickie Bruce from Rochester, Minnesota. Her son, Corporal Travis Bruce, graduated from Mayo High School in Rochester, Minnesota. He also served as a personal security officer for Ambassador Bremmer. He was killed in the line of duty March 23, 2005.

Marny Fasnacht from Janesville, Minnesota. Her son, First Lieutenant Michael Fasnacht of the U.S. Army, graduated from Minnesota State University in Mankato, Minnesota. He was an Army Ranger. He was hit by a remote bomb while on patrol in a Bradley fighting vehicle and died June 8, 2005.

Maria Bernal of Alden, Minnesota. Her son, Juan, graduated from Weslaco High School in Texas. He served in the Marines for 5 years. He was injured during security and stability operations in Anbar Province, Iraq. He died August 2, 2005.

Deb Goodnature, Clarks Grove, Minnesota. Her son, Chief Warrant Officer Corey Goodnature, served in the United States Army. He graduated from the University of Minnesota. He was in Special Operations, and he was a Night Stalker. He was shot down flying his helicopter in eastern Afghanistan and died June 28 of 2005.

Finally, let me recognize Norma Benson from Winona, Minnesota. Her son, Sergeant Mike Benson of the U.S. Army, was a Winona native. He had served 19 years in the United States military. He was a victim of a suicide bomb attack in Iraq. He died August 10 of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, this is not about making some political statement; it is simply about saying thank you, congratulations, we appreciate you, and recognizing that the fourth Sunday in September is Gold Star Mothers Day. They deserve this day. They deserve our appreciation.

Mr. MATHESON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of a resolution honoring the Gold Star Mothers of America.

As a parent, I can only imagine the pain that is felt by surviving family members after the death of child. To the Gold Star Mothers in Utah and throughout our Nation, this nation is deeply in your debt. Your children served this great country of ours and they have paid the highest price. We can ask no more of any American.

In the past 3 years, I have had the honor and the privilege to meet many soldiers as they leave for war. These brave soldiers are not complaining in their last moments in America, rather, they are strong, and proud to serve this country. They remind me that the price of freedom is terribly high. It's a cost they have agreed to bear, but those of us here at home cannot take it for granted.

The American Gold Star Mothers organization was founded by Grace Darling Seibold after the death of her son in 1918, during World War I. Somehow, through her pain and her loss, Grace still managed to devote her time to organizing a group of other mothers who had lost soldiers in combat. In the years since the Gold Star Mothers was founded, these women have always honored fallen soldiers and they have channeled their own grief into lessening the pain of other families.

It's easy to talk about the sacrifices made by brave Americans, but the pain and the memories are always carried by the loved ones left behind. Many families have soldiers who come home wounded; some families have soldiers who do not make it home at all. The hardship that these families face may seem unbearable and it is our duty as members of Congress to do whatever we can to ease their burden.

Homes in Utah that have received Gold Stars, Purple Hearts, folded flags and last letters home know the price of freedom. They pray to end this war and all wars, so that others may be spared such a loss.

I believe that we will never be able to thank those soldiers and their families enough for the sacrifice that they make, but I do believe we should try. This resolution is one small way for us to honor mothers who have lost children in service to this nation. I am proud to support making September 25th Gold Star Mothers Day.

Mr. VISCLOSKY. Mr. Speaker, it is with great pride and respect that I wish to commend the mothers of Indiana's First Congressional District who have suffered the ultimate sacrifice of motherhood by losing sons and daughters who served in the Armed Forces. Their courage and perseverance perpetuate the memory of all whose lives were sacrificed in our wars.

In honor of Gold Star Mother's Day 2005, I would in particular like to recognize the mothers of the First Congressional District who have lost a child in Operation Enduring Freedom and Operation Iraqi Freedom. They are Katherine Brown, the mother of Army Specialist Adam J. Harting; Kim Greenberg, the mother of Army Specialist Nicholas R. Idalski; Summer Lipford, the mother of Army Private First Class Steven F. Sirko; Towina "Gail" Nightingale, the mother of Army Private First Class Nathan E. Stahl; Marie Lisa Campos Miranda, the mother of Army Private Luis Perez; Susan Amos, the mother of Army Private First Class John Amos; Janie Espinoza, the mother of Army Reserve Specialist Roy Russell Buckley; Roberta Rios, the mother of Marine Sergeant Duane R. Rios; Leslie Sanders, the mother of Army Specialist Gregory P. Sanders; the late Janet Winters, the mother of Marine Sergeant Jeannette L. Winters.

The Gold Star Mothers and the soldiers of the First Congressional District are powerful examples of service and sacrifice for us all. With dignity, bravery, and compassion, they have worked to promote patriotism, foster peace, and encourage goodwill. Their generosity of spirit has touched the lives of countless Americans and made certain that the selflessness they demonstrated in service to our

country remains a prominent part of our national character. I speak for this entire body when I say that words cannot express the gratitude we have for these courageous individuals.

Gold Star Mother's Day was established in respect and recognition of the sacrifices our Gold Star Mothers have made. The Congress designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day" in 1936 and authorized and requested the President to issue a proclamation in observance of this day. This day is a fitting public salute of the sympathy and the respect that our Nation holds for its Gold Star Mothers.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you and my other distinguished colleagues join me in honoring the mothers of the fallen heroes of the First Congressional District. Today, as we enjoy the peace and security our Nation has achieved through the sacrifices of American citizens, Gold Star Mothers can take solace in knowing that their sons and daughters left all humanity a legacy of invaluable meaning. Let us never forget the sacrifices they made to preserve the ideals of freedom and democracy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. GUTKNECHT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 61.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. MALONEY. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 250, MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2005

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 451 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 451

Resolved, That at any time after the adoption of this resolution the Speaker may, pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XVIII, declare the House resolved into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for consideration of the bill (H.R. 250) to establish an interagency committee to coordinate Federal manufacturing research and development efforts in manufacturing, strengthen existing programs to assist manufacturing innovation and education, and expand outreach programs for small and medium-sized manufacturers, and for other purposes. The first reading of the bill shall be dispensed with. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed one hour equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. After general debate the bill shall be considered for amendment under the five-minute rule. It shall be in order to consider as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the five-minute rule the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science now printed in the bill. The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be considered as read. All points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute are waived. Notwithstanding clause 11 of rule XVIII, no amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute shall be in order except those printed in the report of the Committee on Rules accompanying this resolution. Each such amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived. At the conclusion of consideration of the bill for amendment the Committee shall rise and report the bill to the House with such amendments as may have been adopted. Any Member may demand a separate vote in the House on any amendment adopted in the Committee of the Whole to the bill or to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and amendments thereto to final passage without intervening motion except one motion to recommit with or without instructions.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, House Resolution 451 is a structured rule. It provides 1 hour of general debate, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Science. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. It provides that the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Science and now printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment, and shall be considered as read.

It waives all points of order against the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. It makes in order only those amendments printed in the Committee on Rules report accompanying the resolution. It provides that the amendments printed in the report may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by the Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole.

It waives all points of order against the amendments printed in the report, and it provides one motion to recommit, with or without instructions.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of House Resolution 451 and its underlying bill, H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005.

Mr. Speaker, I first want to recognize the contributions of the Committee on Science chairman, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT); the gentleman from Tennessee (Ranking Member GORDON); the gentleman from Oregon (Ranking Member WU); and the gentleman from Michigan (Subcommittee Chairman EHLERS), of course, the author of H.R. 250. I thank all of them for this timely piece of legislation.

Today, the House has an opportunity to consider legislation that will make the United States even more competitive in the global economy. Through the establishment of an interagency committee to coordinate Federal manufacturing research and development efforts, H.R. 250 provides many useful tools to keep the United States on the cutting edge of technological and manufacturing innovation.

H.R. 250 would direct the President to establish or designate an interagency committee on manufacturing, research, and development. And in order to ensure sufficient review and diverse input, the committee would also receive assistance from an advisory committee representing nongovernmental interests. This essential component ensures that government efforts are as relevant and responsive as possible to the needs of our manufacturing base.

Without question, Mr. Speaker, some of this country's greatest intellectual and innovative resources rest in the halls of our educational institutions and in the research and development departments of our businesses across the country. Therefore, this bill establishes a pilot grant program within the Department of Commerce's National Institute of Standards and Technology to fund research partnerships between firms, community colleges, universities, research institutions, State agencies, and nonprofits to develop new, cutting-edge manufacturing technologies.

Additionally, through the Manufacturing Extensive Partnerships, the MEP program, there are regional centers across the country that provide States with grants to allow the successful transfer of technology from the Federal Government to the private sector.

Obviously, there is no sense in developing new and innovative technology if it cannot be successfully passed on to the manufacturing sector of our economy, the true engine of economic growth.

□ 1145

H.R. 250 would refine the guidelines and the requirements established through the Manufacturing Extension Program to ensure that these regional centers are fulfilling their duty to keep innovative manufacturing technology flowing.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally speak to the successes of the Manufacturing Extension Program. The Georgia Manufacturing Extension Partnership is led by my alma mater, the Georgia Institute of Technology, Georgia Tech.

Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute, along with the University of Georgia, Georgia Power, and others coordinate and deploy experts to advise and work with manufacturers throughout the State of Georgia, so they can be more innovative, more productive, and maximize their efficiency.

Mr. Speaker, on a couple of occasions I have had the opportunity to tour facilities in my district that have been assisted through Georgia's MEP program. Specifically, I toured A&L Shielding, Inc., in Rome, Georgia; and I was able to see concrete improvements made to their facility. These improvements enhanced their efficiency, increased their productivity, making A&L Shielding much more competitive.

So, Mr. Speaker, I do not think there is any Member of this House who does not realize the importance of education and fostering new and more efficient technology. Therefore, this act would establish a standards education program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology to award grants on a cost-shared basis to institutions of higher education.

These grants will go a long way to develop top-notch curricula related to engineering, business, science, and economic standards. This investment in educational standards is not only an investment in future development, but it also is an insurance policy for American competitives.

In closing, Mr. Speaker, H.R. 250 marks an excellent opportunity for the House to improve this country's manufacturing and technological potential for many years to come. Again, I would like to encourage each of my colleagues to support not only this rule but also the underlying bill.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. MCGOVERN asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the Bush administration's record on manufacturing is abysmal: 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2001, including 24,000 this year alone. It is clear that they either do not know or do not care about the disappearing manufacturing sector of our economy.

For example, last year the administration requested $39 million for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program, a severe reduction over the previous year. Fortunately, the Congress provided $106 million for this important program.

However, the administration was not done in their attempts to kill this program. They opposed efforts to extend the MEP in last year's version of the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act. As if that were not bad enough, Mr. Speaker, this year's $46.8 million budget request would again have decimated the MEP and punished the small business manufacturers the Republican leadership claims they want to help.

Fortunately, the bill before us today fully authorizes the MEP. Mr. Speaker, let me give you just one MEP success story. In my district, Chase Leather Products of Fall River, Massachusetts, has been manufacturing high-quality leather and synthetic fabric products for nearly a century.

Faced with a 25 percent reduction in business over the past several years, Chase turned to the Massachusetts MEP for help. After training Chase's personnel in lean manufacturing techniques, such as value stream mapping and revising the plant layout, Chase was able to deliver 100 percent on-time delivery to their customers. This improved performance has caused one of Chase's customers, Motorola, to move a $2 million-plus contract back from India to Massachusetts.

Small improvements in technology helped this company not only make a better product but a better economy for the Fall River community.

Like other State MEPs, the Massachusetts Manufacturing Extension Partnership Program is supported by the National Institute of Standards and Technology and the U.S. Department of Commerce and the State of Massachusetts to help small and medium-sized manufacturers identify and implement advanced manufacturing and management technologies.

Through a network of resources, the MEP links client firms with local and national sources of expertise to address specific problems. By 2004, the MEP program in Massachusetts had created or retained 2,224 jobs that paid a total of $116.4 million of wages and benefits, increased economic output worth $365.1 million, and generated or retained over $46.8 million in additional tax and nontax revenues at the Federal, State and local levels.

There are success stories like this all over the country. But the Bush administration and the Republican leadership refuse to recognize them. Simply, Mr. Speaker, we are not doing what it takes to keep manufacturing jobs in the United States, and part of the problem is that the Bush administration continually drags its feet.

Earlier investments in technology, manufacturing, and education have made the United States economy the strongest in the world. We must continue investing in these important efforts. With 87,200 manufacturing jobs lost in Massachusetts, 349,000 lost in California, 67,000 lost in Georgia, we cannot continue to sit on our hands. We must make the necessary investments.

Fortunately, Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) have come together to produce the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act. It includes the reauthorization of the MEP as well as other important job creation programs.

They have fashioned, mostly, a good bill. However, I am extremely disappointed that this bill does not include the reauthorization of the Advanced Technology Program, a program that is widely supported. And I am disappointed that this rule does not make the Honda amendment in order.

The Honda amendment would reauthorize the Advanced Technology Program, and it deserves an up-or-down vote in this House. If it were allowed, I believe it would pass. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, because we have been denied an up-or-down vote on this important issue, and we have not been given a good reason why we cannot have an up-or-down vote on this important issue, I would urge all of my colleagues, Democrats and Republicans, to vote ''no'' on this rule.

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to point out that in response to some of the remarks made by my friend, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), in regard to the funding of this bill, I want to point out to my colleagues that it does create additional competitive grant programs from which the MEP centers can obtain supplemental funding for manufacturing-related projects.

H.R. 250 would also allow MEPs to accept and distribute funds from other Federal agencies without requiring matching funds, and the MEP funding would be authorized at $110 million in fiscal year 2006, including funds for a competitive grant program. The authorization would actually increase by $5 million per year to $120 million in fiscal year 2008.

I want to also, Mr. Speaker, highlight again an outstanding MEP program in my State of Georgia, as I mentioned in my opening remarks, my alma mater, Georgia Tech, and the Economic Development Initiative.

Let me just highlight Georgia's MEP partnership. It is led by Georgia Tech's Economic Development Institute, and it provides technical assistance, management training and other types of assistance intended to increase productivity and help companies become more competitive in the global market.

We know how important that is. This program comprises a team of more than 125 professionals located both at Georgia Tech and throughout regional offices across the State of Georgia. This incredible staff offers a number of vital services and programs to business and industry.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to name a few of these services and programs to demonstrate the extensive range of assistance that is available: Quality and International Standards, Lean Enterprise, Energy Management, Environmental Management, Information Technology, Trade Adjustment Assistance for Firms, Government Procurement Assistance, B2B Marketing For Manufacturers, Strategic Planning, Economic Development Research, Community Services, Economic Development Training, Tourism, Facilitec, Georgia State-Wide Minority Business Development Center.

While this is not an exhaustive list, it is a long one, and I believe it clearly attests to the important impact MEPs have had on and continue to have on business and industry in Georgia.

The criticism that this administration or this leadership is not doing enough and is not concerned enough about manufacturing job losses is certainly not true. This is a good bill. As I say, I commend the chairman and the ranking member.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, let me just again say to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY), whom I have great respect for, I repeat my claim that this administration has an abysmal record when it comes to protecting manufacturing jobs: 2.8 million manufacturing jobs have been lost since 2001. And that number continues to grow. So they do have an abysmal record.

The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) mentioned all of these wonderful new programs that are going to be authorized in this bill. And it is nice to be able to say all of those things, because we all like to talk about all of these great new programs.

But it is important to note that all of these new programs you talk about, none of them are appropriated. So if they are not appropriated, they are not real. And I would also say to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) that, again, I was hoping that he would answer the question as to why the advanced technology program was cut out of this bill or why the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) cannot have his amendment.

This is about taking our manufacturing base and bringing it from 20th-century technology to 21st-century technology. It is incredibly important, and yet we do not even have the right to be able to vote up or down on it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 8 minutes to the gentlemen from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule for H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act.

I had requested the Rules Committee to allow the bill to come to the floor under an open rule. As we continue to lose manufacturing jobs, which used to be the bulk of middle-class jobs, all Members should be allowed to offer their best ideas on the floor to reverse this trend.

I am especially disappointed that the Rules Committee did not allow the gentleman from California's amendment authorizing funding for the Advanced Technology Program.

H.R. 250 is essentially a complete authorization of the programs of the National Institute of Standards and Technology except ATP. We keep saying that we need to maintain our innovative edge to remain competitive in the ever-increasing global market. The ATP is designed to do just that, to bring research results to proof of concept so they can be commercialized by industry.

The ATP program is not some experimental program or a gamble. First funded during the first Bush administration, ATP is a successful program with a proven track record. It has the stamp of approval of the National Academy of Science, it has the strong support of the business community, including the National Association of Manufacturers, the Industrial Research Institute, the Information Technology Association of America, and the National Governors Association.

All of these groups believe ATP plays an important role in maintaining our lead in innovation. Even the administration's own analysis of the program shows that it is highly successful and has generated millions of dollars and the creation of new technologies.

During the past 3 years, the Science Committee has held numerous committees on nanotechnology, innovation and technology development. The one recurring theme of the witnesses has become clear: fund the advanced technology program.

There were other amendments not allowed by this rule, which would have also improved H.R. 250. Frankly, I just do not know why we cannot openly debate the merits of any good idea that is going to help us create more jobs and be more competitive.

□ 1200

As China, India, and other countries increase not only the amount of scientists and engineers they graduate, but also their research and technology and development funding, we need to support proven programs and effective programs like the ATP.

Now, I would like to ask my friend from Georgia who also sits on the Committee on Science, who sits through all of these hearings, heard witness after witness, the Governors Association and others, said the ATP program is important.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my friend to explain why the ATP amendment was not allowed in this rule.

Mr. GINGREY. I thank the gentleman from Tennessee for yielding to me.

I want to point out to him that of the amendments that were made in order, other than the manager's amendment, these were all, all four amendments made in order were Democratic amendments.

Mr. GORDON. Were all the amendments that were left out also Democratic amendments?

Mr. GINGREY. No, I think there were probably some Republican amendments that were left out as well.

If the gentleman will continue to yield, the Udall amendment is the one I particularly wanted to reference. The gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) has an amendment that will be thoroughly discussed here this morning, which actually increases the authorization level of the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technology Education Program.

Mr. GORDON. Reclaiming my time, I will sort of refocus the question. The question was after sitting through all the hearings, with everyone saying that the ATP program was good, and with job losses in Georgia and Tennessee and all across the country, when we could have improved this bill with a program that President Bush's father started, I would just like to ask why were we not allowed an amendment to continue this program?

Mr. GINGREY. Let me again say the gentleman, as ranking member of the Committee on Science, knows that I was not there for subcommittee markup or whole committee markup to debate these amendments that came through committee. I am not a member of that committee, as the gentleman knows.

All I can say is in this rule we are giving the minority side an opportunity to bring this issue in the form of an amendment to the floor so we can have a fair and open debate and we can have an up-or-down vote on it. And I am not going to discuss the merits of the amendment. We will let the Member presenting the amendment, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL), do that, and then we will vote on it.

Mr. GORDON. Reclaiming my time, I do not want to discuss the merits right now. I want to know why the ATP program, started by the Bush administration, supported by a bipartisan group of Governors, every other manufacturing group that came before our committee, I assume these same arguments were made. As the gentleman sat through the Committee on Rules, I am sure you did not hear anyone say that the ATP program would not create jobs and be good for this country. I just want to know why we are not allowed to do that.

The gentleman said we were going to have an open debate. We do not have an open debate. This is not an open rule.

It would seem to me, and we are appreciative of three or four Democratic amendments, but I do not care if they are Democratic or Republican amendments, I want good ideas from anybody that has got them, how to create jobs in this country and be more competitive.

We ought to have an open rule. I am sure Republicans have good ideas. Let them come in here. Let us have an open rule on having more and better jobs in this country. We do not have that, obviously, which is a shame. But I would be happy to yield once again to my friend to explain to me why the ATP program, which was endorsed by all these folks, why we are not allowed to let that go forward, a program that President Bush started himself. Also, the other question is why should we not get all the good ideas possible?

Mr. GINGREY. Again, in response to the gentleman from Tennessee, I am not going to stand here in presenting the rule and try to discuss the merits of the amendments that were made in order.

I would just say to the gentleman that the Committee on Rules, I think in an abundance of fairness, looked at these amendments. There were other amendments submitted, probably on both sides of the aisle, that were not made in order; but these four amendments submitted by Members of the gentleman from Tennessee's party, and that means that we felt these should be discussed and that these are reasonable amendments. They are germane to the issue. And the gentleman will have an opportunity to do that.

Mr. GORDON. Reclaiming my time, I come from a part of Tennessee where, and I do not think it is unique, that we are losing jobs every day. They are going overseas. They are going to Mexico. My constituents, and I would assume most everyone's here constituents, are saying we need more ideas, we do not like what is going on, bring us some ideas, let us have some changes.

So we are limiting ourselves now to four amendments? Four ways to try to bring jobs back into this country?

Why in the world do we not have an open rule and find all the ideas, Democrats, Republicans? We have an independent in this body. If he has some ideas, bring it on. If they are bad ones, vote them down. If they are not, then let us vote for them. We need more and better jobs in this country. This is the way to do it.

I am really shocked and, I would have to say, offended that we are not given the opportunity to try to find more and better ways to bring jobs to this country.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), the subcommittee chairman and author of the bill.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the rule to bring up H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act.

I believe this rule is fair and balanced. The main goal of H.R. 250 is to authorize manufacturing programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology that help small- and medium-sized manufacturers innovate so that they can remain competitive in the global marketplace. One of these programs is a highly successful manufacturing extension partnership program, better known as the MEP program. This program has roughly 60 centers and 350 satellite offices throughout the country. These centers provide small manufacturers with tools and assistance on how to increase productivity and efficiency. They do many things. For example, they might help to redesign a factory floor or help to train workers on how to use the latest technology or equipment.

This legislation also creates a collaborative grant pilot program to support research partnerships between academia, industry, nonprofits, and other entities to develop innovative technologies and solutions to scientific problems in manufacturing.

To truly help the manufacturers, we must have a bill that can be passed into law. Therefore, I want to keep this legislation focused on these specific programs that have strong bipartisan support. However, others have wanted to add extraneous provisions that, while well intentioned, take away from the focus of the bill. This is why I oppose some of the amendments made in order, because I believe they will detract from the bill.

This rule largely helps ensure the debate will remain on the manufacturing programs at NIST. I think that is fair and is in the best interest of our manufacturing community.

I urge my colleagues to support this fair and balanced rule.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), who does a wonderful job on our Committee on Science, I think did a very good job there in talking about a lot of good things in this bill. And there are a lot of good things in this bill. But I want to yield some additional time to him so he can explain why the ATP program, another good idea, why we cannot even have a vote on putting it in this bill today?

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GORDON. I yield to the gentleman from Michigan.

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Tennessee raises a valid question.

I understand the gentleman's concern about the actions of the Committee on Rules; I have served in the minority at the State and Federal level myself. But I also want to tell the gentleman that members in the majority upon occasion are also disappointed by the decisions of the Committee on Rules. I recently jested, during the famous annual ice cream socials that committee has, that my ice cream was the first thing I had received from the Committee on Rules. But I must add that they have been very kind to me.

In response to the gentleman's question, the ATP program is, by and large, a good program. But it needs improvement. And I am willing to put in the time and energy to try to improve that program and to have it be accepted by all.

Mr. McGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman for acknowledging the unfairness of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I also rise to oppose this rule because it does not allow this Congress to consider the amendments offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) to authorize or reauthorize the advanced technology program.

Mr. Speaker, in the almost 3 years that I have served in the House of Representatives, I am not sure that I have heard any words spoken on this floor with which I have disagreed more strongly than with the statement of the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) just a few minutes ago that we were doing enough already to address the problem of manufacturing job loss. I think his exact words were it is simply not true that we are not doing enough, that Congress and the President are not doing enough to address manufacturing job loss.

If the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) thinks this, if any Member of Congress thinks that, I invite them to come and visit my district. I want to introduce them to some of the people who have lost their jobs. My State has lost almost 200,000 manufacturing jobs in the last 4 years. They are in industries that have been the backbone of my State's economy: tobacco, textiles, furniture. And those were jobs that people depended upon to build their lives around, to support themselves and to support their families, and they are gone.

It is not that they have laid off a shift until the economy turns around. The plants are closed. The equipment is sold. The jobs are gone forever.

What to do about that was part of the debate about CAFTA, about any kind of trade agreement that we have. And I voted against CAFTA, but I also agree that that is not the entire answer because it cannot possibly be our Nation's economic future to build our economy around low-skilled jobs and labor-intensive industries.

We have got to be the most innovative economy in the world. When I meet with the workers who have lost their jobs, they do not say, What are you going to do to make the plant reopen? They do ask, Where are the new jobs going to come from and what is Congress doing about it?

I certainly do not tell them what the gentleman from Georgia said. I do not

say we are already doing everything that can be done. I say we are doing not nearly enough, but I am working hard to do more.

We have got to be the most innovative economy in the world. We have got to be where every new research, where all the new research happens first, and where we turn that research into a commercial application to create jobs.

Mr. Speaker, the advanced technology program, ATP, works with industry in this very, very competitive world market, to work with industry to create new technologies, to get them up, to get them running, to get patents, to do a proof of concept. It is about the only source of patient capital for many high-tech small companies in areas like nanotechnology where we really need to be at the forefront.

Most of the debate about jobs, Mr. Speaker, is what are we going to do about jobs between now and the next election. The ATP should be a debate about what are we going to do about jobs for the next generation.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this rule without the Honda amendment.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR), a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time.

I rise in support of the rule and in support of H.R. 250. I would like to commend the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and also my colleague, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), for their leadership on this very important issue.

On August 1, I had the opportunity to host the Manufacturing Roundtable in my district with assistant secretaries from the Departments of Commerce and Labor, Al Frink and Emily DeRocco. During this event we listened to the concerns of a wide variety of manufacturers, large and small, about the future of their industry. Among their main interests was the role that technology will play in keeping America competitive in the global marketplace.

This industry remains vital to our standing in the world and necessitates a continued and sincere investment in the future of manufacturing. Through H.R. 250, we begin to manage a problem facing manufacturers of all sizes: the use of emerging technologies.

Mr. Speaker, the government does not create jobs or grow the economy. Instead, the government can produce an environment conducive to economic growth and job creation.

□ 1215

Thanks to sound public policy decisions such as H.R. 250, we are now able to effectively address the problems facing the manufacturing community and create the environment in which manufacturers can grow and flourish.

By passing H.R. 250, Congress is producing a climate in the manufacturing industry that can yield more jobs, improve productivity, and increase our competitive advantage in the global economy.

I would urge all our colleagues to support this positive and pro-growth legislation. Let us support our country's manufacturers and pass this important legislation.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 additional minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, I have asked a member of the Committee on Rules to explain why we did not have an opportunity to vote on the ATP program to bring more jobs to this country, and I did not get a satisfactory answer.

I asked a very informed member of the Committee on Science to explain why we could not get a vote on the ATP program, which is so important.

Now we have a member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR) here. Before the gentleman leaves, let us give the Committee on Energy and Commerce an opportunity to explain why we should not have a vote on the ATP program to bring more and better jobs to this country.

I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. GILLMOR).

Mr. GILLMOR. Mr. Speaker, I yield back.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, it is beyond me why we do not bring the best of ideas, Democrat, Republican, Independent, in here to try and create more and better jobs. I am really startled and shocked.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA).

(Mr. HONDA asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the rule for consideration of H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act.

I oppose this rule because it does not make in order a very reasonable amendment which would have added a 1-year authorization for the Advanced Technology Program at the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

There is no real logical reason for not allowing me to offer the amendment, and I think the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) has proven that over and over again when we provide opportunities for the other side to respond to the question. I think I have the answer.

In our subcommittee meeting, we had a conversation when we were dealing with ATP, my amendment; and when I asked the question, why has this not been supported, the chairman said a little bit hesitantly, and I think he was a little embarrassed, he said that the President does not want to see this in the bill, and I will be just straightforward; that is what he said.

It seems to me that the President proposes, as the saying goes, and Congress disposes. It is our job to put things into the bill. It is his job to either sign the bill or not sign the bill. If he does not like this, he should veto it; but at least we should have the opportunity to debate this on the floor, because we did not have that opportunity in subcommittee.

It seems to me that if we understand that small business is 70 percent of the economic machine of this country, and if the President himself has said that he adores and he embraces small business in this country, his words seem to ring very hollow if he is not willing to fund ATP.

There are no problems with ATP. It is a program that has been going for years, since the first Bush administration. It has been supported bipartisanly. What is happening is the funding is being cut slowly over and over and over again, so that what we do is end up starving the beast.

Mr. Speaker, I urge that we allow this to be heard. It is an egregious abuse of power.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BROWN).

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Massachusetts for the time.

H.R. 250 should have been a good idea. It makes sense to encourage ties between manufacturers and academic institutions; but as the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) said, the restrictive rule prevented consideration of a number of amendments that would have improved the bill, especially amendments to strengthen the Advanced Technology Program, which is especially important in manufacturing-intensive States like the gentleman from Ohio's (Mr. GILLMOR) and mine, which struggles with ever-increasing energy costs.

We also missed an opportunity today to dramatically increase funding for MEP and to target increased Federal assistance to States that have suffered especially high manufacturing job-loss rates.

The story of this bill is a story of missed opportunity. This Congress has no manufacturing policy. We pass trade bill after trade bill. Our trade deficit has gone from $38 billion my first year when I ran for Congress 12 years, 13 years ago, to $617 billion, from $38 billion to $617 billion in a dozen years. Job loss has become more and more prevalent.

Whether it is Tennessee or Michigan or California or Massachusetts or my State of Ohio, we have lost almost a quarter million manufacturing jobs in the last 5 years; and as the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) know, we continue passing tax legislation that gives incentives to companies, the large manufacturers that

outsource to India and China, rather than giving incentives to companies that manufacture in this country.

Mr. Speaker, we need a manufacturing policy. What the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) have advocated will move us in that direction. We should defeat the rule. We should start again and do it right.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. FRANK).

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

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, the senior Democrat on the committee, the gentleman from Tennessee, has tried very hard to get an answer as to why a very straightforward amendment could not be voted on, and he could not get an answer.

I will tell him he could not get an answer because the real answer is embarrassing. We have got now increasing unhappiness on the conservative wing of the Republican Party, its dominant wing, about the notion that we should have democracy on the floor of the House of Representatives.

We had a bill that was voted out of the Committee on Financial Services 65 to 5. It is being held off the floor despite the urgings of the chairman of the committee and the two relevant subcommittee chairmen because the conservatives think the House might vote wrong, and they have now acknowledged this.

In the September 19 Washington Times, talking about the hate crimes amendment which was adopted because we had an open rule, here is what the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), the chairman of the Republican Study Committee, says: ''Our side lets this hate-crimes amendment get into a children's protection bill because we let it come to the floor on an open rule, a vehicle made for liberals to use.''

So that is the problem. Apparently the right wing has gotten so little confidence in its ability to win votes on the floor that they now consider openness a liberal plot.

The gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY), according to the article, says he does not know how or why the House leadership allowed the children's safety bill to come to the floor under an open rule, meaning unlimited amendments could be proposed and voted on.

To quote the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY): ''As members of the majority party, we're asking: How could we allow this to happen? Why did we give the opposition an easy route to victory?''

Well, it used to be called democracy and open procedures. So what we have is an acknowledgment by this very conservative wing that their position could not sustain itself in open debate and vote on the floor of the House, and so they are insisting that the House Committee on Rules not let things come up.

That is the answer to the gentleman from Tennessee. His amendment was not allowed in order because it would have won. I guarantee him, if they were convinced they could have beat it, they would have let it come in.

I have to repeat, with this now open repudiation of the notion that the House should be allowed to work its will, and I know we do not address people watching on television, I will say this to my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, if there are people in the newly elected parliament of Afghanistan or the constituent assembly in Iraq are watching, as we preach to them democracy, as we tell them as members of a legislative body they should express the will of the people, if they understand this new opposition on the part of the conservatives who dominate the Republican Party, the openness on the floor of the House, please do not try this at home.

[From the Washington Times, Sept. 19, 2005]

HATE-CRIME ADD-ON TO CHILD SAFETY BILL IRKS HOUSE GOP

(By Ralph Z. Hallow)

The chairman of the 100-member House Republican Study Committee says conservative lawmakers, already angry about what they see as out-of-control spending, are furious over passage last week of a bill that included an amendment expanding federal hate-crimes protections.

''House conservatives barraged me with their frustration and concern over this bill,'' said Indiana Rep. Mike Pence, the RSC chairman. ''Our guys are starting to spoil for a fight after this bill.''

The bill, which passed 223–199, would federalize local crimes if the suspected motive is animosity toward homosexuals or ''transgender'' persons. Existing federal hate-crimes laws already cover women and minorities.

With the help of 30 mostly liberal Republicans, Democrats succeeded in making the measure part of a children's safety bill in a move that took conservatives by surprise.

''First, we have $50 billion in new spending for Hurricane Katrina relief, with no offsets in other spending,'' Mr. Pence said, ''Next thing, our side lets this hate-crimes amendment get into a children's protection bill because we let it come to the floor on an open rule—a vehicle made for liberals to use.''

North Carolina Rep. Patrick T. McHenry, another conservative Republican, says he doesn't know how or why the House Republican leadership allowed the children's safety bill to come to the floor under an open rule, meaning unlimited amendments could be proposed and voted on.

''We gave the far left a ripe opportunity for success,'' Mr. McHenry said. ''As members of the majority party, we're asking: How could we allow this to happen? Why did we give the opposition an easy route to victory?''

Conservatives in Congress have fought hate-crimes measures, saying such legislation bestows on government the power to presume to know and to punish criminal motives, rather than the crimes themselves.

Rep. John Conyers Jr., Michigan Democrat, presented the hate-crimes legislation in the form of an amendment to House Judiciary Chairman F. James Sensenbrenner Jr.'s children's safety bill, which strengthens the monitoring of child sex offenders and increases penalties for molestation.

Co-sponsors of the hate-crimes amendment included Massachusetts Rep. Barney Frank and Wisconsin Rep. Tammy Baldwin, both Democrats, and Connecticut Rep. Christopher Shays and Florida Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen, both Republicans.

Mr. Pence says House Republicans voted to pass the child-safety bill—it sailed through on a 371–52 vote—with the Conyers hate-crimes amendment attached because they wanted the children's protection portion and thought the Conyers amendment would not survive joint House-Senate conference reworking of the bill.

''I voted for [the measure] thinking it would be fixed in conference,'' Mr. Pence said. ''I hope it will, but there are rumblings that the Senate may take the bill as is and pass it and send it to the president, which would be very frustrating to a lot of us.''

''But I have enough confidence in Chairman Sensenbrenner that he will clean this bill up.''

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I simply want to say, listening to this debate, to the gentleman from Georgia; to my friend from Michigan; to the gentleman from California (Mr. DREIER), the chairman of the Committee on Rules; and to the Speaker of the House; and to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. DELAY), this is outrageous. You have no excuse. Three million manufacturing jobs lost in the last 4 years or so, another 110,000 the first 8 months, and you will not allow a debate on an amendment that relates to manufacturing, the ATP amendment of Mr. HONDA's.

This shows two things: number one, an abuse of power. This is no longer the House of the people. This is the House of people who mistake autocracy for democracy. Secondly, do not stand up with your platitudes about caring about manufacturing when you will not even allow us to debate a bill that relates to an instrumentality. What has ATP done? Oh, not industrial policy. It has funded path-finding research in composites, high temperature superconductors, next-generation liquid crystal displays, and low-cost manufacturing for digital mammography which is in the news every day now. And you will not even debate it. It is a shame.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I come from the State of Ohio where any debate over manufacturing technology is taken to heart because Ohio is one of those States which has had heavy job losses in manufacturing; but I look at this bill and this restrictive rule, and it really does not address some of the underlying issues.

How can we advance manufacturing technology competitiveness in this country if we really do not have a national strategy to do so? We are legislating piecemeal here and often missing the mark. We cannot have a manufacturing strategy if it does not take into account manufacturing job losses that come because of our trade practices.

So what has happened here is that Congress is called upon to take action in areas that are only piecemeal; that are not going to protect existing industries; that will not surely provide opportunities for the future. We are already being overtaken by China and other countries. This bill falls short. The rule is restrictive, and I join my colleagues in raising objections.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Speaker, let me just first say I do not want to offend anyone personally here today, and this is not a personal argument. It is just that because I know the Republicans here just like myself work hard, they care about their country and they go home most every weekend like I do. I want to go home again this weekend. I will meet somebody else with tears in their eyes saying I have lost my job, help me.

We have a chance to help them today. Why in the world can we not have an open rule, bring every idea, Democrat, Republican, Independent, before us and try to create more and better jobs?

I am going to vote against this rule so that we can have an open debate and bring more and better jobs to this country.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the remaining time.

Let me close by again urging all my colleagues to vote ''no'' on this rule. The Committee on Rules used to be a tool to manage debate. It is now used as a weapon to stifle debate.

There is no excuse whatsoever why the gentleman from California's (Mr. HONDA) amendment was not made in order, and no one on the other side has been able to even defend the omission of the gentleman from California's (Mr. HONDA) amendment.

Yesterday, when Democrats balked at an amendment to the Head Start reauthorization bill that would allow religious institutions to discriminate, the other side, the Republicans, said, no, well, let the House work its will; that is what the House of Representatives is there for. Why is it okay for the House to work its will on that amendment, but not on the gentleman from California's (Mr. HONDA) amendment?

The fact of the matter is this economy under Bush has performed abysmally when it has come to manufacturing. We have lost millions and millions and millions of jobs. We need to do more. The administration needs to do more, but Congress needs to do more as well.

Another 7,000 manufacturing jobs were lost in May. The manufacturing sector in this country continues to suffer. They do not want reauthorization bills with new programs that are not funded. They want us to actually put our money where our rhetoric is.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a ''no'' vote on the rule.

□ 1230

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time. I rise again in support of House Resolution 451 and the underlying bill.

I want to thank my colleagues for a very productive discussion on this very important piece of legislation. Additionally, I would again like to recognize the chairman of the Committee on Science, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT), and the subcommittee chairman, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), for all of their work on the committee and the final result, H.R. 250.

Mr. Speaker, despite the fact that this economy has added over 4 million jobs in less than 2 years, we should not limit our potential growth or fail to protect against any future threats to our economic base. For this reason, H.R. 250 epitomizes innovative thinking in an ever-competitive global marketplace. From the establishment of an Interagency Committee on Manufacturing Research and Development, to the reauthorization of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, this bill goes a long way to ensure that our manufacturers are partnered with the resources they need to retool for more efficient production and to be innovative in the future.

I want to point out to my colleagues on the other side that this bill in the last Congress was killed in the Senate over disagreement regarding ATP, the Advanced Technology Program. One of Abraham Lincoln's famous quotes was this: ''When it is not possible to achieve the best, it is best to achieve the possible.'' And these manufacturers need this MEP program and they need this bill, and that is what we are doing here today.

Mr. Speaker, I wholeheartedly believe American manufacturers should be allowed to compete openly and fairly in this global marketplace. This Congress must ensure that our manufacturers have every tool available to grow and to sell in any and all markets. Therefore, let us pass this bill and make sure that we are untying the hands of our manufacturers so they can fight and win in a global market. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the rule and the underlying bill.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I am disappointed that despite the fact that the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005 represents an important piece of legislation for this Congress as it did previously in the Science Committee and it is because of that I hoped this body would have taken into account all points of view. Unfortunately, four key Democratic amendments were rejected by the Rules Committee.

Mr. HONDA's amendment would have authorized $140 million for the vitally important Advanced Technology Program for Fiscal Year 2006. Mr. STUPAK's amendment would have also authorized $20 million for the Advanced Technology Program to hold a competition and issue awards for research to improve energy efficient and reduce domestic dependence on gasoline and heating oil. Clearly, this kind of amendment is desperately needed at a time when people can barely afford to heat their homes and still have money left over to buy food. Mr. COSTELLO's amendment would have required the Department of Commerce to release all staff reports done by Technology Administration staff relating to the off-shoring of American jobs, an issue that has never been fully addressed. Finally, Mr. CARNAHAN's amendment would have struck the current language creating an Advisory Committee and established a Presidential Council on Manufacturing. It would have directed the Council to issue reports on selected topic areas and within 18 months issue a National Manufacturing Strategy. Clearly, these four amendments would have provided a more comprehensive approach to solving our manufacturing crisis.

In essence H.R. 250 is simply an authorization bill for all of the programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, except for the NIST's Advanced Technology Program, ATP. H.R. 250 does authorize full funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, which is also a NIST program. With the exception of ATP funding, H.R. 250 is an acceptable NIST authorization bill. However, it purports to be a manufacturing competitiveness and innovation bill—in these goals it falls far short.

Clearly, some of the provisions of this bill are positive in their intent, but they can be expanded without interfering with the core of the legislation. My Democratic colleagues have offered a number of good Amendments which should have been allowed through the Rules Committee in order to take in all points of view. Together this body could have truly enhanced the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition of this rule, though there are some positive aspects to highlight.

I am pleased that the Rules Committee made several amendments in order, specifically my own amendment increasing funding to the Advance Technological Education program and Mr. GORDON's amendment requesting a three-year programmatic and operational plan for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

However, I feel this rule would have been improved by making in order Mr. HONDA's amendment authorizing the Advanced Technology Program. This legislation has been described as a means to create jobs and support manufacturing. ATP does just this. This program has proven results and is an effective investment for our manufacturing and technological industries. The Committee's decisions seem short-sighted, especially since the manufacturing sector is still suffering. Mr. HONDA's amendment deserves debate on the floor and I feel the Rules Committee has missed an opportunity to improve this bill.

In the end I did not feel that the good outweighed the bad in this rule. So I will be voting against the rule and I urge members to do the same.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on ordering the previous question.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3768, KATRINA EMERGENCY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 454) providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3768.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 454

Resolved, That, upon the adoption of this resolution, the House shall be considered to have taken from the Speaker's table the bill H.R. 3768, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to have concurred in the Senate amendment to the bill with the following amendment:

In lieu of the matter proposed to be inserted by the amendment of the Senate to the bill, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE, ETC.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the ''Katrina Emergency Tax Relief Act of 2005''.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title, etc.
Sec. 2. Hurricane Katrina disaster area.
TITLE I—SPECIAL RULES FOR USE OF RETIREMENT FUNDS FOR RELIEF RELATING TO HURRICANE KATRINA
Sec. 101. Tax-favored withdrawals from retirement plans for relief relating to Hurricane Katrina.
Sec. 102. Recontributions of withdrawals for home purchases cancelled due to Hurricane Katrina.
Sec. 103. Loans from qualified plans for relief relating to Hurricane Katrina.
Sec. 104. Provisions relating to plan amendments.
TITLE II—EMPLOYMENT RELIEF
Sec. 201. Work opportunity tax credit for Hurricane Katrina employees.
Sec. 202. Employee retention credit for employers affected by Hurricane Katrina.
TITLE III—CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVES
Sec. 301. Temporary suspension of limitations on charitable contributions.
Sec. 302. Additional exemption for housing Hurricane Katrina displaced individuals.
Sec. 303. Increase in standard mileage rate for charitable use of vehicles.
Sec. 304. Mileage reimbursements to charitable volunteers excluded from gross income.
Sec. 305. Charitable deduction for contributions of food inventory.
Sec. 306. Charitable deduction for contributions of book inventories to public schools.
TITLE IV—ADDITIONAL TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS
Sec. 401. Exclusions of certain cancellations of indebtedness by reason of Hurricane Katrina.
Sec. 402. Suspension of certain limitations on personal casualty losses.
Sec. 403. Required exercise of authority under section 7508A for tax relief relating to Hurricane Katrina.
Sec. 404. Special rules for mortgage revenue bonds.
Sec. 405. Extension of replacement period for nonrecognition of gain for property located in Hurricane Katrina disaster area.
Sec. 406. Special rule for determining earned income.
Sec. 407. Secretarial authority to make adjustments regarding taxpayer and dependency status.
TITLE V—EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT
Sec. 501. Emergency requirement.

SEC. 2. HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER AREA.

For purposes of this Act—

(1) HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER AREA.—The term ''Hurricane Katrina disaster area'' means an area with respect to which a major disaster has been declared by the President before September 14, 2005, under section 401 of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

(2) CORE DISASTER AREA.—The term ''core disaster area'' means that portion of the Hurricane Katrina disaster area determined by the President to warrant individual or individual and public assistance from the Federal Government under such Act.

TITLE I—SPECIAL RULES FOR USE OF RETIREMENT FUNDS FOR RELIEF RELATING TO HURRICANE KATRINA

SEC. 101. TAX-FAVORED WITHDRAWALS FROM RETIREMENT PLANS FOR RELIEF RELATING TO HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 72(t) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not apply to any qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution.

(b) AGGREGATE DOLLAR LIMITATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the aggregate amount of distributions received by an individual which may be treated as qualified Hurricane Katrina distributions for any taxable year shall not exceed the excess (if any) of—

(A) $100,000, over

(B) the aggregate amounts treated as qualified Hurricane Katrina distributions received by such individual for all prior taxable years.

(2) TREATMENT OF PLAN DISTRIBUTIONS.—If a distribution to an individual would (without regard to paragraph (1)) be a qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution, a plan shall not be treated as violating any requirement of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 merely because the plan treats such distribution as a qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution, unless the aggregate amount of such distributions from all plans maintained by the employer (and any member of any controlled group which includes the employer) to such individual exceeds $100,000.

(3) CONTROLLED GROUP.—For purposes of paragraph (2), the term ''controlled group'' means any group treated as a single employer under subsection (b), (c), (m), or (o) of section 414 of such Code.

(c) AMOUNT DISTRIBUTED MAY BE REPAID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who receives a qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution may, at any time during the 3-year period beginning on the day after the date on which such distribution was received, make one or more contributions in an aggregate amount not to exceed the amount of such distribution to an eligible retirement plan of which such individual is a beneficiary and to which a rollover contribution of such distribution could be made under section 402(c), 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), 408(d)(3), or 457(e)(16) of such Code, as the case may be.

(2) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS OF DISTRIBUTIONS FROM ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLANS OTHER THAN IRAS.—For purposes of such Code, if a contribution is made pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to a qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution from an eligible retirement plan other than an individual retirement plan, then the taxpayer shall, to the extent of the amount of the contribution, be treated as having received the qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution in an eligible rollover distribution (as defined in section 402(c)(4) of such Code) and as having transferred the amount to the eligible retirement plan in a direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days of the distribution.

(3) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS FOR DISTRIBUTIONS FROM IRAS.—For purposes of such Code, if a contribution is made pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to a qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution from an individual retirement plan (as defined by section 7701(a)(37) of such Code), then, to the extent of the amount of the contribution, the qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution shall be treated as a distribution described in section 408(d)(3) of such Code and as having been transferred to the eligible retirement plan in a direct trustee to trustee transfer within 60 days of the distribution.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) QUALIFIED HURRICANE KATRINA DISTRIBUTION.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the term ''qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution'' means any distribution from an eligible retirement plan made on or after August 25, 2005, and before January 1, 2007, to an individual whose principal place of abode on August 28, 2005, is located in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and who has sustained an economic loss by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

(2) ELIGIBLE RETIREMENT PLAN.—The term ''eligible retirement plan'' shall have the meaning given such term by section 402(c)(8)(B) of such Code.

(e) INCOME INCLUSION SPREAD OVER 3 YEAR PERIOD FOR QUALIFIED HURRICANE KATRINA DISTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of any qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution, unless the taxpayer elects not to have this subsection apply for any taxable year, any amount required to be included in gross income for such taxable year shall be so included ratably over the 3-taxable year period beginning with such taxable year.

(2) SPECIAL RULE.—For purposes of paragraph (1), rules similar to the rules of subparagraph (E) of section 408A(d)(3) of such Code shall apply.

(f) SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) EXEMPTION OF DISTRIBUTIONS FROM TRUSTEE TO TRUSTEE TRANSFER AND WITHHOLDING RULES.—For purposes of sections 401(a)(31), 402(f), and 3405 of such Code, qualified Hurricane Katrina distributions shall not be treated as eligible rollover distributions.

(2) QUALIFIED HURRICANE KATRINA DISTRIBUTIONS TREATED AS MEETING PLAN DISTRIBUTION REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of such Code, a qualified Hurricane Katrina distribution shall be treated as meeting the requirements of sections 401(k)(2)(B)(i),

403(b)(7)(A)(ii), 403(b)(11), and 457(d)(1)(A) of such Code.

SEC. 102. RECONTRIBUTIONS OF WITHDRAWALS FOR HOME PURCHASES CANCELLED DUE TO HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) RECONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any individual who received a qualified distribution may, during the period beginning on August 25, 2005, and ending on February 28, 2006, make one or more contributions in an aggregate amount not to exceed the amount of such qualified distribution to an eligible retirement plan (as defined in section 402(c)(8)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) of which such individual is a beneficiary and to which a rollover contribution of such distribution could be made under section 402(c), 403(a)(4), 403(b)(8), or 408(d)(3) of such Code, as the case may be.

(2) TREATMENT OF REPAYMENTS.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraphs (2) and (3) of section 101(c) of this Act shall apply for purposes of this section.

(b) QUALIFIED DISTRIBUTION DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ''qualified distribution'' means any distribution—

(1) described in section 401(k)(2)(B)(i)(IV), 403(b)(7)(A)(ii) (but only to the extent such distribution relates to financial hardship), 403(b)(11)(B), or 72(t)(2)(F) of such Code,

(2) received after February 28, 2005, and before August 29, 2005, and

(3) which was to be used to purchase or construct a principal residence in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area, but which was not so purchased or constructed on account of Hurricane Katrina.

SEC. 103. LOANS FROM QUALIFIED PLANS FOR RELIEF RELATING TO HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) INCREASE IN LIMIT ON LOANS NOT TREATED AS DISTRIBUTIONS.—In the case of any loan from a qualified employer plan (as defined under section 72(p)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) to a qualified individual made after the date of enactment of this Act and before January 1, 2007—

(1) clause (i) of section 72(p)(2)(A) of such Code shall be applied by substituting ''$100,000'' for ''$50,000'', and

(2) clause (ii) of such section shall be applied by substituting ''the present value of the nonforfeitable accrued benefit of the employee under the plan'' for ''one-half of the present value of the nonforfeitable accrued benefit of the employee under the plan''.

(b) DELAY OF REPAYMENT.—In the case of a qualified individual with an outstanding loan on or after August 25, 2005, from a qualified employer plan (as defined in section 72(p)(4) of such Code)—

(1) if the due date pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 72(p)(2) of such Code for any repayment with respect to such loan occurs during the period beginning on August 25, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2006, such due date shall be delayed for 1 year,

(2) any subsequent repayments with respect to any such loan shall be appropriately adjusted to reflect the delay in the due date under paragraph (1) and any interest accruing during such delay, and

(3) in determining the 5-year period and the term of a loan under subparagraph (B) or (C) of section 72(p)(2) of such Code, the period described in paragraph (1) shall be disregarded.

(c) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ''qualified individual'' means an individual whose principal place of abode on August 28, 2005, is located in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area and who has sustained an economic loss by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

SEC. 104. PROVISIONS RELATING TO PLAN AMENDMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—If this section applies to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract, such plan or contract shall be treated as being operated in accordance with the terms of the plan during the period described in subsection (b)(2)(A).

(b) AMENDMENTS TO WHICH SECTION APPLIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This section shall apply to any amendment to any plan or annuity contract which is made—

(A) pursuant to any amendment made by this title, or pursuant to any regulation issued by the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary of Labor under this title, and

(B) on or before the last day of the first plan year beginning on or after January 1, 2007, or such later date as the Secretary of the Treasury may prescribe.

In the case of a governmental plan (as defined in section 414(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986), subparagraph (B) shall be applied by substituting the date which is 2 years after the date otherwise applied under subparagraph (B).

(2) CONDITIONS.—This section shall not apply to any amendment unless—

(A) during the period—

(i) beginning on the date the legislative or regulatory amendment described in paragraph (1)(A) takes effect (or in the case of a plan or contract amendment not required by such legislative or regulatory amendment, the effective date specified by the plan), and

(ii) ending on the date described in paragraph (1)(B) (or, if earlier, the date the plan or contract amendment is adopted),

the plan or contract is operated as if such plan or contract amendment were in effect; and

(B) such plan or contract amendment applies retroactively for such period.

TITLE II—EMPLOYMENT RELIEF

SEC. 201. WORK OPPORTUNITY TAX CREDIT FOR HURRICANE KATRINA EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of section 51 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, a Hurricane Katrina employee shall be treated as a member of a targeted group.

(b) HURRICANE KATRINA EMPLOYEE.—For purposes of this section, the term ''Hurricane Katrina employee'' means—

(1) any individual who on August 28, 2005, had a principal place of abode in the core disaster area and who is hired during the 2-year period beginning on such date for a position the principal place of employment of which is located in the core disaster area, and

(2) any individual who on such date had a principal place of abode in the core disaster area, who is displaced from such abode by reason of Hurricane Katrina, and who is hired during the period beginning on such date and ending on December 31, 2005.

(c) REASONABLE IDENTIFICATION ACCEPTABLE.—In lieu of the certification requirement under subparagraph (A) of section 51(d)(12) of such Code, an individual may provide to the employer reasonable evidence that the individual is a Hurricane Katrina employee, and subparagraph (B) of such section shall be applied as if such evidence were a certification described in such subparagraph.

(d) SPECIAL RULES FOR DETERMINING CREDIT.—For purposes of applying subpart F of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code to wages paid or incurred to any Hurricane Katrina employee—

(1) section 51(c)(4) of such Code shall not apply, and

(2) section 51(i)(2) of such Code shall not apply with respect to the first hire of such employee as a Hurricane Katrina employee, unless such employee was an employee of the employer on August 28, 2005.

SEC. 202. EMPLOYEE RETENTION CREDIT FOR EMPLOYERS AFFECTED BY HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an eligible employer, there shall be allowed as a credit against the tax imposed by chapter 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 for the taxable year an amount equal to 40 percent of the qualified wages with respect to each eligible employee of such employer for such taxable year. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the amount of qualified wages which may be taken into account with respect to any individual shall not exceed $6,000.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section—

(1) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYER.—The term ''eligible employer'' means any employer—

(A) which conducted an active trade or business on August 28, 2005, in a core disaster area, and

(B) with respect to whom the trade or business described in subparagraph (A) is inoperable on any day after August 28, 2005, and before January 1, 2006, as a result of damage sustained by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

(2) ELIGIBLE EMPLOYEE.—The term ''eligible employee'' means with respect to an eligible employer an employee whose principal place of employment on August 28, 2005, with such eligible employer was in a core disaster area.

(3) QUALIFIED WAGES.—The term ''qualified wages'' means wages (as defined in section 51(c)(1) of such Code, but without regard to section 3306(b)(2)(B) of such Code) paid or incurred by an eligible employer with respect to an eligible employee on any day after August 28, 2005, and before January 1, 2006, which occurs during the period—

(A) beginning on the date on which the trade or business described in paragraph (1) first became inoperable at the principal place of employment of the employee immediately before Hurricane Katrina, and

(B) ending on the date on which such trade or business has resumed significant operations at such principal place of employment.

Such term shall include wages paid without regard to whether the employee performs no services, performs services at a different place of employment than such principal place of employment, or performs services at such principal place of employment before significant operations have resumed.

(c) CREDIT NOT ALLOWED FOR LARGE BUSINESSES.—The term ''eligible employer'' shall not include any trade or business for any taxable year if such trade or business employed an average of more than 200 employees on business days during the taxable year.

(d) CERTAIN RULES TO APPLY.—For purposes of this section, rules similar to the rules of sections 51(i)(1), 52, and 280C(a) of such Code shall apply.

(e) EMPLOYEE NOT TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT MORE THAN ONCE.—An employee shall not be treated as an eligible employee for purposes of this section for any period with respect to any employer if such employer is allowed a credit under section 51 of such Code with respect to such employee for such period.

(f) CREDIT TO BE PART OF GENERAL BUSINESS CREDIT.—The credit allowed under this section shall be added to the current year business credit under section 38(b) of such Code and shall be treated as a credit allowed under subpart D of part IV of subchapter A of chapter 1 of such Code.

TITLE III—CHARITABLE GIVING INCENTIVES

SEC. 301. TEMPORARY SUSPENSION OF LIMITATIONS ON CHARITABLE CONTRIBUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in subsection (b), section 170(b) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not apply

to qualified contributions and such contributions shall not be taken into account for purposes of applying subsections (b) and (d) of section 170 of such Code to other contributions.

(b) TREATMENT OF EXCESS CONTRIBUTIONS.—For purposes of section 170 of such Code—

(1) INDIVIDUALS.—In the case of an individual—

(A) LIMITATION.—Any qualified contribution shall be allowed only to the extent that the aggregate of such contributions does not exceed the excess of the taxpayer's contribution base (as defined in subparagraph (F) of section 170(b)(1) of such Code) over the amount of all other charitable contributions allowed under such section 170(b)(1).

(B) CARRYOVER.—If the aggregate amount of qualified contributions made in the contribution year (within the meaning of section 170(d)(1) of such Code) exceeds the limitation of subparagraph (A), such excess shall be added to the excess described in the portion of subparagraph (A) of such section which precedes clause (i) thereof for purposes of applying such section.

(2) CORPORATIONS.—In the case of a corporation—

(A) LIMITATION.—Any qualified contribution shall be allowed only to the extent that the aggregate of such contributions does not exceed the excess of the taxpayer's taxable income (as determined under paragraph (2) of section 170(b) of such Code) over the amount of all other charitable contributions allowed under such paragraph.

(B) CARRYOVER.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (1)(B) shall apply for purposes of this paragraph.

(c) EXCEPTION TO OVERALL LIMITATION ON ITEMIZED DEDUCTIONS.—So much of any deduction allowed under section 170 of such Code as does not exceed the qualified contributions paid during the taxable year shall not be treated as an itemized deduction for purposes of section 68 of such Code.

(d) QUALIFIED CONTRIBUTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ''qualified contribution'' means any charitable contribution (as defined in section 170(c) of such Code)—

(A) paid during the period beginning on August 28, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2005, in cash to an organization described in section 170(b)(1)(A) of such Code (other than an organization described in section 509(a)(3) of such Code),

(B) in the case of a contribution paid by a corporation, such contribution is for relief efforts related to Hurricane Katrina, and

(C) with respect to which the taxpayer has elected the application of this section.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Such term shall not include a contribution if the contribution is for establishment of a new, or maintenance in an existing, segregated fund or account with respect to which the donor (or any person appointed or designated by such donor) has, or reasonably expects to have, advisory privileges with respect to distributions or investments by reason of the donor's status as a donor.

(3) APPLICATION OF ELECTION TO PARTNERSHIPS AND S CORPORATIONS.—In the case of a partnership or S corporation, the election under paragraph (1)(C) shall be made separately by each partner or shareholder.

SEC. 302. ADDITIONAL EXEMPTION FOR HOUSING HURRICANE KATRINA DISPLACED INDIVIDUALS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of taxable years of a natural person beginning in 2005 or 2006, for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, taxable income shall be reduced by $500 for each Hurricane Katrina displaced individual of the taxpayer for the taxable year.

(b) LIMITATIONS.—

(1) DOLLAR LIMITATION.—The reduction under subsection (a) shall not exceed $2,000, reduced by the amount of the reduction under this section for all prior taxable years.

(2) INDIVIDUALS TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT ONLY ONCE.—An individual shall not be taken into account under subsection (a) if such individual was taken into account under such subsection by the taxpayer for any prior taxable year.

(3) IDENTIFYING INFORMATION REQUIRED.—An individual shall not be taken into account under subsection (a) for a taxable year unless the taxpayer identification number of such individual is included on the return of the taxpayer for such taxable year.

(c) HURRICANE KATRINA DISPLACED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ''Hurricane Katrina displaced individual'' means, with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year, any natural person if—

(1) such person's principal place of abode on August 28, 2005, was in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area,

(2)(A) in the case of such an abode located in the core disaster area, such person is displaced from such abode, or

(B) in the case of such an abode located outside of the core disaster area, such person is displaced from such abode, and

(i) such abode was damaged by Hurricane Katrina, or

(ii) such person was evacuated from such abode by reason of Hurricane Katrina, and

(3) such person is provided housing free of charge by the taxpayer in the principal residence of the taxpayer for a period of 60 consecutive days which ends in such taxable year.

Such term shall not include the spouse or any dependent of the taxpayer.

(d) COMPENSATION FOR HOUSING.—No deduction shall be allowed under this section if the taxpayer receives any rent or other amount (from any source) in connection with the providing of such housing.

SEC. 303. INCREASE IN STANDARD MILEAGE RATE FOR CHARITABLE USE OF VEHICLES.

Notwithstanding section 170(i) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, for purposes of computing the deduction under section 170 of such Code for use of a vehicle described in subsection (f)(12)(E)(i) of such section for provision of relief related to Hurricane Katrina during the period beginning on August 25, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2006, the standard mileage rate shall be 70 percent of the standard mileage rate in effect under section 162(a) of such Code at the time of such use. Any increase under this section shall be rounded to the next highest cent.

SEC. 304. MILEAGE REIMBURSEMENTS TO CHARITABLE VOLUNTEERS EXCLUDED FROM GROSS INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, gross income of an individual for taxable years ending on or after August 25, 2005, does not include amounts received, from an organization described in section 170(c) of such Code, as reimbursement of operating expenses with respect to use of a passenger automobile for the benefit of such organization in connection with providing relief relating to Hurricane Katrina during the period beginning on August 25, 2005, and ending on December 31, 2006. The preceding sentence shall apply only to the extent that the expenses which are reimbursed would be deductible under chapter 1 of such Code if section 274(d) of such Code were applied—

(1) by using the standard business mileage rate in effect under section 162(a) at the time of such use, and

(2) as if the individual were an employee of an organization not described in section 170(c) of such Code.

(b) APPLICATION TO VOLUNTEER SERVICES ONLY.—Subsection (a) shall not apply with respect to any expenses relating to the performance of services for compensation.

(c) NO DOUBLE BENEFIT.—No deduction or credit shall be allowed under any other provision of such Code with respect to the expenses excludable from gross income under subsection (a).

SEC. 305. CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 170(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to special rule for certain contributions of inventory and other property) is amended by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D) and by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

''(C) SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF FOOD INVENTORY.—

''(i) GENERAL RULE.—In the case of a charitable contribution of food from any trade or business of the taxpayer, this paragraph shall be applied—

''(I) without regard to whether the contribution is made by a C corporation, and

''(II) only to food that is apparently wholesome food.

''(ii) LIMITATION.—In the case of a taxpayer other than a C corporation, the aggregate amount of such contributions for any taxable year which may be taken into account under this section shall not exceed 10 percent of the taxpayer's aggregate net income for such taxable year from all trades or businesses from which such contributions were made for such year, computed without regard to this section.

''(iii) APPARENTLY WHOLESOME FOOD.—For purposes of this subparagraph, the term 'apparently wholesome food' has the meaning given to such term by section 22(b)(2) of the Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act (42 U.S.C. 1791(b)(2)), as in effect on the date of the enactment of this subparagraph.

''(iv) TERMINATION.—This subparagraph shall not apply to contributions made after December 31, 2005.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by this section shall apply to contributions made on or after August 28, 2005, in taxable years ending after such date.

SEC. 306. CHARITABLE DEDUCTION FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOOK INVENTORIES TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (3) of section 170(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 (relating to certain contributions of ordinary income and capital gain property), as amended by section 305, is amended by redesignating subparagraph (D) as subparagraph (E) and by inserting after subparagraph (C) the following new subparagraph:

''(D) SPECIAL RULE FOR CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOOK INVENTORY TO PUBLIC SCHOOLS.—

''(i) CONTRIBUTIONS OF BOOK INVENTORY.—In determining whether a qualified book contribution is a qualified contribution, subparagraph (A) shall be applied without regard to whether the donee is an organization described in the matter preceding clause (i) of subparagraph (A).

''(ii) QUALIFIED BOOK CONTRIBUTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, the term 'qualified book contribution' means a charitable contribution of books to a public school which is an educational organization described in subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii) and which provides elementary education or secondary education (kindergarten through grade 12).

''(iii) CERTIFICATION BY DONEE.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any contribution unless (in addition to the certifications required by subparagraph (A) (as modified by

this subparagraph)), the donee certifies in writing that—

''(I) the books are suitable, in terms of currency, content, and quantity, for use in the donee's educational programs, and

''(II) the donee will use the books in its educational programs.

''(iv) TERMINATION.—This subparagraph shall not apply to contributions made after December 31, 2005.''.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to contributions made on or after August 28, 2005, in taxable years ending after such date.

TITLE IV—ADDITIONAL TAX RELIEF PROVISIONS

SEC. 401. EXCLUSIONS OF CERTAIN CANCELLATIONS OF INDEBTEDNESS BY REASON OF HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, gross income shall not include any amount which (but for this section) would be includible in gross income by reason of the discharge (in whole or in part) of indebtedness of a natural person described in subsection (b) by an applicable entity (as defined in section 6050P(c)(1) of such Code).

(b) PERSONS DESCRIBED.—A natural person is described in this subsection if the principal place of abode of such person on August 25, 2005, was located—

(1) in the core disaster area, or

(2) in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area (but outside the core disaster area) and such person suffered economic loss by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

(c) EXCEPTIONS.—

(1) BUSINESS INDEBTEDNESS.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any indebtedness incurred in connection with a trade or business.

(2) REAL PROPERTY OUTSIDE CORE DISASTER AREA.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to any discharge of indebtedness to the extent that real property constituting security for such indebtedness is located outside of the Hurricane Katrina disaster area.

(d) DENIAL OF DOUBLE BENEFIT.—For purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, the amount excluded from gross income under subsection (a) shall be treated in the same manner as an amount excluded under section 108(a) of such Code.

(e) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall apply to discharges made on or after August 25, 2005, and before January 1, 2007.

SEC. 402. SUSPENSION OF CERTAIN LIMITATIONS ON PERSONAL CASUALTY LOSSES.

Paragraphs (1) and (2)(A) of section 165(h) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall not apply to losses described in section 165(c)(3) of such Code which arise in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area on or after August 25, 2005, and which are attributable to Hurricane Katrina. In the case of any other losses, section 165(h)(2)(A) of such Code shall be applied without regard to the losses referred to in the preceding sentence.

SEC. 403. REQUIRED EXERCISE OF AUTHORITY UNDER SECTION 7508A FOR TAX RELIEF RELATING TO HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) AUTHORITY INCLUDES SUSPENSION OF PAYMENT OF EMPLOYMENT AND EXCISE TAXES.—Subparagraphs (A) and (B) of section 7508(a)(1) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 are amended to read as follows:

''(A) Filing any return of income, estate, gift, employment, or excise tax;

''(B) Payment of any income, estate, gift, employment, or excise tax or any installment thereof or of any other liability to the United States in respect thereof;''.

(b) APPLICATION WITH RESPECT TO HURRICANE KATRINA.—In the case of any taxpayer determined by the Secretary of the Treasury to be affected by the Presidentially declared disaster relating to Hurricane Katrina, any relief provided by the Secretary of the Treasury under section 7508A of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be for a period ending not earlier than February 28, 2006, and shall be treated as applying to the filing of returns relating to, and the payment of, employment and excise taxes.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall apply for any period for performing an act which has not expired before August 25, 2005.

SEC. 404. SPECIAL RULES FOR MORTGAGE REVENUE BONDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of financing provided with respect to a qualified Hurricane Katrina recovery residence, subsection (d) of section 143 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied as if such residence were a targeted area residence.

(b) QUALIFIED HURRICANE KATRINA RECOVERY RESIDENCE.—For purposes of this section, the term ''qualified Hurricane Katrina recovery residence'' means—

(1) any residence in the core disaster area, and

(2) any other residence if—

(A) such other residence is located in the same State as the principal residence referred to in subparagraph (B), and

(B) the mortgagor with respect to such other residence owned a principal residence on August 28, 2005, which—

(i) was located in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area, and

(ii) was rendered uninhabitable by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

(c) SPECIAL RULE FOR HOME IMPROVEMENT LOANS.—In the case of any loan with respect to a residence in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area, section 143(k)(4) of such Code shall be applied by substituting $150,000 for the dollar amount contained therein to the extent such loan is for the repair of damage by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

(d) APPLICATION.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to financing provided after December 31, 2007.

SEC. 405. EXTENSION OF REPLACEMENT PERIOD FOR NONRECOGNITION OF GAIN FOR PROPERTY LOCATED IN HURRICANE KATRINA DISASTER AREA.

Clause (i) of section 1033(a)(2)(B) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied by substituting ''5 years'' for ''2 years'' with respect to property in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area which is compulsorily or involuntarily converted on or after August 25, 2005, by reason of Hurricane Katrina, but only if substantially all of the use of the replacement property is in such area.

SEC. 406. SPECIAL RULE FOR DETERMINING EARNED INCOME.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the case of a qualified individual, if the earned income of the taxpayer for the taxable year which includes August 25, 2005, is less than the earned income of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year, the credits allowed under sections 24(d) and 32 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 may, at the election of the taxpayer, be determined by substituting—

(1) such earned income for the preceding taxable year, for

(2) such earned income for the taxable year which includes August 25, 2005.

(b) QUALIFIED INDIVIDUAL.—For purposes of this section, the term ''qualified individual'' means any individual whose principal place of abode on August 25, 2005, was located—

(1) in the core disaster area, or

(2) in the Hurricane Katrina disaster area (but outside the core disaster area) and such individual was displaced from such principal place of abode by reason of Hurricane Katrina.

(c) EARNED INCOME.—For purposes of this section, the term ''earned income'' has the meaning given such term under section 32(c) of such Code.

(d) SPECIAL RULES.—

(1) APPLICATION TO JOINT RETURNS.—For purpose of subsection (a), in the case of a joint return for a taxable year which includes August 25, 2005—

(A) such subsection shall apply if either spouse is a qualified individual, and

(B) the earned income of the taxpayer for the preceding taxable year shall be the sum of the earned income of each spouse for such preceding taxable year.

(2) UNIFORM APPLICATION OF ELECTION.—Any election made under subsection (a) shall apply with respect to both section 24(d) and section 32 of such Code.

(3) ERRORS TREATED AS MATHEMATICAL ERROR.—For purposes of section 6213 of such Code, an incorrect use on a return of earned income pursuant to subsection (a) shall be treated as a mathematical or clerical error.

(4) NO EFFECT ON DETERMINATION OF GROSS INCOME, ETC.—Except as otherwise provided in this section, the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 shall be applied without regard to any substitution under subsection (a).

SEC. 407. SECRETARIAL AUTHORITY TO MAKE ADJUSTMENTS REGARDING TAXPAYER AND DEPENDENCY STATUS.

With respect to taxable years beginning in 2005 or 2006, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary's delegate may make such adjustments in the application of the internal revenue laws as may be necessary to ensure that taxpayers do not lose any deduction or credit or experience a change of filing status by reason of temporary relocations by reason of Hurricane Katrina. Any adjustments made under the preceding sentence shall ensure that an individual is not taken into account by more than one taxpayer with respect to the same tax benefit.

TITLE V—EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT

SEC. 501. EMERGENCY REQUIREMENT.

Any provision of this Act causing an effect on receipts, budget authority, or outlays is designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 402 of H. Con. Res. 95 (109th Congress).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCRERY. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on the subject matter of the resolution under consideration, H. Res. 454.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us today is a bicameral, bipartisan compromise on the bill that we passed through this House last week dealing with tax relief primarily for individuals who were affected by Hurricane Katrina. The Senate, as you know, Mr. Speaker, passed a slightly different bill, and in the time since the passage in the House and the Senate, we have gotten together with our colleagues from the other body and worked out those differences, and

today we have on the floor a bill that, when it passes the House today, should immediately pass the Senate thereafter and be sent to the President for his signature.

I am pleased to say that the level of cooperation across the aisle and across the Capitol with respect to taking care of the needs of individuals who were affected by Hurricane Katrina continues in a manner that does us all proud.

So the bill today on the floor, Mr. Speaker, as I said, primarily provides for individual tax relief. There are several provisions which provide tax relief to businesses in the affected areas, but of course those businesses, we hope, will be employing and paying residents of the affected areas. So at least indirectly, even those provisions promote the welfare of those individuals who were affected by Hurricane Katrina.

Just to enumerate some of the provisions in this bill that will help individuals over these troubled times for them, any loss of tax benefits that would occur under current law, due to the relocation of that individual or family, would not take place because this House will pass this bill. In other words, this bill will hold harmless those families and individuals who might have lost some tax benefit due to a temporary relocation that was necessary due to the storm. Any debt that is forgiven to these individuals, those individuals will not be taxed on that debt. The debt forgiveness will not be counted as income to those individuals, as it would be under current law.

Also, anybody that provides housing assistance to dislocated persons will, under this bill, be given a tax deduction of $500 per person they are housing, up to a maximum of $2,000 tax deduction. And, of course, that is meant to help with the burden of bringing people into one's home and thereby encouraging people to house dislocated persons from that affected area.

Also, under current law, there is a deduction for personal casualty losses, but there is a limit on that deduction. This bill would waive that limit and allow individuals to fully deduct their loss.

This bill would allow affected individuals to withdraw from their IRAs and pensions. For those individuals, the 10 percent penalty or 10 percent tax for early withdrawal of those funds, up to a maximum of $100,000, those affected people could withdraw from those vehicles and put that money into their home, helping them with repairs and so forth, and that would be a big help to those individuals. There are provisions that would allow those folks to repay their IRA over time and avoid any tax on those withdrawals as well.

Several of these provisions, as I said, help businesses, help employers; and, of course, we are trying to encourage employers in these affected areas to bring workers back and to create jobs so that people can come back and have an income. One thing that we will extend to employers in this area is the work opportunity tax credit. The credit will give a 40 percent credit for the first $6,000 of wages paid to an employee in the first year, so up to $2,400 tax credit for hiring somebody in these affected areas.

There is also an employee retention tax credit, which is very important. As you know, Mr. Speaker, many of the businesses in these affected areas are basically out of business now. Their businesses were destroyed, so they have no ongoing business at this time. Yet many of those employers have the wherewithal to continue paying their employees until their business can get back up and running. And while we certainly congratulate those employers, we know they cannot do that, many of them cannot do that for long. Because we want to encourage them to continue paying their employees even though their business is not up and going, we have an employee retention tax credit available to those employers who wish to continue paying their employees.

With respect to replacing damaged property, under current law, if it is business property, the insurance proceeds are not taxable if they replace that business property within 2 years. And for individuals replacing individual property, they have 4 years to replace that property. This bill will make the time period 5 years for either businesses or individuals.

Also, another help to businesses and employers in this bill is an extension of the deadline for paying excise and employment taxes. That is going to be a problem for some of those businesses, particularly small businesses who were destroyed by the storm.

Also, on the business side, Mr. Speaker, we encourage cash donations by corporations by removing the limit on those corporate donations, as well as we provide the same charitable donation the deduction for charitable donation of food inventory to S corporations, partnerships, and sole proprietors that is now available under the law to C corporations.

So, in sum, Mr. Speaker, this bill provides a number of tax benefits to both individuals and businesses to help them get over these very difficult times that they are experiencing because of their losses due to Hurricane Katrina, and also starts us on the way to rebuilding a business infrastructure, a jobs infrastructure, in these affected areas which will be so critical to the overall recovery of the area.

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

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

First, let me thank the leadership on the other side of the aisle for the cooperation that they have given. I have worked very closely with the chairman, the gentleman from California (Mr. THOMAS), and I am so pleased the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), who come from the affected areas, have been able to work together to assist the Congress, and especially those of us on the committee, to see how fast we could get some type of assistance to the victims of this horrendous disaster.

As the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) stated, this is a temporary provision that is not meant to indicate that the Congress has completed its work on this task. As a matter of fact, it is hardly even a beginning, but that is what we thought we could do.

The good that has come out of this is a sense of bipartisanship, that Katrina was not a Republican or a Democratic disaster, it was one that struck America. And I think the President of the United States has definitely set the tone as to what most all Americans, and certainly people from all over the world realize, that this is not just building or rebuilding a city, it is not just restoring a culture, but it certainly is making the people there whole. So as we pass this bill on the consent calendar, I hope that the tone that has been set on the other side of the aisle can continue to be a bipartisan and bicameral effort in order to do the best we can in terms of restoring the dignity and the culture of this great city.

To do this, some of us are working very closely with the people that come from this area, hoping that we can get an authority on the empowerment zone concept that goes far beyond the limitations that we have on the tax-writing committee. We hope that we can get the local officials, the State officials, as well as the business people, to come up with a comprehensive plan that would allow all of us, no matter what committees that we sit on, to be a part of this great American recovery effort.

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We also have to make certain that the people that are providing the assistance down there are held accountable and that every effort is made to make certain that, one, the people who were forced to leave the area have an opportunity to return; and to some extent our tax policy will reflect what we can do to provide incentives for them to come back home. It is also important that we take into consideration the environmental conditions that exist there to make certain that it is not contaminated when the people come back.

We would also like to see an independent commission that goes far beyond what has been suggested by the Speaker to make certain that as we move forward that we do not make the same mistakes that were made in the past, and where there have been mistakes, we do not give medals of honor to those people who made them, but rather work to correct them and make certain we have competent bipartisan workers doing the Nation's business to rebuild the area that has been affected.

Some Members on this side will share their experiences with 9/11, some of the

things that did and did not happen; and I would hope that we would be able to share those views today and as we move forward to make certain that when we do have a plan, there are jobs there and we deal with housing, schools, and deal with all of these things with the same vigor as the President had indicated that we would do.

Again, I would like to thank the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY), and the members of the Committee on Ways and Means for the speed with which we reacted to this. I hope it has set a tone, if not for the entire Congress as we relate to other things, at least to begin with Hurricane Katrina and see what we can do to set an example for the other committees in working together.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise just to thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Ways and Means, for his work in putting together not only this bill but also in gathering ideas from his experiences with New York following 9/11 and also ideas that he has gathered from Members on his side of the aisle with how we best deal with the tragedy that has occurred and the rebuilding efforts that necessarily have to follow, not only in terms of the jurisdiction of our committee, but other areas that this Congress must address to adequately ensure the recovery of the devastated areas along the gulf coast. I thank the gentleman for his help.

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

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. MALONEY), who has done a great deal of work on 9/11; and she would like to share some of her views with us today.

(Mrs. MALONEY asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. MALONEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) for his leadership. This country is united and determined to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina. By passing this important bill, we can quickly move refunds into the hands of families and businesses that have worked hard and paid their taxes.

I do want to provide and share with my colleagues a report that the New York delegation, under the leadership of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and others, developed for our gulf coast colleagues that outlines the experiences that we had, the challenges that we had in the recovery process in our efforts to help New Yorkers.

I thank this body for their swift and committed help in helping New Yorkers. But despite the efforts of our entire delegation to get a report about what exactly happened in the seven tax benefit programs that came into New York, we asked for a GAO report, again under the leadership of the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and others, and they have told us that they do not track this information and do not have any information on whether the tax benefits were used, who they went to, or if anyone even benefited from them.

I share that experience with my colleagues so they might want to add to the legislation, if it is not already in it, that there be a mandate that the impact of what we are trying to do to help people in fact is tracked when we are spending, or may spend, billions of dollars. The taxpayers, the victims, and this body deserve an accurate tracking of what exactly happened and if our intentions to help people really was realized in dollars in their pockets and dollars in economic development. I want to share with my colleagues from the gulf region this report.

Our recovery in New York is still ongoing 4 years afterwards. I hope we are not here 4 years from now waving a similar report from Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama trying to find out what happened with the efforts that I truly support today to help families and victims of Hurricane Katrina, and I strongly support this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, anyone interested in viewing the reports mentioned in my speech please visit my website at www.house.gov/maloney.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I will vote for this bill; but I have to hand it to this administration, they want to lower your taxes so earnestly that they will even lower your wages to do it.

Through an executive order, the President lowered the wages workers will be paid to rebuild the hurricane-affected region. He suspended the Davis-Bacon Act, a 74-year-old law which requires that companies receiving Federal contracts pay the average wage to employees hired to perform those Federal contracts. With smaller incomes, workers will pay less.

But corporate income, unlike worker incomes, will rise. The corporate contractors will be able to keep more of the contract for themselves through a combination of setting lower wages for workers and receiving tax exemptions under the provisions of H.R. 3768. Suspension of the Davis-Bacon Act will give contractors unprecedented power to set wages. That is because the hurricane destroyed the labor market in the region. Nearly everyone is out of work; nearly everyone needs a job. After losing everything, how many people will be able to hold out for higher wages? Not many.

Thus, labor market forces will not determine wages. Instead, hurricane victims and workers who may be brought into the region are at the mercy of Halliburton and Fluor corporations, just to name a couple contractors who have won or will win construction contracts in hurricane reconstruction and which will dictate wage levels.

The bottom line is this: hurricane tax relief means one thing if you are a hurricane victim and another if you a corporate contractor receiving Federal funds to rebuild the hurricane-affected region. Tax relief for hurricane victims will primarily take the form of paying less taxes on smaller wages. But tax relief means something very different to the corporate contractors. They will be paying less taxes on increased income.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. JONES), an outstanding member of the Committee on Ways and Means.

Mrs. JONES of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I would like to compliment both the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) on the work they have done on this legislation.

I introduced a piece of legislation. This bill's number is H.R. 3768, mine is H.R. 3769. I hope as we go through the process you would take a look at the legislation that I have. The legislation I have has two of the same provisions, the temporary housing tax credit as well as the work opportunity tax credit for Hurricane Katrina victims.

But I would ask Members to consider expanding the low-income tax credit to assist Katrina victims in obtaining affordable housing. This legislation would make the following changes to low-income housing tax credit. It will double the housing tax credit authority for Louisiana, Mississippi, and Alabama for 2006 and 2007 to $3.70 times State population. The current cap is $1.85.

It would extend difficult development area designation to Federal disaster areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida through 2007. The difficult development areas are currently those areas with high construction land and utility costs because of their location. In DDAs, the tax credit is based on 130 percent of the project's total cost instead of the normal 100 percent, providing an incentive to developers to invest in these most-distressed areas.

This legislation will make affordable housing projects in Federal disaster areas in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida eligible for the DDA designation and the basis boost, increasing investment and economic development in the region.

It would also waive the national pool ''full subscription'' requirement for Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama, and Florida through 2007. Currently, the low-income housing tax credit not used by States is added to a national pool. The tax credit in that national pool is then distributed to those States that apply for the excess credits. However, to be eligible for those credits, a State must have used all of its previously allocated tax credits, or full subscription.

This legislation waives the requirement for Louisiana, Alabama, Mississippi, and Florida. I would hope that you would take a look at this piece of legislation because I think it will also help Katrina victims.

Last, I would ask you to consider giving them a home buyer tax credit that would encourage people from these States to go back to the States where they lived and they would get a $5,000 tax credit to rebuild a new home in those communities. I support this legislation. I would encourage you to consider the two areas that I mentioned.

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

I want to congratulate the gentlewoman from Ohio, a distinguished member of the Committee on Ways and Means for coming up with some good ideas to assist in getting people back home and into housing. Her ideas are on a list that we are examining. I am very attracted to the substance of her ideas on this matter.

I cannot guarantee that it is going to be in future legislation; but it is something that I am looking at very closely, as are others on the committee, including the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), I am sure. I think we will be able to get together on some of the gentlewoman's comments. I thank the gentlewoman for her assistance in helping us put together even more legislation following today's bill to help those folks get back home.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2½ minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. EMANUEL).

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, I want to commend the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS); the ranking member, the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL); and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) for working on a bipartisan basis to bring this legislation to the floor. It will go a long ways towards helping the 1.3 million families devastated by Hurricane Katrina.

I am especially pleased that this bill prevents the loss of tax benefits, like the earned income tax credit and the child credit, by reason of job loss or relocation due to Hurricane Katrina. I believe, as I have talked on the floor, that we can do more in this area.

I hope in the future tax bills that we look at, we will consider legislation introduced by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LEWIS), the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELACON), and I to immediately fast track the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit refunds earned by working families so they receive them now rather than later.

Many constituents of the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELACON) have lost their belongings and their homes. Others have been left destitute with nothing more than the clothes on their backs. The Federal Government can respond as they have in past instances, advancing the refunds that Hurricane Katrina victims have earned. By taking these steps, we can fast track the refunds to families that have worked, paid taxes and earned them, all the while stimulating local economies. It is a win-win for those families and communities in America.

I would like to draw attention to the Congressional Research Service that on Monday issued a report entitled ''Tax Policy Options After Hurricane Katrina.'' The study says that measures directed at the earned income tax credit and refundable child credits are the best ways to stimulate the local economy.

I understand that the gentleman from California (Chairman THOMAS) and the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) plan to introduce a third Hurricane Katrina tax bill in the coming weeks. I hope that they look at this report just issued on Monday by the Congressional Research Service that this would be the best way to help families and local communities through fast-tracking the earned income tax credits and the refundable child credit.

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

□ 1300

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the esteemed ranking member for yielding me this time, and I thank the sponsor of this legislation and the bipartisan effort that has been offered here today.

Mr. Speaker, as the Members well know, Hurricane Rita is fast approaching the gulf coast again. My own community of Galveston, Houston, and other surrounding areas that many of us represent is about to face the unknown, and it is important for the face of Congress today to be bipartisan.

I want to congratulate the gentleman from New York (Mr. RANGEL), the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY), and all of the supporters, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JEFFERSON), all who have lived this in a very unique and special way.

But as we move toward this legislation, might I reinforce some concepts that are so very important, particularly if the New Orleans region is hit again and the tragedy of the levees again spills water into that region, we want to go forward in the reconstruction in a bipartisan way. We want Members and local leaders to be consulted. We also want regional development authorities to be developed. And, particularly, as I was asked today, we want an inspector general or a recovery czar to make sure that, as we give tax relief, that we also give dollars for reconstruction. These dollars will be used effectively and invested not only in the large corporations, the standard bearers of Rebuild America that have gone on to Iraq and other places, but let us put those dollars that will help rebuild small businesses in the hands of small businesses, minority-owned businesses and women-owned businesses. Let us make sure that the relief that has been given impacts individuals in their properties that still exist in New Orleans, for example, although under water. The physical structure of the house may be leveled, but they will need to have the tax benefits so that they can make sure that they are able to rebuild.

This legislation, for example, exempts income from forgiveness of debt from tax. It prevents loss of tax benefits such as the earned income tax credit, waives the 10 percent penalty on early distributions from retirement plans, provides the work opportunity tax credit, and many others. It also deals with the charitable incentives that will allow people to give.

But I think the main point is we are still facing the forward road. It is time to work together for the rebuilding of the region and to prepare us for whatever the results are of Hurricane Rita.

May God bless those in Houston and the surrounding areas and those who will be facing this horrible storm. May they know that we are focused on their work and on their future. May God bless them, and our prayers are with them.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 454.

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. RANGEL. 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 and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

Accordingly (at 1 o'clock and 3 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess subject to the call of the Chair.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) at 1 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the house by Ms. Wanda Evans, one of his secretaries.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

H. Res. 451, de novo;

H.J. Res. 61, by the yeas and nays;

H. Res. 454, by the yeas and nays.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Remaining electronic votes will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 250, MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question on agreeing to House Resolution 451 on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 222, nays 198, not voting 13, as follows:

[Roll No. 478]

YEAS—222

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—198

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOT VOTING—13

Barton (TX)
Boswell
Buyer
Camp
DeLay
Doolittle
Hefley
Kind
Linder
McKinney
Ortiz
Towns
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in the vote.

□ 1354

Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HOLT and Mr. ROSS changed their vote from ''yea'' to ''nay.''

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.

SUPPORTING GOLD STAR MOTHERS DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and passing the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 61.

The Clerk read the title of the joint 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 pass the joint resolution, H.J. Res. 61, 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 419, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 479]

YEAS—419

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Bean
Beauprez
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
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
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
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
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
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)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
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)
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
Millender-McDonald
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
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
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
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—14

Barton (TX)
Becerra
Boswell
Camp
DeLay
Doolittle
Fossella
Hefley
Kind
Linder
Ortiz
Sanders
Towns
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1402

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the joint resolution was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. FOSSELLA. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 479 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

Mr. BECERRA. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, September 21, 2005, I was unable to cast my floor vote on rollcall 479. The vote I missed was a motion to suspend the rules and pass H.J. Res. 61, supporting the goals and ideals of Gold Star Mothers Day.

Had I been present for the vote, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall 479.

PROVIDING FOR CONCURRENCE BY HOUSE WITH AMENDMENT IN SENATE AMENDMENT TO H.R. 3768, KATRINA EMERGENCY TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 454.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MCCRERY) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 454, 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 422, nays 0, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 480]

YEAS—422

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
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
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
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
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
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
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
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)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
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)
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
Millender-McDonald
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
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
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
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Tierney
Turner
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Upton
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Barton (TX)
Boswell
Camp
DeLay
Doolittle
Hefley
Kind
Linder
Ortiz
Towns
Weller

□ 1412

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.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BOEHLERT. 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. 250, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

MANUFACTURING TECHNOLOGY COMPETITIVENESS ACT OF 2005

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 451 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 250.

□ 1414

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 250) to establish an interagency committee to coordinate Federal manufacturing research and development efforts in manufacturing, strengthen existing programs to assist manufacturing innovation and education, and expand outreach programs for small and medium-sized manufacturers, and for other purposes, with Mrs. CAPITO in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

Under the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

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

I rise in support of H.R. 250, and I want to congratulate the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) and all the members of the Committee on Science on both sides of the aisle who contributed so significantly to this bill; but before I begin to speak about the bill, let me say something about the rule because I was not available to participate in the debate.

□ 1415

The Committee on Rules acted reasonably, following my request, for not making the amendments on the Advanced Technology Program in order. We did debate ATP fully in committee. I suspect we will debate ATP again during a motion to recommit. This is not a subject on which anyone has been denied process.

But our goal with this bill is to improve the lot of American manufacturers. ATP is a controversial issue that will weigh down the progress on this bill. There is no reason for that to happen. We ought to debate this bill on its merits, which are not contested, and then handle ATP separately. I support ATP. I helped create the program. I will work with the appropriators to try to keep it funded. But I also support this bill, and I see no reason to kill this important bill to allow a political debate on ATP.

Now, let me turn to the bill we are actually debating. This bill passed the House by voice vote last year, and this time around we should have enough to get time to get this measure to the President's desk. I expect another strong show of support from the House today.

It is easy to see why this bill has garnered such overwhelming support. It deals with a real problem by bolstering successful programs and authorizing innovative new approaches based on those programs. The problem the bill addresses is the decline of U.S. manufacturing. Our Nation needs a diverse economy, and that economy must include manufacturing. We cannot be wholly dependent on others for the goods that enable American families and American businesses to function. Manufacturing provides high-paying jobs and helps us hone our technical edge. Yet the signs of manufacturing decline are all about us.

So what can we do? Well, for starters, we can be sure we are adequately funding programs that have already proven themselves successful at helping domestic manufacturers. This bill does that by authorizing funding for the laboratories of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, for its Manufacturing Extension Partnership, and for the Advanced Technology Education program of the National Science Foundation.

All these programs have proven track records. NIST, the Nation's oldest Federal laboratory, has long been a reliable partner of the private sector, conducting research needed to keep American industry at the cutting edge of technology. The MEP program, which provides technical assistance to small- and medium-sized manufacturers, has helped ensure that smaller businesses can apply the latest advances in technology and manufacturing know-how. Every study of this popular program has found that it has saved and created new jobs. And the ATE program has channeled critical funding to community colleges to enable the U.S. to have the technical workforce we need to retain manufacturing jobs. So this bill targets money to programs that have truly made a difference in helping American manufacturing.

But we cannot rest on our laurels, because the U.S. manufacturing sector is still not as robust as we would like. So while being mindful of fiscal constraints, and we have to be mindful of that, our bill authorizes pilot efforts to see if programs like MEP can be made even more effective. We create a program that would bring manufacturers and universities together to conduct research on specific problems of concern to manufacturers. We create fellowships to encourage more students to pursue research in areas related to manufacturing. In short, this is a targeted, practical bill that will provide real assistance to the Nation's manufacturers.

For that reason, the bill is endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturers, and I urge my colleagues to continue their overwhelming bipartisan support for this meritorious bill.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Chairman, the bill we have before us today is, in essence, an authorization for the National Institute of Standards and Technology. H.R. 250 authorizes all of NIST programs, except for the Advanced Technology Program.

I strongly support NIST and realize the importance of all its programs to the U.S. industrial sector. Dollar for dollar, NIST represents an excellent return for the investment to the American taxpayer in terms of its impact on our economy. However, H.R. 250 purports to be a bill to help the U.S. manufacturing base and to stimulate innovation. Unfortunately, H.R. 250 falls far short of these goals.

U.S. manufacturing is facing a crisis. Since 2001, we have lost 2.8 million

manufacturing jobs. While there is bipartisan agreement that we need to retain our high-skill, high-wage manufacturing jobs, this crisis has received little attention from the administration or Congress.

What we have today is a missed opportunity. Even within the bill's scope, H.R. 250 does little to address education or workforce training. For example, the only NIST program not included in this legislation is, once again, the Advanced Technology Program. The ATP is one NIST program designed to bridge the gap between basic research and proof of concept. Currently, almost one-third of all ATP projects focus on some aspect of manufacturing.

Long before the National Nanotechnology Initiative, with its hundreds of millions of Federal dollars to support nanotechnology research, ATP had already supported successful nanotechnology projects. An early nanotech project resulted in one of the earliest commercial successes. Currently, 10 percent of ATP projects are in the field of nanotechnology, representing a public-private investment of over $170 million. Time and again witnesses have appeared before the Committee on Science recommending that ATP be fully funded.

Just last month, at the Committee on Science hearing on innovation, high-level business experts recommended that ATP be fully funded. As my chairman knows, the National Governors Association supports it, the National Association of Manufacturers, and the ITAA. It makes no sense that a bill whose goal it is to bolster manufacturing competitiveness and innovation does not include ATP funding.

In closing, I will vote for H.R. 250, but I am sorely disappointed that H.R. 250 does so little to rebuild the U.S. manufacturing base. And let me also conclude with this, Madam Chairman. My chairman spoke earlier about how we had already debated ATP; that we have had a chance. The committee debated ATP, but we did not have a chance on this floor. Why in the world should we not take every type of Democrat, Republican, and independent suggestion to help our manufacturing base? I would like to pose that question.

Also, and correct me if I am wrong, but I do not think a single person has come before our committee and said that the ATP program is not important, not as good, and does not create jobs. The idea that, well, let us not put it on here because it might weigh the bill down and the President may not like this, well, we know the President does not like it. But the fact of the matter is that the Senate has already appropriated money for it. Last week, the Senate voted 2 to 1 to reject taking it out, so why can the House of Representatives not stand up here also and get a majority vote, which we will get on the ATP program, which is a good program and would make H.R. 250 really a bill worth doing.

Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I yield 6 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), the very distinguished author of this bill. And I say that with some reservations, because as is the habit of the Committee on Science, bills are reported out after very thorough and complete consultation with the minority, and so a lot of fingerprints are all over the bill. But the driving force behind this very important legislation is my distinguished colleague from Michigan.

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and I rise today in strong support of H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act.

This bill is essentially the same bill that I authored and which the House passed in July 2004. Unfortunately, the Senate did not take up the legislation because of a dispute involving the ATP program, so the bill died in the Senate. I am hopeful that this time the bill will make it all the way through the process and be signed into law by the President.

The goal of my legislation is simple: It is to help small- and medium-sized manufacturers be more competitive in the global marketplace. However, my passion for this issue is not related or restricted just to manufacturing. For some 20 years, I have been speaking out about the need for a better technology transfer system in this country, and repeatedly throughout that time I have used an existing system as a model; that existing program is the cooperative extension service in the Department of Agriculture.

I was amazed, when I was in the State legislature in Michigan, to learn that a new discovery made in the labs of Michigan State University one year was used by the farmers in the field the next year. That is a model of tech transfer that is worth copying. That is partly what this bill attempts to do, to strengthen a manufacturing extension service. I believe it is absolutely essential for us to do this. It is even more essential for us to fund it appropriately.

For those who have objected to the money authorized in this bill, I would simply remind them that every year, without the blink of an eye or a single question, this Congress appropriates over $400 million for the agricultural extension service, which serves an industry which is very, very important but employs less than 2 percent of the people in this country. In view of that, I have always been troubled why it is so difficult for us to find $100 million to help a manufacturing industry that employs 14 to 15 percent of the workers in this country.

Grand Rapids, Michigan, my hometown, like other communities all over the U.S., has been struggling with multiple threats to its industries. Globalization is rapidly changing the way business is done, and our small- and medium-sized firms in particular are at the mercy of this process and the exposure to the increased competition that it brings. As the Congressman from Grand Rapids, I wanted to do what I could to help these small but important firms.

In talking to manufacturers in my district, one thing was clear: They said that the MEP program was a tremendously important program in helping them remain competitive. MEP has over 350 manufacturing extension offices located in all 50 States and Puerto Rico. These centers provide small manufacturers with tools and assistance in how to increase productivity and efficiency.

For example, the Michigan MEP center in Grand Rapids, known as the Right Place program, helped a struggling company, Wolverine Coil Spring, to develop more efficient packaging and auditing systems, and in this case turned it into a very successful company.

In the fiscal year 2004 appropriation, Congress cut funding from $106 million in fiscal year 2003 to $39 million in 2004. This limited funding caused many centers to lay off people and cut back their services. Fortunately, Congress has now restored their funding in the current fiscal year and the program has recovered. I am pleased that this year both House and Senate Appropriation Committees are recommending appropriate funding.

Another major concern that has been raised is the increasing technological advances being made by other countries. For our firms to compete today and in the future, we need more research and development into how to manufacture things better, faster, and cheaper, and that is also handled in this bill.

With all these thoughts in mind, I developed this bill, which will specifically:

Authorize the MEP program at $110 million to ensure all centers remain open and provide additional ways for MEP to help small- and medium-sized manufacturers by establishing a competitive grant program for the centers;

Ensure that Federal agencies will coordinate their programs related to manufacturing R&D and target them on concerns that matter most to industry; help industry improve their manufacturing processes and technology by establishing a pilot grant program that would fund joint efforts by universities and industry to solve problems in manufacturing technology;

Authorize the laboratory programs at the National Institute for Standards and Technology, better known as NIST, which provide critical research and standards for most of our industries;

And train more students and senior researchers in the manufacturing sciences, and provide technology training programs for future manufacturing workers by establishing postdoctoral and senior research fellowships at

NIST. It will also increase support for the Advanced Technological Education program (ATE) at the National Science Foundation.

This legislation has received widespread and bipartisan support. I note that the National Association of Manufacturers, the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, and the National Coalition for Advanced Manufacturing, just to name a few, all support this legislation.

□ 1430

I also want to thank my colleagues on the Committee on Appropriations, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WOLF) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KNOLLENBERG), for their help in providing the program with $106 million in the next fiscal year budget.

As I said from the beginning, my goal was to develop legislation that would help our small manufacturers better compete in the global marketplace, and H.R. 250 does just that.

I want to conclude by thanking the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU), the ranking member of my subcommittee, and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), the ranking member of the full committee, for their help and input throughout this process; and especially I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) for his unwavering commitment to help move this legislation through Congress and get it signed into law.

I strongly urge all of my colleagues to support their small and medium-sized manufacturers by supporting this bill.

Mr. GORDON. Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Maine (Mr. MICHAUD).

Mr. MICHAUD. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act because this legislation will take some small steps to help strengthen manufacturing technology and education. It will help small and medium-sized manufacturing in Maine by authorizing $2.1 billion for various activities intended to improve the competitiveness of our businesses.

Maine's manufacturing economy has been hard hit in recent years. Since the passage of NAFTA, Maine has lost over 24,000 manufacturing jobs. Job loss is all too familiar to too many Mainers.

During my first term in office after I was sworn in as a Member of Congress, I learned that the mill where I worked for over 28 years was closing its doors. It is the mill my father worked at for 43 years, my grandfather for 40 years, as did a lot of friends and neighbors. The region was devastated.

It is time to turn this economy around for all the mills all across the country. As a member of the House Manufacturing Task Force and Manufacturing Caucus, I have been working hard to promote Federal opportunities for businesses and nonprofit centers. I am also a strong supporter of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. I am glad to see that MEP gets some funding in this bill even though they deserve more after years of proposed cuts by this administration.

Madam Chairman, the fact is that this should only be a start. I believe this bill is a small step in the right direction, but our Nation is facing a massive loss of manufacturing jobs and businesses. We should pass this bill today; but if we let this be the only thing that we do to help manufacturing this year, then Congress has failed and our businesses and our workers will lose out.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO), one of the most outspoken and effective advocates for manufacturing.

Mr. MANZULLO. Madam Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 250. I want to thank the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) for his leadership on the bill and commend the gentleman from Michigan (Chairman EHLERS) for introducing legislation that is so vital to the future of manufacturing in our country.

Recently, I met with a representative of Honeywell Federal Manufacturing & Technologies out of Kansas City. He discussed his research and development activities on micromechanical parts, such as gears and other smaller devices. This work is very similar to that performed at the EIGERlab which is also a Federal micro-manufacturing research and development facility that I recently helped establish in the district I represent.

EIGERlab has attracted a collection of scientists and researchers and has already proven to be a valuable center for advanced manufacturing R&D. H.R. 250 would help decentralize and streamline this type of manufacturing research so that efforts and duplication would be minimized, helping to ensure that American manufacturers can not only stay competitive, but thrive. The Kansas City facility uses a German process similar to an EDM wire. The EIGERlab uses a milling process, both making gears the size of Lincoln's nose on a Lincoln penny.

H.R. 250 also provides robust authorizations for numerous manufacturing initiatives, including the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, which is quite active in the area that I represent.

Steve Yagle, the president of Reliable Machine Company in Rockford, Illinois said ''the training he received from IMEC has made Reliable more profitable, higher level of quality to our customers, increased our efficiency to be competitive,'' and, ''from this will be job creation, and a plan to handle company development as we grow.''

As we can see, funding programs like MEP are vital to helping our small manufacturers. I spend 75 to 80 percent of my time in Congress working on manufacturing issues, traveling the country and looking at new machines and new manufacturing processes. The American manufacturer needs as much help as he can get. H.R. 250 goes a long way, and I would urge its passage.

Mr. GORDON. Madam Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PASCRELL).

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Chairman, I thank the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON), the ranking member, and the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT). I rise to express my support for a comprehensive Federal manufacturing policy. I have been calling for this for at least 10 years. This is necessary. This is important.

This bill is doing more today to stimulate the economy than anyone realizes. We have been gimmicked on both sides of the aisle about how we are going to get people back to work. This is real. This is not reality TV. I want to associate myself with the words of my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS). He has hit the nail on the head. If we do not deal with this now, we will be so far behind we will never be able to catch up.

Members have to admit, not here on the floor, of course, that the manufacturing czar was a joke, was an absolute joke. I am not impressed with the fact that the National Association of Manufacturers supports this bill because they were at the throttle when New Jersey lost 40 percent of its manufacturing jobs since 1990. They were there as the guardians, and they did absolutely nothing, zero.

The Larson amendment, which will be offered later, would create a meaningful Under Secretary of manufacturing and technology. I plead with Members, I think this is a good move, not a bureaucratic move. I think it is important that we send a message to the entire Congress of the United States.

I am a native of Paterson, with one T, New Jersey. The gentleman has one in New York with two T's. I deeply understand the value of working with one's hands and the value that a manufacturing base can bring to individual communities. Paterson was founded by none other than Alexander Hamilton. It is interesting, as a Democrat I became a Hamiltonian.

Looking back, we find that things have not changed so much in the past 2 centuries. In his day, Hamilton urged Congress to promote manufacturing so the United States could be independent of other nations for military and other essential supplies. Once we have lost the manufacturing apparatus, our ability even to manufacture weapons, weapons, diminishes. God forbid if we ever get to that point, but we are talking about two gentlemen here. What you are talking about is critical, very critical to the economic base of this Nation. Unfortunately, a lot of the meeting is not listening because this is not a sexy enough subject. It is only about jobs.

Hamilton also rightly foresaw the importance of a diversified economy. Remember the battle with Jefferson?

Jefferson wanted to continue this as an agrarian society for the rest of the 18th and 19th centuries. It was impossible. We need a diversified economy. We cannot rely solely on an agrarian economy, and we cannot rely on the service sector. That has not worked.

As I said, we have lost over 40 percent of our jobs. New Jersey, New England, the Midwest, the whole Nation needs a manufacturing administration to step up to the plate, to focus on the ways we can keep a thriving manufacturing sector from all angles. I think this is important to homeland security. We need to discuss that more often.

We must have an agency dedicated to addressing some of our failed trade policies and the outsourcing of American jobs. Some of that outsourcing is good. Some of it is horrible. Service jobs, such as part-timing the American working force, and even we are paying for the folks that work at Wal-Mart whether they are full-time or part-time. We are picking up their medical services. This is a cost to the taxpayers of this country never mentioned. The middle class is paying for health services for these people. The loss of manufacturing jobs is leading to an erosion of the middle class with more families seeing their salaries and quality of life decrease.

This bill does some very good things. I ask that we support the amendments that are going to be put forward and also the Larson amendment. Let us make the bill a little better, and I want to thank the chairman and the ranking member. They are ahead of their time, but we need to catch up with what has happened in the past 20 years.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HART), who is a leader in the manufacturing and steel caucuses, and so many other caucuses that are involved with protecting American jobs and growing American jobs.

Ms. HART. Madam Chairman, I thank the chairman for his kind words and for recognizing me on this bill and for his continued support of manufacturing technology and advancements for our manufacturers so they can compete effectively.

I also am pleased that the ranking member and the subcommittee chairman also support this moving forward because H.R. 250 supports a number of important initiatives that will help American manufacturers be more competitive in the world economy. We live in a real world, a world economy.

One of the provisions in this bill that is most important to that competition is the reauthorization of the MEP, Manufacturing Extension Partnership.

MEP makes it possible for even the smallest firms to tap into expertise and knowledge that they could not afford on their own. Each center, such as Catalyst Connection in Pittsburgh, works directly with area manufacturers to provide expertise as well as services tailored to the most critical needs of these manufacturers. The organization provides a wide variety of assistance. Some examples are process improvements, worker training, business practices, and applications of information technology.

Many of these items are required for firms to be competitive in today's market. Small manufacturers are the driving force behind our U.S. economy, and increasing productivity and job creation in this sector is critical.

In fact, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, which manages this program, recently showed positive results nationwide. In a single year, MEP clients reported a $2.8 billion increase in sales. They have hired new workers and retained 35,000 workers; experienced $681 million in cost savings; and $941 million in plant and equipment investments have been made.

Last month I visited Sharon Custom Metal Forming in Farrell, Pennsylvania, and met with management and employees of this country. One of the issues they highlighted was how their utilization of MEP has improved their business and made them more competitive. They are not alone. That happens all over my district, and continuing to fund this program means we will continue to give our entrepreneurs and small business people a competitive edge that will help them to continue to succeed in today's global market.

Mr. GORDON. Madam Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), who is one of the Members who gets it, who understands how important it is to protect our manufacturing base.

Mr. DENT. Madam Chairman, I rise today to speak in support of H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act. Promotion of manufacturing technologies has traditionally been a key to wealth creation in this country. Manufacturing a better product, from automobiles to chemicals to computers to airplanes, has provided the means for this country to become the wealthiest in the history of the world.

As we enter the 21st century, our challenge to remain competitive becomes even more difficult. H.R. 250 provides many tools that will help us meet this challenge. For one thing, it reauthorizes funding for MEP. This is a highly successful program which has just been discussed. It brings together businesses and consultants and provides technical expertise for manufacturing and marketing in those particular businesses. In doing this, it helps small manufacturers improve performance, productivity and helps them remain competitive.

In my congressional district, the MEP has provided assistance to the Manufacturers Resource Center located at Lehigh University, which is a State-funded program. I should also mention we have the highly successful and critically acclaimed Ben Franklin Technology Development Authority, which I served on for many years, along with the NRC board at the State level.

I can tell Members firsthand that those programs have provided tremendous support to people in my community. I can give Members specific examples that are not far from home. I can take Members to Apollo Metals in the city of Bethlehem. There are about 125 people at Apollo Metals. They have become more productive as a result of the assistance they have received through this Manufacturers Resource Center.

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In fact, I will just read a testimonial. ''We will be implementing the changes recommended by the Manufacturers Resource Center and looking forward to our improved ability to add to our already excellent customer service by shortening lead times, improving the customers' ability to get information in a timely fashion, and in maintaining our cost competitiveness.'' And that is from their president.

I can also point to Solartech, another company in my district. Those solar panels we see on the road that tell us to slow down, tell us what the traffic conditions are, a small company of about 100 people in my district exports, again assisted by these particular operations.

I urge adoption of this bill.

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

Madam Chairman, let me sincerely say that I do not think anybody in the United States Congress serves with a better chairman than I do, with the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT). I also sincerely believe that there is not a more constructive voice on the Committee on Science than the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), and I want to thank them for really bucking the President and helping us to work to save the MEP program. It was important.

But I still have to say I am disappointed in this bill. I am disappointed that it is a missed opportunity. I am going to have to go home this weekend, and I am going to see folks as I travel around the district, as always, that are going to tell me they have lost their job, some with tears in their eyes. They are going to say, What can you do to help us? I am going to tell them we passed H.R. 250. But I am going to do so embarrassed, embarrassed that we did not do all that we could do.

It has been said before and I will say it again. The ATP program is a proven job-creating program. It is endorsed by the National Governors Association. It is endorsed by the National Association of Manufacturing. We had not one single witness before our committee to say it is not a good bill. The only thing that we said is that we cannot add this, we cannot even vote on it because the President might veto this bill, and we

had better have a little bit than the best we can.

The fact of the matter is that the other body has already voted money for the ATP program. Last week the other body voted down, more than 2 to 1, an amendment to do away with the program. And we have a President who in almost 5 years has never vetoed a single bill. I think that is a record, an historic record. Yet we are afraid to do our best when our constituents are losing their jobs left and right because of offshoring.

I am going to vote for this bill, but I am going to do so, and be embarrassed when I go home this weekend, that we did not do the best job we could.

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

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

Before I close on a bill that we can all be proud of, Republicans and Democrats alike, I want to thank the staff on both sides of the aisle who have worked on this bill over the past several years, including, not exclusive, but including Olwen Huxley and Amy Carroll, and particularly Eric Webster of our committee staff.

I want to give special thanks to Mr. Webster, who is leaving the Hill this week, after 12 years, to join the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. We are sure Mr. Webster will be just as effective at prodding NOAA from the inside as he has been for us, and that is very effective. We will sorely miss Eric Webster, who started in my office several years ago as an intern and became our top legislative assistant and also worked for the very distinguished gentleman from Maryland (Mr. GILCHREST) as legislative director before coming to the Committee on Science. He has added immeasurably to the products that we have produced in our committee, and all of us want to thank him for his efforts. And we want to wish him, his wife Natalie, and daughter Gabriella, all the best as they go forward in this new chapter in the continuing saga of ''Eric Webster Comes to Washington.''

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of this bill even though we have missed an opportunity to improve upon it.

While I am pleased that we are providing an authorization for the National Institute of Standards and Technology and supporting the vital MEP program, this bill falls short by failing to authorize the Advanced Technology Partnership, ATP.

I am also disappointed that this body did not pass my amendment increasing funding for the Advanced Technological Education program. ATE works with community colleges and industry to assure that students entering the workforce have the skills they need to be competitive. A technologically trained workforce is vital to strong manufacturing and technological industries, and ATE directly impacts the workforce.

We have heard over and over again today the need to better support our manufacturing industry. And I believe there are portions of this bill that make important strides in that direction. For example, this bill includes authorizing the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, program at $110 million for FY06. MEP provides vital support to small manufacturing companies in our country to remain successful and competitive in a global market. These small manufacturing companies make up 98 percent of the manufacturing industry in this country, yet they are continually struggling and jobs are being lost. MEP centers works directly with local manufacturers to provide expertise and services tailored to their most critical needs, which range from process improvements and worker training to business practices and information technology applications. This is a Federal, State, and private-sector partnership where every Federal dollar leverages two dollars in state and private-sector funding. A small Federal investment leverages billions of dollars in benefits for the economy in terms of jobs created and retained, investment and sales.

This bill also provides authorization numbers for the construction and maintenance of NIST facilities. The urgency of this is shown by the facilities in my district, which are 50 plus years old and in need of maintenance. These authorization levels will allow NIST to upgrade these facilities to ensure they continue to perform cutting edge research.

While this bill widely supports MEP it leaves behind another highly successful program, ATP. We have continually heard the majority express their support for this program, but time and time again they have not taken the opportunity to fund it. During the markup of this bill in the Science Committee Mr. HONDA offered a similar amendment to the one he offered before the Rules Committee. His amendment had the same authorization levels that were upheld in the Senate a week ago. Unfortunately, the majority did not support it. When I offered an amendment to fund current ATP projects through completion and cover close-out costs, Chairman BOEHLERT indicated that my amendment would mean that we have ''given up on ATP.'' But what I see is that the Republican majority supports this important program with words, rather than deeds. I was hopeful that we would agree with the Senate and support ATP aggressively since the program has proven to be effective. Now we must look to the Senate to improve this bill.

Madam Chairman, though we face a tough budgetary future we need to realign our priorities to provide the foundation for our economy to grow. We no longer have the luxury of only competing with ourselves. Countries across the globe have the skills, knowledge, and workforce to compete in manufacturing and technological innovation. At the same time, we are witnessing in this country a decline in science and math graduates, below average test scores in math, and jobs continually being moved overseas.

While this bill does improve upon the current situation, it in no way solves enough to truly invigorate our manufacturing industry. We need to truly support research and development, science and math education, and workforce training.

So Madam Chairman, it is with disappointment that I support this bill. It is a modest and narrow effort to support this country's manufacturing base, but it is better than nothing in terms of supporting manufacturing.

Mr. CASTLE. Madam Chairman, I rise today to strongly support swift passage of this legislation. I thank Representative EHLERS and Chairman BOEHLERT for their work on this important measure. I would like to highlight the success of The Delaware Manufacturing Extension Partnership, DEMEP, in its contributions to manufacturing across the First State.

The Federal funding Delaware MEP receives through the national MEP program has helped them to develop the resources necessary to contribute to the success of Delaware's small and medium-sized manufacturers in improving their global competitiveness. By identifying, transferring, and implementing appropriate best practices, Delaware MEP has helped manufacturers to substantially improve their quality, productivity, and profitability.

The manufacturing sector in Delaware is dealing with the same burdens that are affecting all U.S. manufacturers—rising costs of labor, health care, energy, and regulatory compliance. The Delaware MEP exists to strengthen local manufacturers by assisting them in dealing with these important issues. Of the 60 MEP centers in the U.S. and Puerto Rico, the Delaware MEP ranks No. 1 in impact to Client's bottom line dollars generated per Federal dollar invested, meaning $65.08 for every $1 invested in 2004; and they rank No. 2 in customer satisfaction. Additionally, the Delaware MEP helped retain or create 1,020 jobs in Delaware in 2003.

The Delaware MEP offers Delaware manufacturers a variety of public seminars and workshops, as well as confidential management assistance to help companies improve their competitiveness. Programs include: the Lean Enterprises program to support growth by enhancing work processes; the Quality Management program that ensures consistent product quality and minimizes waste; and the Driving Revenue Growth program to increase sales using marketing strategies. Programs such as these have helped Delaware companies record significant improvements in productivity and profitability while decreasing waste.

In its 11th year of service, Delaware MEP has successfully strengthened competitiveness, improved productivity, and increased profits for Delaware manufacturers by guiding them in the implementation of best practices.

The Delaware MEP will continue to work with its many local, regional, and national partners—including the United States Department of Commerce, National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, the Delaware Office of Economic Development, DEDO, Delaware Technical and Community College, and the Delaware State and local Chambers of Commerce—to bring innovative programs to Delaware manufacturers to serve their competitive needs and to help them compete and prosper.

Madam Chairman, these programs will continue to support manufacturing in Delaware and in the United States, contributing greatly to job creation and a stronger economy. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Madam Chairman, I rise in strong support of H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005. First allow me to congratulate my colleague from Michigan for his hard work in bringing this bill to the floor of the House today. He has been an important champion for manufacturing and this bill is a great example.

American businesses and workers are the most productive in the world. However, because of massive global competition and increasing non-direct costs, our manufacturers are under severe pressure. In many cases these businesses are being forced to deliver their products at constant or even lower prices in order to get their products sold.

At the same time, the costs of inputs they cannot directly control like health care, litigation, raw materials, energy, and many others are increasing. These trends are squeezing the industry incredibly hard.

Manufacturers throughout the country are reacting to this environment by taking the steps they can to become even more efficient and competitive. And they're continually making progress.

While American manufacturers are taking the steps they need to take, it's important for the government to look at appropriate ways we can help. Technology is an area where the federal government has an enormous impact. This bill includes some important steps forward in enhancing American manufacturing technology.

H.R. 250 provides grants, encourages scholarship and strengthens the Manufacturing Extension Partnership. MEP is an important Federal program that has had a documented positive impact on our manufacturing sector, and which is particularly vital to our small and medium-sized manufacturers.

As many Members of Congress know, MEP is a Federal-State-private network of over 60 centers with 400 locations in all 50 States. These not-for-profit centers work with small and medium-sized manufacturers to help them adopt and use the latest and most efficient technologies, processes, and business practices.

The results of MEP speak for themselves. In fiscal year 2003 alone, MEP served more than 18,000 manufacturers nationwide. Those manufacturers reported an additional $2.6 billion in sales, $686 million more in cost savings, $912 million of additional investment in plant modernization, and more than 50,000 more jobs just as a result of their projects with MEP Centers that year. Additionally, an estimate of the federal return on our investment in MEP Centers is $4 in Federal tax revenue for every $1 invested in the program.

Madam Chairman, for all these reasons, it is important for Congress to pass this bill. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting American manufacturing by supporting this bill.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Chairman, I am proud to support H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act. In this era of globalization, Congress must make a commitment to providing the right incentives and resources to keep our manufacturing sector competitive. I have met with a group of public and private organizations in Portland, Oregon, the Manufacturing 21 Coalition, and was told that a skilled workforce and incentives for innovation are their priorities.

This bill will provide funding for valuable research and development programs to develop new technologies and education dollars that will help ensure we develop a workforce that is able to efficiently work with new technologies. I was displeased to see that the Rules Committee ruled out of order some amendments that would have enhanced the benefits of this legislation. Nevertheless, I am pleased that the House is taking steps to ensure that we enhance manufacturing businesses in our local communities.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005 represents an important piece of legislation for this Congress as it did previously in the Science Committee and it is because of that I hoped this body would have taken into account all points of view.

After 8 years I am pleased that the Science Committee has decided to move an almost complete authorization for the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST. H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005, authorizes all of NIST's programs except for the Advanced Technology Program, ATP. I have always strongly supported NIST and fully recognize the importance of all of its programs to the US industrial sector. However, H.R. 250 purports to be a bill to help the American manufacturing base. I unfortunately feel that H.R. 250 falls far short of this goal.

This is virtually the same bill that passed the Committee and House a year ago and that the Senate never took up. The U.S. manufacturing sector is facing a crisis—since 2001 we have lost 2.7 million manufacturing jobs. In the first 3 months of this year, we have lost another 24,000 manufacturing jobs. A year ago, the administration announced its Manufacturing Initiative, the creation of an Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and Services supported by a $40 million dollar-plus bureaucracy, and established a Manufacturing Council. Since these announcements, very little has been heard from these organizations. While there is bipartisan agreement that the Federal Government needs to retain high-skill, high-pay, manufacturing jobs in the U.S., I am disappointed that this crisis has received so little attention from the Administration, the House, and the Senate.

This legislation directs the President to establish or designate an Interagency Committee to plan and coordinate Federal efforts in manufacturing research and development, with an Advisory Committee from the non-Federal sector. In addition, this bill amends the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act, NIST Act, to establish: (1) a pilot program of collaborative manufacturing research grants; (2) manufacturing sciences research fellowships; (3) manufacturing extension center competitive grants; and (4) standards education grants to develop higher education curricula on the role of standards in engineering, business, science, and economics.

Clearly, these provisions are positive in their intent, but they can be expanded without interfering with the core of the legislation. My Democratic colleagues have offered a number of good amendments which should be adopted in order to take in all points of view. Together this body can enhance the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005.

Mr. BACA. Madam Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to revise and extend my remarks.

Madam Chairman, I am a strong supporter of American manufacturing and think this bill can be a good step in the right direction.

For too long, this administration's trade policies have led to a hemorrhage of manufacturing jobs out of Main Street and into Mainland China.

There is one particular program authorized by this bill that is important to my constituents in California—that is the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP.

The MEP provides our manufacturers with the tools to compete in a competitive marketplace. It helps maintain our country's manufacturing productivity and competitiveness.

A survey of just one-third of MEP customers found that they had created or saved more than 35,000 jobs, and that is just one-third of the customers, thanks to this program. And the MEP centers help more than 18,000 small companies each and every year.

Assistance to manufacturers is more important than ever due to this administration's misguided view that sending American manufacturing jobs overseas is good for the economy.

We need more American jobs, not less.

We need expanded economic activity and an enhanced tax base, not residential communities with nothing but service sector jobs.

Madam Chairman, I strongly support H.R. 250 for these very reasons. I hope that as the bill moves to conference, that Chairman GORDON will include Mr. HONDA'S proposal to extend the authorization of the Advanced Technology Program for an additional year.

Mr. TURNER. Madam Chairman, I support H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005.

Mr. Chairman, Dayton, Ohio, in my district is a center for manufacturing innovation. Manufacturers from Dayton have invented everything from the airplane to the electric car starter. Dayton is one of the top cities in America for patents per capita. H.R. 250 will ensure that Dayton's strong tradition of innovation will continue into the future.

H.R. 250 reauthorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership, MEP, Program, a program that has created centers throughout the country which help teach manufacturers technology developed by the National Institute of Standards and Technology. The National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, helps American businesses move into new manufacturing frontiers, expanding opportunities for the American manufacturing sector.

The Edison Materials Technology Center, or EMTEC located in my district, Kettering, Ohio, is an NIST center, and recipient of MEP Program grant money. EMTEC has partnered with over 125 businesses, universities and government agencies to bring new technologies to the factory floor.

Additionally, H.R. 250 authorizes funding for the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education, ATE, program. This program provides funds to community and technical colleges for workforce education and training at the university and secondary levels. The continuation of the ATE program will assure that Ohio manufacturers have the best trained personnel.

Madam Chairman, this legislation will help our manufacturers maintain and enhance their competitive edge. I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. WU. Madam Chairman, I am pleased that Congress is considering the authorization of the National Institute of Standards and Technology. There is no other federal agency that more directly supports American industrial innovation and competitiveness than NIST.

NIST's standards and metrology activities support the chemical, telecommunications, and energy sectors to name a few.

The Manufacturing Extension Partnership is a successful program under NIST that helps our small manufacturing community remain competitive in the face of increasing global competition. The result: high-wage, high-skill jobs remain in the U.S. rather than moving offshore.

While I believe that H.R. 250, the Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act, is a good start, we must do much more to make the bill's contents live up to its title. Our manufacturing base is facing a crisis. Since 2001, we have lost 2.7 million manufacturing jobs.

However, the Advanced Technology Program, which spurs the development of broad-based technologies that can create the industries of tomorrow, is not being included in this bill. This is a terrible mistake. The future of American manufacturing lies in our ability to promote risk taking and to promote the pursuit of new technologies that go well beyond the limits of conventional practices. ATP is a logical tool to use to achieve these goals.

For all the hype given to the Nanotechnology Initiative, few recall that it was an early ATP award that fostered the development of the use of nanoparticles in the cosmetic industry. This is one of the few examples of commercially viable nanotechnology. Yet, this bill ignores the potential that can come out of ATP.

If we wish to truly strengthen the U.S. manufacturing base, we need to bring our full resources to bear on this issue—including ATP and technical education.

Unfortunately, the underlying bill does not do this. I am extremely disappointed that this bill does not include ATP and vocational education. If we are going to grow our economy in the 21st century, we have to be the most innovative country in the world. This bill will not get us there.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute printed in the bill shall be considered as an original bill for the purpose of amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

The text of the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 250

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 ''Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005''.

SEC. 2. INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE AND ADVISORY COMMITTEE.

(a) INTERAGENCY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The President shall establish or designate an interagency committee on manufacturing research and development, which shall include representatives from the Office of Science and Technology Policy, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, the Science and Technology Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security, the National Science Foundation, the Department of Energy, and any other agency that the President may designate. The Chair of the Interagency Committee shall be designated by the Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

(2) FUNCTIONS.—The Interagency Committee shall be responsible for the planning and coordination of Federal efforts in manufacturing research and development through—

(A) establishing goals and priorities for manufacturing research and development, including the strengthening of United States manufacturing through the support and coordination of Federal manufacturing research, development, technology transfer, standards, and technical training;

(B) developing, within 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, and updating every 3 years for delivery with the President's annual budget request to Congress, a strategic plan, to be transmitted to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate, for manufacturing research and development that includes an analysis of the research, development, technology transfer, standards, technical training, and integration needs of the manufacturing sector important to ensuring and maintaining United States competitiveness;

(C) proposing an annual coordinated interagency budget for manufacturing research and development to the Office of Management and Budget; and

(D) developing and transmitting to Congress an annual report on the Federal programs involved in manufacturing research, development, technical training, standards, and integration, their funding levels, and their impacts on United States manufacturing competitiveness, including the identification and analysis of the manufacturing research and development problems that require additional attention, and recommendations of how Federal programs should address those problems.

(3) RECOMMENDATIONS AND VIEWS.—In carrying out its functions under paragraph (2), the Interagency Committee shall consider the recommendations of the Advisory Committee and the views of academic, State, industry, and other entities involved in manufacturing research and development.

(b) ADVISORY COMMITTEE.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the President shall establish or designate an advisory committee to provide advice and information to the Interagency Committee.

(2) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Advisory Committee shall assist the Interagency Committee by providing it with recommendations on—

(A) the goals and priorities for manufacturing research and development;

(B) the strategic plan, including proposals on how to strengthen research and development to help manufacturing; and

(C) other issues it considers appropriate.

(3) REPORT.—The Advisory Committee shall provide an annual report to the Interagency Committee and the Congress that shall assess—

(A) the progress made in implementing the strategic plan and challenges to this progress;

(B) the effectiveness of activities under the strategic plan in improving United States manufacturing competitiveness;

(C) the need to revise the goals and priorities established by the Interagency Committee; and

(D) new and emerging problems and opportunities affecting the manufacturing research community, research infrastructure, and the measurement and statistical analysis of manufacturing that may need to be considered by the Interagency Committee.

(4) FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT APPLICATION.—Section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act shall not apply to the Advisory Committee.

SEC. 3. COLLABORATIVE MANUFACTURING RESEARCH PILOT GRANTS.

The National Institute of Standards and Technology Act is amended—

(1) by redesignating the first section 32 (15 U.S.C. 271 note) as section 34 and moving it to the end of the Act; and

(2) by inserting before the section moved by paragraph (1) the following new section:

''SEC. 33. COLLABORATIVE MANUFACTURING RESEARCH PILOT GRANTS.

''(a) AUTHORITY.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish a pilot program of awards to partnerships among participants described in paragraph (2) for the purposes described in paragraph (3). Awards shall be made on a peer-reviewed, competitive basis.

''(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Such partnerships shall include at least—

''(A) 1 manufacturing industry partner; and

''(B) 1 nonindustry partner.

''(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program under this section is to foster cost-shared collaborations among firms, educational institutions, research institutions, State agencies, and nonprofit organizations to encourage the development of innovative, multidisciplinary manufacturing technologies. Partnerships receiving awards under this section shall conduct applied research to develop new manufacturing processes, techniques, or materials that would contribute to improved performance, productivity, and competitiveness of United States manufacturing, and build lasting alliances among collaborators.

''(b) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Awards under this section shall provide for not more than one-third of the costs of a partnership. Not more than an additional one-third of such costs may be obtained directly or indirectly from other Federal sources.

''(c) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards under this section shall be submitted in such manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Director shall require. Such applications shall describe at a minimum—

''(1) how each partner will participate in developing and carrying out the research agenda of the partnership;

''(2) the research that the grant would fund; and

''(3) how the research to be funded with the award would contribute to improved performance, productivity, and competitiveness of the United States manufacturing industry.

''(d) SELECTION CRITERIA.—In selecting applications for awards under this section, the Director shall consider at a minimum—

''(1) the degree to which projects will have a broad impact on manufacturing;

''(2) the novelty and scientific and technical merit of the proposed projects; and

''(3) the demonstrated capabilities of the applicants to successfully carry out the proposed research.

''(e) DISTRIBUTION.—In selecting applications under this section the Director shall ensure, to the extent practicable, a distribution of overall awards among a variety of manufacturing industry sectors and a range of firm sizes.

''(f) DURATION.—In carrying out this section, the Director shall run a single pilot competition to solicit and make awards. Each award shall be for a 3-year period.''.

SEC. 4. MANUFACTURING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.

Section 18 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278g–1) is amended—

(1) by inserting ''(a) IN GENERAL.—'' before ''The Director is authorized''; and

(2) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

''(b) MANUFACTURING FELLOWSHIP PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—To promote the development of a robust research community working at the leading edge of manufacturing sciences, the Director shall establish a program to award—

''(A) postdoctoral research fellowships at the Institute for research activities related to manufacturing sciences; and

''(B) senior research fellowships to established researchers in industry or at institutions of higher education who wish to pursue studies related to the manufacturing sciences at the Institute.

''(2) APPLICATIONS.—To be eligible for an award under this subsection, an individual shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require.

''(3) STIPEND LEVELS.—Under this section, the Director shall provide stipends for postdoctoral research fellowships at a level consistent with the National Institute of Standards and Technology Postdoctoral Research Fellowship Program, and senior research fellowships at levels consistent with support for a faculty member in a sabbatical position.''.

SEC. 5. MANUFACTURING EXTENSION.

(a) MANUFACTURING CENTER EVALUATION.—Section 25(c)(5) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(c)(5)) is amended by inserting ''A Center that has not received a positive evaluation by the evaluation panel shall be notified by the panel of the deficiencies in its performance and may be placed on probation for one year, after which time the panel may reevaluate the Center. If the Center has not addressed the deficiencies identified by the panel, or shown a significant improvement in its performance, the Director may conduct a new competition to select an operator for the Center or may close the Center.'' after ''sixth year at declining levels.''.

(b) FEDERAL SHARE.—Strike section 25(d) of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(d)) and insert the following:

''(d) ACCEPTANCE OF FUNDS.—In addition to such sums as may be appropriated to the Secretary and Director to operate the Centers program, the Secretary and Director also may accept funds from other Federal departments and agencies and under section 2(c)(7) from the private sector for the purpose of strengthening United States manufacturing. Such funds, if allocated to a Center or Centers, shall not be considered in the calculation of the Federal share of capital and annual operating and maintenance costs under subsection (c).''.

(c) MANUFACTURING EXTENSION CENTER COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—Section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsections:

''(e) COMPETITIVE GRANT PROGRAM.—

''(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Director shall establish, within the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under this section and section 26 of this Act, a program of competitive awards among participants described in paragraph (2) for the purposes described in paragraph (3).

''(2) PARTICIPANTS.—Participants receiving awards under this subsection shall be the Centers, or a consortium of such Centers.

''(3) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the program under this subsection is to develop projects to solve new or emerging manufacturing problems as determined by the Director, in consultation with the Director of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board, and small and medium-sized manufacturers. One or more themes for the competition may be identified, which may vary from year to year, depending on the needs of manufacturers and the success of previous competitions. These themes shall be related to projects associated with manufacturing extension activities, including supply chain integration and quality management, or extend beyond these traditional areas.

''(4) APPLICATIONS.—Applications for awards under this subsection shall be submitted in such manner, at such time, and containing such information as the Director shall require, in consultation with the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board.

''(5) SELECTION.—Awards under this subsection shall be peer reviewed and competitively awarded. The Director shall select proposals to receive awards—

''(A) that utilize innovative or collaborative approaches to solving the problem described in the competition;

''(B) that will improve the competitiveness of industries in the region in which the Center or Centers are located; and

''(C) that will contribute to the long-term economic stability of that region.

''(6) PROGRAM CONTRIBUTION.—Recipients of awards under this subsection shall not be required to provide a matching contribution.

''(f) AUDITS.—A center that receives assistance under this section shall submit annual audits to the Secretary in accordance with Office of Management and Budget Circular A–133 and shall make such audits available to the public on request.''.

SEC. 6. SCIENTIFIC AND TECHNICAL RESEARCH AND SERVICES.

(a) LABORATORY ACTIVITIES.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the scientific and technical research and services laboratory activities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) $426,267,000 for fiscal year 2006, of which—

(A) $50,833,000 shall be for Electronics and Electrical Engineering;

(B) $28,023,000 shall be for Manufacturing Engineering;

(C) $52,433,000 shall be for Chemical Science and Technology;

(D) $46,706,000 shall be for Physics;

(E) $33,500,000 shall be for Material Science and Engineering;

(F) $24,321,000 shall be for Building and Fire Research;

(G) $68,423,000 shall be for Computer Science and Applied Mathematics;

(H) $20,134,000 shall be for Technical Assistance;

(I) $48,326,000 shall be for Research Support Activities;

(J) $29,369,000 shall be for the National Institute of Standards and Technology Center for Neutron Research; and

(K) $18,543,000 shall be for the National Nanomanufacturing and Nanometrology Facility;

(2) $447,580,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(3) $456,979,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(b) MALCOLM BALDRIGE NATIONAL QUALITY AWARD PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the Malcolm Baldrige National Quality Award program under section 17 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3711a)—

(1) $5,654,000 for fiscal year 2006;

(2) $5,795,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(3) $5,939,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(c) CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for construction and maintenance of facilities of the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) $58,898,000 for fiscal year 2006;

(2) $61,843,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(3) $63,389,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(d) ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM ELIMINATION REPORT.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall provide to the Congress a report detailing the impacts of the possible elimination of the Advanced Technology Program on the laboratory programs at the National Institute of Standards Technology.

(e) LOSS OF FUNDING.—At the time of the President's budget request for fiscal year 2007, the Secretary shall provide the Congress a report on how the Department of Commerce plans to absorb the loss of Advanced Technology Program funds to the laboratory programs at the National Institute of Standards and Technology, or otherwise mitigate the effects of this loss on its programs and personnel.

SEC. 7. STANDARDS EDUCATION PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.—(1) As part of the Teacher Science and Technology Enhancement Institute Program, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall carry out a Standards Education program to award grants to institutions of higher education to support efforts by such institutions to develop curricula on the role of standards in the fields of engineering, business, science, and economics. The curricula should address topics such as—

(A) development of technical standards;

(B) demonstrating conformity to standards;

(C) intellectual property and antitrust issues;

(D) standardization as a key element of business strategy;

(E) survey of organizations that develop standards;

(F) the standards life cycle;

(G) case studies in effective standardization;

(H) managing standardization activities; and

(I) managing organizations that develop standards.

(2) Grants shall be awarded under this section on a competitive, merit-reviewed basis and shall require cost-sharing from non-Federal sources.

(b) SELECTION PROCESS.—(1) An institution of higher education seeking funding under this section shall submit an application to the Director at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Director may require. The application shall include at a minimum—

(A) a description of the content and schedule for adoption of the proposed curricula in the courses of study offered by the applicant; and

(B) a description of the source and amount of cost-sharing to be provided.

(2) In evaluating the applications submitted under paragraph (1) the Director shall consider, at a minimum—

(A) the level of commitment demonstrated by the applicant in carrying out and sustaining lasting curricula changes in accordance with subsection (a)(1); and

(B) the amount of cost-sharing provided.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the Teacher Science and Technology Enhancement Institute program of the National Institute of Standards and Technology—

(1) $773,000 for fiscal year 2006;

(2) $796,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(3) $820,000 for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 8. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce, or other appropriate Federal agencies, for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l)—

(1) $110,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, of which not more than $1,000,000 shall be for the competitive grant program under section 25(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(e));

(2) $115,000,000 for fiscal year 2007, of which not more than $4,000,000 shall be for the competitive grant program under section 25(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(e)); and

(3) $120,000,000 for fiscal year 2008, of which not more than $4,100,000 shall be for the competitive grant program under section 25(e) of such Act (15 U.S.C. 278k(e)).

(b) COLLABORATIVE MANUFACTURING RESEARCH PILOT GRANTS PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the Collaborative Manufacturing Research Pilot Grants program under section 33 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act—

(1) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

(2) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(3) $10,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

(c) FELLOWSHIPS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing Fellowships at the National Institute of Standards and Technology under section 18(b) of the National Institute of Standards

and Technology Act, as added by section 4 of this Act—

(1) $1,500,000 for fiscal year 2006;

(2) $1,750,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(3) $2,000,000 for fiscal year 2008.

SEC. 9. TECHNICAL WORKFORCE EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT.

(a) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Science Foundation, from sums otherwise authorized to be appropriated, for the Advanced Technological Education Program established under section 3 of the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 1862i)—

(1) $55,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, $5,000,000 of which may be used to support the education and preparation of manufacturing technicians for certification;

(2) $57,750,000 for fiscal year 2007, $5,000,000 of which may be used to support the education and preparation of manufacturing technicians for certification; and

(3) $60,600,000 for fiscal year 2008, $5,000,000 of which may be used to support the education and preparation of manufacturing technicians for certification.

(b) AMENDMENT.—Section 3 of the Scientific and Advanced-Technology Act of 1992 (42 U.S.C. 1862i) is amended—

(1) by inserting ", including manufacturing" after "advanced-technology fields" each place it appears other than in subsection (c)(2); and

(2) by inserting ", including manufacturing," after "advanced-technology fields" in subsection (c)(2).

The CHAIRMAN. No amendment to the committee amendment is in order except those printed in House Report 109–227. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in House Report 109–227.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BOEHLERT

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 1 offered by Mr. BOEHLERT:

At the end of the bill, add the following new sections:

SEC. 10. KATRINA ASSISTANCE PROGRAM.

(a) PROGRAM ESTABLISHMENT.— Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall establish within the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program established under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l) a Katrina Assistance Program, to provide assistance to impacted small and medium-sized manufacturers in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina.

(b) PURPOSES.—The Katrina Assistance Program shall—

(1) establish triage teams, consisting of personnel from within the national network of Manufacturing Extension Partnership Centers established under section 25 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k) and local experts, the purpose of which shall be to assist impacted manufacturers;

(2) develop virtual assistance centers, consisting of databases incorporating the results and recommendations of the triage team assessments;

(3) assess the potential disruption on national manufacturing supply chains as a result of Hurricane Katrina, and develop recommendations of how to minimize such disruption; and

(4) provide assistance to small and medium-sized manufacturers in the areas affected by Hurricane Katrina, consistent with the authorities of the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program established under section 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l).

(c) NO MATCHING FUND REQUIREMENT.—Assistance under the Program established under this section shall be exempt from matching requirements for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce such sums as may be necessary for the Katrina Assistance Program established under this section.

SEC. 11. BUILT ENVIRONMENT INVESTIGATION FOR HURRICANE KATRINA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall carry out an engineering performance study of the effects of Hurricane Katrina in the areas of Louisiana, Alabama, and Mississippi covered by the President's major disaster declarations of August 29, 2005. The study shall be based on an examination of physical structures damaged due to excessive wind, storm surge, and flooding, including—

(1) key physical infrastructures such as ports, utilities, lifelines associated with infrastructure facilities, and transportation systems; and

(2) engineered and nonengineered buildings.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the study shall be to—

(1) develop new knowledge concerning practices related to building standards and codes; and

(2) review the adequacy of current building codes and standards for excessive wind, storm surge, and flooding.

(c) MEETINGS AND CONFERENCES.—The Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology may convene public meetings and conferences to inform the public, government authorities, and relevant professional associations regarding findings and recommendations of the study.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology $3,000,000 for carrying out this section.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 451, the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

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

(Mr. BOEHLERT asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I rise in support of the amendment. Let me start by thanking the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) for bringing forward the proposal that led to this amendment. And let me thank him and the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) for working with us to craft this amendment in a way that should avoid controversy.

This amendment is designed to help the victims of Hurricane Katrina and to help save lives in future hurricanes, goals we obviously all share. The amendment would accomplish its goals in two ways.

First, it authorizes the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program to establish a special effort to help Katrina victims by drawing on all the resources of the nationwide network of MEP centers. The MEP centers have a wide variety of ways to help businesses that have had losses or have been wiped out by Hurricane Katrina. We all want to do everything possible to help gulf coast businesses and their owners and customers to get back on their feet, something that is critically important, brought to my attention once again very vividly in a meeting this morning with Governor Haley Barbour of Mississippi.

The Katrina program would also waive the usual matching requirements for assistance, as neither the States nor the businesses are in a position to provide such a matching payment now. I should add that we do not expect this program to be particularly costly as it draws on existing MEP resources, and the MEP program as a whole costs roughly $100 million, not a number that stands out in comparison to the mega numbers we are hearing about necessary hurricane relief.

The second part of the amendment draws on the expertise of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to investigate why buildings and other structures failed during the storm. This is a traditional role for NIST, and it has played it many times after building failures and has resulted in greater understanding of building performance and stronger building codes. We ought to be learning from this hurricane to prevent future losses of life and property in storms to come. A NIST investigation is the best way to do that.

This bill is silent as to what legal mechanisms NIST should use to carry out its investigation. I would prefer and I know my colleagues across the aisle would prefer that NIST invoke the National Construction Safety Team Act that was signed into law after the World Trade Center collapsed. But the bill does not mandate that NIST take that approach.

In short, this amendment instructs NIST to take reasonable, affordable steps to help the victims of Katrina and to prevent losses from future storms. I urge its adoption.

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

Mr. GORDON. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition under the rule.

The CHAIRMAN. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

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

Madam Chairman, in 1969 I was a college student when Camille hit the gulf coast, and I went down to Pass Christian to try to help clean up with the National Guard. Let me say one really has to be there to fully appreciate the devastation and the despair in the victims' hearts. I know it is there this time also.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. MELANCON) has been there. He has worked with his constituents and folks all across that area and has brought back to us some good sense, and that is how we can make the MEP program help that area, helping the businesses come back, helping people develop jobs. And I want to compliment the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT), who I think well stated the purpose of this bill, for recognizing it, agreeing to accept it. I think this is going to be a positive addition to not only the bill but also to the lives and businesses in this hard-hit area.

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

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in House Report 109–227.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GORDON

Mr. GORDON. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 2 offered by Mr. GORDON:

At the end of section 5, add the following new subsection:

(d) PROGRAMMATIC AND OPERATIONAL PLAN.—Not later than 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology shall transmit to the Committee on Science of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation of the Senate a 3-year programmatic and operational plan for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program under sections 25 and 26 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278k and 278l). The plan shall include comments on the plan from the Manufacturing Extension Partnership State partners and the Manufacturing Extension Partnership National Advisory Board.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 451, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

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

Madam Chairman, this is a very straightforward amendment. This amendment requires the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology to submit to Congress a 3-year operational and planning document for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program. The past 4 years, the administration's MEP budget request has been much less than required to maintain the existing national network of MEP centers. In fact, for 2 years the administration has proposed eliminating MEP funding altogether. Despite their meager budget requests, the administration has consistently maintained that it will maintain a fully operational MEP network. However, the administration has not consulted with the State partners or MEP centers to explain the rationale for its funding request or how they intend to maintain the current MEP center structure.

Both States and small manufacturers have been frustrated by the administration's lack of planning and cooperation. My amendment would address this issue by requiring the administration to put together a 3-year MEP operation plan that would include commitments of its State partners and the MEP National Advisory Board. This amendment has also been endorsed by the American Small Manufacturers Coalition, the umbrella operation of the MEP centers and the small manufacturers they serve.

I would urge adoption of this amendment.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. GORDON. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I think this amendment enhances the bill. It adds to the quality of an already good bill, and we are pleased to accept it.

Mr. GORDON. Madam Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in House Report 109–227.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 3 offered by Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas:

Page 20, after line 14, insert the following:

Funds shall be made available under this subsection, to the maximum extent practicable, to diverse institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities and other minority serving institutions.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 451, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

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Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I thank the chairman of the full committee and the ranking member of the full committee, and if I might add my appreciation for the cooperation of both staffs and both the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT) and the gentleman from Tennessee (Ranking Member GORDON) for helping with this amendment, and as well the cooperation and the timeliness of this amendment.

My amendment would ensure that minority-serving institutions, including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, have access to the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education Program. The ATE program promotes improvement in technological education at the undergraduate and secondary school levels by supporting curriculum development; the preparation and professional development of college faculty and secondary schoolteachers; internships and field experiences for faculty, teachers, and students; and other activities. We have often, Madam Chairman, spoken in the Committee on Science about the broadness of opportunity, and here lies in this bill the opportunity to enhance that with this amendment.

The Manufacturing Technology Competitiveness Act of 2005 is a perfect vehicle to emphasize the involvement of a diverse community, and the focus of science and technology in our Historically Black Colleges and Hispanic-serving colleges. With an emphasis on 2-year colleges, the program focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive our Nation's economy. It is vitally important that this high-value program is made available to minority-serving institutions, including HBCUs.

Unfortunately, we do not have nearly enough minority representation in the fields of science and engineering. Minorities represent only a small proportion of scientists and engineers in the United States. Collectively, blacks, Hispanics, and other ethnic groups, the latter includes American Indians and Alaska natives, constituted 24 percent of the total U.S. population but only 7 percent of the total science and engineering workforce in 1999. Blacks and Hispanics each accounted for about 3 percent of scientists and engineers and other ethnic groups represented less than 0.5. Furthermore, for science and engineering graduates, there are only 835,000 scientists who are female in the United States. Meanwhile, white students number 2 million, black students account for only 121,000 scientists, and Hispanic students for only 120,000 scientists.

Madam Chairman, I want to see all Americans be engaged in the sciences because that is the wave of the future. I have always said that science is the work of the 21st century, and we are in

the 21st century. I believe it is important to offer an amendment that provides for the opportunities for minorities.

Might I say, in the backdrop of Hurricane Katrina, Mr. Chairman and Ranking Member, I want my colleagues to know that two of our Historically Black Colleges, Xavier and Dillard, are now underwater in New Orleans. We know that Dillard produced the most number of undergraduates that went into the sciences and then went on to medical school. So this amendment may be timely because of what we are going through, and prospectively what we might be going through with Hurricane Rita.

All I can say is that the opportunity for more in the sciences and more having the opportunity under this very important competitive bill, I believe makes a first step and a good step toward the improvement of the sciences and science graduates in America.

Madam Chairman, my amendment would ensure that minority serving institutions including Historically Black Colleges and Universities, HBCUs, have access to the National Science Foundation's Advanced Technological Education Program, ATE. The ATE program promotes improvement in technological education at the undergraduate and secondary school levels by supporting curriculum development; the preparation and professional development of college faculty and secondary school teachers; internships and field experiences for faculty, teachers, and students; and other activities. With an emphasis on two-year colleges, the program focuses on the education of technicians for the high-technology fields that drive our Nation's economy. It is vitally important that this high-value program is made available to minority serving institutions including HBCUs.

Unfortunately, we do not have nearly enough minority representation in the fields of science and engineering. Minorities represent only a small proportion of scientists and engineers in the United States. Collectively, Blacks, Hispanics, and other ethnic groups—the latter includes American Indian/Alaskan Natives—constituted 24 percent of the total U.S. population and only 7 percent of the total science and engineering workforce in 1999. Blacks and Hispanics each accounted for about 3 percent of scientists and engineers, and other ethnic groups represented less than 0.5 percent. Furthermore, for Science and Engineering graduates, there are only 835,000 scientists who are female in the United States, meanwhile white students number 2 million-plus, black students account for only 121,000 scientists and Hispanic students for only 120,000 scientists. This problem extends into the salaries paid to minorities in the fields of science and engineering. The median annual salaries of individuals in science and engineering show amongst individuals with less than 5 years experience, i.e. recent graduates, white individuals make an average of $61,000, while their black and Hispanic counterparts make only $53,000 and $55,000 respectively. Clearly, there is a disparity here that needs to be filled and I believe this amendment makes a positive step in that direction.

For most of America's history, African Americans who received a college education could only get it from an HBCU. Today, HBCUs remain one of the surest ways for an African American, or student of any race, to receive a high quality education. Seven of the top eleven producers of African American baccalaureates in engineering were HBCUs, including #1 North Carolina A&T State University. The top three producers of African American baccalaureates in health professions (#1 Southern University and A&M College, #2 Florida A&M University and #3 Howard University were HBCUs. The twelve top producers of African American baccalaureates in the physical sciences, including #1 Xavier University of Louisiana, were all HBCUs.

Hispanic Serving Institutions, HISs, are also instrumental in educating a growing minority population. According to the Hispanic Association of Colleges and Universities Hispanics are historically underrepresented in the areas of science, technology, engineering and mathematics. HSIs receive only half the Federal funding per student, on average, accorded to every other degree-granting institution. Indeed it seems sadly clear that HSIs are a long way from Federal funding parity with other institutions of higher learning.

I hope every Member of this Committee can agree on the importance of HBCUs and HSIs and I hope they will support my amendment to create equity in the fields of science and engineering.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, will the gentlewoman yield?

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. I yield to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Madam Chairman, I want to thank the gentlewoman for offering this amendment, particularly the timing of it. It is very significant. I understand the gentlewoman will be asking for a rollcall vote, and I will proudly vote ''aye.''

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I thank the distinguished chairman of the committee. Again, that speaks to the work we do on this committee.

Madam Chairman, I am very honored to likewise yield to the distinguished ranking member, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON).

Mr. GORDON. Madam Chairman, this amendment builds upon the good work that the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) does in ensuring that minority-serving institutions have equal access to Federal research and education programs. Our community colleges are at the forefront of educating minorities, and this amendment highlights their importance.

This is a good amendment, and I urge its adoption.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Chairman, I thank the distinguished ranking member and the distinguished chairman. Let me also thank my staff, Assad Akhter for his work, and the staff of the Committee on Science both on the majority and minority side.

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

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in House Report 109–227.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 4 offered by Mr. LARSON of Connecticut:

At the end of the bill, add the following new section:

SEC. 10. MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION.

Section 5 of the Stevenson-Wydler Technology Innovation Act of 1980 (15 U.S.C. 3704) is amended to read as follows:

''SEC. 5. MANUFACTURING AND TECHNOLOGY ADMINISTRATION.

''(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department of Commerce a Manufacturing and Technology Administration, which shall operate in accordance with the provisions, findings, and purposes of this Act. The Manufacturing and Technology Administration shall include—

''(1) the National Institute of Standards and Technology;

''(2) the National Technical Information Service; and

''(3) a policy analysis office, which shall be known as the Office of Manufacturing and Technology Policy.

''(b) UNDER SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT SECRETARIES.—The President shall appoint, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate, to the extent provided for in appropriations Acts—

''(1) an Under Secretary of Commerce for Manufacturing and Technology, who shall be compensated at the rate provided for level III of the Executive Schedule in section 5314 of title 5, United States Code;

''(2) an Assistant Secretary of Manufacturing who shall serve as a policy analyst for the Under Secretary; and

''(3) an Assistant Secretary of Technology who shall serve as a policy analyst for the Under Secretary.

''(c) DUTIES.—The Secretary, through the Under Secretary, as appropriate, shall—

''(1) manage the Manufacturing and Technology Administration and supervise its agencies, programs, and activities;

''(2) conduct manufacturing and technology policy analyses to improve United States industrial productivity, manufacturing capabilities, and innovation, and cooperate with United States industry to improve its productivity, manufacturing capabilities, and ability to compete successfully in an international marketplace;

''(3) identify manufacturing and technological needs, problems, and opportunities within and across industrial sectors, that, if addressed, could make significant contributions to the economy of the United States;

''(4) assess whether the capital, technical, and other resources being allocated to domestic industrial sectors which are likely to generate new technologies are adequate to

meet private and social demands for goods and services and to promote productivity and economic growth;

''(5) propose and support studies and policy experiments, in cooperation with other Federal agencies, to determine the effectiveness of measures for improving United States manufacturing capabilities and productivity;

''(6) provide that cooperative efforts to stimulate industrial competitiveness and innovation be undertaken between the Under Secretary and other officials in the Department of Commerce responsible for such areas as trade and economic assistance;

''(7) encourage and assist the creation of centers and other joint initiatives by State or local governments, regional organizations, private businesses, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, or Federal laboratories to encourage technology transfer, to encourage innovation, and to promote an appropriate climate for investment in technology-related industries;

''(8) propose and encourage cooperative research involving appropriate Federal entities, State or local governments, regional organizations, colleges or universities, nonprofit organizations, or private industry to promote the common use of resources, to improve training programs and curricula, to stimulate interest in manufacturing and technology careers, and to encourage the effective dissemination of manufacturing and technology skills within the wider community;

''(9) serve as a focal point for discussions among United States companies on topics of interest to industry and labor, including discussions regarding manufacturing, competitiveness, and emerging technologies;

''(10) consider government measures with the potential of advancing United States technological innovation and exploiting innovations of foreign origin and publish the results of studies and policy experiments; and

''(11) assist in the implementation of the Metric Conversion Act of 1975 (15 U.S.C. 205a et seq.).''.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 451, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, first of all, let me start by associating myself with the remarks of the distinguished Democrat from Tennessee and the accolades that have been given to the gentleman from New York (Chairman BOEHLERT), the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. MANZULLO) who was on the floor earlier, for the hard work and effort that they have put forward.

My amendment cuts right to the chase of a deep and abiding concern that I and a number of small manufacturers in the State of Connecticut and, I dare say, across this Nation have. We all know the statistics: 3 million Americans employed in manufacturing have lost their jobs, 110,000 in this year alone; 57,000 jobs have been lost in the State of Connecticut since 2001.

The genesis of this amendment came at a Chamber of Commerce meeting when small businessmen got up and spoke out with great alarm, wondering out loud how is it that we can have a Department of Agriculture and not a department of manufacturing that focuses on these issues. Where is the ombudsman and voice for us at the national level? They prevailed upon me to introduce this legislation. I am proud to say it is endorsed by the National Council for the Advancement of Manufacturing and the IAM, to name a few. But the focus here is to make sure that we have an individual within a department that is doing its job.

Now, the President has appointed a so-called ''manufacturing czar,'' but he has no budget and he has no resources. This amendment is straightforward and pragmatic. It redirects and reorients the already existing resources that we have in order to create a position whose sole focus becomes manufacturing and who becomes the ombudsman for the small manufacturer who is crying out as they continue to see their jobs outsourced overseas, as they see very little voice that they have in terms of the larger scale dealing with the WTO and a number of the trade agreements that come forward.

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

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I rise to reluctantly claim the time in opposition, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, this might have been a reasonable amendment a couple of years ago, and, guess what? We are used to expecting reasonable amendments from my distinguished colleague from Connecticut. Back then, all of us, including the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) were calling on the administration to bring more focus on the Commerce Department to the problem of manufacturers. Quite frankly, I do not think they were paying enough attention. But guess what? The administration heeded our calls. It created a new Assistant Secretary for Manufacturing and took other steps to create a focus on manufacturers in the Department, and it did so in a streamlined way.

So I think it is really time to declare victory and go home on this issue. We have won what we were seeking: someone in that Department of Commerce to focus attention on manufacturing. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) wanted it, I wanted it, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) wanted it, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS) wanted it, we all wanted it, and they listened. It is not too often that the administration listens to the Congress. The legislative branch is sometimes considered politically inconvenient for the executive branch. This time they listened.

Indeed, the Larson amendment would override or duplicate the administration's efforts, it is hard to tell which, and reorganize the Department yet again. That is a waste of time and money; it is utterly unnecessary.

Now, the gentleman from Connecticut may respond that the Assistant Secretary appointed by the President has not accomplished very much. That person certainly has his hands full, and I am not going to debate his performance here. But if the gentleman is arguing that creating a new Assistant Secretary has not done any good, how is that an argument for his amendment? Why does he think that creating the similar positions he is proposing would be a panacea?

The way to help manufacturers is not by creating more bureaucracy in downtown Washington. What we need to do is fund programs that help manufacturers. That is what this bill would do by aiding the successful programs of the National Institute of Standards and Technology.

If anything, the Larson language would actually impede this program. It would add to the bureaucracy that sits on top of NIST, when we want NIST to have as much of its own funding and latitude as possible. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON's) new officials would be in a position to siphon money away from this and interfere with its programs. How would that help manufacturers?

Let us speed this bill along and not weigh it down with new bureaucracies who would detract from the very programs we are trying to augment.

The House soundly defeated this amendment last year. We defeated it in committee this year. That was the right decision, and it is time to dispense with this amendment again.

Having said that, let me say that does not diminish one iota the respect I have for our distinguished colleague from Connecticut, who is one of the most valued members of the Committee on Science. But, having said all of the above, I have to once again indicate how reluctant I am to oppose the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) because of my affection and respect for him; I am not really opposing the gentleman, I am opposing his amendment, and I urge its defeat.

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate the chairman not opposing me, and I appreciate and I understand his unwillingness to debate what Mr. Frink has been able to accomplish in his position to date.

The hard truth is that we have not been able to accomplish much, and the reason is, I think as everyone knows, it has become intuitively obvious to the National Coalition for the Advancement of Manufacturing, that he is located within the bowels of an administration and given no budget and no resources to carry out a goal that all of us agree needs to be accomplished.

So that is why we take and reorient existing resources to accomplish that goal; so there is no new bureaucracy that is created, it is just reoriented and refocused in a manner that will provide a voice, with resources and a budget, to speak out on behalf of manufacturers. This bill is not of my creation. It

comes out of the mouths of those people who are directly impacted: the small manufacturers all across the State of Connecticut and this great Nation of ours.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) who understands these issues and understands what is happening in our State of Connecticut with regard to manufacturing.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Chairman, as stated, 3 million Americans employed in manufacturing lost jobs in the last 4 years, 110,000 this year; total manufacturing losses in the State of Connecticut, 57,000.

It would seem to me that whomever we have at the head of this effort does not understand the scope of the job, the magnitude of it, and is not provided with enough authority to be able to conduct the job, as my colleague has pointed out. We do need someone who has real influence, substance, not a person who has marginal authority; because when you give marginal authority, it tells you what the administration thinks of the position's importance, quite frankly, of manufacturing importance.

As has been commented on, this agency and the czar that is housed within the Assistant Secretary, does not have a range of expertise to address the issues before our manufacturers, has no funding to support the position. If you have no funding, if you have no authority, then the position is one that does not really make any difference.

Mr. Chairman, we are coping with Katrina, we are coping with ongoing violence in Iraq, we are letting the moment to revitalize our manufacturing sector slip away. We need to send a signal that Congress takes this crisis seriously. If Katrina has taught us anything, it is that competence in government can make a difference in dealing with the crisis. Support the Larson amendment.

□ 1515

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I would simply like to observe a few things. First of all, the original version of this bill, which I introduced last year, did establish an Under Secretary position, as the Larson amendment did.

The administration took the hint and created the present position of an Assistant Secretary. And furthermore, I would like to comment in spite of the comments made that there is no funding and no authority, this person does have authority, this person does have funding, this person does have staff.

In addition, he has formed a council of manufacturers. It is a good committee that is actively working. They held one meeting in my district, which I attended. And things are rolling. I think it would be inappropriate at this time to pull the rug out from under that operation and start fresh with a new position.

Let us give these folks and this individual a chance to perform and then make our judgment after we have seen how their performance ranks.

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) whose sentiments that he expressed earlier today are mine, as well, with respect to this bill. I have the greatest admiration for my colleagues on the other side, but I have to go home and face constituents who wonder aloud why they do not have a voice, an ombudsman, and why moving at a snail's pace in this direction cannot wait.

Mr. GORDON. Mr. Chairman, let me just very quickly say that my friend, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON), has been a great champion for the manufacturing sector of our economy.

And this is a very commonsense amendment that I think is a positive addition to a bill that as I said earlier missed the opportunity to be as good as it could be.

The only argument against his amendment is that the administration is doing a good job with the manufacturing sector and promoting it, so let us do not mess it up. Well, I would just say to all of my colleagues, if you are satisfied with what the administration is doing promoting manufacturing, then vote against this amendment. If you are not satisfied with what the administration is doing and think they can do more to help our manufacturing economy, then you need to vote for this amendment.

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

Mr. Chairman, I will make one comment. I have been here 22 years, and I go home every single weekend. I take great pride in that. I have never had a constituent say to me, I want you to create a new Under Secretary within the Department, and I want you to change the title of an Assistant Secretary.

All they want are results, and we are beginning to get results. And we have got to add to that impetus, and we are doing so with the base bill. I urge the adoption of the base bill and opposition, reluctantly, to the Larson amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) will be postponed.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in House Report 109–227.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. UDALL OF COLORADO

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 5 offered by Mr. UDALL of Colorado:

Page 20, line 3, strike "$55,000,000" and insert "$70,000,000".

Page 20, line 7, strike "$57,750,000" and insert "$73,500,000".

Page 20, line 11, strike "$60,600,000" and insert "$77,000,000".

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to House Resolution 451, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mr. UDALL of Colorado asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, we have heard repeatedly today about the importance of supporting our Nation's manufacturing industry. One of the most critical elements of our manufacturing competitiveness is a technically trained workforce.

My amendment addresses this by increasing authorization levels of the Advanced Technological Education program.

This important amendment has the support of the American Association of Community Colleges. The ATE program works with community colleges to develop curricula designed to prepare students for the local job market. This program has been highly successful with only modest funding.

This amendment would boost the authorization for ATE from the $55 million currently in H.R. 250 to $70 million. The ATE program is different from other technical and vocational programs in that it works directly with industry to identify the skill sets students will need to compete and enter the workforce.

Arguments have been made that this is too high of a budgetary increase and that this would make the ATE program the highest funded education program in the National Science Foundation.

However, if you look at this, actually the level of authorization in my amendment is well within the NSF doubling authorization levels that passed this House overwhelmingly in 2002. At the same time, there are several programs that receive greater funding in the education directorate at NSF.

In fact, authorizing the ATE at $70 million ranks the program sixth. This is a small investment that will provide long-term dividends for our manufacturing industry. I urge Members of this body to support the technological training of our workforce and to vote in favor of my amendment.

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

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

Mr. Chairman, let me say at the outset there are some things that I love in addition to my wife and family and everybody else. I love technology education. I love our community colleges.

It is easy to understand why this amendment is being offered, and it is easy to see why it needs to be defeated. It is easy to see why it is being offered, because it provides additional support to a very good program, the Advanced Technology Education program of the National Science Foundation.

As someone who has pushed for years at NSF to do more for community colleges, and when I first came here 23 years ago, community colleges were not even on the radar screen at NSF, but, boy they have got the message, and they are doing an outstanding job; and they recognize the capabilities of community colleges. And they understand the importance of the Advanced Technology Program, and so do I. I could not agree more with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

But it is easy to see why this amendment needs to be opposed. Now, that may sound strange, but let me explain. We have already demonstrated our support for Advanced Technology Education quite tangibly in the base bill, H.R. 250. The bill would increase funding for ATE not by 2 percent or 5 percent or 10 or 20; it is a third over 3 years.

And the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) deserves a lot of the credit for ensuring that the additional funding was in the bill. But I will not let him claim all of that credit, because guess what, all of the members of the committee, Republicans and Democrats alike, recognized the importance of technology education and recognized the value of our community colleges in providing that education.

But now he wants to up the ante. His amendment would increase ATE funding by 70 percent. That is right: 70 percent over 3 years. Where is it going to stop? We do not have enough of this money. We cannot manufacture it fast enough. That would be an extravagant thing to do at any point, but it borders on the absurd in today's budget climate.

Such an increase is unrealistic, and it would make ATE a higher priority than other education programs at NSF, a step I am not prepared to take given our needs across the spectrum of science and math education programs.

So I would urge my colleagues to use their common sense in reviewing this amendment. Is a 33 percent increase in authorization levels not sufficient in this fiscal climate? I think it is pretty generous. I urge opposition to an amendment that I think is excessive.

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

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE).

(Mr. PRICE of North Carolina asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PRICE of North Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of this amendment offered by my colleague, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

In 1992, I did author the legislation that created the Advanced Technical Education program. And with the help of Mr. BOEHLERT and many others, I got it passed on this floor. Today, ATE remains the only NSF program focused primarily on our Nation's community colleges, which educate the vast majority of the three to five technicians that support each engineer, scientist, and medical doctor in this country.

Over the last 3 years, the number of proposals for ATE funding has increased by over 40 percent. Success stories abound. It is obvious the program is working. Yet over these same 3 years, the number of awards has actually gone down, and the success rate for proposals has declined from 32 percent in 2003 to a projected 20 percent in 2005.

This means that nearly 80 percent of the community colleges that develop innovative curricula, teaching methods, and partnerships with local industry are being denied ATE support.

Over the years, I have worked on the Appropriations Committee to maintain adequate funding for the ATE despite the cuts often called for in the President's budget requests. Some years we have done better than others.

But this authorization does matter. If all we are doing is authorizing ATE at about the current funding level, we will continue to deny more and more community colleges a chance to equip American workers with the skills they need to compete in the global economy.

Twenty percent is simply not a high enough approval rate. The Udall amendment would allow ATE to achieve its potential, helping us to get back on track as the global leader in innovation. There is nothing extravagant about this, Mr. Chairman. It is a good program, and it deserves to be adequately funded.

I thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) for sponsoring this important amendment. I urge all colleagues to give it their support.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, let me just point out to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. PRICE), for whom I have the highest regard, he said if all we are going to do is fund it at about the current level, that is not good enough.

I would agree that is not good enough. That is why we are increasing it by 33 percent.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS).

Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment and would point out that growth is good, but not lopsided growth. Growth in the NSF budget is generally a very good idea, and the committee feels that way and has voted that way.

But this is lopsided growth, such that one program gets a 70 percent increases as a result of this amendment when others equally deserving like the math and science partnership would not get that level of increase.

Imagine what that does over at NSF. Yet one program that has some congressional supporters proposes a 70 percent increase, while the other programs are down in a middling kind of increase, that really does create some instability and some inequities, I believe, over at NSF.

So what we have got is, in tight budget times, as the chairman says, a 30 percent increase for this program which seems like an appropriate amount.

So I hope the House rejects the amendment and supports the committee's underlying bill.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, I want to respond to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) as well as the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. INGLIS). The point of the authorized levels that we are proposing in this amendment is to meet the demand. This is not just a number that we pulled out of the air. It is a number that reflects the demand that the National Science Foundation is seeing for this particular area of ATE.

If we were to meet the demand that NSF typically will meet, it would be at 25 percent of the proposal that would be funded. That means 75 percent of the proposals are not funded. That number is about $68 million. So all we are trying to do is give the appropriators the flexibility to meet this important demand.

Why is this demand important? Well, if you think about the jobs that are created because of this investment, and the debate we have had today about the importance of manufacturing in our future, this makes real sense.

□ 1530

The students that are being funded based on the American Association of Community Colleges numbers, 47 percent are African American, 56 percent are Hispanic. These colleges play a crucial role in serving our minority communities, populations which my good friend, the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS), knows are underrepresented in the science, technology, engineering, and math fields. There is no better way to make a real impact for a small investment on the long-term future of our economy. Please support this amendment.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. EHLERS).

Mr. EHLERS. Mr. Chairman, I rise to oppose the amendment.

I have to say there are very few Members of this Congress who have worked harder to improve NSF funding than I have. I have spent many, many hours at it and we are grateful to get a few percent increase every year.

In this bill that is before us now, we have given a greater than 20 percent increase to this particular item. If that ends up being appropriated, it will be the largest increase for any part of NSF that they have received for many years, and yet the amendment would increase it even more. It would result in a huge increase; much, much greater. We simply cannot afford that in NSF.

We have a great deal of research to do to keep this Nation moving. We have to improve our math and science education programs in this Nation in order to meet competition from abroad and to have a better-educated electorate. We simply cannot afford to pour all that money into this one particular item without causing detriment to the rest of the National Science Foundation. I simply do not want to see that happen. I urge a rejection of this amendment.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chairman announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) will be postponed.

SEQUENTIAL VOTES POSTPONED IN COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order: amendment No. 3 by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE); amendment No. 4 by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON); amendment No. 5 by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL).

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON-LEE OF TEXAS

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 416, noes 8, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 481]

AYES—416

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrett (SC)
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
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
Boucher
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
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
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Feeney
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
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
Gutierrez
Gutknecht
Hall
Harman
Harris
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hostettler
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
King (NY)
Kingston
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
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
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
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Paul
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Pence
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
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
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Stearns
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
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
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (FL)

NOES—8

Brown-Waite, Ginny
Culberson
Johnson, Sam
King (IA)
McHenry
Sessions
Taylor (NC)
Young (AK)

NOT VOTING—9

Barton (TX)
Boswell
Camp
DeLay
Doolittle
Hefley
Kind
Ortiz
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in the vote.

□ 1559

Messrs. BARRETT of South Carolina, MILLER of Florida, MCKEON, BOUSTANY, Hensarling, Norwood, Gary G. Miller of California, Mrs. CUBIN, and Ms. WATERS changed their vote from ''no'' to ''aye.''

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. LARSON OF CONNECTICUT

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY). The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. LARSON) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 213, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 482]

AYES—210

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Goode
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson (CT)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (NC)
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Platts
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Simmons
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—213

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simpson
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—10

Barton (TX)
Boswell
Camp
Carter
DeLay
Doolittle
Hefley
Kind
Ortiz
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1608

Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan changed his vote from ''aye'' to ''no.''

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. UDALL OF COLORADO

The Acting CHAIRMAN. The pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. UDALL) on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIRMAN. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 210, noes 212, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 483]

AYES—210

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Tom
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gibbons
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McKinney
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Renzi
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Shays
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Wexler
Wilson (NM)
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—212

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert

Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Deal (GA)
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Barton (TX)
Boswell
Camp
Conyers
DeLay
Doolittle
Hefley
Kind
Meeks (NY)
Ortiz
Weller

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIRMAN

The Acting CHAIRMAN (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1616

So the amendment was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIRMAN (Mr. TERRY). The question is on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended.

The committee amendment in the nature of a substitute, as amended, was agreed to.

The Acting CHAIRMAN. Under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. BASS) having assumed the chair, Mr. TERRY, Acting Chairman of the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 250) to establish an interagency committee to coordinate Federal manufacturing research and development efforts in manufacturing, strengthen existing programs to assist manufacturing innovation and education, and expand outreach programs for small and medium-sized manufacturers, and for other purposes, pursuant to House Resolution 451, he reported the bill back to the House with an amendment adopted by the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment to the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute adopted by the Committee of the Whole? If not, the question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT OFFERED BY MR. HONDA

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I offer a motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is the gentleman opposed to the bill?

Mr. HONDA. I am, in its current form, Mr. Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Honda moves to recommit the bill H.R. 250 to the Committee on Science with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith with the following amendment:

At the end of section 8, insert the following new subsection:

(d) ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Commerce for the Advanced Technology Program under section 28 of the National Institute of Standards and Technology Act (15 U.S.C. 278n) $140,000,000 for fiscal year 2006, of which $40,000,000 shall be for new awards.

Mr. HONDA (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the motion be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA) is recognized for 5 minutes in support of his motion to recommit.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, this motion to recommit with instructions would amend the bill by adding an authorization of the Advanced Technology Program within the National Institute of Standards and Technology at a level of $140 million for fiscal year 2006.

The Advanced Technology Program partners with industry by providing funds for early-stage technologies that are viewed to be too technically risky or too nascent by private funding sources.

It is one of the Federal Government's best means of promoting risk-taking and promoting the pursuit of new technology that go well beyond the limits of conventional practices.

Experts agree that these are key elements for maintaining American manufacturing competitiveness in the future. The opponents of this motion have claimed that ATP does not belong in a manufacturing bill, but the evidence shows that it does. In 43 peer reviewed ATP competitions, 39 percent of the awards have involved development of advanced manufacturing technologies.

At a June 2003 Committee on Science hearing on manufacturing R&D, the witnesses were unanimous in their belief that ATP was an important element to improving the U.S. manufacturing infrastructure and competitiveness. Supporters of H.R. 250 have mentioned that the bill is supported by the National Association of Manufacturers. But you should be aware that NAM also supports ATP, as most recently expressed in a letter to Senator SHELBY, chairman of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, and Science.

Other industry groups that support ATP funding include the Electronics Industries Alliance, the Alliance for Science and Technology Research in America, and the Council on Competitiveness. The Senate Committee on Science's own views and estimates on the fiscal year 2006 budget request state: ''The committee continues to support the Advanced Technology Program and is disappointed that the administration has again included no funds for the program in the budget request.''

It is the job of the Congress, not the President, to make these spending decisions. Year after year we provide funding for ATP in appropriations bills, but we fail to provide the certainty in the program that an authorization will bring. Today we have a chance to do so.

ATP has been targeted for termination because it has been tagged as corporate welfare, but this is a mischaracterization. ATP conducts peer-reviewed competitions open to all technology areas with demanding standards for awardees. Awardees receive relatively small amounts of funding that they must match with their own contributions.

Contrast this with the energy bill signed into law earlier this year that provides billions of dollars in direct spending, subsidies, loan guarantees, and tax breaks to an industry that is reaping record high profits.

While we engage in a philosophical debate about whether to fund ATP, other nations are taking even bigger steps to improve their manufacturing capabilities, and as a result advanced manufacturing work is now being done outside of the U.S.

It is essential that we do something to help American manufacturers stay at the cutting edge, ahead of foreign competitors, and keeping ATP alive is a good start.

I merely seek to authorize funding for ATP for fiscal year 2006 at the same funding level that is included in the Senate's CJS bill for fiscal year 2006, a level that was supported just last week by a vote of 68 to 29. Given this level of Senate support, the conference report on that bill is almost certain to include funding for ATP, so we might as well pass this motion and authorize that spending.

Now, I have heard claims that we cannot include ATP in this bill because the administration opposes it. Well, the administration opposed full funding for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership program, but this bill contains full funding for MEP. Congress overrode the administration when it was the right thing to do. Including ATP is the right thing to do, too. If the President has such a problem with it, he can make this bill his first veto.

In April, President Bush told the National Small Business Conference that he ''appreciates the fact that the small business entrepreneurs are some of the great innovators of our Nation'' and that he ''appreciates the fact that our small business owners are taking risks and pursuing dreams.''

But his actions show that he fails to appreciate that some of the most important advances are extremely risky, and to take those risks, businesses need a little help from the government. That is what ATP does. The most risky ventures are the ones with the greatest potential. If we fail to provide that help to American businesses, other countries are going to do it. They are already doing it, and that is why jobs are going overseas.

I urge a ''yes'' vote on my motion to recommit with instructions.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. BOEHLERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, we have in this motion to recommit a textbook example of how the perfect is the enemy of the good. Personally, I support the Advanced Technology Program, although I know that many of my colleagues on this side of the aisle do not. But I support this bill, and the Members on the other side of the aisle support this bill as well.

We all want to demonstrate our support for the Manufacturing Extension Partnership which has served so well and the other programs authorized in this bill so we can facilitate assistance going to American manufacturers who desperately need it. That has been the entire tenor of the debate today.

But now, as we are on the verge of accomplishing our mutual goal of helping manufacturers, we have before us a motion that will have the effect of killing the bill. That is not speculation. We know that disputes over ATP are why this bill died in the Senate in the last Congress. We know that the administration adamantly opposes ATP and will block the progress of this bill if ATP is included.

A vote for this motion is not a vote for ATP; it is a vote to kill a bill that will help American manufacturers. And killing this bill over ATP would be especially irresponsible because the Congress will have other chances to save the ATP program. For starters, we will vote on appropriations for the program. It is not clear at all how the gamesmanship behind this motion will benefit the ATP program. It just make it more of a political football. It is very clear how that gamesmanship works to the detriment of the bill and the aid it will provide to American manufacturers, so I urge my colleagues to vote down this politically motivated amendment.

We will have other chances to debate ATP. We will not have another chance for this bill, which in its current form has widespread bipartisan support. Let us put politics aside and make some real progress. Defeat the motion and support H.R. 250.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the noes appeared to have it.

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 196, noes 226, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 484]

AYES—196

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Baird
Baldwin
Barrow
Bean
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Blumenauer
Boren
Boucher
Boyd
Brady (PA)
Brown (OH)
Brown, Corrine
Butterfield
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Case
Chandler
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crowley
Cuellar
Cummings
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Edwards
Emanuel
Engel
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Farr
Fattah
Filner
Ford
Frank (MA)
Gonzalez
Gordon
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Harman
Hastings (FL)
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Inslee
Israel
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
Kucinich
Langevin
Lantos
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee
Levin
Lewis (GA)
Lipinski
Lofgren, Zoe
Lowey
Lynch
Maloney
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCollum (MN)
McDermott
McGovern
McIntyre
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (VA)
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Owens
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Pomeroy
Price (NC)
Rahall
Rangel
Reyes
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schwartz (PA)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Serrano
Sherman
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Solis
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Tanner
Tauscher
Taylor (MS)
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Tierney
Towns
Udall (CO)
Udall (NM)
Van Hollen
Velázquez
Visclosky
Wasserman Schultz
Waters
Watson
Watt
Weiner
Wexler
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn

NOES—226

Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Bachus
Baker
Barrett (SC)
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Beauprez
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boustany
Bradley (NH)
Brady (TX)
Brown (SC)
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Carter
Castle
Chabot
Chocola
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Crenshaw
Cubin
Culberson
Cunningham
Davis (KY)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Drake
Dreier
Duncan
Ehlers
Emerson
English (PA)
Everett
Feeney
Ferguson
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Flake
Foley
Forbes
Fortenberry
Fossella
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Garrett (NJ)
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Goode
Goodlatte
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Gutknecht
Hall
Harris
Hart
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Hensarling
Herger
Hobson
Hoekstra
Hostettler
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Issa
Istook
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
King (IA)
King (NY)
Kingston
Kirk
Kline
Knollenberg
Kolbe
Kuhl (NY)
LaHood
Latham
LaTourette
Leach
Lewis (CA)
Lewis (KY)
Linder
LoBiondo
Lucas
Lungren, Daniel E.
Mack
Manzullo
Marchant
McCaul (TX)
McCotter
McCrery
McHenry
McHugh
McKeon
McMorris
Mica
Miller (FL)
Miller (MI)
Miller, Gary
Moran (KS)
Murphy
Musgrave
Myrick
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Osborne
Otter
Oxley
Paul
Pearce
Pence
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Porter
Price (GA)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Ramstad
Regula
Rehberg

Reichert
Renzi
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Royce
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sanders
Saxton
Schmidt
Schwarz (MI)
Sensenbrenner
Sessions
Shadegg
Shaw
Shays
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Sodrel
Souder
Stearns
Sullivan
Sweeney
Tancredo
Taylor (NC)
Terry
Thomas
Thornberry
Tiahrt
Tiberi
Turner
Upton
Walden (OR)
Walsh
Wamp
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Westmoreland
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—11

Barton (TX)
Boswell
Camp
DeLay
Doolittle
Hefley
Kind
McKinney
Ortiz
Waxman
Weller

□ 1645

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BASS). The question is on the passage of the bill.

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

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

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman will state it.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Would the Chair please make a ruling on when the vote has been signaled by the Chair. I was of the opinion that when the gavel came down, that was the end of it.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona was on his feet attempting to reach the microphone.

Mr. McDERMOTT. I see there are no rules in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's demand for the yeas and nays was timely.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 394, nays 24, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 485]

YEAS—394

Abercrombie
Ackerman
Aderholt
Akin
Alexander
Allen
Andrews
Baca
Bachus
Baird
Baker
Baldwin
Barrow
Bartlett (MD)
Bass
Beauprez
Becerra
Berkley
Berman
Berry
Biggert
Bilirakis
Bishop (GA)
Bishop (NY)
Bishop (UT)
Blackburn
Blumenauer
Blunt
Boehlert
Boehner
Bonilla
Bonner
Bono
Boozman
Boren
Boustany
Boyd
Bradley (NH)
Brady (PA)
Brady (TX)
Brown (OH)
Brown (SC)
Brown, Corrine
Brown-Waite, Ginny
Burgess
Burton (IN)
Butterfield
Buyer
Calvert
Cannon
Cantor
Capito
Capps
Capuano
Cardin
Cardoza
Carnahan
Carson
Carter
Case
Castle
Chabot
Chandler
Chocola
Clay
Cleaver
Clyburn
Coble
Cole (OK)
Conaway
Conyers
Cooper
Costa
Costello
Cramer
Crenshaw
Crowley
Cubin
Cuellar
Culberson
Cummings
Cunningham
Davis (AL)
Davis (CA)
Davis (FL)
Davis (IL)
Davis (TN)
Davis, Jo Ann
Davis, Tom
Deal (GA)
DeFazio
DeGette
Delahunt
DeLauro
Dent
Diaz-Balart, L.
Diaz-Balart, M.
Dicks
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle
Drake
Dreier
Edwards
Ehlers
Emanuel
Emerson
Engel
English (PA)
Eshoo
Etheridge
Evans
Everett
Farr
Fattah
Ferguson
Filner
Fitzpatrick (PA)
Foley
Forbes
Ford
Fortenberry
Fossella
Frank (MA)
Frelinghuysen
Gallegly
Gerlach
Gibbons
Gilchrest
Gillmor
Gingrey
Gohmert
Gonzalez
Goode
Goodlatte
Gordon
Granger
Graves
Green (WI)
Green, Al
Green, Gene
Grijalva
Gutierrez
Hall
Harman
Hart
Hastings (FL)
Hastings (WA)
Hayes
Hayworth
Herger
Herseth
Higgins
Hinchey
Hinojosa
Hobson
Hoekstra
Holden
Holt
Honda
Hooley
Hoyer
Hulshof
Hunter
Hyde
Inglis (SC)
Inslee
Israel
Issa
Istook
Jackson (IL)
Jackson-Lee (TX)
Jefferson
Jenkins
Jindal
Johnson (CT)
Johnson (IL)
Johnson, E. B.
Jones (OH)
Kanjorski
Kaptur
Keller
Kelly
Kennedy (MN)
Kennedy (RI)
Kildee
Kilpatrick (MI)
King (NY)
Kingston
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
Markey
Marshall
Matheson
Matsui
McCarthy
McCaul (TX)
McCollum (MN)
McCotter
McCrery
McDermott
McGovern
McHugh
McIntyre
McKeon
McKinney
McMorris
McNulty
Meehan
Meek (FL)
Meeks (NY)
Melancon
Menendez
Mica
Michaud
Millender-McDonald
Miller (MI)
Miller (NC)
Miller, George
Mollohan
Moore (KS)
Moore (WI)
Moran (KS)
Moran (VA)
Murphy
Murtha
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal (MA)
Neugebauer
Ney
Northup
Norwood
Nunes
Nussle
Oberstar
Obey
Olver
Osborne
Otter
Owens
Oxley
Pallone
Pascrell
Pastor
Payne
Pearce
Pelosi
Peterson (MN)
Peterson (PA)
Petri
Pickering
Pitts
Platts
Poe
Pombo
Pomeroy
Porter
Price (GA)
Price (NC)
Pryce (OH)
Putnam
Radanovich
Rahall
Ramstad
Rangel
Regula
Rehberg
Reichert
Renzi
Reyes
Reynolds
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rogers (MI)
Rohrabacher
Ros-Lehtinen
Ross
Rothman
Roybal-Allard
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan (OH)
Ryan (WI)
Ryun (KS)
Sabo
Salazar
Sánchez, Linda T.
Sanchez, Loretta
Sanders
Saxton
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schmidt
Schwartz (PA)
Schwarz (MI)
Scott (GA)
Scott (VA)
Sensenbrenner
Serrano
Sessions
Shaw
Shays
Sherman
Sherwood
Shimkus
Shuster
Simmons
Simpson
Skelton
Slaughter
Smith (NJ)
Smith (TX)
Smith (WA)
Snyder
Sodrel
Solis
Souder
Spratt
Stark
Strickland
Stupak
Sullivan
Sweeney
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
Waters
Watson
Watt
Waxman
Weiner
Weldon (FL)
Weldon (PA)
Wexler
Whitfield
Wicker
Wilson (NM)
Wilson (SC)
Wolf
Woolsey
Wu
Wynn
Young (AK)
Young (FL)

NAYS—24

Barrett (SC)
Duncan
Flake
Foxx
Franks (AZ)
Garrett (NJ)
Gutknecht
Hensarling
Hostettler
Johnson, Sam
Jones (NC)
King (IA)
Marchant
McHenry
Miller (FL)
Miller, Gary
Musgrave
Myrick
Pence
Royce
Shadegg
Stearns
Tancredo
Westmoreland

NOT VOTING—15

Barton (TX)
Bean
Boswell
Boucher
Camp
Davis (KY)
DeLay
Doolittle
Feeney
Harris
Hefley
Kind
Ortiz
Paul
Weller

□ 1657

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 485, I put my card in the machine but it didn't register my vote. Had it registered I would have voted "yea."

Ms. HARRIS. Mr. Speaker, on rollcall No. 485, I was inadvertently detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea."

PRIVILEGED REPORT ON RESOLUTION OF INQUIRY TO THE PRESIDENT

Mr. HOEKSTRA, from the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–228) on the resolution (H. Res. 418) requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of the President relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

CONTINUATION OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO TERRORISM—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 109–57)

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

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the

President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in Effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent the enclosed notice to the *Federal Register* for publication, stating that the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism is to continue in effect beyond September 23, 2005. The most recent notice continuing this emergency was published in the *Federal Register* on September 22, 2004 (69 FR 56923).

The crisis constituted by the grave acts of terrorism and threats of terrorism committed by foreign terrorists, including the terrorist attacks in New York, in Pennsylvania, and against the Pentagon committed on September 11, 2001, and the continuing and immediate threat of further attacks on United States nationals or the United States that led to the declaration of a national emergency on September 23, 2001, has not been resolved. These actions pose a continuing unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States. For these reasons, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism, and maintain in force the comprehensive sanctions to respond to this threat.

GEORGE W. BUSH.

THE WHITE HOUSE, *September 21, 2005*.

□ 1700

HONORING ANDREW STUCKEY

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I come to the floor today to congratulate a remarkable young constituent of mine, Mr. Andrew Stuckey.

Andrew is a high school student senior from Longview, Texas, an extremely bright young man who is planning to attend Texas A&M University after he graduates; he also happens to be deaf. He is very involved in SkillsUSA, a national organization serving teachers and high school and college students who are preparing for careers in technical, skilled and service occupations, including health occupations.

More than 280,000 students and instructors join SkillsUSA annually, organized into more than 14,700 sections, and 54 State and territorial associations.

SkillsUSA has served more than 8.8 million members. Andrew is a talented drafter and won ''best in show'' for his work in the district competition. He currently serves as a SkillsUSA Texas State Parliamentarian for 2005 and 2006.

Mr. Stuckey is an extremely focused, motivated young gentleman; and I have no doubt that he will succeed in whatever career path he chooses. Again, I come to the well to pay tribute to a hard-working young man, and may God bless him in all of his future endeavors.

PRESIDENT BUSH'S PREPARATION FOR HURRICANE KATRINA

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to commend the President for his quick and compassionate helping hand that he has extended to the people of New Orleans. Now, some people might carp about the poor planning by the horse-show man that turned into a 5-level hurricane.

But the President was right on the job. He immediately noticed that there were going to be some reconstruction jobs. So he immediately signed an order to cut their wages. He said, we do not want truck drivers making $9 an hour. Why, we can get them for minimum wage.

We do not want these people who have had their houses lost and lost everything getting a decent wage when they are doing reconstruction. We want as the public policy of the United States that no one gets anything but the minimum wage.

I tell you, this President has more heart than I can believe. How he could stand up and say that, and do that, given the failure of his administration, shows that he has a big heart.

TRIBUTE TO ALICE MOORE

(Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS).

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, an important event is soon approaching for a wonderful American lady, my mother-in-law, Alice Moore. She is celebrating her 85th birthday. Alice Stewart Sampson Moore was born on September 28, 1920, in Yonkers, New York.

Her parents, William and Matilda, gave her a good Christian upbringing in the Episcopal Church. She turned her interest and learning into a career teaching education in Yonkers, New York.

She is a proud mother of 11, and a great grandmother of even more. Although no longer working, Alice continues to serve in her community, volunteering at an elementary school and at the hospital in Englewood, Florida.

Last year she suffered through the hurricanes that devastated parts of Florida, and her house did not escape damage. However, drawing on her Irish spirit, she cheerfully dealt with those setbacks and got back to pursuits.

For many men, a mother-in-law is an intimidating figure. Although a stern taskmaster, Alice speaks her mind and she is a delightful person. Her smile lights up the room. She reminds me of Barbara Bush. She is a giving person with a warm disposition and serving heart.

That is why I call her a thousand points of light times two. Mr. Speaker, in recognizing her accomplishments in education and as a volunteer, perhaps I should note another important accomplishment, being the mother of my wife, Joan Betty Moore Stearns. I am eternally indebted to you, Alice, and I wish you all the best. Happy birthday.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). 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.

THE NEED TO PROPERLY FUND THE MANUFACTURING EXTENSION PROGRAM

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

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the Manufacturing Extension Program helps small manufacturers in my State of Ohio and nationwide to improve their efficiency, increase their competitiveness, and stay in business.

With funding of about $111 million in 2003, the Manufacturing Extension Program, MEP, helped over 18,000 U.S. manufacturing firms increase sales by almost a billion dollars and cut costs by almost $700 million.

In Ohio, that meant helping some 2,700 businesses to create or retain over 1,100 jobs, increase sales by $20 million, cut costs by over $47 million, and increase investments by $58 million. But despite that track record of success, President Bush, in order to pay for the tax cuts that go overwhelmingly to the 1 percent wealthiest people in this country, President Bush has repeatedly put the Manufacturing Extension Program on the chopping block.

He proposed another round of MEP funding cuts for next year. The President's 2006 budget cuts MEP funding by 56 percent, understanding all of the manufacturing jobs lost in State after State after State, some 2½ million jobs in the last 5 years, the President wants to cut one of the few programs that works for American manufacturing.

Today the House passed H.R. 250, legislation which would extend MEP by adding a new component that links small manufacturers with academic institutions. But this bill should have given us an opportunity to do much more for American manufacturers.

Members of the House Science Committee, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. GORDON) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), had planned to offer amendments that would have strengthened MEP's partner program,

the Advanced Technology Program, that helps manufacturers improve their energy efficiency.

The Republican-led Congress did not agree to allow that amendment. We also missed an opportunity to expand and improve MEP itself. We should have used that bill to dramatically increase funding so that we can help U.S. manufacturing. Congress chose not to.

My home State of Ohio has lost one in six, one-sixth of its manufacturing jobs since 2001. An improved MEP could have made the difference for many small businesses who must fight every day to survive, but the Republican leadership used the partisan Rules Committee to block even attempts at amendments.

The problem, Mr. Speaker, is this Congress, this country, this government, has no manufacturing policy, no policy to retain manufacturing, no policy to expand manufacturing in this country. America's trade deficit the year I ran for Congress in 1992 for the first time was $38 billion. The trade deficit last year was $618 billion. From a $38 billion trade deficit, that means we have bought $38 billion more than we had sold back in 1992, to a $618 billion trade deficit today. That is a result of huge outsourcing of jobs and a major loss of U.S. manufacturing jobs.

Our trade deficit with China was $162 billion, with China alone last year. The United States has become the world's largest debtor Nation, adding $2.5 trillion to our national debt in 2002 alone.

Countries like Japan and China are quickly gaining control over our economy as they buy up more and more of our debt. These failed trade and fiscal policies have hit manufacturers in our country hard.

So Congress today had an opportunity, a lost opportunity, with the Manufacturing Extension Program. We failed in the opportunity to pass Crane-Rangel, a bill that would reward manufacturers that stay in the United States and manufacture here. Instead, this Congress continues to give tax breaks and incentives to those large corporations that outsource, that go offshore and produce their jobs there.

We passed an alternative that gave billions of dollars to these multinational corporations. Mr. Speaker, this Congress has been a Congress of lost opportunity for American manufacturing. We should change the direction of our trade policy. We should change the direction of our tax policy.

We should help these manufacturers in the United States, those small companies of 50, 100, and 200 employees that have really built our industrial base and built the middle class of this country. We can do much better than this.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time of the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP).

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

There was no objection.

FUND ALCOHOL AND DRUG ADDICTION PROGRAMS

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

Mr. RAMSTAD. Mr. Speaker, this month marks the 16th annual observance of National Alcohol and Drug Addiction Recovery Month. As we celebrate Recovery Month, it is time for Congress to knock down the barriers to treatment and recovery for 26 million Americans suffering the ravages of alcohol and drug addiction.

Mr. Speaker, it is a national disgrace that 270,000 Americans were denied treatment last year. It is a national tragedy that 150,000 of our fellow Americans died last year as a direct result of chemical addiction. It is a national crisis that the costs of addiction amount to $400 billion a year in increased health care costs, criminal justice costs, social service costs, and other related costs.

And think of the costs that cannot be measured in dollars and cents: the costs of human suffering, broken families, shattered dreams and destroyed lives. But there is hope. Treatment for alcohol and drug addiction works and recovery happens.

Mr. Speaker, as a grateful recovering alcoholic of 24 years myself, I am living proof that treatment does work and that recovery is real. The problem is too many people do not have the access to treatment that I have.

That is why Congress must pass the Treat America Act that I have authored with my good friend, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY), H.R. 1258.

This treatment parity legislation will give Americans suffering from addiction greater access to treatment by prohibiting health insurers from placing discriminatory restrictions on treatment.

□ 1715

Discriminatory barriers, by the way, that do not exist for any other disease.

Chemical dependency treatment parity is not only the right thing to do, it is also the cost-effective thing to do. Study after study has shown the average premium increase due to full premium parity is less than one-half of 1 percent. So in other words, for the price of a cup of coffee per day, we could treat 16 million alcoholics and addicts who are presently in health plans and being discriminated against. We also need to provide greater access to treatment for the 10 million alcoholics and drug addicts in the Medicaid program.

Mr. Speaker, the American Medical Association, the AMA, categorized addiction as a disease in 1956. Now, 50 years later, it is long overdue for Congress to treat the illness of addiction as the progressive and fatal disease it is. It is time to end the discrimination against people who need treatment for chemical addiction. It is time for Congress to deal with our Nation's number one public health problem.

It is time for Congress and the President to pass chemical addiction treatment parity. With 26 million Americans still suffering, we cannot afford to wait. With some 300,000 Americans being denied treatment this year, we cannot afford to wait. With 150,000 people dying last year as the direct result of addiction, we cannot afford to wait.

Mr. Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me and the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) and thousands of other recovering people in recommitting our efforts to pass treatment parity. Also, we need to recognize the addiction counselors and treatment professionals throughout our great country who have dedicated their lives to helping people recover. They are America's unsung heroes.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, let us celebrate ''Recovery Month'' by honoring the millions of Americans who are experiencing the promise and possibility of recovery, and let us never forget that 26 million Americans are still in need of our help.

FINDING OFFSETS FOR KATRINA

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

Mr. EMANUEL. Mr. Speaker, the cleanup effort along the gulf coast is now fully underway. The floodwaters of New Orleans have receded. We are shifting our focus to rebuilding and restoring lives as we all watch as another hurricane is on its way, and obviously put this work on hold as we again once again not only evacuate that part of the coast but also parts of Texas.

Congress has allocated more than $60 billion in disaster relief. It was the right thing to do, but with some estimates as high as $200 billion, some here are questioning whether or not we can afford rebuilding given our fiscal situation.

I would like to remind some of my colleagues that a number of us mentioned that we may get into a situation where we could have a crisis and we should be able to handle as a country the condition and economic condition, and we already have over $7 trillion of debt. In the last 5 years this Congress has added nearly $2 trillion to America's debt. China and Japan have become our bankers. And now we are in dire straits where we cannot help Americans unless we write $200 billion in hot checks.

This Congress is becoming known as the Congress of hot checks. That is all we do. We got a problem, we write hot checks around here. Now the truth is,

some Members of Congress have written $400 billion for the effort in Iraq, hot checks. Now we say we cannot pay for our own Americans, $200 billion to rebuild their lives, rebuild their communities, and restore their families unless we find ways to cut.

My suggestion to all of us is if we were willing to do $400 billion and going for Iraq, we have got to figure out a way to help our fellow Americans in time of need. That is our obligation to fellow Americans. If we are willing to do $400 billion for Iraq, we need to do $200 billion for Americans who live in Mississippi, Louisiana, Alabama, who have been affected and had their lives for no other reason other than natural disaster literally uprooted.

Some have talked about cutting health care. Some have talked about cutting education. Some have talked about cutting basic infrastructure. Others are talking about repealing the estate tax and tax cuts for those who earn hundreds upon hundreds of thousands of dollars, the top 1 percent. Instead, I believe what we should have is a balanced approach. There should be tax cuts on the table and spending. That is the way to fund the reconstruction of Katrina's damage to Louisiana, to Mississippi, and Alabama.

Let me give you some examples in the tax area, places that I refer to as corporate welfare. When we had the corporate tax bill up last year, it was a $5 billion problem that we had to solve. This Congress passed $150 billion in tax giveaways to solve a $5 billion problem. Now, I cannot believe none of you think that we cannot find a little fat in that bill. If you go back and look at it, you can eliminate handouts to special interests, somewhere around $32 billion.

A couple of examples. A repeal of the bill's provisions that weaken interest allocation rules would generate $14.4 billion; $5 billion by repealing the special rules for the timber industry; $100 million for NASCAR track owner subsidy; $169 million tax break for Puerto Rican rum makers; and the suspension of duties on ceiling fans, which would provide an additional $92 million. That bill is not the only bill, but those are examples.

I ask you, nobody planned through Katrina's damage, but given the damage, do we really need to give the ceiling fan industry $92 million? Do we really need to give the Puerto Rican rum makers $169 million when literally families are asunder and they need the help to get their homes, their lives back together, their education, their savings accounts, their health care?

We recently passed an $80 billion energy bill. We are providing Exxon Mobil and other energy companies $9 billion in tax subsidies to drill for oil when oil is at $65 a barrel, the highest it has ever been. At what time does that market work out its own where it becomes efficient that the oil companies are getting $69 a barrel? You know what? We do not need a tax subsidy from taxpayers to drill and explore for oil. Ten dollars a barrel, I got it. Fifteen dollars a barrel, I got it. Twenty-five dollars a barrel, I got it. We will help our domestic industry.

Exxon Mobil and the other corporations, this quarter alone, had a $10 billion profit, 69 percent up since last year. At what point do we stop subsidizing big oil? There is another place we can save money. Unfortunately, because of that subsidy, the American taxpayers are not only paying $3 a barrel for oil, but on April 15 they are paying another $10 billion to the energy industry because they are subsidizing it on Tax Day and every day at the pump.

Mr. Speaker, this afternoon I did some quick research and found we could easily come up with more than $56 billion in offsets just eliminating corporate welfare this Congress has handed out in just the past year. The fact is that this country can afford to rebuild after Hurricane Katrina, but it cannot be done on the backs of those who need our help the most. It cannot be done by cutting health care. It cannot be done by cutting education. It will take leadership and require Congress to do something this Congress that writes hot checks has not done before, and that is stand up to special interests.

The American people expect us to do what is right for America. We are all in this together. Let us take on the special interests, the corporate interests as it relates to corporate welfare. Everybody has skin in the game when it comes to rebuilding America.

CELEBRATING RECOVERY MONTH

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Speaker, I too rise with my colleague from Minnesota and my colleague from Rhode Island to speak about ''Recovery Month'' and what it means for individuals and what it means for our country as a whole. But, Mr. Speaker, today I would like to focus my remarks on a story, a life story written by one of my constituents. Her name is Lois Davieau of East Rochester, New Hampshire.

I recently met Ms. Davieu when she came to my office to tell me about her long and arduous battle with crack cocaine. She asked me to share her story, a compelling story, on our House floor during the 16th annual celebration of ''Recovery Month'' in the hopes that her story will enlighten others. I would like to now read to you her personal story of addiction and recovery.

Let me begin by setting the scene for you, in her words.

A perfect family home on five acres of land in a small quaint country town. Everyone in town knows everyone else. My best friend Steven is a quiet boy, always a bit timid. We have always had great adventures when we play together. We hear Steven's mom yell for him, and Steven runs for the house without saying good-bye. I run to the big tree to go away for a while. I know all too well those screams. Only they are silently held within me.

Later in her life, Lois has five children. And I continue her story again.

So here I am with five children, and the only thing that has changed is that I am alone. My parents offered to take the three oldest children over the summer vacation so that I may work some extra hours and get ahead. But something inside of me panics. No, I think, they are the only reason that I pull myself out of bed.

My mother convinces me to send them for a couple of weeks and I had no idea why at that moment. I was overcome with emotional panic. Today I know why. Crack cocaine, though, found me in my darkest and lowest points. I was so lonely and so empty. I was working 60 hours a week, 20 of which were in a bar at night. I made some friends there. They helped me feel better by bringing me into the fold. The drug helped me open up and become much more sociable; so I thought to myself, what is a little social drug use going to hurt? But 8 months later I was living under a bridge, eating oranges off of neighborhood trees and doing what I had to do to stop the vast sea of darkness and emotional pain.

I tried to stop 100 times. I would go a couple of weeks, get a job, and then the darkness would swarm back in. That life lasted for about 8 months. I woke, after 3 straight days of using, in a dealer's house on a couch that was infested with fleas. I do not know what I was dreaming, but I know I woke in a complete and total hysterical panic. After sobbing and completely breaking down, I stood up, I walked to the highway. I put out my thumb and headed north. I knew the risks I was taking alone on that highway but it did not matter. I was lost. There was no one piece of me that I recognized.

That is where I begin my journey to recovery. Eighteen years later is where my story of recovery begins today. Recovery for me has been a path strewn with obstacles, gifts in disguise, and self-actualization. My obstacles were both self-inflicted and socially inflicted.

I start my education of recovery in a self-help group. At that time, drug addicts were not to be tolerated. They could not be mingled with alcoholics. Once again, I thought, I do not fit in. I hid in the background and listened. When I had been around long enough to be recognized, I just replaced the word ''crack'' with ''alcohol'' and everyone was happy. I did what I had to do to stay straight. When asked on a job application about drugs, I lied. When asked on an insurance form, I lied. I was surviving the best way I knew. Now I was living a clean and socially acceptable life, though lying about my disease.

So today I stand, I tell you, it is not just the way it is. I am cured from my disease, and I am not recovered from my disease. Yes, it is in check. I, like most other persons with a progressive chronic disease, am in remission; but I have early warning signs and symptoms of recurrence that I watch for. I know that I am responsible for the stigma of my disease by not coming forward and allowing those who still suffer to see the hope in me. The stigma of my disease stops here and now. I am responsible for giving hope to the person who still suffers from their or a loved one's disease, because without my face, without any voice, I still suffer in silence. I am not ashamed of my disease; I am ashamed of my behavior towards my disease.

Today I ask for you to feel the fear, the struggle, the challenge, the hope, the celebration that resides in this person, a person with addiction.

Mr. Speaker, those are the words of one of the most compelling constituents that I have had the honor of having in my office, who told me in her heartfelt story which I have been able to relate to you of her road through the long journey to a place that many of us do not know and to the recovery. Hers is a story of hope, of compassion that we all need to feel, and a system that needs to work for people like Lois.

Mr. Speaker, I thank you for the opportunity to address this great Nation.

□ 1730

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 2123, SCHOOL READINESS ACT OF 2005

Mr. BISHOP of Utah, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109–229) on the resolution (H. Res. 455) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2123) to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

RECOGNIZING RECOVERY MONTH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. GOHMERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. KENNEDY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues in recognizing Recovery Month sponsored by the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration and by the Center for Substance Abuse and Treatment.

As the co-chairman of the newly formed Addiction, Treatment and Recovery Caucus, it has been an eye-opening experience to speak with recovery groups working to bring an end to the stigma surrounding addictive disorders.

At every event and every meeting, someone will inevitably take me aside, quietly whisper to me about how their parent had abused drugs for years without knowing it or how their child was attempting to rebuild their life after spending time in a juvenile detention facility for a drug-related crime or how they lost one after years of battling addiction. While these people quietly share their most intimate family secrets, they may not realize that addictive disorders impact over 63 percent of our Nation and that they are far from alone.

In the past several years, advancements in medical science have allowed us to take incredible images of the brain. The National Institutes of Drug Abuse, NIDA, has found evidence of tissue malfunction in the brain of those with addiction.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to show a few of the slides of what a new technology called the PET scan reveals to us about the various afflictions of the brain and brain disorders and how those brain disorders can appear now under a particular kind of X-ray. As everybody can see very clearly, brains operate differently; and those differences come from different metabolic differences and, in many respects, come from simply genetic differences that predispose some people to having mental disorders or having addictive disorders or having alcoholic disorders.

The fact of the matter is now we do not have to be quiet because there is no stigma to alcoholism or drug abuse. This is no reflection on someone's character.

My mother is still battling alcoholism. I am a recovering alcoholic. I know many other members of my family are recovering. I know many of my friends who have families where alcohol and drug abuse plague their families and run amok.

The fact of the matter is, for so long, people have kept quiet about these illnesses because they felt that there was something wrong with them. The fact is now we have been able to look into the brain, see the areas that are affected, see the genetic components to alcoholism and drug addiction and begin to repair those.

Just like every other illness, whether it be diabetes or asthma, drug and alcohol abuse is a chronic disorder like those illnesses. Yet, unlike diabetes and unlike asthma and like every other physical illness of the body, the physical illness and disorder of the brain is discriminated against by insurance companies in this country. As a result of it being discriminated against, millions of Americans do not get the treatment that they could be benefiting from in such incredible ways.

Why should we provide this treatment? Well, aside from the fact that it is the humane thing to do, it actually saves us money. For one thing, it saves us all the cost to our prison system. We have, as a Nation, the largest prison population of any industrialized nation in the world; and Mr. Speaker, the sheriff of Los Angeles County says he runs the largest treatment and drug abuse facility in America. He runs the Los Angeles County jails, and that is appropriate saying that because, quite frankly, our jails are becoming the treatment of last resort.

ENVIRONMENTAL EXTREMISM

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, the whole Nation has been saddened by the terrible and tragic events of Hurricane Katrina. Because of our great concern about this, I would like to read a portion of a story the Los Angeles Times ran just 12 days ago on September 9.

The Los Angeles Times said: ''In the wake of Hurricane Betsy 40 years ago, Congress approved a massive hurricane barrier to protect New Orleans from storm surges that could inundate the city.

''But the project, signed into law by President Johnson, was derailed in 1977 by an environmental lawsuit. Now the question is: Could that barrier have protected New Orleans from the damage wrought by Hurricane Katrina?

''If we had built the barriers, New Orleans would not be flooded,' said Joseph Towers, the retired chief counsel for the Army Corps of Engineers New Orleans district.

''Tower's view is endorsed by a former key Senator, along with academic experts, who say a hurricane barrier is the only way to control the powerful storm surges that enter Lake Pontchartrain and threaten the city.''

Still quoting the Los Angeles story: ''The project was stopped in its tracks when an environmental lawsuit won a Federal injunction on the grounds that the Army's environmental impact statement was flawed. By the mid-1980s, the Corps of Engineers abandoned the project.''

The story goes on, but I will just say this: that project, which was stopped by environmental lawsuits, really led or allowed the damage, the horrible events that happened in New Orleans and the surrounding areas. Environmental extremism, Mr. Speaker, has caused almost every highway, aviation, and water project in this country to take three or four times longer than it should and cost about three or four times more than it should. This hurts the poor and the lower income and the working people of this country most of all.

Perhaps wealthy environmentalists do not realize how much they hurt people by driving up costs and destroying jobs; but hurt they do. Some projects they are able to stop altogether. This barrier protection for New Orleans is just one of many examples, but certainly the worst.

However, some people say the city was at fault in its response to this tragedy. Some say it was the State.

Some say it was the Federal response that was too slow. Actually, there were mistakes made at all levels, but most people at all levels responded more quickly and with more money than any other country in the world would have been able to do when faced with a similar natural disaster.

We should be proud of how the American people have responded. I doubt there is a fire or police or sheriff's department of any size in this country that has not sent people to the affected area. Private contributions and volunteer help worth billions has been provided. Congress has voted to send $62 billion there. Fortunately, the death toll, while still terrible, was not even close to the predicted 10,000, probably with apparently a few hundred.

What should we do now? The best way we can help is for the other body, the Senate, to follow the leadership of this House and pass the Water Resources Development Act. This bill was passed several weeks before our August recess by a vote of 406 to 14 here in the House. We passed it in the House by a similar margin in 2003, but it bogged down in the Senate.

This bill provides roughly $2 billion for hurricane and flood protection and environmental restoration for the Louisiana coastal region and the gulf coast. No bill before the Congress will do more to protect those areas in the future than this worthy bill. The Senate should not let this bill be bogged down again. It should follow the lead of the House and pass this very important bill just as soon as possible.

No bill does more to provide protection against these tragedies, not only in Louisiana and Mississippi but in other at-risk areas, than does the Water Resources Development Act.

I hope everyone will work together to pass this very important legislation just as soon as possible.

ARAB THOUGHT FORUM

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

Mr. MCDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I recently journeyed to Amman, Jordan, where I met with Iraqi exiles and Jordanian leaders. While there, I had the privilege of addressing a special meeting of the widely respected Arab Thought Forum, a community of leaders from throughout the Middle East.

For a quarter of a century, the ATF has examined issues affecting the Arab world and developed realistic solutions. There are over 200 members from throughout the Arab world. His Royal Highness Prince El Hassan Bin Talal of Jordan is the president.

My goal was to listen, to learn, and to bring back whatever message this distinguished organization wanted America to hear directly. Their perspective is uniquely valuable. They are not anti-U.S. or anti-West. They support us even as they champion a strong and safe Arab world. The ATF wants Iraq to succeed. They live every day what we see for a few minutes every night on the news. They do not hate us, but they know who does. They know that hatred is a cancer that spreads if not treated, and they know that Western words that defy Iraqi reality is not treatment.

Every night we witness the unbearable heartbreak of another child dead, another family wailing in agony, unaware of the news camera that acts as a voyeur in their anguish.

How often have we neutralized our feelings to the sight of an Iraqi convulsed in the street, rocking back and forth, holding on to the lifeless body of a loved one? Even the most callous cannot help but admit that Iraq has become a minefield of hatred and violence that pierces Western rhetoric to the very heart. Iraq is close to civil war, and the presence of U.S. forces is a focal point for this blind rage.

Saying it is time to get out would be very easy for me. Saying it is time to find a way out is not, but I am saying just that. The United States needs a plan that protects our soldiers and offers some chance to stabilize Iraq. We are nowhere close to that today.

Over 1,900 U.S. soldiers have died, between 25,000 and 100,000 Iraqis have been killed, and tens of thousands of Americans and Iraqis have been wounded, and the violence goes on.

The development of an Iraqi Constitution was supposed to be a peace process by another name to bring Kurds, Shiites and Sunnis together, but the Sunnis leaders strongly rejected the process and the document it produced.

Middle Eastern leaders told me that the constitution is sort of a ''damned if you do, damned if you don't'' sort of affair. They say, as written now, passage would mean another 15 years of war and civil war at the least. If it fails, the insurgents will claim victory over the United States and plunge Iraq even deeper into violence.

As many Arab leaders see it, we are rushing headlong into a lose-lose situation. To these people, the conclusion is inescapable. Many I met privately believe that the United States' actions can only mean the U.S. entered Iraq for oil. They fear the United States will remain not because it is in Iraq's best interests, but because it is in America's oil interests.

Why else, they ask, would the administration refuse to pledge that we will not build permanent military bases? Why else, they wonder, would the administration stubbornly refuse to alter their course in the face of reality? These are our friends talking.

In that spirit, they offered an idea, a breakthrough that changes everything. They do not condemn the administration or America. They do not call for the immediate withdrawal of U.S. forces. Instead, they asked me to bring back a message of hope that peace can be achieved not by force, rhetoric, or the United States alone.

□ 1745

The Arab Thought Forum believes the road to peace can only be found by having a respected Arab leader convene an Iraqi summit conference without the West dictating the terms. Without the West dictating the terms. It may even be possible for his Royal Highness al Hassan to lead such a summit, but only if the United States stops talking and starts listening. No one I met believes the present course will lead to peace in Iraq.

This weekend, thousands of Americans will participate here in Washington and across the Nation in Operation Cease-Fire. The event will convulse the Nation, pitting Americans who want us out of Iraq immediately against those who believe it is worth going on. We remain deeply divided.

Mr. Speaker, urge the President to stop the rhetoric and get the Arab Thought Forum on point to have such a summit. Only by sitting down with all the parties, led by an Arab, can this be stopped.

FOREIGN EXCHANGE STUDENTS ARE GOODWILL AMBASSADORS FOR U.S.

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

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, last Sunday during the Emmy awards, I realized that one of the most popular new comedies about domestic life in America is Desperate Housewives, and one of the most popular ongoing dramas about domestic life in America is The Sopranos. And even though a majority of Americans still have regular contact with church, one of the few shows that actually shows contact between a family and religion is The Simpsons. Now, it is not my intention to try to bash television shows or Hollywood, but these are hardly adequate or accurate views of America, and this inaccuracy does have policy implications.

If the image of America is derived from the popular culture and not the reality of what America is, it has an impact on our foreign affairs. Let me try to illustrate. In the year 2003, I was part of the Congressional Study Group on Germany and had the opportunity, with others, of representing the United States in Berlin with the German Government, which at the time was, shall we say, not a big U.S. supporter of U.S. foreign policy.

In fact, that particular German Government had just a very narrow election by doing a significant amount of America bashing to get there. But the tone of that government would have been more acrimonious were it not for a senior SPD member, Hans Ulrich Kluse, from Hamburg, who, at considerable political risk, put his reputation

on the line to insist that his government try to make more cooperative pragmatic relations with the United States.

At the time, I wondered why somebody would spend so much political capital to be pro-American, until I also realized that the references he always gave when he was speaking about America were to his experiences in the 1950s as a foreign exchange student in Clinton, Iowa. I also realized his experiences with real American families gave him an insight and friendship that no one can ever gain by watching America as purported by television and the movies.

As I traveled that year as well as last year to Germany, I realized that those places in Germany that are extremely pro-American are those where they have the greatest contact with Americans. And in like manner, where anti-American attitude develops and proliferates is in those areas that have the least amount of contact, which may be one of the reasons why the Ambassador from the United States at that particular time was undertaking a prolonged and expensive initiative to try to increase the contact between Americans and Germans, especially Germans of school age. Such contacts, he thought, were the only way to improve Americans' image abroad and mitigate anti-American attitudes where they may be growing in the future.

In fact, I found one constituent, who did not know my interest in this area, who wrote me. Martha, from Park City said, ''At a time when youth in strategic parts of the world such as the Middle East are confronted with dangerous cultural misunderstandings about the United States, youth exchange programs are uniquely suited to allow young people to experience an America unfiltered by Hollywood. These exchange participants frequently take home an understanding and often appreciation for America's people, society, and values.''

She is right on. Every year we have the opportunity of sending 30,000 ambassadors out into the world. And for 19 years, the host families of those 30,000 potential ambassadors have been receiving a tax deduction of $50, which is nice. But that is why I am happy to have joined with the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. ANDREWS) and nine others to sponsor H.R. 1504, which will change that $50 to $200. That is not enough to cover the expense of host families, but it is enough to encourage families to open their doors so that more kids can have the opportunity to experience an American way of life, which may indeed be the smartest foreign policy decision we could possibly make.

With America and America's way of life under constant attack, both literally and rhetorically, it would be wise to do everything we could to encourage students of the world to experience what this country has to offer, return home, and then watch that influence tend to grow.

If our image abroad is important to the spreading of democracy and to the defeat of terrorism, and I think it is, it is good to get the good kids of the world with those good families in America. And the payoff will be improved foreign policy options and relations 10 and 20 years from now. Such an investment would be wise.

I would urge my colleagues to look at the details of H.R. 1504 and join us in planting seeds that can be reaped to the benefit of American foreign policy in the future.

TRIBUTE TO ROGER A. NICKERSON

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 tonight to pay tribute and honor a great American patriot, Roger Nickerson, my uncle, who passed away last Monday. Roger Nickerson embodied all that is good and decent about America. He loved our country, and he served it with honor and distinction for 30 years in the United States Navy, both in Active and Reserve status. He retired as a Master Chief, with many medals and accomplishments.

The Chief, as many of us liked to call him, then worked for the INS for 7 years before retiring with his wife Rosemary to Stoddard, Wisconsin, where he converted an old one-room schoolhouse into their beautiful home.

He was truly a Renaissance man, capable of doing anything with his hands, and with a high standard for perfection. If anyone can be described as the strong silent type, it was the Chief. He had the looks of Robert Redford and the coolness of Clint Eastwood. In short, he was a great role model for those of us who knew him.

But as much as he loved his country and was proud of his service, he loved his family even more. He was a terrific husband, father, grandfather, brother, uncle, and friend. There was nothing he would not do for family and friends. And if there is such a thing, as I believe there is, as a lifelong soul mate, the Chief found her in his wife Rosemary. They met at an early age and their commitment blossomed into a lifelong adventure, taking them and their kids to new destinations every few years due to his military service.

His greatest source of pride was his children, Randy, Robin, Rhonda, Robbie, and his many grandchildren. I know the good Lord does not produce too many Roger Nickersons in this world. All of us who knew him feel blessed and fortunate to have had him in our lives. Now he has found his peace and comfort by rejoining his youngest son, Robert, in the presence of our Lord, where they will wait for the rest of us to join them. May God bless them and keep them in his care.

Roger Nickerson, the Chief, was loved by many and will be missed. Mr. Speaker, I just wanted the rest of our Nation to know a little bit about this great American patriot here tonight.

FREE ACT TO RESPOND TO PRICE GOUGING

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

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, in the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Americans are pulling together, donating to relief organizations and giving their time to help the people of the gulf coast recover. That is how American people react when they see their fellow citizens in need. Unfortunately, some people have looked at Hurricane Katrina not as a chance to give but as an opportunity to profit. Some have decided to take advantage of this terrible tragedy and line their own pockets by price gouging the American people at the gas pump and in the energy needs they will experience this winter in order to heat their home and their place of employment.

At a time when Americans are choosing between filling their gas tanks or filling their prescriptions or providing for their families, oil companies are reaping record profits. People are rightly angry and frustrated with these high gas prices, and they deserve to have someone on their side fighting to ensure that they do not get mugged at the gas pump. Sadly, the administration's answer has been to sit on their hands while consumers get the shakedown from the oil companies.

Today, we learn that eight Governors, including Michigan's Governor Granholm, sent a letter to the President and the Senate and the House leadership urging Congress to act immediately by putting forth legislation that would return excessive, unconscionably collected profits to the consumers. The letter, which was signed by Governor James Doyle of Wisconsin, states: ''When the wholesale price of gas went up by 60 cents almost overnight, oil companies were obviously using the most devastating natural disaster in our Nation's history to reap a windfall at the expense of the American consumers. To price gouge consumers under normal circumstances is dishonest enough,'' the letter stated, ''but to make money off the severe misfortune of others is downright immoral.''

It is obvious to me that Congress needs to protect Americans from price gouging and market manipulations. As the lead sponsor of the FREE Act, Federal Response to Energy Emergencies, that I will soon introduce, is the Democrats' answer to the Nation's record high gas and oil prices. I have been joined in drafting this legislation by the Democratic Rural Caucus, especially the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. RUSH) and the gentlewoman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH).

Currently, only 28 States have laws on the books that define price gouging

and have enforcement mechanisms to go after those who are ripping off consumers. At the Federal level, there is no oversight to protect consumers from this predatory pricing. That is why we need this Federal legislation now. No American should have to pay too much for gas for their automobile or to heat their home this winter because the oil companies are rigging the prices.

Our bill will give the President authority to take immediate action in the face of an energy crisis by declaring a national energy emergency. Our legislation mandates that the FTC, the Federal Trade Commission, for the first time ever will have to define price gouging and the criteria that makes up price gouging. It will also provide the FTC and the Department of Justice with the authority to investigate and prosecute those who engage in predatory pricing, from oil companies all the way down to the local gas stations, with an emphasis on those who profit most. This includes the gouging of gasoline prices, home heating oil, or natural gas.

Our legislation expands the Federal Trade Commission's authority to more aggressively pursue instances of market manipulation, such as geographic price setting or territorial restrictions imposed by refineries and those who are what they call ''gaming the system.'' Our legislation empowers the Federal Government to impose tough civil penalties of up to triple damages of all excess profits on companies that have cheated consumers. It also imposes tough criminal penalties of up to $100 million on corporations, and fines of up to $1 million plus jail sentences for up to 10 years on individuals.

This bill will provide relief to farmers and small businesses paying skyrocketing energy and transportation costs, and expand the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, LIHEAP, through fines paid by price gouging companies.

My bill will protect consumers from unfair gas prices and punish those who think that at a time of national tragedy it is the right time to rob Americans of their hard-earned money. It is the right thing to do for consumers and for our Nation's economy.

Look at what has been going on in the last few months, even before Hurricane Katrina. This is an article out of the Soo Evening News, a newspaper in my district. It is July 20, 2005. It is before the hurricane season. That day, in my home State of Michigan, gas prices went up 80 cents; eighty cents in one day, based upon rumor, fear, and speculation. You cannot tell me that no one is profiting excessively from America's fear.

Also, I found an article in the Washington Post with the headline, ''Oil Prices Spike as Storm Nears. Jump of $4.39 is Largest One-day Surge on Record.'' These are the reasons we must have this legislation. Let us pass the FREE Act.

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.)

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

(Mr. POE 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 gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. WOOLSEY addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. OSBORNE 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 New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. PALLONE 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 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 gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

(Mr. STEARNS 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 gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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.)

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, once again it is an honor to come before the House, and I want to thank the Democratic leadership for allowing us, the 30-Something Working Group, to come to the floor to talk about issues that are facing not only young Americans but Americans in general.

The 30-Something Working Group, as I have stated before, time after time, is a group of 30-something Members on the Democratic side of the aisle who meet every week. We come together on the issues that are facing Americans and discuss things that, A, are working or, B, things that are not working on behalf of the American people, and we try to bring that to the attention of our colleagues here in this House.

□ 1800

I think it is important for us to not only be very aware of what is happening now in the action or inaction here in the Congress or here in this House. I think it is also important for us to realize that Hurricane Katrina survivors and those that are still in recovery are in need of a government that is willing to respond not only as it relates to saying, well, we passed the $62.2 billion emergency appropriation, but to make sure that we never have to be placed in a position that we are in now, not this House, but the people affected by the storm, and not as it relates to the natural disaster.

We know that is an act of God and that will happen; but as it relates to governance, who dropped the ball or who did not respond in time, who did not get a letter because too many people lost their lives because the response was not what it should have been.

Mr. Speaker, it was not the hurricane that killed a number of people, people who have children lost at this point, that homes are devastated in New Orleans because of the flooding. It was not just the storm that made that happen. Governance broke down somewhere. Our reason for coming to the floor today is to not only share with our colleagues but to make sure that we are abundantly clear with the American people about the importance of having an independent commission out of the control of this House and out of the control of this Congress to allow appointments to take place, bipartisan, and independent.

Right now we have a partisan select committee that will be meeting sometime in the very near future, maybe tomorrow, organizing and trying to bring

witnesses before them. I am very, very proud, and when I say very, very proud, this is the moment we live for to be able to stand up on behalf of those who are not here to stand up on behalf of themselves.

We know that the American people have said, 70 percent of the American people have said, they want an independent committee like the 9/11 Commission to look at what happened or what did not happen as it relates to the response and preparation for Hurricane Katrina. We are looking at the number of 200 billion Federal dollars being spent to rebuild and help those Americans get back on their feet.

It is important for us to have this independent commission to be able to make sure that we are not at this point ever again, especially when it comes down to the breakdown of government. I think it is important. I am not trying to be a pessimist in any way, but I think it is important for us to call it what it is. It is a partisan select committee created by the House of Representatives, passed outside of what we call regular order here in the process, outside of regular order, going to certain committees that have oversight over the necessary agencies. But to say we are going to get to the bottom of what happened is just not the way to go about doing it. Not even 50/50, or 10 on one side and 10 on the other side to make sure accountability is there so the American people can have some confidence.

No, because the majority wanted to keep control of the process and because the President and others that are here in this Congress wanted to keep control of the process, we have a partisan select committee that has been appointed and given the charge to find out the truth. I think that not only Democrats on this side of the aisle but some of my good friends on the other side of the aisle should speak out. I know that Democrats have, but I challenge some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to speak out and say this is wrong, because we know it is wrong. We know it is going to be partisan, and we know we will not get the hard questions answered.

We know that if the administration has anything to do with the response, which admittedly the President has said it was not what it should have been, that would have been fine if we were talking about a check that was not mailed out, a rebate check and it was 3 days late. We are talking about loss of life, loss of property. We are talking about children as we speak now that are still missing. We are talking about people who spent 3 days on their own roof or in their attic or 3 days on a bridge without water, without proper sanitation and without a response from the Federal Government to be able to save not only their lives in some cases but also as it relates to saving their property, of making sure that we were there to respond.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman, and I think this is an opportunity for us to step up and do this in a way that the American people will see this as an honest attempt to try to figure out what the problems are and what the problem was and what the problem is, and if we continue down the road, what the problems will be.

The real issue I think and why over 70 percent of the American people want an independent commission, bipartisan, half Democrats half Republicans, people who do not sit in this body, people who do not have to ask the administration for favors during the appropriations process, or through the regulatory process, that is, the problem is we have Members who will be on this floor who will need favors from the administration, will be cutting deals in here, will be the same people who are going to try to figure out what the problems are.

I want to say on behalf of myself, I hate this. I hate the fact that we have to come to the floor and talk about this stuff. We spoke about Social Security for months and months. I hate the fact that we have to be critical of this administration. I hate the fact that we have to be critical of Michael Brown and the whole process, but that is our constitutional obligation. When we raise our hands the first week in January every other year, we swear an oath to the Constitution.

The outfit, the gang that is running this place, just cannot seem to shoot straight. They did not tell us the truth with the Medicare prescription drug number. It was $400 billion the night we voted on it, and it turned into $700 billion or $800 billion. There was misinformation before the war on terror. The budget numbers that were given daily, weekly over the past few years are not accurate, never are.

The spiel about the tax cuts are going to create all these new jobs, not true. That is why 70 percent of the American people want an independent commission. They think this is the gang that cannot shoot straight, and it is.

And for the President to be giving a speech on Social Security two days afterwards when all of America is watching this on their television, how far removed is he? How insulated from the average American is he? That is the problem: we have a disconnect between this government and the American people. I hope that this independent commission that we are pushing for, like the 9/11 Commission, will be one that will bring some credibility back to the government, one that will take an accurate look at what happened here and bring us the facts.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) speaks the truth. There is no question about it. Now we are hearing on CNN, and we have to hear it on CNN, unfortunately, that the Republican leadership plans to go forward with their partisan committee to investigate Hurricane Katrina. Rightfully so, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI) has refused to appoint Democratic Members, and everyone I have spoken to in our Democratic Caucus, if asked to serve by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. HASTERT), we will stand our ground and insist on there being an independent commission.

The example we have been using here on this floor is would the American public be comfortable if Enron executives examined and investigated what went wrong in their corporation and their corporate scandals? How about Tyco? You would never accept those kinds of internal reviews as being accountable, objective, or independent.

If Congress is going to truly inspire the confidence again of the American people, which is what we so desperately need to do when it comes to our emergency preparedness procedures, it is to not engage in partisan infighting and backside-covering, because that is what they are doing here with insisting on having a partisan internal congressional committee instead of an independent, objective 9/11-style commission. It is confidence that we need to restore because it is the issue of security that Americans most want to feel comfortable that their government is taking care of.

That was supposedly why the President was reelected last year. One of the reasons many people cited was because they felt he would keep them safer, this administration would be more likely, supposedly, to keep them safer. I bet a lot of those people are scratching their heads wondering why they cast that vote and where is the action to back up the words that the administration campaigned on all of last year.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important for us to realize when it is time to lead and when it is time to not only lead but stand up on behalf of the folks that elected us here. It is important for us to stand up.

The American people, they do not want us to be partisan, and they do not want a partisan select committee selected by the House that is partisan. They want an independent commission like the 9/11 Commission. They want that. I guarantee you the folks in Alabama and Mississippi and definitely the people in Louisiana, and I would even say the folks in Florida, want an independent commission.

Members do not see anyone running around here saying we want a partisan commission to look at what happened. I do not see one headline that says we want it to be partisan so we do not find out exactly what we need to find out, not the who done it and who did it kind of thing, but where the ball was dropped so we can save lives, American lives. This is not a foreign country somewhere.

We are saying we need to make sure that we prevent loss of life. There are

Americans that died in the aftermath of this hurricane. I say the aftermath. I cannot help but remember the story where the gentleman was caught on television, and a reporter walked up and said what is wrong. ''My wife, she is gone. I was holding her hand. I could not hold on. She said, 'You cannot hold me any longer.''' That was not a natural disaster; that was the fact that we did not have in place what we needed to have in place to make sure the governance, the government, be it local, State or Federal, was responding to these individuals.

I have papers stacked this high with pictures of people sitting in front of their loved ones because they ran out of insulin or oxygen. This is a failure, and we will never know, we will not know the truth if we allow this Congress, the majority of this Congress to deny the American people, not just the Democrats in Congress but the American people and the victims of Hurricane Katrina, the truth and to make sure and ensure that it will not happen again, because we will be better by having a nonpartisan commission outside of this Congress to evaluate what went wrong, what went right, and what we have to focus on.

□ 1815

We are better now because of the 9/11 Commission. We passed a bill here on this floor because of their work. We were able to save American lives and protect America in the future.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I want to piggyback on what he is saying here because not only do the American people want an independent review so that their confidence can be restored. They want their representatives in Congress to be statespeople. They want us to step up and put partisanship aside. My colleagues are veterans of this process, and I have been here 9, almost 10 months now, and the thing that has been the most startling to me is how partisan it is here. It does not need to be this way. I know. I have spoken to some Members even today, some Members who are leaders on the Republican side who I know if we came around the table and sat down and hashed out how we could best approach the review of what happened with Katrina and the response and our lack of preparedness, I know we could work it out. But the leadership here does not allow that to happen. It is all about winning. It is all about ''our way or the highway.'' And Americans are sick of ''our way or the highway'' politics. They just want us to get it done and do the right thing. And I just do not understand why it has to be about winning, it has to be about we are going to protect our backsides, we are going to make sure that the truth really does not come out. God forbid if we actually admit that we made a mistake. That is just irresponsible.

And to me the most devastating thing, besides the loss of life and the children, the little babies that we see being held by people who are not their mothers, because their parents are gone and no one knows where they are, the thing that is most devastating to me is knowing that there are millions of people in this country who do not believe in us anymore, who do not believe in this process. Look at the polling numbers on Congress and how Americans feel about the job we are doing. Our constituents might like us as individuals, and that is only some of us; but as a body, as an institution, we have lost their faith. And we have lost their faith because all we do is throw up our elbows and duke it out and fight to the finish. They want us to do our jobs and do right by them, and that means putting aside winning, and making sure that we can come together as Americans, like we did after 9/11, like I saw Congress do after 9/11 when we were all linking arms and working together.

Maybe Katrina, because it only happened to one region of the country, was not a unifying enough event. But if there is ever a time. We just had Rita hit Florida. It is bearing down as a category 5 on Texas now. I mean, clearly no one is immune from this in this country, and it is time that we exercise some leadership. And I think we should ask our leadership, especially the leadership running this Congress, to say to themselves, it is not all about me. That is what the American people want us to do. I just wonder whether they have the courage and the nerve to do it. It certainly does not seem that way.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, it does not look like it. And I think David Broder had a great quote saying that majority Republicans see themselves first and foremost as members of the Bush team. Well, this is not about their team winning. This is not about politics, and we know for the last 5 years it has been all politics all the time here, as I talked about Medicare and all the other issues. And now here we go again.

Here is the thing I think that we need to recognize. When we have this colossal of a screwup, somebody is going to get embarrassed. It is not going to be pretty. Someone has got to hang for this, and someone has got to take responsibility. And that is the thing I think the American people want from their government. They want responsible Members, but they want accountability. And accountability means someone is going to get embarrassed, and it means that someone in FEMA screwed up. But do my colleagues know what? It is not about President Bush. It is not about that one person who screwed up. It is not about the series of people who contributed as the days went on from the screwup. Do the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) and the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) know what this is about? This is about fixing the problem, as they said earlier. And if someone needs to get embarrassed, they need to recognize that this Chamber, this country, and the way we respond to emergency situations, whether they are natural disasters or terrorist attacks, that response and our responsibility is bigger than the couple of people who are going to get embarrassed.

There are certain things that are bigger than winning and more important than winning, and that means we have got to make sure that we do this in the right way. This cannot be a whitewash. We cannot get out the Brillo pads and try to make this look clean. We have got to find out where the ugliness is, where the lack of communication was.

Knowing about the simulation last summer in July of 2004 of Hurricane Pam, a simulated hurricane that FEMA did a study on that, if it hit New Orleans what would happen, and they predicted right down the line every single thing that would happen. A category 4 in New Orleans, levees would break, a million people would need to get evacuated. And every other situation that happened, FEMA's response, the simulated Hurricane Pam told us exactly what is going to happen.

So my point is that someone is going to get embarrassed here and it is not going to be pretty. But at the end of the day, the system is going to be stronger because we are going to know what the mistakes were and we are going to know how to fix them. But if they are not willing to find out what the problem is, then they are not going to be able to fix it. And our responsibility is to fix it. So although this may be painful for the majority party and it may be painful for the Bush administration, this system that we have is bigger than all of them put together, and that is what we are here to do is preserve this system.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) heard me once before speak of the fact that it is not personal, it is just business. And that is the reason why we are here. We are here to conduct business.

I have very good friends on the other side of the aisle. I am talking about good friends that I had long-lasting relationships with prior to becoming a Member of Congress. As it relates to this select committee, those individuals that were fortunate enough to be appointed by the House leadership, many of them are good friends of mine. I mean, these are individuals that I talk to, and we talk about football and we talk about things that just regular everyday associates would talk about.

But it is not about them. It is about the fact that there has been a select committee elected on partisan lines, partisan lines, with a partisan vote that will meet tomorrow and, as we read through the media, will meet next week, a partisan committee to carry

out a bipartisan job. A bipartisan job. How can they carry out a bipartisan job when from the beginning it already smacks of political overtones? It is almost like, as the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) said, and I think she said it right, we are going to do our in-house investigation. What usually happens when people do an in-house investigation is someone screams for an independent investigation. For those men and women that are in business out there in America, they always have to get, 9 times out of 10, an outside audit for their company versus an inside audit. Independent it is called. And I think it is important for an independent commission, when we get one, because we are willing to fight. The Democrat side of the aisle is saying we are willing to fight on behalf of what the American people want.

Now, I did not hear one speech during the creation or the vote last Thursday on this partisan commission or select committee of saying that the people want a partisan select committee, and I am here to say that it is important that we have one. Not one speech. But that is what we have now. Because there are some individuals here in the Beltway that want vindication and validation, which, I guess, vindication, not rightfully so, but just to say, well, I had nothing to do with it and to beat up on Michael Brown of all people. And I think there is pretty much consensus on the fact that he did not possess the experience and the leadership qualities to be able to carry out the mission of being Director of FEMA. We know that. I mean, that is almost like the President's showing up 3 or 4 days later, or what have you, after he was supposed to be there, and saying there are a lot of homes, a lot of flooding going on. And people say, oh, really? We saw that on TV like 4 days ago. We are getting blankets and all these things in now when they should have had them 3 days ago. The world watched people on top of their roofs, and thank God for the Coast Guard who were there trying to pluck people off when we had mountains of Federal resources sitting somewhere at some staged area while people are there starving.

I went to Mississippi, Hancock County. Folks said they had sanctioned looting. The mayor standing out in front saying go in and get what they need, the essentials to survive. In America. This is not behind a war zone. This is not in a fort area. This is America where they can go in and help people, but failed to do so.

Once again I want to make sure that I am crystal on this and we are crystal. We are not only talking about what did not happen as it relates to the Federal response. We are talking about the State response. We are talking about the local parish response. We are talking about whoever was in charge of carrying out the plan, making sure it does not happen again. This is not isolated to the Gulf States. This is America, because we all learned what happened on 9/11 happened here in Washington, DC, happened in Pennsylvania with the plane going down, happened in New York City. But guess what? Having that independent commission helped prevent terrorism throughout the country. LAX is a more secure airport because of the 9/11 Commission. More secure. And I think it is important that we realize that this battle is not on behalf of what we want on the Democratic side. The battle is worth fighting on behalf of the American people. And I will tell the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) I know for a fact that there are some Republicans that sit on that side of the aisle that know 110 percent that we are right. And I will say this, just like I have said it before, when it came down to some of the votes that took place and when I called for some of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to go see the wizard, get some courage, and stand up publicly to this rhetoric of a partisan select committee to investigate yourself.

If I messed up and I was to come to the floor and say I have decided that I am going to investigate myself, I mean it sounds a little funny because it is.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. It would be funny if it were not so sad.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. If it was not so sad. I will investigate myself, and we will be back in a number of months and give our findings. That would be fine if we did not live in a democracy. But we do live in a democracy, and I think it is important that we call it for what it is. It is a partisan select committee based on trying to find out what happened or what did not happen in Katrina, and it is not bipartisan.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, let us put a little meat on this bone. Let us put a little meat on this bone. Why do they not want us to look at this thing? Because they know what we are going to find out. They know we are going to find out that FEMA became a haven for political hacks, period; end of story, dot. Political cronyism at its best. College roommates, the campaign manager's college roommate gets the head of FEMA. They get the head of FEMA? They have no emergency management experience at all, none. James Lee Witt, who was there for President Clinton, was the FEMA emergency manager for Arkansas. So if we have a bipartisan commission that maybe is not run by this House, that will come out. It will come out that eight of the top-level people in FEMA were all political cronies, all political hacks given a job. We do not give people jobs in FEMA. We give people ambassadorships who make big campaign donations. We know that happens. But we do not put them in charge of FEMA.

What would come out is that we would find out that FEMA's budget was slashed.

□ 1830

All the offense that the Clinton administration was playing with FEMA to prevent some of this stuff: budget cuts, tuck FEMA in with Homeland Security, make it more bureaucratic, and you put a bunch of political hacks in charge of it. That is what is going to come out. That is what is going to come out. You cannot run down government at every turn. For the last 10 or 15 years down here, everybody has just been running down government: Government cannot do anything right, government is the problem, government is bad, government is in our way, government this, government that. Every problem in the whole world was the government's. And then when we need the government there to help, well, no wonder it is ineffective. It has been disrespected, the budget has been cut, we do not have professionals there. We need the best and brightest in government. If you keep running it down, you are not going to get them.

So that is the meat on that bone, is that they are going to find out it was a haven for political hacks, the budget was cut, no professionals over there, no certified emergency management specialists. And that is what happened, and that is what will come out if there is a bipartisan commission.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, let us make the meat on that bone turkey, and let us talk turkey now, because beyond the partisan commission and beyond what we are saying, which is that there should be an independent commission so that we can truly get to the bottom of this, let us go a step further, because there are other things going on in Congress related to the reaction to Katrina.

We know that for the next several years we will have what will be a massive public works effort to rebuild the Gulf States, which we will be behind wholeheartedly, because there but for the grace of God go we, and we would want our colleagues to do the same and be supportive if it happened in our State. Our colleagues were very supportive of Floridians when we faced Andrew down and the follow-up to Andrew. But there are going to be some serious needs that will need to be met.

How is the Republican leadership talking about responding to those needs? Well, let us go through it. First, they are talking about keeping the tax cuts in place: Let us not touch the tax cuts, because wealthy people, they need them. It is really important. So those are off the table, those are off limits. On top of that, they are saying, you know, we got some concern occasionally about the deficit, so the right-wingers on the other side of the aisle are saying that, you know, the cost of rebuilding the Gulf States is going to be prohibitive, and we want to preserve wealthy people's tax cuts while we are rebuilding the Gulf Coast States, so we need to look to some more spending cuts. And where are they talking about those spending cuts being from? Well,

they are starting off with delaying the prescription drug benefit for Medicare recipients, for senior citizens who can barely make ends meet, for senior citizens who have to choose between medicine and meals, for people who literally live, bottom line, day to day. Then, they are also talking about cutting transportation projects, thousands and thousands of transportation projects, billions of dollars.

Now, who did Katrina hurt the most? The poor people, the people who are poverty stricken, 100,000 of them at least, who could not get out of New Orleans and who had to go to the Superdome to be able to find refuge. So how, when we are trying to find them jobs, are we going to get them to those jobs if we cut transportation projects, if we do not have mass transit assistance? That is how poor people get to work.

Where is the heart? Where is the trust? There is no heart in this leadership, no caring, no feeling. It is all about them. It is, you know, we got ours and the people that support us, we gave them theirs, and we are going to make sure they keep it, and everybody else be damned. That is what these people are all about.

When it comes down to it, over the next 14 months, as we go through a discussion with the American people about the choices that they will have, it is going to be about trust. Who do you trust to take care of you? Who do you trust to be there for you in your time of need, to protect you when you are in potential danger, and to be there for you when it is time to clean up and help you move your life forward?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And let us be honest. This outfit, this gang has had their chance for the last 5 or 6 years, in Congress for the last 11 years, going on 12 years. They have had their chance. Look at FEMA. Look at the economy. Look at the tax structure. Look at the Medicare program. Look at the health care situation. Look at the poverty that we saw, with no real attempt to even try to fix it. I mean, let us be honest, there has been no attempt, none. Tax cuts? Wait a minute. How are tax cuts helping people that can barely survive?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, in the last few minutes, and if the gentleman from Florida wants to go over this, I would be happy to yield to him.

We have on our side of the aisle a series of proposals, an action plan that Leader PELOSI has put forward related to housing and economic security and health care that we are going to be talking about over the next several months, because it is not all about complaining. It is not all about we do not like what they are doing. We have a series of proposals that we want to see happen to ensure that people can move their lives forward. We have to make sure that these people have health care. We have to make sure that they have roofs over their heads. We have to make sure that they have access to jobs and job training. We have to make sure their kids have a place to go to school and that the communities where these kids go to school can actually make sure they have room for them, like our community. The people coming down to south Florida, we are exploding in our public schools. We could barely take on another kid who is moving to south Florida voluntarily. So we have plans, and we are going to make sure that those plans are outlined and that we pursue them and that the American people understand that we are going to be there for them when they need us.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Well, plans would actually be action if we were in the majority, or if we had a majority party that were willing to move in a bipartisan way in responding to the aftermath of Katrina. And also what Hurricane Katrina has exposed in America is the fact that we are not prepared to face a natural disaster or a disaster, period. We are not coordinated in this country to be able to have a response that will be appropriate to the American people in their time of need.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman left off with what is being proposed, and what is also being proposed is a $9 billion cut in student aid. I know we passed a bill to kind of help with a Pell grant, but this week the majority comes back with a $9 billion discussion of helping to pay for Katrina. So it is almost like I am going to give you something, but I am going to take $9 billion back.

Mr. Speaker, I am so glad that we have the opportunity to come to the floor, and we have had to double up on 30-Something, because it is too much, too much going on.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Too much to talk about.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I will tell my colleagues, and I will warn my colleagues on the majority side, especially those who are making decisions, it is time to start making the right decisions. When you have 8 States who say that they want the Federal Government or this Congress to investigate oil companies, we are paying $3.50, $3.90 a gallon; meanwhile, profits still soaring as it relates to the oil companies that are saying, oh, we have to go up on gas prices because the oil production is not what it should be. But they are not hurting. There are some people who could not make it to work because they could not afford to put a quarter of a tank of gas in their car or their truck if it was a small business. Sure, prices went up, because they could not move product. Diesel fuel went up, let alone jet fuel. Flights were canceled. But, meanwhile, the folks that provide the oil, they are having record profits. So eight Governors have asked for intervention by this Congress.

And, I have been passed a note here that they are also predicting that gas, based on what Rita does, could go to $5 or better. So I hate to say to not only my constituents, but also Members of this Congress, run out and fill your tank now, because Rita is a reality, and it is going to be a category 5. Because we gave money away to billionaires, not to the folks that we are talking about, not the folks that are on the cover of these magazines. What happened? How did it go wrong? Is this America? Question: Is this America?

Deficits. The deficits were here prior to Katrina, prior to Rita. When this administration came into power, that is when we started getting into deficits. We had surpluses as far as the eye could see.

So I am saying that, and I am hopeful that some of our friends, especially the ones making decisions on the other side of the aisle, will say, well, you know, maybe we need to rethink this.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Maybe we made a bunch of mistakes. Maybe we made a couple mistakes.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. They do not make mistakes.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Maybe we need to sit down as adults and look at how we can approach this and use not only the contributions, but the wisdom of all Members of Congress into, into what? Achieving what the American people want. That is not a radical idea. That is very simple. We have one side of the aisle that is saying that we want to do that. We have one side of the aisle, if given the opportunity to be in the majority, will do that. But tomorrow, I say to my colleagues, there will be a committee meeting, a partisan committee meeting, to organize themselves to get to the bottom of what really happened and did not happen, to report to the American people the truth. I will tell my colleagues right now that that just will not fly.

I am asking, as a member of the Democratic Caucus and asking as a Member of Congress period, and Leader PELOSI, the Democratic leadership, I am on the second floor of a 9-floor building. Hang in there, because there are a number of people and Americans, Republicans, Democrats, Independents, those that cannot even vote yet and those who choose not to vote are counting on our leadership to make sure that this never happens again.

They deserve an independent commission to be able to look at what happened, what did not happen. Subpoena those that need to be subpoenaed and pulled in, because Michael Brown, as far as I am concerned, is just crust on the pie. We are not really getting down to what is in the pie when we deal with Michael Brown. Michael Brown is so exposed he is just like the Washington Monument that sits in the Mall; everyone can see it all over Washington, D.C. If you get lost here in Washington, D.C., just look for the monument and you know you are on the right track. Michael Brown is there. I feel bad for him, because the guy cannot even go to the Mall without people looking at him and saying, it was you. No, it was not Michael Brown. It was those individuals that allowed Michael Brown to be

the director of FEMA. It was those individuals that made partisan decisions based on political activity in a partisan campaign, and said we are going to park our people here, our precinct captains in the emergency management agency. In our time of need, we want our friends, political friends, to be in those positions.

Better yet, even if FEMA, let us say if they did not have the ability to be able to govern themselves in a time of a natural disaster and respond, those individuals that were overseeing FEMA, it goes further. Yes, the Department of Homeland Security, you have people in the White House that are in charge of certain agencies that bring about accountability on those agencies on behalf of the President; you have so many people that are from the top, which is the President of the United States, Commander in Chief, if you want to speak militarily, all the way to the parish commissioner or levee board in New Orleans. In that track, need it be elected, appointed, they have to be brought in to task to make sure that it does not happen again.

Were there plans? Of course there were plans to be able to evacuate people, to be able to make sure that the Federal response is staged, and to go in when the winds die down to 40, the wind count or what have you. I am not a meteorologist; I feel like one, because when you watch TV, and it is hypnotic watching the reporting of this, 40-mile-per-hour winds. But it did not happen. And we can get down to the truth. It very well could be; I mean, I heard some folks from Louisiana saying, yes, the National Guard was in there trying to do the best they could. They did have food in the Superdome. They did have food in the Civic Center in New Orleans. No, we were there. We were here in the streets. They were not here by themselves. We will never know the truth until we have an independent commission.

I am glad, once again, I am going to say it again just in case. I want it to be printed correctly in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD that the leader, by not appointing to this partisan committee, select committee, partisan, I want to say that, partisan committee that will have partisan findings, I commend not only her leadership, not on behalf of the Democratic Caucus, but on behalf of the American people. The question should not be, why are you not appointing Democratic Members to this partisan committee? It should be, why do we have a partisan committee, select committee in the first place for this bipartisan job?

□ 1845

Restore this bipartisan job. It is bipartisan because that is what we call it. No, that is not bipartisan. You have 11 members on the majority side, including the chairman who controls everything, and you have nine members on the minority side who cannot even call a committee meeting or call a witness up without the permission of the majority.

So once again, we are in a situation where we are saying, we will investigate ourselves and we will get back to you in a number of months on our findings of what we did wrong.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, you know, it certainly does not have to be that way. It certainly was not that way when the shoe was on the other foot, because some people listening might feel, well, you know, this is just the way Congress does it. Congress is a partisan body, it is a political body; and you know when one side is in charge, they run the show. They run these investigations, and that is just the way it is.

Well, in this situation, you have got a Republican Congress investigating a Republican administration. And let us go back to the Reagan years when you had the Iran-Contra scandal. Then you had a committee set up within the Congress, which was a Democratic Congress investigating a Republican administration, so obviously there was some inherently built-in accountability in that situation.

And when it came to the way that committee was appointed and developed, even internally within the Congress there was mutual agreement on both sides of the aisle that it was done in a bipartisan fashion. And I will quote then-Representative DICK CHENEY from Wyoming who is now our Vice President. He said, because he was one of the key sponsors of the committee of the legislation that created the Iran-Contra Committee, he said at that time, ''I must say the majority has been exceedingly fair in the proceedings. The leadership of both parties has worked in a truly bipartisan fashion to create this committee,'' referring to the Iraq-Contra Committee.

Well, it is really unfortunate that when the shoe is on the other foot and they have the opportunity to do the right thing and work in a bipartisan fashion, that they are choosing not to. And it is certainly within their discretion. It is within their choice, and they are just wiping their hands and refusing to do it.

I know the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is pulling over our 30-something board, and we want to let people know how they can get in touch with us, and we want and we urge their feedback. We want to hear from people.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Before I give away the magic address here, I think we just need to call this what it is. This is a Republican committee. This is a Republican committee that will oversee a Republican mess.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Period. Dot.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Period. End of story. Dot. And you might as well put Ken Melman or Ed Gillespie in charge of the committee, because you are going to get a political response. You are going to get a political whitewash from this whole thing.

And the American people are going to let this stand. I made the prediction last week, and I stand by it today, the American people will not let this stand. When there are 11 Republicans there tomorrow organizing this committee, you will be able to do it in a phone booth, because the Democrats are not going to be around. We are not going to lend any credence to this at all.

And put Ken Melman in charge of this committee because that would reflect accurately the end response in what it is going to be. 30somethingDems, 30 the number, somethingdems@mail.house.gov.

E-mail us. Let us know what you think. Tell us your thoughts. Share with us.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, the way I want to conclude for us, or my portion of the conclusion, is to reiterate that at the end of the day we have plans.

If we were in charge, we would be moving to ensure that we got health care to the people who are victims of Katrina. We would be making sure that we helped get them some economic security. We would make sure that there was some accountability in the process of the doling out of contracts for the clean-up and the construction.

We would be making sure that education was of primary and paramount concern. We would be initiating an agenda to assist people and restore confidence in the emergency preparedness and disaster response procedures in America.

Because Katrina was not the first hurricane that bore down on our country; and as we have Rita churning in the gulf as a Category 5, we know she is not going to be the last. And, you know, I think we should conclude by praying for the people who are going to be experiencing Rita in the next few days and sending them our best wishes and urging them to heed the warnings that your emergency managers are going to be sending out to you.

So I look forward to joining you again as we do each week, and now, you know, in double session, because we have so much to talk about and let people know what is going on here in the Congress.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ), you are 110 percent right as it relates to individuals taking Rita very seriously. Also I am hoping that emergency management, FEMA and other agencies, are doing the appropriate things that they need to do to be able to stage themselves so that individuals do not wait 3 days, 3 or 4 days.

We are coming in for a close here, but this is Louisiana, Mississippi, or the eastern part of Louisiana, Mississippi, and, also Alabama, and we have some of Florida in there, or all of Florida. I think it is important for us to understand, in this area right here, this is where Katrina struck.

The individuals that lived here had a slow response, but a response. A slow

response. We had loss of life here after the storm because people could not get what they needed as Americans. Here, this same area, President signs a proclamation waiving Davis-Bacon which will allow these individuals in these States, and these communities right here, real people in these counties and the parishes right up here in Louisiana, same place, same President, flying in there, four, five visits, what have you, that are without a prevailing wage, which means a contractor can go in and say, no minimum wage for this job, even though Federal jobs in other parts of the country that are paid for with Federal dollars, paid for, they make a prevailing wage.

It is not a union issue. This is an American issue. We want to make sure that these folks rebuild. Better yet, the $62.3 billion-and-change that we have appropriated here in this Congress, when it comes down to these individuals receiving a paycheck when many of those jobs have been shut down and some have decided was the final blow for them to move somewhere else will not be able to receive a prevailing wage on the tax dollars that they have given in this area.

That is why we need an independent commission. These individuals, these very real people right here in Hancock County in Mississippi, one of the hardest hit areas here in a FEMA trailer waiting to speak to an operator, I know personally that they were outside for 2 hours waiting to get into this trailer of 10 phones. 10 phones.

They deserve an independent, bipartisan commission to make sure that the Federal response is better, quicker. So this goes far beyond regular order that we say here in the Congress. This is not a committee that has been standing for 50-something years and that is just the way we do business. This is a natural disaster and failure of governance.

And that is where we come in, on the failure of governance side. These are real Americans that are suffering. I ask our Republican leadership, do not allow this institution to do what it is doing now.

Do not split us further by having a partisan committee meet tomorrow because they can, not because it is the right thing, it is because they can. That is wrong.

If we were supposed to be the shining example of government, elected in a democracy, do not allow that to happen. Do not do it because you can. Because I can do things as a grown up, I do not do certain things in front of my children, because it is a bad example. This is a bad example.

And I will tell you that it is far beyond regular order. I am talking to my colleagues in this Congress, and you know exactly what I am saying. This is far beyond, because we are in the majority. That is right. We are supposed to have more people on the committee. This is a natural unprecedented disaster.

And this was a slow response or no response at all. So I say to Members that it is important that we do this. I want to thank, Mr. Speaker, our Democratic leader for allowing us to come to the floor once again.

I want to also say that it is an honor to address the House of Representatives, but this is a very pressing time, not only for our country, but also as it relates to our leadership, and I hope that we can come together and make sure that we have a bipartisan independent commission that the American people are calling for so badly.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Curtis, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment a concurrent resolution of the House of the following title:

H. Con. Res. 242. Concurrent resolution providing for acceptance of a statue of Po'Pay, presented by the State of New Mexico, for placement in National Statuary Hall, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed a bill of the following title in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 1713. An act to make amendments to the Iran Nonproliferation Act of 2000 related to International Space Station payments.

U.S.-ISRAEL RELATIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I think I will be joined by some colleagues shortly, I hope.

Congress recently returned to Washington following a busy month of work in the district. For a majority of August, I traveled throughout North Carolina's 5th District and conducted scores of meetings with veterans, teachers, and many other constituent groups.

During this time, I gained valuable insight into the needs of the people I serve and look forward to continuing to address their concerns. The needs of my home district have always been and continue to be my number one priority.

However, as a Member of Congress, it is my duty to educate myself on internal affairs and foreign policy, especially when it pertains to the Middle East. While our foreign neighbors may be far away from northwest North Carolina, our relationships with them affect everyone.

For 1 week in August, I was fortunate to have the opportunity to travel to Israel with several colleagues. This educational trip gave me the opportunity to witness how America's national security interests are directly tied to developments in the Middle East, and specifically to Israel's own security.

Strategic cooperation between our country and Israel, in intelligence-sharing, fighting the war on terror, strengthening homeland security, promoting democracy, and increasing technology development is vital to the well-being of my constituents and, indeed, all Americans.

For most of the 1,500 years before the Roman destruction of Jerusalem in AD 70, the land of Israel was the independent home of the Jewish people. Since then, it has been occupied by many powers, from the Romans to conquering Arab armies to the Ottomans to the British.

Despite these periods of foreign occupation, there has always been a continuous Jewish presence, and the land of Israel remained the focal point for the Jewish people.

The United States and Israel have long maintained a strong friendship since the modern Jewish state was founded in 1948. In fact, we were the very first Nation to recognize Israel, just 11 minutes after its founding.

Our two countries share much more in common than many realize. We believe in freedom and equality and share many basic rights, such as free elections, a free press, and freedom of religion. We were both founded by people seeking freedom from tyranny, and we both continue to serve today as symbols of liberty in a world plagued by oppression.

Mr. Speaker, I would like now to recognize my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MARCHANT), who has joined me and allow him to share some of his perspectives on this trip that we took in August, and then I will come back to the podium and speak some more.

Mr. MARCHANT. Mr. Speaker, last month I was fortunate as a Member of Congress to travel to Israel and witness firsthand the peace process that is currently taking place.

□ 1900

The trip was a unique opportunity to learn more about relations between the United States and Israel. This country has maintained a longstanding friendship with the Jewish state since its creation in 1948. Today, cooperation between the U.S. and Israel is essential as we fight the war on terror and promote peace in the Middle East. Israel is, has been, and will continue to be an important ally in the goal to spread democracy worldwide and promote peace in the Middle East.

I was privileged to have the opportunity to meet with many high-ranking officials from the region, including Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon, as well as Former Prime Minister BiBi Netanyahu and Vice Prime Minister Shimon Peres. Talking with these leaders provided me with valuable insight into the ongoing peace process and plans for the region. While their approaches are different, their common goal remains the same: peace and fulfillment of the Jewish homeland.

On the final day I met with Mahmoud Abbas, Chairman of the Palestinian Authority. I, along with my colleagues, stressed with him how important it was to the United States that the terrorists be disarmed and that peace be advanced within the region.

Mr. Speaker, my rigorous schedule included an extensive tour of this country. Although Israel is smaller than the State of New Jersey, I was thoroughly impressed with its infrastructure and potential for growth. In just over 50 years of existence, Israel has developed a remarkable highway system and infrastructure. As we visited universities, holy sites, military bases, it was easy to tell how modern and highly accomplished Israel is today and what an incredible potential that it has with its people.

Throughout the country's history, the Israeli people have experienced violence and terror on their home soil. Normal citizens' lives have been threatened in schools, malls, and other public places at the hands of suicide bombers. Israel, though, is committed to combating terrorism and to world peace.

During my trip I was able to attend various briefings and got to see the security fence that separates Israel from Palestine and other tools that have been effectively used by Israelis to deter the terrorist attacks.

I traveled also to the developing Negev Desert area. This region has experienced a surge in development and opportunities with its diverse residents. The community is composed of Israelis, Arabs, and Bedouins. Its growing strength is vital to Israel's national security interests as well as an excellent place for new settlement. The United States needs to play a key role in the assistance of the development of this desert area.

This trip was also especially important because it took place in the midst of the disengagement of Gaza and the northern part of the West Bank. I was one of the few Americans to be able to visit Israel during this very historic time. Over 8,000 Israelis were relocated from the Gaza Strip.

The courageous decision to withdraw from Gaza carries serious risks for Israel. It proves the willingness of the Jewish state to take enormous chances for peace. Withdrawal provides Palestinian leadership the opportunity to curb terrorism and govern its people. Prime Minister Sharon explained that he believed the painstaking process is the best long-term decision for Israel. Only time will tell whether Gaza will become a catalyst for peace or the new headquarters of terrorism.

Now more than ever, Israel needs America's support. Israel's commitment to peace is vital in this time of war and oppression in the Middle East. As America continues with its mission to spread freedom and democracy, the Israeli people have to be, and will be, our very important allies. They deserve our respect and our cooperation.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, we had a distinguished group with us on our trip, and I am very privileged to recognize the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) who is going to share some of his observations of the trip with us now.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) giving me this opportunity of sharing a few of the experiences that I had while visiting Israel with the distinguished group this past summer.

I think there are four impressions that I will always take back from my short trip to Israel. The first one is how wonderful it was to be in a place where you saw a specific pro-American attitude from everyone, from the leaders of the country down to the people on the street, with whom you spoke.

Secondly, I have to admit that even though I was in Israel, I felt like I was back in Utah because the topography is very similar. The mountains of Judea, I was right on the Wasatch Front again. Going to the desert was like going to Price, to Moab back in Utah. Whereas in Israel they have the Sea of Galilee that empties into the Jordan River and empties into a Dead Sea, the saltiest sea in the world, in my home State we have Utah Lake which empties into the Jordan River which empties into the saltiest sea in this hemisphere, the Great Salt Lake. So I was back home.

Third, and perhaps for me most important, the ability of buying Dr. Pepper on the market in Jerusalem told me that I was in a country that was purely cultured and progressive, and I was extremely grateful for that.

Finally, I was truly impressed by the size. I think one of the things that we Americans do not realize so fully is how our size has always been a defense. Perhaps as somebody from the West, I recognize that as well, when my county is the size of Rhode Island. Sometime we take size for granted. It is part of our mentality.

But it is very clear in this country where you can go in a matter of hours from the mountains of the Golan down to the desert in Negev, that is not a large area. In fact, it takes me longer to drive from one end of my district to the other end than it does to go through the country of Israel.

When I realized, as you were looking out at the horizon, you will see one mountain top that is Palestinian and the next mountain top is Israeli. And how close they are. We understand that security becomes the major concern of this people. And once again we have kind of a cavalier attitude in the United States about how important security is to those people who live in this particular area. We also understand it is very clear that if there is ever going to be a lasting peace between the Palestinians and Israelis, if there is ever going to be a permanent government between the Palestinians and Israelis in this area of the world, then terrorism has to stop, and that has to be the first and foremost priority.

I think it is wonderful that we have this chance of exchanging ideas and changing institutions. I just gave a speech on this floor a few moments ago about the importance of foreign exchange students and having exchange students understanding American life. Taking it back becomes one of those things that will help us in the future in foreign affairs. I think this is the same way.

There is much that we can learn about the experience of Israel. As we are going through the issues of border security in the United States, there is much that we can learn from how the Israelis have handled that particular situation, much we can learn as far as technology that may be one of those things that can help us in the future.

I was also feeling especially important to be there, as some have mentioned, I think others will as well, to be there at the time of pullout from the Gaza Strip. Nothing, I think, that could ever happen has shown the commitment on the part of the Israeli Government to peace more than that. And everything happened with an ability of doing things in a peaceful and successful way. It showed that even though there was some protest, it was an orderly disengagement. Even though it may be strategic, it was still nonetheless a gamble on the part of the Israelis. It clearly illustrated that the ball is now in the court of the Palestinians and the Egyptians.

I am very pleased that the Egyptians seemed to have moved up and stepped up to take their position in the patrolling of the Philadelphia Corridor. And the amount of troops they have moved in there, though it is still under 1,000, it still is a significant presence. I hope that signals something that will be positive in the future.

It is also significant that the Palestinians have to make a positive response in the future to this particular situation. If they do not, if they simply say that permitting foreign civil war from taking place is sufficient, then they deserve the criticism of the world, for there will be no room for equivocation. Abbas has a choice in here of being a true hero of the future and moving the peace process forward or being a catalyst for the means of world chaos.

I was happy that before I went I also had the opportunity of reading a history of the Six Day War. Once again we sometimes have illusions and misconceptions as Americans. One of the misconceptions is the Israeli Army and the Israeli defense forces are impregnable, they are impenetrable, and they will always win in every situation.

Learning the details of the Six Day War and the places that we looked at when I actually got there, I realized that the victory of the Israelis in the Six Day War had as much to do with luck as it had to do with military ability. There were decisions that were

made on both sides in that particular war, which if they had gone the other way, would have had an entirely different outcome.

That also illustrated one more time how the Israeli situation is indeed tenuous. We cannot place any blame on the Israelis for being so concerned about their security in a land where an enemy sworn against them is so close and has so many terrorist activities, killing over 1,000 people in the last 5 years. With those images coming back there, I am proud to be able to see the people who, perhaps even better than we do, understand the second amendment rights. And we need to fear the bad guys with guns, not necessarily the good guys with guns and people who are doing so much on their own for being responsible for their security and their future.

It was a very positive experience. I think there is much to learn from the good and the determination of our good friends in the State of Israel. It was an enjoyable trip. I appreciate the opportunity of being able to have enjoyed it with my good friend from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman.

We all know that it is important to have people from very different perspectives serving in the Congress, and I think that the points of view that will be presented here sound very similar, but also each one of us has our unique perspectives on what stayed with us as a result.

One of the people who was with us on our trip was our distinguished deputy whip, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR), and I would like to ask the gentleman to share some of his views now.

Mr. CANTOR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for organizing tonight's Special Order. I congratulate her on her outstanding leadership and her participation in the trip that we all were on.

I have been to Israel many times. I went on this trip, and this particular trip was special, like most others, because there is always something going on with the people of that land and their neighbors. And there is a constant quest for peace and one that, unfortunately, has not come to pass in the half a century or so that that country has existed.

One thing that strikes me always and struck me this summer was that Israel remains a beacon of freedom, remains our only democratic ally in the Middle East, and is proof of the survival of a people that have engaged in the war on terror that we here in America have found ourselves in, especially since 9/11.

As the gentleman from Utah (Mr. BISHOP) before me stated, we were able to travel to or near the Gaza Strip as the pullout, disengagement, was taking place. One of the visions that I remember was one that will go down in history, I imagine, with the settlers that were leaving Gush Katif, the area of the Gaza Strip in which many Israeli communities existed. They were actually at one of the junctions in the road and were pulling down the traffic directional signs pointing to their community and putting the signs in the back of their truck, knowing probably that there would never be such a sign that existed again, because the community will not exist again. A very tragic moment in many families' lives, but I think something that reflects the bold move by Prime Minister Sharon in conducting the disengagement and formulating the policy of disengagement. It was a tremendous step. It was a tremendous step to create an environment where peace can flourish.

The problem is, and I am troubled by the Palestinian response to Mr. Sharon's move, because as we saw the Israeli Army pull out of the Gaza Strip, we then saw gunshots from the Palestinians in so-called celebration in what they had termed a ''victory'' that they had driven Israel out. We saw the transfer of arms across the border with Egypt into Gaza.

□ 1915

We saw the Palestinians conducting the burning of synagogues there in the communities that had been abandoned, and we saw and we read in the news while we were there that there were rockets being launched from the Gaza Strip into Israel, all in response or all coinciding with the Israeli withdrawal from the Gaza Strip.

So it just troubles me that we did not see an in-kind gesture by the Palestinian Authority, by Mahmoud Abbas and others in his administration, that would show some type of gesture of goodwill to reflect the Israeli disengagement and withdrawal from the Gaza Strip; but if we look throughout what has happened over the past decade or more, we see that there is a continued pattern of this type of response from the Palestinian Authority.

Way back in the beginning of the last decade, in the early 1990s, with the formulation of Oslo, there was a lot of hope, hope among a lot of people that the Oslo process would bring a long-sought-after peace between Israelis and the Palestinians. In fact, what happened after the devolution of that period was the intifada which was the killing of many innocent people on both sides.

We saw the occurrence of the Wye Accords in 1998 with Arafat and then-Prime Minister Netanyahu, where Israel agreed to withdraw from Hebron, and it was a very holy place for the Jewish people; and the Palestinians responded with violence.

We saw in the year 2000, Camp David, potential of the accords between then-Prime Minister Barak and Mr. Arafat. It was at that time that Israel offered nearly 90 percent of the West Bank, offered sovereignty to the Palestinian people, offered east Jerusalem and the Temple Mount. What happened? Mr. Arafat walked away, and we have seen nothing but continued violence, continued terrorist attacks on the people of Israel.

Yet, after all of that, we see Prime Minister Sharon conducting the policy of disengagement, again taking one last stab at trying to achieve peace between the Israeli and Palestinian people. So I think that we must recognize that bold step.

Our President, who has been a terrific champion of a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, understands the importance that Israel plays in our national security strategy, the fact that Israel is fighting the war on terror on the front lines while we, our young men and women in uniform, are fighting that same war on terror, not too far away in that region in Iraq and Afghanistan. This President understands the importance that Israel plays and has supported Mr. Sharon in his moves to try and move the peace process forward.

Unfortunately, we just are not seeing any reciprocation on the part of the Palestinians. We now hear and read of the reports where Hamas is taking a part and intending to participate in the Palestinian elections that will occur soon. How in the world can we respect the participation of a professed terrorist group whose aim is to remove Israel from the map? How in the world does that help the Palestinian cause for peace?

I am here tonight to express some serious dismay at the response by the Palestinian Authority and to reflect and congratulate the policies of Israel and what they are trying to do to secure peace. Unfortunately, there again has been nothing in return that Israel has received, and I just encourage my colleagues to continue to monitor what is going on in that region and how it affects our security here in America and to, once again, commit ourselves to helping the security of Israel in its democratic way and to ensure its survival as our only democratic ally in the Middle East.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) so much. He has helped put many things that a lot of us are concerned about into perspective, and we are grateful to him for that.

I am going to talk a little bit more about Israel and give some facts about what is happening in Israel in its short history, but let me say that we know that Israel is one of the only countries in the Middle East that the United States can truly count on. It is not a fair weather friend. When terrorists strike American targets in the Middle East, Israel always stands by our side. We are truly fortunate to have a strong friend in Israel.

During our trip, we had the opportunity to travel to the countryside, visit military bases, universities, children's homes, holy sites, and strategic locations. One of the first things that struck me was just how much has been accomplished by the Israeli people in

their nation's short history. I witnessed capitalism at work and saw how it has enabled the country to prosper. Israel has an amazing network of roads, a national water system, and has developed other impressive infrastructure. It is really hard to believe that they have accomplished so much in just 55 years.

So often when we hear about Israel, it is only in conjunction with conflicts affecting Israel. My visit made me aware of so many facts that are never mentioned or discussed by the media. I want to share a few of those with my colleagues.

The Middle East has been growing date palms for centuries. The average tree is about 18 to 20 feet tall and yields about 38 pounds of dates a year. Israeli date trees are now yielding 400 pounds a year and are short enough to be harvested from the ground or a short ladder.

Israel, the 100th smallest country, with less than 1,000th of the world's population, can lay claim to the following: The cell phone was developed in Israel by Israelis working in the Israeli branch of Motorola which has its largest development center in Israel. Most of the Windows NT and XP operating systems were developed by Microsoft Israel. The Pentium MMX chip technology was designed in Israel at Intel. Both the Pentium 4 microprocessor and the Centrino processor were entirely designed, developed, and produced in Israel.

Voice mail technology was developed in Israel. Both Microsoft and Cisco built their only R&D facilities outside the United States in Israel. The technology for the AOL Instant Messenger ICQ was developed in 1996 by four young Israelis. Israel has the highest percentage in the world of home computers per capita.

According to industry officials, Israel designed the airline industry's most impenetrable flight security. U.S. officials now look, finally, to Israel for advice on how to handle airborne security threats.

Israel has the highest ratio of university degrees to the population in the entire world. Israel produces more scientific papers per capita than any other nation by a large margin.

In proportion to its population, Israel has the largest number of start-up companies in the world. In absolute terms, Israel has the largest number of start-up companies of any country in the world except the United States.

Israel is ranked number two in the world for venture capital funds, right behind the United States. Outside the United States and Canada, Israel has the largest number of NASDAQ-listed companies. It has the highest average living standards in the Middle East. The per capita income in 2000 was over $17,500, exceeding that of the United Kingdom.

Twenty-four percent of Israel's workforce holds university degrees, ranking third in the industrial world, after the United States and Holland. Twelve percent hold advanced degrees.

In 1984 and 1991, Israel airlifted a total of 22,000 Ethiopian Jews, called Operation Solomon, at risk in Ethiopia, to safety in Israel. Relative to its population, Israel is the largest immigrant-absorbing nation on Earth. Immigrants come in search of democracy, religious freedom, and economic opportunity.

Israel is the only country in the world that entered the 21st century with a net gain in its number of trees, made more remarkable because this was achieved in an area considered mainly desert.

Israel has more museums per capita than any other country. Israeli scientists developed the first fully computerized, no radiation, diagnostic instrument for breast cancer. An Israeli company developed a computerized system for ensuring administration of medications, removing human error from medical treatment. Every year in U.S. hospitals, 7,000 patients die from treatment mistakes.

Israel leads the world in the number of scientists and technicians in the workforce with 145 per 10,000 as opposed to 85 in the U.S., over 70 in Japan, and less than 60 in Germany. With over 25 percent of its workforce employed in technical professions, Israel places first in this category as well.

An Israeli company was the first to develop and install a large-scale solar-powered and fully functional electricity generating plant in Southern California's Mojave Desert; and as other people have alluded to, all of the above things have been done while Israel has been engaged in creating a very strong national defense with an implacable enemy that seeks its destruction and an economy continuously under strain by having to spend more per capita on its own protection than any other country on Earth.

Others have alluded to Israel's size. The entire country is smaller than the State of New Jersey. In fact, Israel is only 9 miles wide at its most narrow point. This helps illustrate how vulnerable the country is in terms of its security.

This point was also emphasized when we visited the Golan Heights. Israel became painfully aware of the location's strategic importance during the Yom Kippur War in 1973 when over 2,000 Israelis were killed. From atop this high mountain, enemies can launch rockets and artillery fire on the villages below. Israel's control of this piece of real estate is vital to its security interests.

We also had opportunities to walk the streets of Jerusalem and witness how closely the Jews and Arabs live together. This particular journey was also personally meaningful because I experienced the rich spiritual heritage of the Holy Land. It was humbling to see firsthand where Jesus Christ, King David, and King Solomon walked. I was also able to visit the sites of the Last Supper and Christ's crucifixion. These were very moving experiences.

As my colleagues have mentioned, we met with a broad spectrum of Israeli and Palestinian officials, including Prime Minister Sharon and Palestinian Authority Chairman Mahmoud Abbas. By talking to these leaders, we were able to gain fundamental insights on security, peace negotiations, and defense cooperation.

Israel has proved that it is willing to form a lasting peace with any country that has extended its hand in friendship. Indeed, one of the things that struck me most is that Israel does not say that it has an army. The media says it has an army; but in Israel, the people who protect Israel are called the Israeli Defense Force. Defense force. I think that is so important. Words are significant, and by calling folks who protect the country its defense force, it emphasizes that it wants peace and is not a country that is bent on fighting with its neighbors.

In the war on terror, American and Israeli interests are the same. We are both committed to stopping the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and curbing state-sponsored terrorism.

□ 1930

For years, we have worked together for a more stable and peaceful Middle East.

Unfortunately, Israel has had to deal with war and terrorism since it was established in 1948, and has recently suffered through 4 intense years of violence that has targeted innocent civilians through suicide bombings on buses, in restaurants, and in shopping malls. I am saddened to report that Israel has endured more terrorist attacks than any other country in the entire world. The perseverance of the Israeli people, who constantly live their lives in the face of hatred and terrorism, is truly an inspiration to all of us who love freedom and democracy. The United States can learn a great deal from Israel's experience in fighting terror.

As we have already spoken of, just prior to my arrival in Israel, Prime Minister Sharon made the decision to disengage from Gaza and the northern West Bank. Israel has withdrawn thousands of citizens from their homes and communities and relocated them at tremendous emotional and financial cost to the Israeli Government. Disengagement from Gaza and parts of the West Bank hold enormous potential in advancing the peace process if the Palestinians demonstrate they can govern themselves and curb terrorism. Yet, while this movement has been supported by a majority of the public, it has been an emotionally painful undertaking that carries great political and security risks for Israel. Prime Minister Sharon explained that he was willing to take these risks because he believes that disengagement is in the best long-term interest of Israel.

After my rigorous and informative experiences overseas, I am more convinced than ever that it is crucial that the United States continue our strong support for Israel. The country is a beacon of democracy in a sea of violence and hostility. Both of our nations have a mutual interest in deterring terror, promoting democracy and stability throughout the world, and seeking peace in the Middle East. Israel's ability to function and defend itself against terrorism is in no small part due to unwavering support from the United States. Our country has a moral obligation to strengthen our fellow democracies, especially when they are in turbulent and dangerous regions in the world. It is in our national security interest to continue to support Israel financially and morally.

I want to end my remarks by quoting from a speech given by Prime Minister Sharon to the United Nations General Assembly on September 5, 2005. His final remarks are those that I think all Americans can agree with. ''In a few days time on the Hebrew calendar, the New Year will begin, the 5,766th year since the Creation. According to Jewish belief, the fates of people and nations are determined at the New Year by the Creator, to be spared or to be doomed. May the Holy One, blessed be He, determine that this year, our fate and the fate of our neighbors is peace, mutual respect, and good neighborly relations.''

That is a hope that all of us can share.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO SELECT BIPARTISAN COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE PREPARATION FOR AND RESPONSE TO HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan). Pursuant to section 2(a) of House Resolution 437, 109th Congress, 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 Select Bipartisan Committee to Investigate the Preparation for and Response to Hurricane Katrina:

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Chairman;
Mr. SENSENBRENNER of Wisconsin;
Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky;
Mr. SHAYS of Connecticut;
Mr. BONILLA of Texas;
Mr. BUYER of Indiana;
Mrs. MYRICK of North Carolina;
Mr. THORNBERRY of Texas;
Ms. GRANGER of Texas;
Mr. PICKERING of Mississippi;
Mr. SHUSTER of Pennsylvania.

UNITED STATES COAST GUARD

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) is recognized for 60 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order this evening.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, more often than not, debates on public policy that take place in this Chamber are often characterized with a certain level of disagreement, thoughtful disagreement, and, hopefully, respectful disagreement. But tonight that is not the case. Tonight we put aside partisan disagreements to thank the men and women of the United States Coast Guard for a job well done.

In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, many Americans have come to know the Coast Guard and their personnel and their heroism and their professionalism. They have been made acutely aware about the services provided by this remarkable service, for it, I would suggest, has truly been one of the Coast Guard's finest hours. And I know I speak as well for my good friend and colleague from the Committee on the Judiciary, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), in expressing the profound gratitude of all Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I am privileged to represent southeastern Massachusetts, I believe home of some of the most beautiful and pristine coastline in all of New England and, in fact, in all of the United States, and also the birthplace of the United States Coast Guard. I happen to be a very proud veteran of the United States Coast Guard, like my colleague, the gentleman from North Carolina. Of course, he was an officer and a gentleman, while I was a mere enlisted man.

Back in 1997, my colleague and I, and another colleague, the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. TAYLOR), who also served in the United States Coast Guard, sat down and decided that it was time to bring together Members of Congress who are committed to lifesaving, law enforcement, and environmental protection missions that were conducted at sea. So we created the Congressional Caucus of the United States Coast Guard. We did this to advocate for this outstanding service and to increase its profile not just in this institution but among the American people.

Well, their performance before, during, and in the aftermath of the tragedy which befell our Gulf States spoke volumes about the service that they provide to the American people. We learned a lot about the Coast Guard, or at least, and I am sure I speak for my friend who I will ask to say some words in a very few minutes, I know that for many, Hurricane Katrina increased their understanding of really what the Coast Guard is all about.

But it is not just about search and air rescues. In fact, they are the de facto lead agency for homeland security, responsible for guarding 95,000 miles of American coastline and 361 ports. Every day, the Coast Guard interdicts, for example, drugs bound for the United States. In fact, just this past week, while performing their functions in the gulf and along the coastline of the Gulf States, the Coast Guard seized two tons of cocaine off the Colombian coast in South America, cocaine that undoubtedly would have been sold on the streets of our neighborhoods somewhere in this country.

But before I proceed, let me introduce a dear friend, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), a veteran of the United States Coast Guard.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from Massachusetts, and I want to say a word or two about the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT).

First of all, I want to thank him for having taken out this Special Order. And by the way, he was an enlisted man and a gentleman. I too was an enlisted man and, hopefully, a gentleman; but my colleague and I became good friends, Mr. Speaker, as a result of our both serving on the Committee on the Judiciary. I learned one day early in the session that he was a Coast Guard veteran, and there are not that many of us around, as you know, in the Congress, and so we became good friends. I guess ideologically he and I are probably light years apart, but that has in no way hampered our friendship.

As my colleague knows, when Mother Nature rears her ugly head and devastation results therefrom, oftentimes accusatory fingers are forthcoming: Oh, it was not my fault; it was his fault or it was her fault. But that was not the case with the Coast Guard. I think in the wake of Katrina, the Coast Guard may well have been the only entity or agency that came out of that exercise free of fault and free of blame. The Coast Guard became America's hero.

Now, as the gentleman from Massachusetts pointed out, this certainly may well have been one of our finest hours. The landing ship tanks that were manned by Coast Guardsmen in World War II has oftentimes been called America's finest hour, and of course the day-to-day search-and-rescue operations that occur as a matter of fact are no big deal. Coasties go out and rescue distressed victims. No big thing for them. It is all in a day's work. But as my colleague pointed out, when we saw those heroic rescues by the Coast Guard air arm during Katrina, it was unbelievable.

It is a shame that it took a 9/11 or a Katrina for many Americans to become personal friends with the Coast Guard. The Coast Guard was the forgotten service. It was the fifth armed forcement, but rarely was much said about it. Oftentimes, and I am sure my colleague has been addressed in this manner, as have I, where Coast Guardsmen were referred to as members of the Hooligan Navy, the shallow-water sailors.

Oftentimes, when I was on Active Duty, which seems more like the dark ages, it was not uncommon for us to become beneficiaries of Navy hand-me-downs, equipment the Navy was about to survey or to abandon, which we would warmly embrace.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Like an orphan.

Mr. COBLE. Like an orphan, sure. Excellent example.

So I am very pleased, Mr. Speaker, that my colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), took out this Special Order.

Now, this has nothing to do with Katrina, and I see our friend from New London has joined us as well, but oftentimes back home, I would appear at Veterans Day or Memorial Day services and inevitably you would hear the hymns of the Army, the Navy, the Air Force and the Marines, but conspicuously absent was the most beautiful marching hymn of all, Semper Paratus, the Coast Guard's marching hymn.

□ 1945

I went to a music director once at a high school and I asked her why was ''Semper Paratus'' not played. She said, you get it for me, and I will play it next year. It was the first one played the next year. Now each time I have been since 9/11, even back home, ''Semper Paratus'' is always included in the musical renditions. Of course it always is up here, but even in the hinterland it is being done.

Mr. Speaker, I say to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), as a fellow coastie, and as a fellow member of the Committee on the Judiciary, I thank you again for having taken out this Special Order.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE). We have been joined by another friend and a strong advocate for the Coast Guard representing the coast of Connecticut, the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS).

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time. It is a great pleasure for me to be here tonight to speak in support of our wonderful Coast Guard and the great things that they have done, not only in response to the terrible storm, Hurricane Katrina, but also the many things that they have done over the years to keep our people and our homeland more secure.

It is also nice to gather in a bipartisan fashion not to point fingers of blame, but to speak words of praise, because I think that is very appropriate. The time will come when the various oversight panels, commissions and committees, our own oversight committees will do the job of looking into what has gone wrong; but I think it is easy for us to gather here tonight and point out some of the things that have gone right.

The distinguished coastie to my left, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), a Coast Guard person many years ago, not too many years ago, but a few years ago, pointed out the motto is ''Semper Paratus,'' always ready. They prepare their young men and young women in one of the finest institutions we have in this country, which is the Coast Guard Academy in New London, and I quickly say that the number of applications for that fine academy, for positions available, exceeds the number of applications that you get for your very fine Harvard college in Massachusetts and my very fine university in Connecticut.

In fact, of all colleges across the country, the Coast Guard Academy receives more applications for positions available than any other college in the country. It is a testament to the quality of education that they get there. It is a testament to the fine young men and women who graduate.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I do not think that we can overstate and overemphasize the quality of education provided at the Coast Guard Academy. That is reflected really in the caliber and quality of the officers that it produces to serve in the United States Coast Guard and to have many of them go on to other careers in public service. It is a first-rate institution. With all due respect to the other services, clearly they also have service academies that are excellent, but the Coast Guard Academy in New London provides an education without equal.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I think the gentleman is absolutely correct. When we talk about being prepared or always being prepared, that preparation does begin for many of our Coast Guard officers at the academy. Of course then you have the OCS, which is also located at the academy. You have senior officer training, and you have leadership training for the noncommissioned officers in the Coast Guard.

So they are prepared. They are prepared to deal with difficult and dangerous situations. They are prepared to deal with fishermen at sea to make sure that our fisheries are regulated. They are prepared to deal with the recreational boaters that we have off the coast of Massachusetts, we have in Connecticut, and I suspect those are off the coast of North Carolina as well; and when those recreational boaters find themselves in difficulty, the Coast Guard is there.

They were prepared on 9/11, and when I went to New York City a few days after the attacks of 9/11, it was a Coast Guard cutter in the harbor of the Hudson River and a Coast Guard helicopter that was flying overhead, so a very quick and immediate response.

On Wednesday of the week of Hurricane Katrina, the day after the levees broke, I received a call from a friend of mine who lived in New Orleans, Louisiana, and he called to ask for my help to intervene in getting some Federal response down there as soon as possible. The next morning when I called him back, he said he had received a call from the Coast Guard, that he had called them and they called him back and that two Coast Guard vessels were in the process of clearing the channel up into Louisiana to provide supplies, food, fuel and all of the things that were necessary, and that they had done it within 24 hours of the breaking of the levees. So it was a Federal response that was immediate and directed to assist people in distress.

The results speak for themselves. There were 24,135 lives saved; 33,544 individuals saved or evacuated. And 12,000 of those were saved by air resources. That means helicopters with long lines down into tree tops and roof tops, which is, by the way, a very dangerous undertaking not only for the individual on the end of the line but for the helicopter pilot and the crew because often they have to hover over power lines or trees where they can strike and crash. But none of those things took place.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to note that there is no training in any service to use a sledge hammer to break through a roof to rescue an individual while you are dangling from a helicopter. Some of our more recognized acts of heroism have been by rescue swimmers. I remember vividly that scene in the movie and also in the book ''Perfect Storm'' when those rescue swimmers from the United States Coast Guard, Air Station Cape Cod, I might add, went into seas of 80 and 90 feet. But here in New Orleans in the Gulf States, they do not have a specialty that involves breaking through roofs, walking through toxic water and being in the position where they are dealing with all sorts of very dangerous circumstances; but they did it, and they did it so well.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, this is a good time for me to say this. The enlisted rate rescue swimmer was not known when I was in the Coast Guard.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Nor when I was.

Mr. COBLE. It is probably the most unsung rate in the military. The Coast Guard has long been known as the armed service that gets more done for less. I do not mean this as an indictment against our sister services, by any means, but the orphan syndrome as has been pointed out. And this is a good time to mention the Deepwater Project because the Coast Guard needs additional appropriated moneys to address the antiquated equipment, the cutters, the helicopters, the aircraft that are in dire need of replacement.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, I certainly agree with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), and I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) again for raising these issues tonight.

When we consider the flexibility of these men and women in addressing a problem that perhaps they had not seen before, and yet they did it successfully, they heard noises from the attics and rooftops, and they addressed those problems' need immediately. They

broke through and were able to bring people out. It is a great testament to the service and to their willingness to risk their lives and their safety to save others. That always has characterized the Coast Guard.

I think it is a testament to the excellence of this service that when it became clear that the Federal response was not producing the results that we all would have wanted in that circumstance, for reasons which will be determined at some future date, who was named to take over? It was Vice Admiral Thad W. Allen, chief of staff, third-ranking man in the Coast Guard, somebody I have met and known before, somebody who has had distinguished sea duties, somebody who actually headed up the Long Island Sound Station for a number of years. He is a highly educated, highly experienced, highly trained man with a somewhat low profile, but the capability to get the job done. That is so typical of our Coast Guard, that they are not out there with a lot of flash and a lot of pizzazz; but they get the job done, and that is so important.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, the point that the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) made about Admiral Allen being nominated by the President and put in charge, I think, went a long way to restoring the confidence of the American people in our ability to handle from that point on this emergency. I know that I share with both the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) and with the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) tremendous confidence in Admiral Allen.

The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) made the point earlier about they responded so quickly to the disaster that the first rescue actually occurred as the eye of the storm passed; and in the midst of the eye they began operations, plucking people out of harm's way. It is truly remarkable because they had a plan. They did that prepositioning. They were ready. They honored their motto, ''Semper Paratus.''

They knew what they were doing, and they are doing it again. I just read recently a memorandum, a Coast Guard memorandum, prepositioning and preparing for Hurricane Rita. If Members would bear with me for just a moment, let me read this so that maybe we can reassure some folks who feel threatened by what I understand is now a Category 5 hurricane: ''The Coast Guard is preparing assets throughout the Gulf States for the arrival of Hurricane Rita which is expected to reach the gulf coast later this week. The Coast Guard is making strategic shifts in personnel resources while others are conducting overdue maintenance to aircraft used to support Hurricane Katrina relief efforts.''

That goes to the admonition of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) about the Deepwater Project and the need to provide assets so this can-do service can do it, because we cannot continue to ask the impossible. I think we have to understand that those helicopters, those cutters, those small boats, not only are they old and in some cases they are described as legacy assets, and I presume that is a euphemism for really, really, really old, maybe my age or something along those lines.

But let me just cite one example of a legacy asset, and I think it really underscores the need for all of us, Democrats and Republicans, to come together and advocate for the assets that are necessary so the Coast Guard can continue to respond to these natural disasters, can continue to interdict drugs coming into our communities, can continue to respond to environmental disasters.

□ 2000

It is my understanding that they have responded in Louisiana and the Gulf States to over 240 fuel spills. Just imagine what that would mean if that preparedness, if that can-do attitude, if those resources were not there. I would believe it would be extremely dangerous and clearly wreak environmental ecological havoc in terms of the impacted and affected States. But they did it. They went out and they found a way to do it. But we cannot call upon them to continue to do it with legacy assets.

I remember vividly the story of a cutter called the *Storis*, launched in 1942, that still is in operation, that while in the Bering Sea on a rescue mission, while a lifeboat was being lowered to effect a rescue, the davits on the superstructure ripped off, dumping nine Coast Guard personnel into the freezing waters of the Bering Sea. Fortunately, those Coast Guard personnel were rescued, and those whom initially they were to rescue were also rescued. But think of the tragedy because of an aging fleet. I think out of 40 fleets, it ranks number 39 in terms of age as far as major naval fleets are concerned.

We are putting these heroes that are doing so much for us and for the American people at risk unless we accelerate the Deepwater Initiative, unless we provide the kind of assets that, when it comes time for such a crisis such as we have experienced and potentially could experience by this weekend, if we do not give them the assets, then we are asking them to do the impossible.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DELAHUNT. I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, let me speak briefly to that. I have had the honor for the last 4½, 5 years, to serve on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation Subcommittee. We initially supported the recommendations that were made by Admiral Loy, when he was commandant, to initiate the Deepwater project, which was the most ambitious recapitalization project in probably the whole history of the Coast Guard. And I am looking at the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE). We might consider him a legacy asset as well, because his historic knowledge of the Coast Guard is so substantial. But I will tell the Members he is just as sharp today as he has ever been; so some legacies are good. But one of the key considerations that we had when we bought on to the Deepwater project was, would the Coast Guard be able to implement this program successfully, and it was a very ambitious program, implement it successfully over a period of years? Certainly the subcommittee and the full committee under the leadership of the gentleman from New Jersey (Chairman LOBIONDO) and the gentleman from Alaska (Chairman YOUNG) have been extremely supportive. On occasions there has been some slippage in the funding, and we have tried to address that as a body. We know that the Coast Guard has to submit through OMB and that there are always challenges in doing that. But I think that this Congress has committed itself in a bipartisan fashion to the Deepwater project, and I think that we are beginning to see the phasing out of some of those legacy assets. My recollection is a year or so ago, we took over 100 small vessels out of the inventory and have been replacing them with more capable boats, which I think is tremendously important.

But also something that many Americans do not focus on when it comes to the role of the Coast Guard in homeland security and in dealing both with natural disasters and manmade disasters like 9/11 is we anticipate that there may be a breakdown of civil order in an area that is hit by a disaster of this sort. That is just something that we expect. And the Coast Guard, unlike the military, is not restrained by posse comitatus. The Coast Guard has arrest powers. They exercise those arrest powers in the war on drugs, where they operate in the Caribbean and elsewhere, and they are allowed to board ships and to arrest. They can exercise those powers in issues such as smuggling or other illegal activities. But, in fact, the Coast Guard has the capacity to go into an area that has been devastated by a natural or a man-made disaster where civil order has broken down, where there is no communication, where police cannot talk to firemen, firemen cannot talk to police. They can actually go in and they can arrest those who are doing harm and save those who need to be saved. And that is a unique capacity for our Coast Guard, and it reflects a very important capability as we look to the future of homeland security.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time, there is an additional task that I know that we are aware of, and our colleagues here and I think many Americans, that when we talk about port security on the land

ready to deploy, particularly, for example, when an LNG tanker is coming into Boston Harbor or any harbor or any port in this country, that port security unit is there to ensure that there will be nothing untoward happen and that the vessel, the tanker, can unload without concern. And, again, those low profile, if you will, but absolutely essential critical tasks are performed every day.

I can remember directly in the aftermath of 9/11, cruise liners being boarded in Boston Harbor. And it was the Coast Guard that conducted the search, that had their divers go and check the hulls, that were there to provide confidence to the American people and to those particular passengers that they could enjoy their hard-earned vacation that they were taking on the cruise liner.

The Coast Guard implicates itself in so many different ways in our daily lives. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) mentioned that if one is a recreational boater, there is nothing more assuring that, if they get themselves into some trouble, to know that they can get on that radio and they can call that Coast Guard; or if they are a commercial fisherman and they are out in tough waters and something should happen to their vessel, at least there is hope that they can be rescued.

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DELAHUNT. I yield to the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS).

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, a very sad moment in our history, but a moment where, once again, the Coast Guard was there and got the job done, the gentleman may recall just a few years ago the son of the late President Kennedy was flying an aircraft along the New England Coast, accompanied by his wife and his wife's sister. And, tragically, the aircraft went down just to the west of Block Island at the mouth of Long Island Sound. And it was a terrible event for all of us who remembered his father and the terrible tragedy of his father's death, and now it seemed that once again this family was in distress and that something terrible had happened to them. But the Coast Guard from our New London station and the Coast Guard from the Long Island Sound station moved out there very quickly and very efficiently. They set up staging areas offshore. They were able to locate the aircraft and to recover the aircraft in what was a sad moment but an important moment in our history, and they did it in a fashion that was respectful, that respected the Kennedy family, and also respected the emotions of all Americans who followed that tragic case for a couple of days, and they did it without fanfare and without a lot of hoopla. They just went about their business and got it done.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. DELAHUNT. I yield to the gentleman from North Carolina.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, this is not unlike a family reunion. The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) and I are former Coast Guardsmen. The gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) represented the Academy in his district.

Let me share this with my colleagues. It has nothing to do with the recent problems in New Orleans, but it has much to do with the Coast Guard. Some years ago, I was having an evening meal in the home of a Coast Guardsman, who is the son of a former keeper at one of the lifeboat stations along the Carolina Coast. And my Coast Guardsman friend's mom, and the dad of the family had since expired, but she was almost in tears when she was recalling the decommissioning or the shutting down of the lifesaving stations along the Carolina Coast. She said it will never be the same again. The Coast Guard will never be able to function.

Well, old habits die hard, as the gentlemen knows, and, of course, the Coast Guard continues to function. What was going on was they were streamlining. They were decommissioning four or five stations, making one great support center or a group station, if you will. But the Coast Guard will indeed function well.

And this has been a very fine evening. I thank the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) for having joined the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT). The gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT) was the lead dog. It was his idea, and I appreciate very much his having done it.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the lieutenant commander for his comments. I feel like I should salute at this point in time, given our respective histories in the Coast Guard.

I would like to just make an observation in response to the gentleman from Connecticut's (Mr. SIMMONS) review of the tragedy that befell the Kennedy family. As they both know, I represent the South Shore of Boston, Cape Cod and Nantucket and Martha's Vineyard, and obviously Hyannisport is on Cape Cod. I know Senator KENNEDY well. I know the Kennedy family well. And everything that the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS) said was so true, that the way the Coast Guard conducted itself in a respectful, professional, no fanfare manner meant so much to that family in a time of tragedy and crisis, as it does with every family in this country.

We talked about aircraft. I happen also to have the Coast Guard airway stationed at a military reservation on Cape Cod. So I am familiar with those helicopters that go out and those fixed-wing aircraft. And as both the gentlemen know, their main search-and-rescue helicopter, the Jayhawk, experienced inflight engine failures at a rate of 329 mishaps per 100,000. The FAA sets a safety standard that is acceptable in terms of an aircraft at 1, not 329, but 1 mishap per 100,000 hours of flight time.

So what we have is not only do we have an aging fleet, and the Deepwater Initiative incorporates upgrading the air assets of the Coast Guard, and as the gentleman from Connecticut well knows, the First District extends from the Canadian border down to New York and that air wing is so important. And these failures limit the Jayhawk's ability to hover over a distressed vessel, for example, and places the lives of its crew and those that hopefully will be rescued in grave danger.

The indisputable fact is that the demands on the Coast Guard have vastly outpaced the resources that are available to them.

□ 2015

I think it is our responsibility to give them those assets, because we want them to escort that LNG tanker. And when the parents of an overdosed teenager discover that the Coast Guard boats were not fast enough to catch the drug dealers, even though they had the intelligence, they could not respond because they did not have the vessel, we do not want to look them in the eyes and say that we failed them.

Or when the family of a deceased fisherman discovered that the Coast Guard could not get there in time because that Jayhawk helicopter was grounded, we do not want that.

Two centuries of experience has taught us that we can rely on the professionalism and the heroism and the commitment of the Coast Guard, whether it is hurricanes or airplane crashes or dealing with drug smugglers, or dealing with foreign factory trawlers that we had a problem with in terms of overfishing our territorial waters. The Coast Guard has always been there. They have been on call for some 200 years.

Mr. Speaker, it is tempting sometimes to put things off. It is really easy here in Washington to do that. It is very tempting. But a long way from here, out in those waves and those white caps, when something is happening to people, that is what we have to keep in mind. We want to not just thank them for what they have done and honor them for what they have done; but we want, I know, to provide them with the wherewithal to continue to honor that wonderful motto of ''Semper Paratus, always ready.''

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, are we getting close to the end of our time?

Mr. DELAHUNT. I think we are winding down, and I just promised the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) that I would give her 5 minutes on some unrelated topic that I do not know what she is going to address.

Mr. SIMMONS. Well, I have a concluding remark, and I think the gentleman from North Carolina does as well.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Speaker, I just want the gentleman from Massachusetts to keep in mind that the gentlewoman from the Buckeye State is an appropriator, so she can appropriate some of these monies.

Mr. DELAHUNT. That is right. So we will be very good to her tonight.

Mr. SIMMONS. That is what we call a very ''appropriate'' comment.

Two concluding remarks, and I thank the gentleman for this Special Order.

The first is that approximately 2,200 active duty Coast Guard members and their families live and work in the area of Katrina, and many of those 2,000 families, Coast Guard families, active-duty Coast Guard families lost their homes and discovered that their families were evacuees, just as much as were citizens along the gulf coast. Yet in spite of that distress, they continue to perform in an outstanding fashion.

The Coast Guard Foundation, which is located in my hometown of Stonington, Connecticut, put out a press release that all retirees and all folks who participate in supporting the Coast Guard Foundation are invited to provide financial assistance, and they hope to raise about $1 million of financial assistance to help those active duty families to recover with incidentals and costs that may not be covered as a routine matter.

So once again, it is an example of the Coast Guard family reaching out to take care of their own, to provide assistance, which is so much a part of the tradition of the Coast Guard.

Finally, I am most honored as an Army officer to be here with these distinguished Coast Guard officers and ''Coasties,'' but I will share with my colleagues a personal story. My wife's father was in the Coast Guard, was the captain of the New London Port for a period during World War II, and then did convoy duty across the Atlantic for about 3½ years. So I feel a little bit of the tradition of the Coast Guard; and as we work to assist and support the next generation of Coasties, I think back to my father-in-law and his generation and all of the great things that they did.

Again, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts and the gentleman from North Carolina for inviting me to participate.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, let me acknowledge the gentleman's advocacy on the part of the Coast Guard and the Coast Guard Foundation. Does the gentleman have an address or a contact for that foundation?

Mr. SIMMONS. Mr. Speaker, the foundation is located in Stonington, Connecticut, and their phone number is 860–535–0786, or they can call my office and we would be happy to put them in touch.

Mr. DELAHUNT. And that would be Congressman Robert Simmons, and I am sure that people from all over the country would not have difficulty finding that number, and it would certainly be a wonderful acknowledgment of the Coast Guard personnel that are saving lives, are protecting people, and yet have experienced their own losses as a result of Katrina. I know right now, those helicopters and those fixed-wing aircraft and those vessels of the United States Coast Guard are out there ready for Rita and any consequences that hopefully, God willing, will not be visited upon any of our American people.

Mr. FILNER. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join my colleagues: the Gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. DELAHUNT; the Gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. LOBIONDO; the Gentleman from North Carolina, Mr. COBLE; and the Gentleman from Mississippi, Mr. TAYLOR, to pay tribute to the U.S. Coast Guard. Let me also add a personal note to the Distinguished Gentleman from Mississippi, (Mr. TAYLOR) to express my deepest concerns for him and his family after the tragic events of Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, as the Ranking Democrat on the Subcommittee on the Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation, I have the privilege of working closely with our men and women who bravely serve in the Coast Guard.

Mr. Speaker, on Friday September 16th, I had the privilege of joining my subcommittee's Chairman, Mr. LOBIONDO, on a tour of New Orleans and the disaster area impacted by Hurricane Katrina. Mr. LOBIONDO and I came together, put aside our political differences, and focused all of our attention on the needs of the Coast Guard. Even before we toured the Gulf Coast, Mr. LOBIONDO and I, along with Chairman YOUNG and Ranking Member OBERSTAR, added language to the Coast Guard and Maritime Authorization Act to honor and commend the Coast Guard for their valiant work in the wake of Hurricane Katrina.

During our visit, we had the opportunity to listen to crew members, pilots, and other Coast Guard personnel describe to us the horrific and tragic events that happened in the days following the hurricane.

Upon the announcement that a category 5 hurricane was on a path for the Gulf Coast region, the Coast Guard acted diligently to activate a plan of redeploying their forces and resources so that they could be on the ground operating as soon as the path of the storm had cleared.

The Coast Guard's plan exceeded expectations, and because of their resolve to respond to the country's needs, the Coast Guard was operational and in-place allowing the very first air rescue to take place within two hours of the hurricane passing the region.

The numbers speak for themselves: since Katrina hit the Gulf Coast the Coast Guard has saved or evacuated 33,500 people. One helicopter crew rescued 150 during a single shift!

Mr. Speaker, with incredible resolve and expertise, the U.S. Coast Guard brought order and infrastructure to the unstable region. Because of their strategic planning, training, and leadership the Coast Guard was able to implement and carry forth a plan of action that saved lives.

Before, during, and after the events of Hurricane Katrina the Coast Guard clearly showed the nation that their motto, Semper Paratus—Always Ready, is very well-earned.

In addition to exceptional performance in the Gulf Coast, the Coast Guard continues to serve our nation across the seas and borders of U.S. waters. On a daily basis, the Coast Guard is intercepting drug smugglers, monitoring illegal immigration, and rescuing hundreds lost at sea.

In recent years, the Coast Guard has been charged with some very difficult tasks. Since being moved to the Department of Homeland Security, their role has grown and expanded. To date, they have met many challenges, and exceeded every expectation.

Mr. Speaker, it is my hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring the service men and women of the Coast Guard. They are the ones who foresaw the dangers that threaten our soil and they are the ones that responded.

Let us never forget, that all of our service members, regardless of department, serve our nation bravely. They volunteer, without hesitation, and I join all Americans in gratitude for their service.

Mr. DELAHUNT. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), my distinguished colleague and friend.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF BARNEY QUILTER

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I would like to thank my dear colleague, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. DELAHUNT), for yielding me the remaining time and thank our colleagues, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE) and the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. SIMMONS), for participating in this great tribute to the Coast Guard, which we on the Great Lakes know so well.

I am honored to add these words this evening as we close the House. That is, Mr. Speaker, summer's end has ushered in the end of an era to the region I represent of northwest Ohio. Our community's elder statesman, Barney Quilter, passed from this life on August 17, 2005, and he had achieved 86 years young. As husband, father, father figure for our community, kind and generous spirit, and political leader, he built a legacy that spanned more than 3 decades of service, even after his 1994 retirement from Ohio's General Assembly.

His achievements were stellar. He championed the Maumee Bay State Park on Lake Erie as a lasting legacy to the future, the largest State park in Ohio. He sponsored worker protection laws, guiding into place in our State cornerstones to working men and women's rights. Barney Quilter left so much to all of us. His quiet diligence brought so many efforts to fruition. Improvements throughout our State may be laid to his credit. Former colleague Patrick Sweeney of Cleveland explained that Representative Quilter's legacy can really be found in all of the accomplishments that do not carry his name. He noted, it just got done. You never saw Barney's fingerprints on a news release; it was just the way he was. His influence is, and will be for many years, enormous.

Born in 1919 to James and Helen Marie Quilter, James Barney Quilter grew up on Toledo's famous East Side. A boxer, his career ended when he was called into service in World War II where he served in the Army's 167th Combat Engineering Battalion. In 1967, he was persuaded to run for State representative. Reluctant, he finally agreed, but only for one term. Toledo's voters decided differently and reelected

him to successive 2-year terms until he retired at the end of his 14th term.

Truly a statesman in the best sense of the word, Barney Quilter rose to power and prominence in the Ohio legislature, serving as its speaker pro tempore, leading the Ohio House in tandem with Speaker Riffe for 20 years, an acclaimed and effective, powerful team. Partisanship was not Barney's goal. He worked side by side with legislators to move forward initiatives which benefited all the people of Ohio.

Henry Clay said: ''Government is a trust, and the officers of the government are trustees; and both the trust and the trustees are created for the benefit of the people.'' This creed expressed by the 19th century giant was exemplified in the tenure of Representative Barney Quilter. His example should be emulated by all of us in public life.

A noble public servant, Barney shared his expertise and wisdom with any and all who asked. He was a real mentor to many, including myself; to his own son Bernie who also followed a path into public service. His daughter Mary Ann has devoted herself to her family and to educating the next generation. Barney and Mary's family are living testimonials to the dedication to others their stellar family exemplifies.

Despite his legislative career, Barney Quilter never lost sight of his true happiness: his wife and his children. He and his wife Mary shared 52 loving years together until Mary's passing in 1996. For nearly 2 decades, Barney faithfully would minister to her, even reading to her regularly, as she bore gracefully a debilitating illness that made it impossible to communicate with her family. He loved her so much.

Barney's own passing leaves his son Bernie and daughter Mary Ann and six grandchildren with our heartfelt condolences. We mourn the passing of this great American. We can celebrate his life and his service. May his strength and goodness guide us all as we seek to follow in his footsteps, always moving forward, no matter how steep the hill. Thank you, Barney Quilter. Onward.

PROGRESS IN IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. REICHERT). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the opportunity to address my colleagues and the opportunity to raise some issues before the American people as we deliberate in this great body, the United States House of Representatives.

During the period of time that the House is not in session during August, commonly referred to as the August break, seldom is it a break for any of us, except that it changes our rhythm and we go do some other things. Generally, we do things to reach out and serve the people that we have the privilege and honor to represent.

This August was no exception. There were many Members who went out across the country and across the world and went on CODELs and traveled on their own accord and visited different places and brought back that breadth of knowledge. It occurred to me sometime in, I will say late May or early June, that it had been some time since I had been to the Middle East and been back to Iraq. I had been there twice in the past, but 12 months or more had gone by, and I had not been back there since.

As I listened to the mainstream media and began to get a picture of what was going on over in Iraq, it was a pessimistic one. As I talked to the troops who were coming back, particularly in Iowa, I got a different picture. As I listened to the briefings that came from the Secretary of Defense and the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, General Myers, I got a picture that was consistent with the picture of our military that was serving on the ground in Iraq and in Kuwait and in supporting roles around that theater.

Yet you can listen to all the information you want to listen to, you can read all the documents you like, you can read The New York Times and watch the mainstream television stations, and you can surf the Internet, but the perspective does not come until you go and put your own boots on the ground and look the soldiers in the eye that are serving there in that theater; those that have been there; those that have put their lives on the line; those who have risked their lives willingly in order to protect and preserve the freedoms that we have here and advance those freedoms to the people who live there.

So we began to organize a trip to go during the month of August over to Iraq. I wanted to go also to Afghanistan at the same time. I was not able to add Afghanistan to this trip because there was an election coming up which just took place over in Afghanistan, so they were not going to allow Members of Congress in there to make their situation, in preparing for those elections, more difficult.

But Iraq was still an open area that we could go into. As I looked at the map of Iraq and the places that I had been, and in talking to the Members of this Congress who have made, some of them, as many as four trips or more over into that region, there were some places that we did not have a lot of experience with, some places we had not looked at.

In fact, this Congress appropriated $18.4 billion for the reconstruction in Iraq that included roads, sewers, bridges, electrical generation and transmission, and the oil distribution system; to upgrade the ports and upgrade the schools and hospitals, the kinds of things that would put Iraq up into maybe the last quarter of the 20th century or, if all goes well, at some time they will be into the first quarter of the 21st century.

□ 2030

But, Mr. Speaker, in spite of all of the things that we have done over there, the disaster that Iraq has been from the perspective of allowing their infrastructure to erode over the last 35 years and a dictator that had his power as his God, and his people at his feet, a person who took his death and destruction to many wings of Iraq, and starved them and kept them from getting medicine and education and health care, and sometimes shut off their water, as he did in the southern part of Iraq.

But we invested in their infrastructure. The American people put $18.4 billion up front. And we said at the time it was about a $100 billion project to try to get Iraq up into the last quarter of the 20th century, a more modern world.

And if they cannot get their country more modernized, it is going to be significantly more difficult for them to be able to sustain the type of government that I pray will become a constitutional republic that represents the people in Iraq and the will of the people in Iraq.

And so the $18.4 billion was invested. And most of it was committed to projects, and we knew that in this Congress. And we committed to the support of that. But no one had really been over there to follow and track the projects. And in fact I was not aware of a single Member of Congress that had gone into Basra in the south, in the British region. So we put that on our schedule.

And the wetland area where the swamp Arabs lived, they were over 800,000 strong. And when Saddam was finished putting down their insurrection that began about in about 1991 or 1992, he had killed approximately 120,000 of them and run off maybe 450,000 and there remained maybe 200,000 of the 800,000 swamp Arabs that lived in an area that was a wetland twice the size of the Everglades, Saddam drained it, turned the water away from it, and forced many of them out and changed their life.

So we went to Basra and looked at that region in the south, and the oil region there. We went to the wetlands and flew over that in a British helicopter and looked at that, and we went up to Kirkuk in the north, another area that many Members had not seen.

And in that process we came back down through Baghdad, and we did meet with a significant number of people who had been involved in the reconstruction of Iraq. We saw project after project that was there. We saw places where the money went. And along with that on that trip myself, and also the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) who was on his fourth trip, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) from Laredo, who was elected to this Congress and sworn in here in early January of this year, and did not take him very long, he has made his trip to Iraq to start things out, and I appreciate your company along on that trip. Also

the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

And the four of us were the compadres that visited that area. And we had an intense 5-day trip that compressed a lot of hours in Iraq and very quickly saw a lot of the country and met a lot of the people, including soldiers from our own districts in almost every stop, although there were a few Texans along almost everywhere we went.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for his leadership and for what he did to organize that congressional delegation visit to Iraq. I enjoyed that and learned a great deal from that experience, along with the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

I think what we learned in Iraq is that clearly there are problems, and those problems remain; but considerable progress has been made. That progress to me was best exemplified by a man from Pennsylvania named Albert Chowansky, Jr.

And Albert Chowansky Jr., to me, exemplifies the spirit and sense of purpose reflected by American civilians working and serving in Iraq. This man, Albert is a Frackville, Schuykill County native who left the coal regions in late 1970s, at the time a rather depressed area of the State to study engineering at Drexel University in Philadelphia.

And this well-traveled engineer is now managing the construction of the Taza power plant near Kirkuk in northern Iraq, and this is that power plant that I am referring to. We learned a great deal from that visit.

But this natural gas-powered plant, which Albert calls MOAG, or the mother of all generators, and it really is, is tangible proof of the positive reconstruction efforts proceeding in Iraq.

Visiting Iraq, the four of us, we saw efforts to rebuild a country, not just from a recent war, but from decades in which its people and its natural resources were raped and ravaged by an evil tyrant, Saddam Hussein.

As part of this bipartisan four-Member congressional delegation that visited Kirkuk, Basra, Baghdad, and Kuwait, we witnessed this and just a handful of the thousands of other coalition construction projects over a few days.

You know, many of us marveled at the accomplishments of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers under whose auspices much of this massive construction and reconstruction continues, simultaneously fighting an insurgency, reconstructing a nation, and at that particular moment we were there, assisting in the development of a constitution, the drafting and development of a constitution, which is a daunting objective.

Security is intense. Most of the time we wore body armor and helmets, and we were protected by heavily armed personnel virtually all of the time. Nevertheless, I left Iraq feeling optimistic and hopeful that the slow gradual pace to normal life in much of Iraq is progressing, not without setbacks and heart-breaking loss of life, but still with purpose and determination.

You know, the transporting of this particular MOAG, the mother of all generators, is a story all by itself. Moving a nearly 500-ton piece of equipment 600 miles from Jordan across the dangerous Al-Anbar Province in western Iraq to Kirkuk by convoy is testament to the extraordinary logistical capabilities of the United States military.

You know, after a few ineffective, but still very troublesome, mortar attacks that landed near this particular power plant, Albert Chowansky worked with regional ethnic and tribal leaders to form a local work force, equitably distributing jobs to Sunni Arabs, Shiia Arabs, Tukomeins, and Kurds.

This project is nearly complete, and there have been no more mortar attacks. These are just some of the circumstances under which the reconstruction of Iraq's infrastructure is occurring. But there you have an example of just a guy using his good common sense and, realizing there were some attacks, went out and met with local tribal leaders, talked with them, distributed jobs and they all worked well together. And just good old-fashioned American innovation working locally to solve a very different, difficult and complex problem.

You know, our delegation also spent time in the southern Iraqi province of Basra at the confluence of the Tigris and Euphrates rivers. We visited the nearby port of Umm Qasr and rode with the Iraqi Navy in speed boats through the harbor.

The Iraqi Navy is actually more like a coast guard of about 800 sailors trained by the British Royal Navy and tasked with harbor security and with the protection of the oil platforms in the Persian Gulf. This is just a little picture of a meeting with some of the officers of the Iraqi Navy, myself, and the members of the delegation.

But we had a wonderful experience with the Iraqi Navy. And you could just get a sense of the professionalism, and of course they were well trained by the Royal Navy.

Flying with the British Army in a Merlin helicopter, we viewed the marshlands near Basra. And the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) just referred to those marshlands. These marshes were originally twice the size of the Florida Everglades until Saddam Hussein drained them as retribution to the marsh Arabs who rose up against him after the 1991 Persian Gulf war.

Saddam Hussein displaced and killed tens of thousands of these people, at the very least, whose civilization had lived in this ancient homeland for 5,000 years.

It may again be possible to grow crops there, although it is unknown if we can ever fully undo the environmental terrorism of the deposed Iraqi leader.

Militarily, the Basra province is relatively quiet and is one of out of 14 of 18 provinces that have seen progress with comparatively less insurgent activity than in some years of Iraq.

The Royal Marines regional commander, General Jim Dutton, was quite confident in the capability of the Iraqi Army. We spent a fair amount of time with him. And he had quite high praise for the Iraqi Army in the southern region under his command.

Our delegation later then flew into Baghdad via U.S. Army helicopter, Black Hawk helicopters; and we flew a few hundred feet above the ground. We were escorted by Apache helicopters. We flew from Kirkuk at this point back down to Baghdad.

The British, we flew in the Merlin helicopters down in the Basra area. But from our view, and just a few hundred feet above ground, we could see oil pipelines and bridges across the Tigris River under construction, along with vacant gun embankments. It seemed like bone dry ditches just about everywhere, irrigation channels that were drug out and bone dry.

But there were a lot of ditches and a lot of scars on the Earth, vacant pools of oil exposed next to bodies of water. You know, in Baghdad, in Baghdad's Green Zone actually, our delegation met with General John Abizaid and General George Casey, respectively, the military commanders for Southwest Asia and Iraq.

The generals presented, I feel, a very sober yet hopeful analysis of the insurgency situation. Actually, there is not one insurgency in Iraq, but three disparate groups: The disgruntled Baathists, the Sunni extremists, and they are the most dangerous, of course, because they include both domestic and foreign al Qaeda-affiliated insurgents, and the third group are the so-called Rejectionists, a hodge podge of people who for whatever reasons are unhappy or angry but are more likely to be integrated back into the mainstream of society.

But regardless, that group of Sunni extremists is the most dangerous because they are al Qaeda affiliated, many of whom are coming from outside of Iraq. The generals told us that every month 3,000 insurgents are taken off the streets. That is what the generals told us. Every month 3,000 insurgents are taken off the streets, that is, they are captured or killed, mostly captured.

General Casey said that 180,000 Iraqi security forces are trained and equipped, and that number will be more than 200,000 come January. Our congressional delegation also met with embassy officials for an overview of the political reforms and progress on the constitutional convention that was occurring just down the street.

Of course, this was just prior to the constitutional convention being adopted by those who were participating.

Federalism, the role of women, women's rights, of course, role of Islam, and control of the country's premier resource, oil, are among the issues to be resolved.

And I left feeling persuaded that all sides, Shiia, Sunni and Kurd, are dedicated to reaching an agreement. It was clear that they understood, even though the Kurds and Shiias represented a majority of the country, that they understood that they could not have a country without the Sunnis being included.

And that is not an easy thing for them, given the maltreatment that many of them had received at the hands of largely Sunni rule or the Baathists for some time.

You know, the American role in that constitutional process was not to impose a solution, but to facilitate discussion and present options. And in fact I just left the Capitol, the Cannon Building where I heard one of my constituents, Colonel Platte Moring give a presentation who helped there. He was in the Army National Guard. He made a presentation about his role in helping the Afghans develop a constitution about a year and a half earlier.

And so there were some similarities there. Again, the American role was really to help facilitate discussion, present options, and help them when they got in trouble, not to impose solutions.

I think that was very important. That was an experience here in Iraq and of course also in Afghanistan. That same day, we also had lunch with the American-Iraqi Chamber of Commerce, and we later met with three judges overseeing the special tribunal on war crimes who are the people who will try Saddam Hussein for crimes against his people.

The judges impressed me very much with their knowledge, their wisdom, and dedication to the establishment of an independent, impartial judiciary. Probably one of the best aspects of that whole visit is meeting with these judges. You get a sense of their commitment to the rule of law and the importance that they have a transparent process and one that they can be proud to show to the world with respect to the trial that they will be conducting at some point in the not-to-distant future. I believe before the end of the year, we are likely to hear more about that.

□ 2045

We also spent some time in Kuwait. There we witnessed the up-armoring of the various American vehicles. We also witnessed the massive logistical support operation that dispatches convoys of 800 trucks per day carrying everything necessary to support an engaged military. More than 20 percent of the trucks carry water. Of those 800 trucks, over 20 percent of them were carrying water. I met a gentleman from my hometown. Army Major Steve Miscenzski, an Easton native, was among the Pennsylvanians supporting this effort. We all dined with Steve and other Keystone State natives at Camp Arifjan. We also met some folks from Iowa and Texas. There are always Texans everywhere, a lot of Texans in the Middle East and everywhere we went. It was just great to see them all.

Throughout the trip, we ate in these mess halls with soldiers and Marines whose morale was exceptionally high considering the 125-degree heat that we walked into in Kuwait while wearing full body armor and helmets. I think we all would agree, too, that the food was quite good and plentiful. Veterans of previous wars would be envious. We hear our uncles talk in World War II about the old K-rations. They would have been envious of the food, I think, that was being served.

At every stop along the way, I was able to share some of the generosity of the people of the 15th Congressional District. I handed out phone calling cards as most of us did. I also handed out Gatorade mix packets to our troops from Pennsylvania and elsewhere, even some of our coalition partners from the UK and the Netherlands and Australia, for example. These items, by the way, were donated by the Dexter and Dorothy Baker Foundation and a drive led by Chapman resident Dottie Niklos of Blue-Star Mothers through the Lehigh Valley Military Affairs Council. These gifts were well received by our troops. We insisted that they call home and they seemed to do that on a regular basis.

Leaving Kuwait, we flew home via Ramstein Air Force Base near Frankfurt, Germany. There we visited wounded troops in the Landstuhl military hospital. Many of the troops were wounded in Afghanistan as well as Iraq. At Ramstein, we briefly boarded an Air Force plane carrying wounded troops back to Andrews Air Force Base near Washington, D.C. On this plane, I had the honor and privilege to meet a young marine, Travis Gray, who was a fellow Allentown native. I do not know who was more excited by that, me or Travis, but I was just thrilled to meet this young man who was on his back in a stretcher in an Air Force plane. I am happy to report that Travis was in quite good spirits. I had called his mother shortly afterwards to give her a report on his condition. He seemed to be doing quite fine and he was improving. I think we had some pretty good news there for Travis and the whole Gray family.

The harsh reality of war really struck me and I think it struck my colleagues as well as I stepped off that plane carrying Travis and his fellow comrades to make way for the final two passengers, two unconscious, critically wounded soldiers. Watching as these two soldiers were boarded was an emotional time, as 12 airmen methodically and gently lifted their stretchers and all the life-sustaining medical equipment onto the plane. It was quite a sight and quite emotional. That is where the harsh reality of war really strikes one, witnessing that particular procedure.

I left Iraq feeling proud of the Americans serving there. The transition from Saddam's Iraq to a new country, establishing representative government consistent with the country's traditions, heritage and culture, has been painful, grueling and difficult. Nevertheless, our military's perseverance is inspirational, just as is the effort of our civilian personnel. In fact, one of those civilians I met there actually was a Capitol Hill staffer who I bumped into on a cold February night after being in Congress for about a month and a half. I met this young man. I was getting dinner and he was telling me he was about to head over, a civilian with DOD and who did I run into in Iraq, in Kirkuk, but this young man who was so proud of his service and will be home shortly. I have stayed in touch with him.

The point is the dedication of our military and civilian personnel to their work and this mission is truly extraordinary. Many people ask me when American troops will leave Iraq. I cannot give a precise answer, but it is my belief there will be a military presence in Iraq and Afghanistan for the foreseeable future. The question is how many troops will be required and under what circumstances will those troops be there. I believe we will see an eventual drawdown of those troops.

Like all Americans, I want our troops to come home safely. Like most thoughtful Americans, no matter how they viewed the circumstances leading up to the war or how it has been conducted, I understand that leaving Iraq prematurely without better stabilizing the country could yield catastrophic consequences.

That said, as the political and military situation stabilizes and improves, the American presence in Iraq will diminish. For now, it is a matter of patience and will.

The gentleman from Iowa again led our delegation and did a great job of it. I should note, too, that he was very gracious and on every occasion really did acknowledge the bravery not just of our personnel but also of the Iraqis who are serving there, many of whom are in the Iraqi navy, for example, and others in the security forces who really cannot tell many of their neighbors and friends what they do for a living. They cannot wear their uniforms to work. They serve at great risk to themselves and to their families but they believe that they have an obligation to make sure that country is stable and safe and free of the types of horrible violence that we have witnessed there far too often in recent days.

Mr. KING of Iowa. I thank the gentleman from Pennyslvania for his presentation as well as his participation. It was an honor for me to have the privilege to go there with my colleagues and an honor certainly to look our soldiers in the eye and the nonuniformed

people that are over there, especially the Americans but all of our coalition people that are sacrificing and committing to make that region a better place.

Before you step away from the podium, one thing I would like to comment upon and that is your second picture over there to the left that shows yourself and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) meeting some of the Iraqi navy. As you said, it is an 800-man navy. We don't expect the Iraqis to have a Navy, but there is, and trained by the Royal Marines, as you said. What impressed me as we went down that line, they were all lined up in rank order. As I went down that path and shook each one of their hands, and maybe there were 20 to 25 of them altogether, every single one of them looked me in the eye and every single one of them had some word of English that they must have practiced all night long that they could greet me and thank us for being there. We truly have partners and they are part of the coalition. When we say coalition troops, we mean American troops, all the troops that are part of that, and we mean the Iraqis. That picture brings that memory back. It was, I think, an unusual and unique situation that had taken place over there with our delegation that probably had not been the case in any of the others that had traveled over there. I wanted to point that out while I had the opportunity and I appreciate the gentleman from Pennyslvania's presentation.

Also, you made remarks with regard to the fact that we ran into people from our prospective States. We sat down in the mess hall and broke bread with Pennsylvanians and with Texans and with Iowans and with many of the States in the union. We walked into a room one evening, though, and everybody in that room was from Texas except you and me. So the next time I climbed aboard a C–130 that was full of soldiers, I walked back over there and I hollered out, is there anybody here not from Texas? About half of them gleefully raised their hands.

You are well represented over there. I bring this up in a humorous way to recognize that. At this point I would like to recognize the gentleman from Laredo, Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) who joined us on that trip.

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Iowa and the gentleman from Pennyslvania, also the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) who joined us, also. I also want to thank you for your leadership, taking us, this particular delegation, the delegation that you took us on took us to different parts of Iraq that other delegations had not gone to, especially the southern part of Iraq.

I would like to talk about three things that are really what I would call snapshots of this particular trip that I think are important to share with us here today. The first one, of course, has to do with the reconstruction projects. Sometimes I believe the media does not give it enough time to focus on the reconstruction work, the schools, the clinics, the hospitals, the electrical plants, the water plants that are built, those types of projects that really have changed the daily lives of the Iraqi people. When you are talking about a child that for the first time sees a board that you can actually get some sort of stick and write on, the blackboard, it is something they have seen for the first time, you are changing the lives of those young Iraqi children that will really make a big difference. I think you would agree with me that as we are able to get them educated, as we are able to see them, able to teach them the principles of democracy, the principles of being able to associate, that we really are making some changes that will transform not only Iraq but the Middle East and that will have a ripple effect to the other countries. I think you would agree with me on that particular point.

The other point that I would like to talk about is also the commitment of the Iraqi people. I think the gentleman from Pennyslvania did a great job when he talked about the Iraqi businesspeople, men and women. All they want to do is they want to be able to have a business, be able to secure a future for their children and for their families. They want to be able to send their children without having to worry about being blown up in some bomb going to school. They just want to make sure they have a normal life just like you and I and a lot of folks want to have. I think seeing that in those Iraqi businesspeople, both men and women, was something that was very enlightening.

The other thing that the gentleman from Pennyslvania touched upon which I think is important is the commitment of the judiciary. Having an independent judiciary is extremely important. If you recall when we were talking to the judges and we talked to three different judges, what we call the investigating judge, the judge that will do the trial work and, of course, the appellate judge, that gave us a pretty good sense of the work, the very difficult work that they have to do. I remember one of the comments they said. They said, all we want is we don't want the Iraqi politicians to get involved in our job. We want to make sure we do our job in an independent manner. That is important, because think about this. Those judges are probably targeted. They are people that do not want them to do their job. They do not want them to try Saddam, the evil dictator. They want to make sure that they don't do their job. But what they wanted, these jurists, all they wanted to do was to be free from any influences and do their job. I think that has to be admired, especially under those very difficult circumstances.

The last point that I want to mention is also the commitment of our soldiers. When you think about it, when we were at that hospital in Germany, we had soldiers that had been injured, soldiers that were hurting. When we asked them what they were thinking about, the first thing they wanted to say was, I want to get well so I can go back and take care of my buddies and be with my buddies and my friends. That is a commitment of the U.S. military, that even when they are down, they are ready to get back and go back in the field so they can finish their job and the mission because they believe in what they are doing there.

The last point that I want to bring about is, I have been in different town hall meetings and people asking us when are our American soldiers coming back. As I told them, and I think we all realize this, we need to finish the mission. We need to make sure that that country is stabilized, because we took out a power structure that was not taking care of its people, and we cannot leave that vacuum there. We need to make sure that we put a structure there, a structure of government, a constitution, the rule of law, the principles of a constitution so the people can follow the rule and the laws there. Once we establish that law there, then I think we can start bringing our soldiers home. I think the constitution and especially that election or that vote on October 15 is going to be extremely important. The elections on December 15 when they elect their representatives, that will be extremely important. But also the building up of the Iraqi military is important.

I remember when I started back here with the gentleman from Pennyslvania back in January, we asked the question of the Department of Defense, how many soldiers do we have, Iraqi soldiers? At that time I recall it was about 120,000. We were informed last month that they had about 180,000. Sometime by the end of the year they should have over 200,000 soldiers, Iraqi soldiers. As one of the generals told us, when one Iraqi soldier stands up, one American soldier can go ahead and sit down.

□ 2100

It means that the faster we can build the Iraqi military security forces then the faster they can start taking care of their homeland, and that is extremely important.

So I certainly want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) very, very much for the opportunity that he provided the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) to go down there to see, first of all, the morale of our soldiers, to see the commitment of the Iraqi business people, the jurists, the people that want to have normal lives so they can have a future there. Certainly I want to thank him for giving me an opportunity to see the reconstruction projects, the schools, the clinics, the hospitals, the water plants, the electrical plants, to make sure that

they can have the basic utilities that sometimes we take for granted.

I want to thank the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for the opportunity and certainly the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), one of my freshmen colleagues, for having an opportunity where we are able to ask the questions and share our thoughts and ideas in a bipartisan way. Because, again, we want to do the best thing for our country, and we certainly want to do the best thing for the Iraqi country over there, also.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) willingness to join us in that travel across to that other side of the world, along with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) and those kind of trips build bonds that will help us reach across the aisle and work in a bipartisan fashion beyond this subject matter and into many others, I hope. That is one of the residual benefits of those long and grueling days over there. It did get a little warm I understood, 128-degrees, I know we saw that, and looking back on the pictures, did it get a little warmer than that?

Mr. CUELLAR. If the gentleman does not mind me interrupting for a second, I am from Laredo, Texas. It is one of the hottest places in the country, 104, 105, 107 degrees, but I have to say that being there at a place where it was 125 degrees, and I think that was a cool day compared to some of the days, that has to tell us that our soldiers have to go through very difficult times, but at the same time, the morale was good. They were doing their job, and they believed in what they were doing.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I have seen over there on different occasions when the temperature cooled off down to 106, I have seen the Marines go out at three o'clock in the afternoon and play basketball in 106 temperature because it has cooled off.

I got an e-mail from a lieutenant colonel that we met over there at Camp Arifjan, Lieutenant Colonel Gary Ace, and he happens to be an individual that helped set up a trip a year ago last 4th of July for my staff and their families to take a bus and go up to Gettysburg for the 4th of July with the Army historian, to travel throughout all Gettysburg and review that on the historical day with the Army historian.

Lieutenant Colonel Gary Ace, who was deployed to the Middle East and met us there at Camp Arifjan at really our first stop, it was quite ironic. He sent me an e-mail a couple of days ago that said it has cooled off down to about 110 or 112, and it seems ironic to say so, but it is a relief from the heat.

I would just like to go through a number of the things that I reflected upon as I listened to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) speak on this issue and refer back to a colloquy, if I might.

You brought a number of things to mind that I would like to embellish a little bit. One of them has to do with the heat and the water, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania's (Mr. DENT) remarks in particular, when he said bone-dry ditches. Certainly they are there and the fighting positions that have been dug for the tanks and armor, we see that from the air, especially in the north around the Kirkuk region, where we were.

Yet, in the south, there are irrigation ditches down there that have been hand dug and have been maintained for centuries. The water stands near the top of the ditch because it is the water that comes down the Tigress and Euphrates and it fans out in that delta. It is not sand. It is soil. It should be productive soil, and I looked at that from the air I do not know how many times. We finally got down on the ground and got a chance to look, and I could never understand why you could not see anything growing next to those ditches full of water, in the summertime, from the air, nothing green to be seen from the air.

That is because nothing grows there in those particular regions. So my old farm boys unlocked the key to that inadvertently when they stuck a thermometer in the soil. We plant corn in the spring in Iowa after the frost goes out and soil temperature gets up to 54 degrees. The soil temperature there, about that far down in the soil, was 154 degrees, and I am sure the broccoli I had a couple of days ago had not reached that temperature when they served it to me in the restaurant.

So that is some sense of what kind of heat there is, that relentless sun, and how that builds up in the soil. It would sterilize most sees. So they have to have a different kind of agriculture than I am used to, but maybe in Laredo, they could figure that out.

The American-Iraqi Chamber of Commerce, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT) referenced that and I think both of my colleagues did. It was an interesting surprise to me. It never occurred to me that there was a chamber of commerce in Iraq, and yet to find out that the Americans that were there teamed up with the Iraqis that are there, and they are seeking to build a free enterprise, retail organization that can help develop the kind of commerce that they need to grow that city and grow every city in that country.

To walk in there and have them ask, well, we would like to have you give a speech to the Baghdad Chamber of Commerce, now there is an ironic twist of fate in this life that this fellow from the cornfield never anticipated.

I looked around, and went, well, where is my interpreter; I guess I will be willing to do that. They said you do not need an interpreter, sir; they speak English here in Baghdad. So they set the microphone up and gave an introduction, and we all came and sat at the table, and my colleagues actually mixed around with them at their tables and gathered together afterwards. I gave a little speech there in English.

I could tell they understood me. They responded, smiled and laughed and clapped and frowned all at the right times. It occurred to me that if they could pull that off in Baghdad, we can pull that off in the United States of America, that English speech to the Chamber of Commerce in many of our major cities, but just a little bit of life's irony there.

They were open, they were welcome and curious. When that was over, all of us had a cluster of Iraqi Chamber of Commerce members around us with their business cards. They want to do business and trade cards and do commerce, and they are eager. In fact, we were in the Al Rasheed hotel. That was in the green zone, but that is the hotel that Deputy Security Wolfowitz was in when it was rocketed a year or more or so ago. That is one of those little ironies.

The other one that the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR) mentioned, the odd request, and I was very curious about the judicial branch of the Iraqi government. I had, I will say, a friend and colleague from Iowa, the U.S. Attorney, Charles Larson, Senior, who served over there for more than a year, and I believe it was 15 to 16 months, trying to get the Iraqi judicial branch up to speed and trying to teach them what we know from our rule of law in the United States. He served over there intently and in a very dedicated way, along with his son, Major Chuck Larson, Junior, who served as a Army Reservist in the same area.

I have seen pictures of them together, and Chuck Larson, Senior, the U.S. Attorney, brought me back, an Iraqi flag, that flew over Baghdad the day of their first election they had when we saw those fingers dipped in purple. These gentlemen convinced me that we should take a look at the judicial branch of government in Iraq. That is what precipitated the request.

We wanted to go over to the courtroom. I wanted to sit in the courtroom where Saddam would be tried for his crimes. I sat in two of his thrones, and that was kind of good, kind of fitting, but I really wanted to go sit in the chair where he was going to be, really sit in the witness chair where people would testify against him. Because of security reasons we could not go out of the zone, across the street and into that building. So they brought the three judges to us.

We sat down and talked with them, and these people, they risk their lives. They are dedicated to the rule of law. They want the politicians out of that decision-making process. They do not want them leveraging the rule of law decision.

I am going to shift into my interpretation of what I heard that day, and I am not going to represent it as being a verbatim transcript of what came out of their mouths but how I sort it

through because we're working through interpreters, but it works like. I was curious. I wanted to know was Saddam Hussein up for the death penalty. Could they sustain the death penalty? Was there law in Iraq in the face of the changing situation of the Constitution and the ratification that is pending for October 15, when he is queued up to go on trial October 19.

I asked the question directly: Will Saddam face the death penalty? The answer was, well, Mr. Congressman, we could not be commenting on a case that could come before this court. It sounded like an American judge, and it was the right answer.

Then I had to ask this long, convoluted, hypothetical question, and when I got all the way around the Horn, it might have been a double figure eight before I got back with my hypothetical, and then the answer was, if someone who might not be related to this case, that could have committed a crime similar to the one you have described that was similar to the one we may think Saddam has committed, could be up against a charge that would start the way they do in the United States with death first and then life in prison and then the penalty goes on down from there.

One of the other judges was eagerly shaking his pencil. He wanted the floor, and as I understood this and interpreted this, it was the paragraph that applied in that case to the crimes that I had described only provided for one penalty and that was the ultimate penalty. At that point, I volunteered if they could not find someone in Iraq to carry that out, I would be willing to do so provided he had been faced with the rule of law and had a just trial.

So I look forward eagerly for that trial to ensue, but it was an interesting and a unique experience to have that. It presented us also with a very neat, octagonal box of dates, that high class, and that is one of the things that Iraq does export. They export some oil, and they export quite a lot of dates, and those are about the only two products that leave that country to bring cash flow back in.

The areas around Basra have a tremendous amount of oil reserves yet, and the wells, the pipelines, the distribution system, the refineries are not in the most modern of conditions. They need capital investment from outside, and it needs to be upgraded into the modern and efficient world. That is a factor of the depreciation that comes from the years of neglect, in addition to some of the sabotage that has taken place, but the years of neglect would debilitate that system anyway. All that oil that they have is not coming to market as quickly as it should, Mr. Speaker.

Then we went up to the Kirkuk area, and I think we pointed this out in the helicopter, but we did not have very good audio there. There were areas where there was pooled oil that was not oil spilled. It was oil that had seeped to the top of the ground. There was that much concentration up there.

I am told that the oil reserves down south by Basra are larger and greater than those up by Kirkuk, but there is where I saw the oil that had seeped to the top of the ground. There is where I saw the most need, I think, for new drilling, new pipelines, new distribution systems, new refineries, and up there is where they had nine pipelines that crossed the Tigress River on a bridge.

During the operations in March of 2003, our air force went in and appropriately cut off that transportation route by blowing the bridge. When they did, nine pipelines, of course, were severed at the same time. They have all been reconnected, except for a 40-inch line that each time that they tried to lay that across the river, it would get sabotaged.

So they awarded a contract to lay it under the river, a 40-inch pipeline, 40 inches in diameter, so 3 feet and 4 inches in diameter. They have been trying to bore underneath there. Now, they are going to put it underneath in an open cut. I guess that is the kind of thing that I am interested in in my business, but to lay that pipeline 25 feet under the bed of the Tigress River, a 40-inch line, so that if the insurgents, or enemy, seeks to come along and detonate that, I suspect they will not have the ability to get down there 25 feet below the bottom of the Tigress River to blow up that 40-inch line. When it is running, it will help the cash flow of Iraq.

Speaking of that cash flow, the things that are missing, one thing that is missing from this discussion tonight. We have not talked about tactics, military security. We have referenced the bravery of our troops, the dedication, the sacrifice of our troops but not the tactics because, and I will just say this, is that as we looked at the condition of security in the country, as we listen to our military, our officers and our regular soldiers that come from our regions, that look us in the eye and speak with our accent and we know they tell us the truth, were not concerned about whether we could hang on to that country from a military tactical standpoint. It was never raised as an issue. They are doing their job, and they know they are doing the best they can with the security, and they feel in control of the situation.

It also was the case with the generals that briefed us, including General Dutton of the British, who said I can think of no alternative but optimism, and what would you do if you were not optimistic, if you did not think there was a positive solution, then what would your alternative be? Of course, there is no rational answer to that. He is right in kind of a clear, succinct, British way.

General Casey and General Abizaid briefed us. He said the enemy cannot win, if the politicians stay in the fight, and we had a discussion on the way back. The question was, did he mean American politicians or did he mean Iraqi politicians. We were kind of split down the line on that. It was a really good, healthy discussion, and I have just come to the point that I do not want to resolve that question. I want that to stand out there that he meant both. The Iraqi politicians and the American politicians must stay in the fight.

If we do that, if we send a consistent, solid message that we stick with this till the end, that America stands with the Iraqis until the Iraqis stand on their own, and by the way, they also advised us that a base would be turned over to the Iraqis for their control, and that has happened, and it has happened more than once since we have been back. I saw the clip a couple of days ago. Several bases now are Iraqi-run bases that we have.

Americans are stepping back. Iraqis are stepping forward. When it was America leading operations, the combat operations, it was Americans with Iraqis trying to lead them into combat in the early stages.

□ 2115

Now it is the Iraqis leading with American support, and sometimes it is Iraqis only. And you will see they have not cracked. They have not run. They have held together.

Far different than that first operation of sending Iraqis in April of 2004 into Fallujah. Those Iraqis were undertrained and underequipped, and we sent those Iraqis in there with berets and pistols on their belts and no radios and no armor, to fight alongside Marines that were trained and equipped and had communications. We should not have been surprised if they did not stand and fight. They were not ready. But they are getting ready.

It is not easy to establish a military tradition. I believe, though, that that security is coming. And when General Casey says that the enemy cannot win if the politicians stay in the fight, that means he has confidence in the security situation and the military situation that is there. I do too. I believe that in the history of this country, and probably in the history of the world, there has never been a nation go to war with a higher class of people that are in uniform on the ground in Iraq and in Afghanistan today.

And I say that for a number of reasons. One of them is that it is an all-volunteer military force. I do not know if we have ever done that before to this scale and for this duration to this scale. And we also have so many National Guard and so many reservists that add to our Active-Duty personnel that are extraordinarily professional. And these Guard and reservists have other professions that they bring in that add to the level of technical abilities, training and professionalism in a technical age, when if it goes beyond picking up an M–16 and putting on a

pair of boots, these guys are professionals in a lot of ways and are specialists in a lot of ways. And I think it is the best quality that has ever gone to the war. And every time I look them in the eye, they convince me of that. And certainly they did over there.

Mr. Speaker, I have a lot more to say about this, and I will probably take a shot at it, but I want to take a moment to bounce this back over to my colleagues, who certainly have their minds on what we are talking about here, and surely there is a gap or two that my colleague from Pennsylvania may want to fill, and so I yield to him.

Mr. DENT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for this colloquy, and he made a point that I think needs to be repeated. General Casey pointed this out to us. We were in Iraq in August, and of course there was a lot of press attention about the situation in Iraq, and much of it very negative press. But General Casey said to us, have you read any stories or heard any stories about Iraqi soldiers leaving their positions? Have you seen any stories like that lately? We said, well, no, we have not. He said, well, the reason that is the case is because that does not happen anymore.

My colleague pointed that out, that the Iraqi Army is much better trained and equipped than they had been earlier. So sometimes what we do not hear is very important; that the Iraqi Army is standing in, standing much stronger and is much better trained and equipped at doing the job that we expect them to do in many cases. They are not where they need to be just yet, but they are making great progress, and that is a story that has not been told very well, and I am glad the gentleman has raised that tonight.

Another thing the gentleman mentioned, too, about Iraq that again has not been discussed very much out in the public, is one of the people who joined us on that trip was a gentleman from the Army, an Assistant Secretary of the Army named Dean Popps, who was part of the CPA, the Coalition Provisional Authority, at one point. We had a discussion. We all know how Congressmen are. We can get very unfocused. We get into our business and we can get a little scattered. But there we were in Iraq and just focusing on the situation in Iraq. And I remember what Mr. Popps said; that when he was with the CPA, he said he looked at 52 state-run businesses, government-run businesses in Iraq, and many of these companies he said were dual-use companies. That is, in the front of, say, a fertilizer factory; yes, they were making fertilizer, but in the back it was chemicals. Or in the front of a sheet metal shop; yes, they were doing sheet metal in the front, but it was rockets or rocket launchers in the back. He even mentioned that anthrax grinders were found over there. He made a lot of comments to us that sometimes you just have not read a lot about that.

I thought that was a very interesting part of our experience, talking to people like the Assistant Secretary of the Army, who had been there for some time and actually been on the ground meeting with the people who ran those state-run businesses, to give us a bird's-eye view of what is really happening there.

Something else my colleague mentioned that is worth repeating. In Iraq, of course, we all know that they have these tremendous oil reserves, but their refinery capacity is really quite limited. So they produce the crude oil in Iraq, they send it out of the country, have it refined, bring it back into Iraq, and then they sell it at 13 cents a gallon. Of course, they are losing money selling gasoline. Again, coming out of this Saddam legacy of really a closed economy, it has created tremendous problems for the people of Iraq.

Electricity. Another thing we learned about. Electricity is not paid for by people. So, of course, if you do not pay for a particular commodity, you will tend to utilize more of it. So, of course, they have all kinds of problems with electricity. Lights do not go on, and there were many, many problems there.

We also learned, too, about the damage that Saddam Hussein had wreaked upon his people. Much of it was psychological damage. I think that is one thing our troops and the British learned, that it is difficult for many of the Iraqis to make decisions because their experience had always been that they had to get approval from Baghdad, from the central government. So decisionmaking was not something they were used to, and that is part of this transition from where we are today in this situation in Iraq.

We went through a liberation phase, an occupation phase, and we are now in the third phase. And this is a planned phase of our time in Iraq, is this partnership stage. We are in there now, but as we move and transition to a self-reliant stage, part of that transition really requires helping the Iraqis develop the ability to make decisions once again.

We saw the same thing in the old Eastern Bloc, after the Soviet Union collapsed and the Communist nations became free. Many Western people would go in and say the people had a hard time making decisions. They were never able to do that. And that is kind of what we see in Iraq. And part of our job is to help them, help them make this transition and help them to understand their options and to make decisions.

One other thing worth noting, too, that I find very interesting is that as we met with that Iraqi American Chamber of Commerce, I really enjoyed those conversations. When we were there, too, this whole notion of federalism was a very big issue to the Iraqis, and they were obviously quite concerned about the issue. They were sweating the issue. What do we do about federalism? And as Americans, you almost have to chuckle a little bit and say, you know, we had a little trouble with federalism ourselves. We set up these Articles of Confederation after the American Revolution. Things did not work out well with the Articles, and we developed the Constitution, which is a great Constitution, a great document, but not a perfect one. We made mistakes. And ultimately the issue of federalism was settled in our country by a Civil War in the 1860s. And to this day we are constantly having debates in this great Chamber about what is the role of the Federal versus the State Government. And my advice to some of the Iraqis there was do not feel as if you are going to get this question of federalism right on the draft. You are going to have to do the best you can.

And I think that is what they did in the document that they adopted. And coming from the State of Pennsylvania, I feel like I have some ability to talk to Iraqis on that issue, given that Philadelphia is the birthplace of American democracy, and of course Pennsylvania is the State where oil was first discovered, in western Pennsylvania. Not Texas, I say to my colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

But nevertheless, I was most impressed again by the trip and that experience, and it is something I will remember for the rest of my life. And having said all that, I yield back to the gentleman from Iowa.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for his comments. And in the short time we have left, Mr. Speaker, I now yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Just one minute more, and I thank my colleague for yielding to me, Mr. Speaker, and then I will let him close after this. Thanks to my colleague from Iowa and also to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT).

And my colleague was right, the Assistant Secretary of the Army, Dean Popps, we all had different conversations; and if you will recall, one of the conversations that we had was how do we get the free enterprise system to work? How do we get foreign investment to come in? It is hard to attract foreign investment to Iraq if they do not have a constitution or the basic laws, if they do not have some of the basic things we take for granted. In other words, who is the owner of the property? Where is the title to the property? How do you borrow money if you do not have collateral to go in?

So there is a lot of work that needs to be done. But I have a lot of faith in the Iraqi people, and especially having had that opportunity to talk to some of the business people and some of the folks there. It gave me the optimism and the faith that we are doing the right thing. And I think once we finish this mission, then we need to do everything to bring our soldiers back safely to the United States, the men and

women from all across the United States.

And, of course, I have to say that Texas had a large delegation there from San Antonio, Laredo, a couple of the places, New Braunfels. But again I do want to say thank you to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. KING) for this opportunity, and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. DENT), and of course our doctor, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), who also went with us.

This is something that allows us to make better decisions here in Washington, being able to go and see what is happening in Iraq firsthand. So I thank my colleagues.

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues. I appreciate their willingness to do this travel, along with my other colleague, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS). I said when we got off that plane that I would go make that trip all over again with you, and I mean that sincerely. It is not always the case.

There are a couple of things that need to be fixed over there, and one of them is the constitution. Get it ratified, have the legitimate election, get the sovereignty established with legitimacy in Iraq so that they can sign contracts, and get that oil developed with foreign capital so that that capital can grow and flow and they can do business across the world. When that happens, the enemy will have to give up and recognize that they have lost.

While that is going on, the Iraqis are taking care of their own security. There is light at the end of this tunnel. There is a bright spot. And the least concern we have is whether our military is doing their job. They are doing their job. And now free enterprise needs to take hold to lift that burden off our military.

So I appreciate my colleagues' involvement here, and my hat's off to the United States military and their efforts over there and all around the world.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. ORTIZ (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today and September 22 on account of district business.

Mr. BARTON of Texas (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today on account of attending a funeral.

Mr. HEFLEY (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of a death in the family.

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 Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WOOLSEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. PALLONE, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. HINCHEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. MCDERMOTT, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. DUNCAN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DUNCAN, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. JONES of North Carolina, for 5 minutes, September 22.

Mr. PAUL, for 5 minutes, September 22.

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, September 27.

(The following Members (at their own request) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. KIND, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STUPAK, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 1340. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to extend the date after which surplus funds in the wildlife restoration fund become available for apportionment.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on September 19, 2005 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills

H.R. 3169. Pell Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act.

H.R. 3668. Student Grant Hurricane and Disaster Relief Act.

H.R. 3672. TANF Emergency Response and Recovery Act of 2005.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 26 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, September 22, 2005, at 10 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

4055. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a report of a violation of the Antideficiency Act in the Rural Electrification and Telecommunications Direct Loan Financing Account, Treasury Symbol 12X4208, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 1517(b); to the Committee on Appropriations.

4056. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, Transmittal No. 05-39, concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to Singapore for defense articles and services; to the Committee on Armed Services.

4057. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, NHTSA, Deaprtment of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Child restraint systems Child restraint systems recordkeeping requirements [Docket No. NHTSA-2005-22324] (RIN: 2127-AI95) received September 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4058. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's report entitled ''Performance Improvement 2005: Evaluation Activities of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services,'' pursuant to section 241(b) of the Public Health Service (PHS) Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

4059. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the semiannual report detailing payments made to Cuba as a result of the provision of telecommunications services pursuant to Department of the Treasury specific licenses, as required by Section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, 22 U.S.C. 6004(e)(6), as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 6032; to the Committee on International Relations.

4060. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report of the national emergency with respect to the Western Balkans that was declared in Executive Order 13219 of June 26, 2001; to the Committee on International Relations.

4061. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to the risk of nuclear proliferation created by the accumulation of weapons-usable fissile material in the territory of the Russian Federation that was declared in Executive Order 13159 of June 21, 2000; to the Committee on International Relations.

4062. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National Emergency Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to terrorists who threaten to disrupt the Middle East peace process that was declared in Executive Order 12947 of January 23, 1995; to the Committee on International Relations.

4063. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting as required by section 401(c) of the National

Emergencies Act, 50 U.S.C. 1641(c), and section 204(c) of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act, 50 U.S.C. 1703(c), and pursuant to Executive Order 13313 of July 31, 2003, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to persons who commit, threaten to commit, or support terrorism that was declared in Executive Order 13224 of September 23, 2001; to the Committee on International Relations.

4064. A letter from the Chairman, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting the Inherently Governmental and Commercial Activities Inventory as required by the Federal Activities Inventory Reform Act of 1998 (the FAIR ACT); to the Committee on Government Reform.

4065. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting a report on the implementation of Section 1001 of the USA PATRIOT Act covering January 1, 2005 through June 30, 2005; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4066. A letter from the Chairman, Naval Sea Cadet Corps, transmitting the 2004 Annual Audit and the 2004 Annual Report of the Naval Sea Cadet Corps (NSCC), pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 1101(39) and 1103; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

4067. A letter from the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the response to the emergency declared as a result of Hurricane Katrina on August 27, 2005 in the State of Mississippi, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4068. A letter from the Under Secretary for Emergency Preparedness and Response, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting notification that funding under Title V, subsection 503(b)(3) of the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, as amended, has exceeded $5 million for the response to the emergency declared as a result of Hurricane Katrina on August 26, 2005 in the State of Louisiana, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 5193; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4069. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Offshore Marine Terminal, El Segundo, CA [COTP Los Angeles-Long Beach 03-002] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4070. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Wantagh Parkway 3 Bridge over the Sloop Channel, Town of Hempstead, New York [CGD01-05-050] (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4071. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety Zone; Wantagh Parkway 3 Bridge over the Sloop Channel, Town of Hempstead, New York [CGD01-04-155] (RIN: 1625-AA00) (RIN: 1625-AA00) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4072. A letter from the Attorney-Advisor, NHTSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Procedures for Participating in and Receiving Data From the National Driver Register Problem Driver Pointer System Pursuant to a Personnel Security Investigation and Determination [Docket No. NHTSA-05-22265] (RIN: 2127-AJ66) received September 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4073. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Legal Description of the Class E Airspace; Columbia Regional Airport, MO [Docket No. FAA-2005-21705; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-21] received September 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4074. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 747-200B, 747-300, 747-400, and 747-400D Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20661; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-261-AD; Amendment 39-14206; AD 2005-16-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4075. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier Model DHC-7-100, DHC-7-101, DHC-7-102, and DHC-7-103 Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20595; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-149-AD; Amendment 39-14208; AD 2005-16-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4076. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 757-200, -200PF, and -200CB Series Airplanes Equipped With Pratt & Whitney or Rolls-Royce Engines [Docket No. FAA-2005-20138; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-167-AD; Amendment 39-14204; AD 2005-15-15] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4077. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; McDonnell Douglas Model DC-8-11, DC-8-12, DC-8-21, DC-8-31, DC-8-32, DC-8-33, DC-8-41, DC-8-42, DC-8-43, DC-8F-54, and DC-8F-55 Airplanes; and DC-8-50, DC-8-60, DC-8-60F, DC-8-70, and DC-8-70F Series Airplanes [Docket No. 2001-NM-343-AD; Amendment 39-14203; AD 2005-15-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4078. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Raytheon Model HS.125 Series 700A Airplanes, Model BAe.125 Series 800A Airplanes, and Model Hawker 800 and Hawker 800XP Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2005-20111; Directorate Identifier 2004-NM-154-AD; Amendment 39-14207; AD 2005-16-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received August 23, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4079. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Boeing Model 727,727C, 727-100, 727-100C, 727-200, and 727-200F Series Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2004-19679; Directorate Identifier 2003-NM-132-AD; Amendment 39-14184; AD 2005-14-07], pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4080. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Aircraft Assembly Placard Requirements [Docket No. FAA-2004-18477; Amendment Nos. 121-312; 135-98] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4081. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of legal description of the Class D and Class E Airspace; Topeka, Forbes Field, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2005-21703; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-19] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4082. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of VOR Federal Airway V-537 [Docket No. FAA 2003-16676; Airspace Docket No. 03-ASO-16] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4083. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Washington, MO. [Docket No. FAA-2005-21706; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-23] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4084. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-20446; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-04] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4085. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Chalkyitsik, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-20450; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-07] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4086. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Revision of Class E Airspace; Emmonak, AK [Docket No. FAA-2005-20555; Airspace Docket No. 05-AAL-08] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4087. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Meade Municipal Airport, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2005-21783; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-24] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4088. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Aspen, CO [Docket No. FAA 2003-16460; Airspace Docket 02-ANM-16] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4089. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Mariposa, CA [Docket FAA 2004-19084; Airspace Docket 04-ANM-08] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4090. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule —

Amendment of Class E Airspace; Blairstown, NJ [Docket No. FAA-2005-21103; Airspace Docket No. 05-AEA-10] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4091. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of Class E Airspace; Newton City-County Airport, KS. [Docket No. FAA-2005-21704; Airspapce Docket No. 05-ACE-20] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4092. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Modification of the Legal Description of the Class E Airspace; Columbia Regional Airport, MO. [Docket No. FAA-2005-21705; Airspace Docket No. 05-ACE-21] received August 12, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

4093. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Agriculture, transmitting a copy of the Department's Annual Report to Congress on the Biomass Research and Development Initiative for FY 2004, pursuant to 7 U.S.C. 7624 note; jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Agriculture.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. HOEKSTRA: Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence. House Resolution 418. Resolution requesting the President to transmit to the House of Representatives not later than 14 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution documents in the possession of the President relating to the disclosure of the identity and employment of Ms. Valerie Plame; adversely (Rept. 109–228). Referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

Mr. BISHOP of Utah: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 455. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 2123) to reauthorize the Head Start Act to improve the school readiness of disadvantaged children, and for other purposes (Rept. 109–229). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. MANZULLO (for himself, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. POE, Mr. AKIN, Mr. MCCOTTER, and Mr. KING of Iowa):

H.R. 3841. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax relief for small businesses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. KUHL of New York:

H.R. 3842. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to reduce the Federal excise tax on highway motor fuels when the weekly United States retail gasoline price, regular grade, is greater than $3.00 per gallon; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BROWN of South Carolina:

H.R. 3843. A bill to amend the South Carolina National Heritage Corridor Act of 1996 to expand the boundaries of the heritage corridor to include Georgetown, Berkeley, and Saluda Counties, South Carolina; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. EMANUEL (for himself, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. MELANCON, and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H.R. 3844. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for advance payment of the earned income tax credit and the child tax credit for 2005 in order to provide needed funds to victims of Hurricane Katrina and to stimulate local economies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GINGREY (for himself, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BOUSTANY, and Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi):

H.R. 3845. A bill to set at 90 percent the Federal medical assistance percentage (FMAP) and the enhanced FMAP for medical and child health assistance provided in States highly impacted by Hurricane Katrina and to Katrina Hurricane evacuees in other States during fiscal year 2006 under the Medicaid Program and SCHIP; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, 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. GREEN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 3846. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend the Milk Income Loss Contract Program through the end of calendar year 2005; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 3847. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend the Milk Income Loss Contract Program through the end of fiscal year 2007; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin:

H.R. 3848. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to extend the Milk Income Loss Contract Program for an additional month; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LUCAS (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, and Mr. HOLDEN):

H.R. 3849. A bill to amend the Federal Insecticide, Fungicide, and Rodenticide Act to implement pesticide-related obligations of the United States under the international conventions or protocols known as the PIC Convention, the POPs Convention, and the LRTAP POPs Protocol; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Mr. SHAYS, and Mr. BISHOP of New York):

H.R. 3850. A bill to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to authorize the President to carry out a program for the protection of the health and safety of residents, workers, volunteers, and others in a disaster area; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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. MICA (for himself and Mr. WESTMORELAND):

H.R. 3851. A bill to provide for the competitive operation of the Northeast rail corridor using State and private sector initiatives; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. PRICE of North Carolina:

H.R. 3852. A bill to require enhanced disclosure to consumers regarding the consequences of making only minimum required payments in the repayment of credit card debt, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. ROSS (for himself, Mr. BERRY, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois):

H.R. 3853. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 208 South Main Street in Parkdale, Arkansas, as the Willie Vaughn Post Office; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. SHAYS (for himself, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LEACH, Ms. LEE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. KIRK, Mr. EMANUEL, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. BEAN, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. RUSH, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. STARK, and Mr. HONDA):

H.R. 3854. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to facilitating the development of microbicides for preventing transmission of HIV and other diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on International Relations, 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. TANCREDO (for himself, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. PITTS, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. POE, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, and Mr. OTTER):

H.R. 3855. A bill to raise funds necessary to respond to Hurricane Katrina and future disasters by selling a portion of the lands administered by the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committees on Agriculture, and Transportation and Infrastructure, 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 Mrs. LOWEY (for herself, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HIGGINS, and Mr. HOLT):

H.J. Res. 66. A joint resolution supporting the goals and ideals of ''Lights On Afterschool!'', a national celebration of afterschool programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. PLATTS (for himself and Mr. ANDREWS):

H.J. Res. 67. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to authorize the line item veto; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCRERY:

H. Res. 454. A resolution providing for the concurrence by the House with an amendment in the amendment of the Senate to H.R. 3768; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CROWLEY (for himself, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H. Res. 456. A resolution expressing support for the memorandum of understanding signed by the Government of the Republic of Indonesia and the Free Aceh Movement on August 15, 2005, to end the conflict in Aceh, a province in Sumatra, Indonesia; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. HOLT (for himself, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. OLVER, Mrs. BIGGERT, and Mr. GINGREY):

H. Res. 457. A resolution recognizing the importance and positive contributions of

chemistry to our everyday lives and supporting the goals and ideals of National Chemistry Week; to the Committee on Science.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

172. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 403, condemning the National Football League's recent actions restricting the availbility of televised games; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

173. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 365, urging the Congress of the United States to refrain from taking action in developing legislation that would have the effect of preventing or hindering the exploration, drilling, development and production of natural gas in the Great Lakes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

174. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 346, memorializing the Congress of the United States to pass the Violence Against Women Act reauthorization legislation and to reaffirm our commitment to helping victims of violent crimes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

175. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 326, encouraging the Congress of the United States and the Environmental Protection Agency to release funds to the states from the Leaking Underground Storage Tank Trust Fund; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

176. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, relative to House Resolution No. 332, urging the Congress of the United States to support and enact legislation placing reasonable requirements on the reporting of publicly funded clinical trials; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

177. Also, a memorial of the House of Representatives of the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, relative to a House Resolution supporting the Taiwain-U.S. Free Trade Agreement (TUFTA); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

178. Also, a memorial of the Senate of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Resolution No. 94, memorializing the Congress of the United States to reject privatizing Social Security; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

179. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Hampshire, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 6, urging the Congress of the United States to enact legislation to make English the official language of the United States; jointly to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and the Judiciary.

PRIVATE BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

Mr. RUSH introduced a bill (H.R. 3856)for the relief of Elvira Arellano, Maria Isabel Benitez, Adrian Briseno Esparza, Francisco Javier Castro, Araceli Contreras Del Toro, Jaime Cruz, Disifredo Adan Del Valle, Oralia Espindola, Angel Espinoza Martinez, Laura Flores, Juan Antonio Guzman, Francisca Lino, Maria Natividad Loza, Maria Antonia Martin Gonzalez, Blanca Estela Nolte, Mario Pacheco, Domenico Papaianni, Romina Perea, Ruben Ramirez, Martha Elena Davalos, Hermion Davalos Renteria, Juan Jose Rangel, Jorge Santos, Martin Guerrero Barrios, Antonino Cerami, Juan Carlos Arreguin Lara, Sylvia Soler, Dayron Rios, Jose Pelayo, Juan Jose Mesa, Tomas Martinez, Aurelia Martinez, Veronica Lopez, Alma Delia Jimenez de Sosa, and Rosalva Gutierrez; which was referred 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. 11: Mr. COSTELLO and Mr. NEUGEBAUER.
H.R. 65: Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland.
H.R. 202: Mr. THOMPSON of California.
H.R. 302: Mr. POMBO.
H.R. 323: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 328: Mr. COSTELLO.
H.R. 445: Mr. WATT.
H.R. 503: Mr. HOLT.
H.R. 515: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 558: Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida.
H.R. 565: Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 583: Mr. MURTHA.
H.R. 665: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 698: Mr. MCCOTTER.
H.R. 747: Mr. JEFFERSON and Mr. MORAN of Kansas.
H.R. 771: Mr. MCNULTY.
H.R. 791: Mr. OLVER.
H.R. 799: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 819: Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 890: Mr. CROWLEY.
H.R. 916: Mr. LATHAM, Mr. DICKS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PEARCE, Mr. WALSH, and Mr. TURNER.
H.R. 923: Ms. BERKLEY and Ms. HERSETH.
H.R. 925: Mr. MANZULLO.
H.R. 939: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 972: Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
H.R. 986: Mr. MENENDEZ.
H.R. 997: Mr. CANTOR.
H.R. 999: Mr. SOUDER.
H.R. 1068: Mr. UPTON, Mr. COOPER, and Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 1078: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 1080: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 1200: Mr. HONDA, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mrs. JONES of Ohio.
H.R. 1216: Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD.
H.R. 1217: Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 1246: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. DAVIS of Kentucky.
H.R. 1258: Mr. MORAN of Virginia.
H.R. 1259: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 1288: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
H.R. 1306: Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. WELLER, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, and Mr. KING of New York.
H.R. 1310: Mr. WYNN.
H.R. 1356: Mr. ROTHMAN.
H.R. 1402: Mr. SKELTON and Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN.
H.R. 1447: Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island and Mr. WALDEN of Oregon.
H.R. 1520: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 1526: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 1554: Mr. KLINE.
H.R. 1602: Mr. FOSSELLA and Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California.
H.R. 1632: Mr. RAMSTAD.
H.R. 1634: Mr. STUPAK.
H.R. 1636: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 1736: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 1806: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.
H.R. 1814: Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 1898: Mr. REYNOLDS.
H.R. 1973: Mr. MARKEY.
H.R. 2043: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2068: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. HULSHOF, and Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin.
H.R. 2129: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.
H.R. 2209: Ms. HERSETH.
H.R. 2211: Mr. CLAY and Mr. TIAHRT.
H.R. 2231: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Mr. GORDON, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 2237: Mrs. MALONEY.
H.R. 2298: Mr. SHERMAN.
H.R. 2308: Mr. MCGOVERN and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.
H.R. 2317: Mr. SWEENEY and Ms. DELAURO.
H.R. 2327: Mr. LEWIS of Georgia.
H.R. 2386: Mr. EVERETT, Mr. CLAY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee, and Mr. BISHOP of Utah.
H.R. 2389: Mr. POMBO.
H.R. 2567: Mr. EVERETT and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 2594: Mr. SHAW.
H.R. 2671: Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.
H.R. 2682: Mr. UPTON.
H.R. 2694: Mr. EMANUEL.
H.R. 2716: Mr. KILDEE.
H.R. 2730: Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. BARROW, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.
H.R. 2736: Mr. HONDA.
H.R. 2925: Miss MCMORRIS.
H.R. 2961: Mr. GRAVES and Mr. OSBORNE.
H.R. 2990: Mr. FOLEY and Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina.
H.R. 3072: Mr. RANGEL and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3142: Mr. MILLER of North Carolina, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. BISHOP of New York.
H.R. 3160: Mr. STARK and Ms. WOOLSEY.
H.R. 3171: Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. LATOURETTE, Mr. ISRAEL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. WU, Mr. FARR, and Mr. CAPUANO.
H.R. 3189: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
H.R. 3194: Mr. RANGEL, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. REYES, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.
H.R. 3203: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. BACA, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PASTOR, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FARR, Mr. PAUL, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. WATSON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3267: Ms. PELOSI.
H.R. 3282: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.
H.R. 3301: Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. TERRY, and Mrs. CAPITO.
H.R. 3361: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.
H.R. 3369: Mr. BERMAN.
H.R. 3428: Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. MURPHY.
H.R. 3504: Mr. FILNER.
H.R. 3505: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. MILLER of Florida.
H.R. 3548: Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. SLAUGHTER, and Mr. WALSH.
H.R. 3569: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania and Mr. GORDON.
H.R. 3617: Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. WELLER.
H.R. 3639: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 3666: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3670: Mr. KUCINICH.
H.R. 3671: Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico.
H.R. 3684: Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. CARTER, Mr. MCCAUL of Texas, and Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California.
H.R. 3708: Ms. SOLIS and Mr. CONYERS.
H.R. 3710: Mr. CARNAHAN.
H.R. 3711: Mr. WAXMAN and Mr. LANTOS.
H.R. 3712: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 3727: Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 3739: Mr. WAMP and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan.

H.R. 3763: Ms. WATERS, Mr. SALAZAR, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. GORDON, Mr. BACA, Ms. Bean, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. MURTHA, Mr. MEEHAN, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. FORD, Mr. CLYBURN, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Mr. GONZALEZ, and Mr. MEEKS of New York.

H.R. 3764: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 3774: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. KILDEE, and Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas.

H.R. 3782: Mr. STRICKLAND and Mr. MCNULTY.

H.R. 3785: Ms. HARRIS.

H.R. 3832: Mr. BISHOP of New York.

H.R. 3836: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.J. Res. 38: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.J. Res. 57: Ms. GRANGER.

H.J. Res. 60: Mrs. CAPITO.

H.J. Res. 61: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. FORBES, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Ms. PRYCE of Ohio, Mr. BLUNT, Mr. WALSH, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. REHBERG, and Mr. CONYERS.

H. Con. Res. 43: Mr. GILLMOR.

H. Con. Res. 144: Mr. TOWNS. H. Con. Res. 173: Mr. MARKEY.

H. Con. Res. 195: Mr. BERMAN.

H. Con. Res. 230: Mr. LANTOS, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. LINDER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. FEENEY.

H. Con. Res. 245: Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mrs. CUBIN, Mr. WAMP, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Mr. BISHOP of Utah, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. GOODE, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KINGSTON, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. PITTS, Mr. ROHRABACHER, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HUNTER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. SODREL, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE.

H. Con. Res. 248: Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. HIGGINS, Mr. KIRK, Mr. SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. WEINER, Mr. HONDA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. NADLER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. BERMAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. FILNER, Ms. BERKLEY, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ.

H. Res. 84: Mr. BACHUS.

H. Res. 192: Mr. OWENS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. DELAHUNT.

H. Res. 409: Mr. SHAYS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. KUCINICH, and Mr. LYNCH.

H. Res. 444: Mr. RUSH, Mr. MCNULTY, Mr. MOORE of Kansas, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. OWENS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. WOOLSEY, and Mr. BERMAN.

PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII, petitions and papers were laid on the clerk's desk and referred as follows:

69. The SPEAKER presented a petition of the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 419 requesting the Congress of United States enact legislation to assist reservists currently on active duty and facing a ''pay-gap'' between their civilian salaries and their military pay;to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

70. Also, a petition of the Legislature of Rockland County, New York, relative to Resolution No. 418, requesting the Congress of the United States introduce and pass a bill, ''to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize funding for the establishment of a program on children and the media within the National Institute of Child Health and Human Development to study the role and impact of electronic media on the development of children; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

71. Also, a petition of the City Council of the City of Miami Springs, Florida, relative to Resolution No. 2005-3285, recognizing the 75th Anniversary of the death of Glenn Hammond Curtiss and supporting the establishment of Glenn Hammond Curtiss Day to recognize his innovative spirit and legacy; to the Committee on Government Reform.

AMENDMENTS

Under clause 8 of rule XVIII, proposed amendments were submitted as follows:

H.R. 2123

OFFERED BY: MR. STEARNS

AMENDMENT NO. 2: Page 110, line 7, after ''families,'' insert ''families with one or more children with disabilities,''.