

weak reputation for oversight. We need only to look back a couple of years to be reminded that it was not Congress nor the White House who demanded an appropriate oversight of 9/11 attacks. Members on the 9/11 Commission have acknowledged it was the families of those lost in the attacks that came to Washington and demanded a thorough review of what went wrong.

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Mr. Speaker, do we intend to wait for the people of Mississippi, Louisiana and Texas to march to the Capitol and demand that their administration and their Congress do the right thing and create an independent commission to find out truly how we can best respond in the future?

WISHING NATIONAL REVIEW AND WILLIAM F. BUCKLEY HAPPY BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, 50 years ago a new periodical entered the marketplace in American history. That publication was National Review. Its founder and editor was 29-year-old William F. Buckley. From the beginning, Buckley's magazine stood "athwart history, yelling 'Stop,' at a time when no one is inclined to do so, or to have much patience with those who so urged it."

And for 5 decades, it has bravely and effectively espoused conservative values and ideas, with both humor and intelligence. It is no surprise that since its inception, we have seen widespread acceptance of conservative principles like economic freedom, individual responsibility, and traditional values.

Buckley and National Review did much more than "stand athwart history." They helped shape it and America and the world are better for it. I offer a most sincere happy birthday to William Buckley and thank him for his wonderful creation, and I congratulate the family at National Review for 50 years of fine work with hopefully many more years to come.

REPUBLICANS CUT IMPORTANT PROGRAMS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this week House Republicans plan to move ahead with drastic cuts to domestic programs. Republicans say the cuts are necessary to help fund the reconstruction of the gulf coast after Hurricane Katrina.

Mr. Speaker, the programs House Republicans plan to cut this week are the very ones that have helped Americans in the gulf coast begin to pick up the pieces after losing their homes and

their jobs. Imagine being injured during the hurricane and not having any access to health coverage because your job simply no longer exists.

The Federal Medicaid program has helped thousands of gulf coast residents with their health care bills over the last month. Now House Republicans are demanding that we cut Medicaid services. I know Republicans will say we need to make these cuts to address the deficit they created; but if Republicans really wanted to address the budget deficit, they would revisit their giant tax breaks for America's millionaires.

We are really helping the wealthiest elite in our Nation when there are so many people struggling from Hurricane Katrina. I cannot believe that the Republican answer to Hurricane Katrina is to cut the programs for the poor.

SPENDING REDUCTIONS

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

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. Speaker, this morning Congress Daily ran a story, "House GOP drops plans for across-the-board spending cuts." At first glance, I was disappointed.

I have authored bills with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CANTOR) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. HENSARLING) to offer across-the-board cuts because they work, and I believe we should have the courage to enact them. But I also know that those across the aisle favor massive spending and absolutely cannot stand across-the-board cuts. And while I am disappointed that we will not take that approach of across-the-board cuts, I am not going to give up on seeing major spending reductions.

Mr. Speaker, I believe the House Republican majority is going to find savings in our spending one way or another, despite opposition from the big spenders.

I want to thank the leadership for making it clear that we expect to see \$50 billion in entitlement reductions. It is great progress. While Republicans debate how do we reduce spending and get it under control, our friends on the other side of the aisle are debating how much more can we spend.

Mr. Speaker, they are out of touch with America, but they can still join us in this effort.

PRAISING IRAQI ELECTIONS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, Saturday was a historic day for democracy in Iraq and a bad day for terrorists. Millions of Iraqis embraced the democratic process and turned out to vote for a new constitution. We will not know the final results until later this

week, but the large turnout of voters and the low level of violence are themselves milestones of progress on Iraq's path to democracy. As Prime Minister Ja'afari said, "The victory for Iraq is that Iraqis are voting."

More than 60 percent of registered voters turned out in the Sunni majority Ninewah Province compared to 17 percent in January's election. The higher turnout is an important change and a tribute to our political strategy which includes continued outreach to Sunni leaders. Additionally, this strong Sunni participation is evidence of a desire on their part to reject insurgent violence and place their trust in the democratic process.

In addition, we know Saturday's violence did not even come close to the 347 election-day attacks reported in the January election.

Mr. Speaker, Saturday's vote took place 3 years to the day following Saddam Hussein's made-up election in which he won 100 percent of the vote. Taking one more step toward democracy, Iraqis now know what a real election is.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

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

Mr. GINGREY. Mr. Speaker, 3 weeks ago I had the opportunity to meet and discuss the situation on our borders with the members of the Minute Men Project. These dedicated individuals reaffirmed my concerns that illegal immigrants are crossing our borders in record numbers. They fear that any amnesty or free citizenship bill will only reward and entice more illegal immigration. I agree.

Therefore, as Congress moves closer to a substantial debate on immigration reform, it is important that we not consider any guest worker or amnesty proposal until the administration makes a concerted effort to secure our borders and enforce our laws and Congress passes legislation that allows local and State officials to act as immigration deputies.

The situation on our border is not pretty, and it is a problem that Congress must not ignore.

Mr. Speaker, I ask for your help to reform and restore accountability to our immigration laws.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). 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 in the day.