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No. 20

House of Representatives

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

wings. Grant them mission success and return them home in safety and peace. Amen.

Colonel Leinwand has been awarded the Legion of Merit, the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal with four oak leaf clusters, and the Army Commendation Medal with one oak leaf cluster.

As installation chaplain for Ft. Meade, Colonel Leinwand has direct authority over four other chaplains and is responsible for all religious programs.

Madam Speaker, Colonel Leinwand has accomplished many firsts in the military as a rabbi and as a chaplain, and it is a great honor to have him with us today. I join the House of Representatives in welcoming him.

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 16, 2006.

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

Colonel Kenneth J. Leinwand, U.S. Army, Ft. Meade Installation Chaplain, Ft. Meade, Maryland, offered the following prayer:

Almighty and sovereign God, in reverent humility, we turn heart and mind to You as we begin today's deliberations on behalf of the American people. We are eternally grateful for the priceless privilege of living in this great land. May we be worthy guardians of our precious heritage of freedom and democracy which inspires millions worldwide who long to be free from the yoke of tyranny and despair.

We pray that Your spirit of justice and compassion will guide us as we wrestle with the enormous challenges facing our country. Grant us clear, prophetic vision, forthrightness, steadfast strength, and courage to legislate and secure the American Dream for all people. Let not impatience and expediency cloud our judgment and diminish the trust bestowed upon us by the citizens we represent.

Lastly, Lord, we pray Your protection for all Americans, especially those who serve in uniform in distant lands. Guard and protect these, Your faithful servants, under the shadows of Your

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 Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. KUCINICH 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 COLONEL KENNETH J. LEINWAND

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland for 1 minute.

There was no objection.

Mr. CARDIN. Madam Speaker, I want to join the United States House of Representatives today in welcoming Colonel Kenneth J. Leinwand, the installation chaplain for Ft. Meade. Colonel Leinwand is the highest-ranking active duty Jewish chaplain in the United States military.

The Colonel has been an active duty Army chaplain since 1977. He has served in Iraq, Desert Storm, Bosnia and Kosovo. From 2002 to 2004 he also served as the command chaplain for all U.S. Army ground forces in Europe. Colonel Leinwand has a deep respect and understanding of the religious plurality that exists in today's military. Throughout his almost 30-year military career, he has provided spiritual comfort and solace to soldiers of all faiths.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 10 one-minute speeches on each side.

NSA TERRORIST SURVEILLANCE PROGRAM

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

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I don't know about you, but I want to use all the tools in our arsenal to catch the terrorists and prevent another 9/11. That doesn't mean I advocate any infringements on the privacy of law-abiding citizens. Contrary to what some might have you believe, that is not what the NSA's Terrorist Surveillance Program is about. This program is not about domestic surveillance of law-abiding American citizens. The NSA Terrorist Surveillance Program is narrowly focused and is aimed only at international calls and targeted to track al Qaeda and other known terrorist groups.

Madam Speaker, we are engaged in war right now, a war of the most unconventional means, and we need to be able to track, anticipate, and most importantly inhibit the actions of known

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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terrorists who communicate with their comrades in the United States.

Madam Speaker, we need to protect the President's lawful authority to intercept terrorist communications in this country, not demean it. Otherwise we won't have anything to protect or defend at all.

DEMANDING DOCUMENTS ON PR CONTRACTS USED TO "SELL" THE WAR

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

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, the taxpayers of the United States of America have a right to know whether or not their tax dollars were or are being used to manipulate the news, falsify intelligence, or mislead the public.

Very serious questions have been raised about a number of contracts that have been given to public relations firms, firms that then went ahead and devised a whole plan to try to sell the war in Iraq to the American people. I have introduced a resolution of inquiry in the House of Representatives that demands all documents pertaining to contracts that the United States Government has signed with the intent to sell the war in Iraq.

This resolution directs the President, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of Defense to provide the House with certain documents relating to any entity which the United States has contracted with for public relations purposes concerning Iraq.

The people of this country have a right to know if there was an effort to deliberately mislead them, and the taxpayers have a right to know how their tax dollars are being spent. Support the resolution of inquiry. Reclaim the power of Congress.

ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION IS A MATTER OF NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about the national security implications of illegal immigration. Last year, our Border Patrol agents arrested 155,000 illegal aliens from countries other than Mexico who attempted to cross into the United States by the Mexican border. They included illegal immigrants from Iran, Iraq and Afghanistan.

This poses a very serious national security problem, according to CIA director Porter Goss. On a recent trip to the Mexican-California border, I spoke with Border Patrol agents who had apprehended suspects on the terrorist watch list. On the day I was there, two illegals from Pakistan were captured. When we go to the airport, our names are checked against a terrorist watch list, we have to produce photo ID, we remove our shoes, we walk through a metal detector, and we send our lug-

gage through an X-ray machine to check for bombs.

Who is doing checks on the 8,000 people who arrive here illegally every day? The House has recently passed a tough border security bill. I urge the Senate to act now in the name of national security.

TOKYO ROSE—2006 STYLE

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

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, during the great World War II, the Japanese were searching for a way to demoralize the American forces that they faced. The Japanese psychological propaganda warfare experts came up with a message that they thought would work very well for them. They gave the script to their famous broadcaster, Tokyo Rose. Every day she would broadcast this same message packaged in various ways hoping to have an impact on American GI morale.

What was the message? It had three points: One, your President is lying to you. Two, the war is illegal. Three, you cannot win this war.

Madam Speaker, does that sound familiar? Maybe that is because some in the media and some individuals have picked up the same message and are broadcasting it to our troops in Iraq and Afghanistan and to our enemies. The only difference is these people claim to support our troops before they demoralize them.

Come to think of it, Tokyo Rose used to tell our troops she was on their side, too. But the Tokyo Rose propaganda machine was unsuccessful, just as the propaganda cynics of today will be unsuccessful in this war on terror. And that's just the way it is.

POSITIVE ECONOMIC PREDICTIONS FOR 2006

(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, yesterday, as he delivered his first economic update to Congress, Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke from Dillon, South Carolina, reported that the American economy performed impressively in 2005. While hailing increases in payroll employment, gross domestic product and productivity, he noted that our economy achieved significant gains, overcoming incredible obstacles.

Chairman Bernanke also predicted that the economy will continue to grow in 2006. His positive economic outlook equals more jobs for American workers, more income for American families, and more opportunities for American consumers.

Today, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting permanent tax cuts that will ensure economic expansion throughout our country. President

Bush's tax cuts started this strong wave of economic growth, creating 5 million jobs. We must remain committed to continuing this important policy.

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

WOMEN'S NATIONAL HEART MONTH

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize February as National Heart Month. Heart disease is the number one killer of women in America, taking the lives of nearly half a million women per year, about one per minute. It claims the lives of more women than the next five causes of death combined.

Unfortunately, only 13 percent of women view heart disease as a real threat. This is especially troubling, considering my home State of West Virginia consistently has one of the highest rates of heart disease among women in the Nation. We are making progress, but there is more to be done.

Thankfully, the American Heart Association encourages women to love their hearts through their Go Red For Women campaign. In the heart of every woman is the power to take care of herself and influence the decisions of those around her. By instilling healthy habits now, it will impact the heart health of the entire family. The key is to provide women with the necessary knowledge and tools so they can take positive action to reduce their risks of heart disease and stroke in their lives.

Women should learn more about heart disease and implement healthy habits to avoid future risks. Sixty-four percent of women who died suddenly of coronary heart disease had no previous symptoms. High blood pressure, smoking, and cholesterol are all risk factors.

Today, make your promise to make your heart healthy. By loving your own heart, you can save it. If women make a promise to be heart healthy, together we can wipe out the disease.

JUDY McDONALD

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

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I come today to the floor of the House to honor the achievements of one of my constituents in the First Congressional District of Texas, Judy McDonald. Judy has been a model citizen and someone who deserves to be honored because of the way she has honored East Texas. Her lifetime of work has made our country, East Texas, and Nacogdoches a better place to live.

As the first female mayor in Nacogdoches and one of the first female mayors in Texas, Judy worked tirelessly to increase economic opportunities and strengthen the local economy. She has been someone who has

never shied away from firsts. She was the first woman to serve on the advisory board of what is now known as Texas Utilities and was later the first woman from East Texas to be named to the Texas Utilities governing board.

The reason she deserves the honor itself does not lie in the fact that she is a woman, but in the beauty and generosity of her heart and soul. Through all of her many endeavors and accomplishments, she remains a wonderful wife to her husband, Archie, and a magnificent mother to their two sons, Tucker and Christopher.

I am proud to say she is not only a great friend of East Texas, but she is a friend of mine. Madam Speaker, with this one piece of advice to anyone encountering Judy, if she is pushing a project, you have two options: number one, get on board; or, number two, get run over.

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, in the President's budget he asks for a few hundred million dollars over the next few years for the cost of privatizing Social Security. When he was here at the State of the Union address, he commented that Congress rejected his proposals to privatize Social Security. All the Democrats to his surprise got up and cheered, because we think it is a terrible idea to privatize Social Security.

To do to Social Security what they are doing to the pension system, eliminating private pensions and making people depend only on 401(k)s, we think is a terrible idea. What the President telegraphed, by putting in his budget the money to pay for the cost of privatizing Social Security, is that if the Republicans retain control of Congress in this election, they are going to try it again.

They will privatize Social Security if the Republicans control Congress again next year. If anybody thinks that privatizing Social Security is a bad idea, that we should not destroy Social Security, you better vote Democratic this year.

□ 1015

RESOLUTION OF CONDEMNATION REGARDING IRAN

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, pursuant to the previous order of the House, I call up the concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 341) condemning the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the concurrent resolution.

The text of the concurrent resolution is as follows:

H. CON. RES. 341

Whereas Iran is a non-nuclear-weapon State Party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Washington, London, and Moscow July 1, 1968 (commonly referred to as the "Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty"), under which Iran is obligated, pursuant to Article II of the Treaty, "not to receive the transfer from any transferor whatsoever of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices or of control over such weapons or explosive devices directly, or indirectly; not to manufacture or otherwise acquire nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices; and not to seek or receive any assistance in the manufacture of nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices";

Whereas Iran signed the Agreement Between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Vienna June 19, 1973 (commonly referred to as the "Safeguards Agreement"), which requires Iran to report the importation and use of nuclear material, to declare nuclear facilities, and to accept safeguards on nuclear materials and activities to ensure that such materials and activities are not diverted to any military purpose and are used for peaceful purposes and activities;

Whereas the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) reported in November 2003 that Iran had been developing an undeclared nuclear enrichment program for 18 years and had covertly imported nuclear material and equipment, carried out over 110 unreported experiments to produce uranium metal, separated plutonium, and concealed many other aspects of its nuclear facilities and activities;

Whereas the Government of Iran informed the Director General of the IAEA on November 10, 2003, of its decision to suspend enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, and stated that the suspension would cover all activities at the Natanz enrichment facility, the production of all feed material for enrichment, and the importation of any enrichment-related items;

Whereas in a Note Verbale dated December 29, 2003, the Government of Iran specified the scope of suspension of its enrichment and reprocessing activities, which the IAEA was invited to verify, including the suspension of the operation or testing or any centrifuges, either with or without nuclear material, at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant at Natanz, the suspension of further introduction of nuclear material into any centrifuges, the suspension of the installation of new centrifuges at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant and the installation of centrifuges at the Fuel Enrichment Plant at Natanz, and, to the extent practicable, the withdrawal of nuclear material from any centrifuge enrichment facility;

Whereas on February 24, 2004, the Government of Iran informed the IAEA of its decision to expand the scope and clarify the nature of its decision to suspend to the furthest extent possible the assembly and testing of centrifuges and the domestic manufacture of centrifuge components, including those related to existing contracts, informed the IAEA that any components that are manufactured under existing contracts that cannot be suspended will be stored and placed under IAEA seal, invited the IAEA to verify these measures, and confirmed that the suspension of enrichment activities applied to all facilities in Iran;

Whereas the IAEA Board of Governors' resolution of March 13, 2004, which was adopted unanimously, noted with "serious concern

that the declarations made by Iran in October 2003 did not amount to the complete and final picture of Iran's past and present nuclear programme considered essential by the Board's November 2003 resolution", and also noted that the IAEA has discovered that Iran had hidden more advanced centrifuge associated research, manufacturing, and testing activities, two mass spectrometers used in the laser enrichment program, and designs for hot cells to handle highly radioactive materials;

Whereas the same resolution also noted "with equal concern that Iran has not resolved all questions regarding the development of its enrichment technology to its current extent, and that a number of other questions remain unresolved";

Whereas in November 2004, the Governments of the United Kingdom, France, and Germany entered into an agreement with Iran on Iran's nuclear program (commonly referred to as the "Paris Agreement"), securing a formal commitment from the Government of Iran to voluntarily suspend uranium enrichment operations in exchange for discussions on economic, technological, political, and security issues;

Whereas on August 29, 2005, Iran's Atomic Energy Organization announced it has mastered the technique of using biotechnology to extract purer uranium, adding that this method "substantially decreases the cost . . . in the process that leads to the production of yellowcake", which is a part of the early stages of the nuclear fuel cycle;

Whereas Article XII.C of the Statute of the IAEA requires the IAEA Board of Governors to report the noncompliance of any member of the IAEA with its IAEA safeguards obligations to all members and to the Security Council and General Assembly of the United Nations;

Whereas Article III.B-4 of the Statute of the IAEA specifies that "if in connection with the activities of the Agency there should arise questions that are within the competence of the Security Council, the Agency shall notify the Security Council, as the organ bearing the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security";

Whereas on September 24, 2005, the IAEA Board of Governors adopted a resolution finding that Iran's many failures and breaches of its obligations to comply with the Safeguards Agreement constitute non-compliance in the context of Article XII.C of the Statute of the IAEA and that matters concerning Iran's nuclear program have given rise to questions that are within the competence of the Security Council as the organ bearing the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security;

Whereas President of Iran Mahmoud Ahmadinejad expressed, in an October 26, 2005, speech, his hope for "a world without America" and his desire "to wipe Israel off the map" and has subsequently denied the existence of the Holocaust;

Whereas on January 3, 2006, the Government of Iran announced that it planned to restart its nuclear research efforts;

Whereas in January 2006, Iranian officials, in the presence of IAEA inspectors, began to remove IAEA seals from the enrichment facility in Natanz, Iran;

Whereas Secretary of State Condoleezza Rice stated, "[i]t is obvious that if Iran cannot be brought to live up to its international obligations, in fact, the IAEA Statute would indicate that Iran would have to be referred to the U.N. Security Council";

Whereas President Ahmadinejad stated, "The Iranian government and nation has no

fear of the Western ballyhoo and will continue its nuclear programs with decisiveness and wisdom.”;

Whereas the United States joined with the Governments of Britain, France, and Germany in calling for a meeting of the IAEA Board of Governors to discuss Iran's non-compliance with its IAEA safeguards obligations;

Whereas on February 4, 2006, Resolution GOV/2006/14 of the IAEA Board of Governors relayed an “absence of confidence that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes resulting from the history of concealment of Iran's nuclear activities, the nature of those activities and other issues arising from the Agency's verification of declarations made by Iran since September 2002”;

Whereas Resolution GOV/2006/14 further expressed “serious concern that the Agency is not yet in a position to clarify some important issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme, including the fact that Iran has in its possession a document on the production of uranium metal hemispheres, since, as reported by the Secretariat, this process is related to the fabrication of nuclear weapon components”;

Whereas on February 4, 2006, the IAEA Board of Governors reported Iran's non-compliance with its IAEA safeguards obligations to the Security Council;

Whereas Iran has, since February 4, 2006, taken additional steps confirming its unwillingness to comply with its nuclear non-proliferation obligations; and

Whereas Iran has been designated a state sponsor of terrorism for over two decades and the Department of State has declared in its most recent Country Reports on Terrorism that Iran “remained the most active state sponsor of terrorism”: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—

(1) condemns in the strongest possible terms the many breaches and failures of the Government of Iran to comply faithfully with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations, including its obligations under the Agreement Between Iran and the International Atomic Energy Agency for the Application of Safeguards in Connection with the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, done at Vienna June 19, 1973 (commonly referred to as the “Safeguards Agreement”), as reported by the Director General of the IAEA to the IAEA Board of Governors since 2003;

(2) commends the efforts of the Governments of France, Germany, and the United Kingdom to seek a meaningful and credible suspension of Iran's enrichment- and reprocessing-related activities and to find a diplomatic means to address the non-compliance of the Government of Iran with its obligations, requirements, and commitments related to nuclear nonproliferation;

(3) calls on all members of the United Nations Security Council, in particular the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, to expeditiously consider and take action in response to the report of Iran's noncompliance in fulfillment of the mandate of the Security Council to respond to and deal with situations bearing on the maintenance of international peace and security;

(4) declares that Iran, through its many breaches for almost 20 years of its obligations under the Safeguards Agreement, has forfeited the right to develop any aspect of a nuclear fuel cycle, especially with uranium conversion and enrichment and plutonium reprocessing technology, equipment, and facilities;

(5) calls on all responsible members of the international community to impose economic sanctions designed to deny Iran the ability to develop nuclear weapons; and

(6) urges the President to keep Congress fully and currently informed concerning Iran's violation of its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. MILLER of Michigan). Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, February 15, 2006, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) each will control 30 minutes.

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to claim time in opposition.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Reserving the right to object, we understand that the ranking member is on his way, and he seeks time on the bill. Therefore, accordingly, I would object to that request.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the resolution under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in strong support of House Concurrent Resolution 341, a resolution that I had the pleasure of drafting with my good friends, the distinguished chairman of the House International Relations Committee, HENRY HYDE, and our ranking member, Congressman TOM LANTOS.

I want to express my appreciation to our leadership for recognizing the importance for the House to be heard on this important issue and for moving this resolution expeditiously to the floor today.

Madam Speaker, for at least two decades, the Iranian regime has been pursuing a covert nuclear program using multiple approaches and technology to achieve a nuclear status. It has undertaken a number of efforts for the manufacture and testing of centrifuges, including at facilities owned by military industrial organizations.

It has sought completion of a heavy water reactor that would be well suited for plutonium production, while seeking uranium enrichment through the use of lasers.

The Iran saga within the context of the International Atomic Energy Agency began almost 4 years ago. Every step along the way, Iran has dem-

onstrated contempt for the request of the International Atomic Energy Agency and has mocked the EU 3 nations composed of France, Great Britain and Germany, as they provided incentives to convince Iran to suspend its enrichment activities.

It is important to quickly summarize the sequence of events of the last few years, Madam Speaker, in order to fully comprehend the need for this resolution as a basis for stronger legislative action regarding Iran.

In November of 2003, for example, the IAEA reported that Iran had been developing an undeclared nuclear enrichment program for close to two decades and had covertly imported nuclear material and equipment, had carried out over 110 unreported experiments to produce uranium metal, it had separated plutonium, and it had concealed many other aspects of its nuclear facilities and activities.

That same month, Iran informed the International Atomic Energy Agency of its decision to temporarily suspend enrichment-related and reprocessing activities. It stated that the suspension would cover all activities in the Natanz enrichment facility, the production of all feed material for enrichment and the importation of any enrichment-related items.

But that was not to be, Madam Speaker. Iran continuously reinterpreted its commitment. By September of 2004, Iran announced that it had resumed large-scale uranium conversion. The International Atomic Energy Agency called on Iran to stop. Then Secretary of State Colin Powell called for the Iran case to be referred to the United Nations Security Council for sanctions to be imposed.

Faced with this possibility, Iran temporarily halts these activities in those nuclear facilities known to the International Atomic Energy Agency and the EU 3.

By April of 2005, Iran announces that it will resume uranium conversion in the Isfahan facility. This was met with a warning from the EU 3 that their negotiations on trade and economic incentives with Iran would end if Iran acted on this threat.

In August of 2005, the new radical leader is installed as Iran's new president. Immediately following, Iran proceeded to remove the International Atomic Energy Agency seals on the uranium conversion plant at Isfahan, announced that it could successfully use biotechnology for its nuclear program, decreasing the cost for the production of the feed material for nuclear weapons. It announced that it would provide nuclear technology to other Islamic states. Iran's defense minister said that it is Iran's absolute right to have access to nuclear arms, and Iran's leader publicly stated his willingness to share nuclear expertise with other Islamic nations.

The IAEA inspectors were finally allowed into the Parchin military site. However, after all the time Iran was

given to sanitize this site, that is to hide, to remove all signs of their nuclear activities, even IAEA inspectors and foreign diplomats acknowledged in news reports that they did not expect the inspections to yield any firm results.

Experts further noted that there may be no nuclear material present at Parchin if the Iranians did dry testing of nuclear bomb simulations.

Fast forward to Tuesday of this very week. Madam Speaker, on Valentine's Day, 2006, the Iranian Atomic Energy Organization announced it has restarted uranium enrichment efforts which could also be developed for use in nuclear weapons.

In sum, referral of the Iran case to the U.N. Security Council has been a long time coming. We are gratified that the International Atomic Energy Agency Board of Governors earlier this month voted to report the Iran case to the Security Council, but it should not stop there, Madam Speaker.

H. Con. Res. 341 therefore calls on all members of the U.N. Security Council to immediately consider the report and take the necessary steps to address Iran's behavior. The resolution frames the debate by condemning in the strongest possible terms the Iranian regime's repeated violations of its international obligations.

More importantly, it underscores that, as a result of these violations, Iran no longer has the right to develop any aspect of a nuclear fuel cycle.

As President Bush stated on February 11, 2004, proliferators must not be allowed to cynically manipulate the NPT to acquire the material and the infrastructure necessary for manufacturing illegal weapons.

H. Con. Res. 341 reiterates previous U.S. calls to responsible members of the international community to impose economic sanctions to deny Iran the resources and the ability to develop nuclear weapons.

But the grave threat posed by Iran is not limited to its nuclear pursuit. H. Con. Res. 341 therefore refers to Iran's support for Islamic jihadist activities worldwide.

Madam Speaker, it includes language highlighting that Iran has been designated as a state sponsor of terrorism for over two decades and, according to our own State Department reports on global terrorism, it remains the most active state sponsor of terrorism worldwide.

Madam Speaker, too much time has already passed. Let us not waste anymore. Let us begin by adopting this resolution and send a strong message to the Iranian regime and other potential proliferators that this behavior will not be tolerated.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise in strong support of this resolution. Madam Speaker, unless the inter-

national community acts quickly and decisively, the world's chief terrorist state may soon possess the greatest weapon of terror ever created.

A critical first step was taken on February 2 at an emergency session of the member states of the International Atomic Energy Agency's Board of Governors. By a vote of 27-3 they reported Iran's history of deception, lies and noncompliance to the United Nations Security Council.

The ayatollahs of terror in Tehran were sent a bold and unambiguous message that their clandestine efforts to build nuclear weapons and their transparent lies of peaceful intent will no longer be tolerated by the civilized world.

Madam Speaker, Tehran sponsors terrorism as an official state policy. I wish to repeat this. Tehran sponsors terrorism as official state policy.

I ask my colleagues to imagine this terrorist state armed with nuclear weapons and in possession of large amounts of nuclear weapons material. Even if it did not put these destructive materials up for sale, a nuclear armed Iran would terrorize and destabilize the entire Middle East. Terrorist-in-chief Ahmadinejad himself advocates wiping Israel from the map.

Madam Speaker, Iran has flouted every nuclear safeguard agreement and reneged on every single commitment it has made. The International Atomic Energy Agency has documented that Iran acquired designs, equipment and facilities to produce nuclear weapons grade uranium and plutonium from the same nuclear black market that used to supply Libya. Iran experimented with trigger material for a nuclear bomb. There is every reason to believe that Tehran has acquired actual bomb blueprints, as Libya used to do.

Iran has also reneged on its remaining empty assurances to negotiate in good faith with Britain, France and Germany by breaking the international seals on its uranium enrichment facility.

Ahmadinejad, in a rare moment of lucidity, revealed Tehran's view of the relative balance of power in these negotiations; and I quote, "the West needs us more than we need them."

With billions of dollars of existing western investment in Iran's oil and gas fields, Tehran's ruling elite has shrewdly calculated that the West will not impose far-reaching and meaningful sanctions against Iran over the nuclear issue.

Madam Speaker, we must change Tehran's calculations, hopefully by diplomacy and pressure but with international sanctions if necessary. The United Nations Security Council should require all members of the U.N. to reject any and all investment and nonhumanitarian trade with Iran until Tehran verifiably gives up its nuclear fuel and weapon material production capabilities.

□ 1030

But, Madam Speaker, we cannot wait for the Security Council to act. Re-

sponsible European and Asian governments must immediately ensure that their companies, banks, and other financial organizations will suspend and terminate their existing investments in Iraq.

Some banks and oil companies are already leaving Iran over just the possibility of sanctions. Those that remain must be given immediate incentives by the international community to stop business as usual with a developing nuclear weapon terrorist state. As part of this, the United States must finally use the sanctions authority in U.S. law to punish and deter those who continue to invest in and thereby aid and abet a state bent on adding nuclear weapons to its arsenal of terror.

Madam Speaker, this is the first resolution of the year regarding Iran. I guarantee you it will not be the last one. We must reauthorize the Iran Sanctions Act, which will be accomplished through the Iran Freedom Support Act, a bill offered by my good friend, the gentlewoman from Florida, and myself.

Madam Speaker, our allies in Europe have learned a hard lesson: playing nice with a terrorist regime gets you nothing. Now that the Europeans are with us in demanding Security Council action, it is imperative that they take the next step by imposing a comprehensive sanctions regime against Tehran.

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

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY).

Mr. GINGREY. Madam Speaker, first of all, let me thank the gentlewoman from Florida for allowing me to speak on this resolution, and also let me thank the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS) and completely associate myself with the remarks that he just made. I think he is right on target.

Madam Speaker, the passage of yesterday's resolution on the Palestinian Authority once again expressed our position against funding an ideology of terror in hope of maintaining the peace process in the Middle East. Today's resolution has a more direct message with the prospect, hopefully, of addressing the entire world.

In our current struggle against terrorism, no country is more uncertain and dangerous than Iran. With an uncompromising foreign policy and repressed trade, it often feels like the only commodity that Iran exports involves disdain for Western culture. It is indeed disheartening to see a nation of good people commandeered by an individual with nuclear aspirations. Mahmoud Ahmadinejad and Iran must not be allowed to carry out threats against Israel, the United States, or any other peaceful nation. Nuclear weapons and the ideology of Wahabism are a dangerous combination, and they must be prevented.

So, Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this resolution. I commend the gentlewoman from Florida and the gentleman from California for bringing it forward. I believe it is time for the United Nations Security Council to take action against nuclear proliferation in Iran, and I ask the leaders of Iran to reconsider the path that they have chosen.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. SKELTON), the distinguished ranking member of our Armed Services Committee.

Mr. SKELTON. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for allowing me to make comments on this, and I compliment the gentlewoman from Florida for her leadership in this regard as well.

I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 341. This condemns Iran for violating its nonproliferation agreements and expresses support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

Thank you, Mr. LANTOS, for the opportunity to briefly address House Concurrent Resolution 341 on the Iranian nuclear situation. I think it is deadly serious.

Madam Speaker, the situation in Iran is a critical matter that demands serious attention and serious action from this administration as well as from Congress. It threatens the security of our Nation, the future of the nonproliferation regime and stability in the Middle East.

International support for referring Iran to the United Nations Security Council is very encouraging, but it is not enough to address the complexity of the nuclear situation or broader longer-term problems posed by Iran, including its involvement in Iraq, which evidently is quite substantial.

Direct American leadership is long overdue. There must be a comprehensive interagency effort to develop and implement the necessary plan, and Congress must do its part. This must be a top bipartisan priority. And yet while the U.S. must act expeditiously, it must also act effectively. We must sufficiently consider all tools at our disposal, and we must take care not to inadvertently make matters worse by our rhetoric or by our actions.

For example, we should consider "smart sanctions" that would target Iran's leadership, avoid harming the Iranian population and have strong international support.

There are no easy answers or simple solutions; but as I have emphasized numerous times now, there are many tools at our disposal, many more than this administration has used to date. I am committed to doing whatever I can to effectively address the problems posed by Iran, and I ask my colleagues to join me in this effort.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PAUL), a member of the International Relations Committee.

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

Mr. PAUL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding me this time.

I rise to express a note of caution regarding this resolution. I see this resolution somewhat like some of the resolutions that we debated and passed prior to our commitment to go into Iraq. As a matter of fact, some of the language is very similar. If you substitute the word "Iraq" for "Iran," you would find out that these concerns are very similar.

I do not quite have the concern that others have expressed that Iran is on the verge of having a nuclear weapon. They have never been found in violation. There has been a lot of talk and a lot of accusation, but technically they have never been found in any violation.

My concern for this type of language and these plans is that nothing ever changes. This is the type of thing that occurred before. Of course, we went into Iraq, and yet today the success in Iraq is very questionable. Fifty-five percent of the American people say it was a mistake to have gone into Iraq. Only forty percent of the people support staying in Iraq. Attitudes have shifted now since the success in Iraq has been so poor.

We went into Afghanistan to look for Osama bin Laden, and we sort of got distracted. We have forgotten about him just about completely. Instead we went into Iraq. Though the Iraq war is not going well, all of a sudden we are looking to take on another burden, another military mission. I find some things in the resolution that are very confrontational because it invokes sanctions. People say, well, sanctions are not that bad. That is no shooting or killing. But sanctions and boycotts and embargoes, these are acts of war. And, of course, many times our administration has expressed the sentiment that if necessary we are going to use force against Iran; we are going to start bombing. And why do we follow this policy? Especially since it literally helps the radicals in Iran. This mobilizes them. There is an undercurrent in Iran that is sympathetic to America, and yet this brings the radicals together by this type of language and threats. There is no doubt that our policy helps the hard-liners.

There has been no talk, it has been implied, but there has been no serious talk that Iran is a threat to our national security. There is no way. Even if they had nuclear weapons, they are not going to be a threat to our national security. Pakistan, that is not a democratic nation. It happens to be a military dictatorship. They have nuclear weapons. India has nuclear weapons. As a matter of fact, the nuclear weapons serve as a balance of power between two countries. The Soviets, had 30,000 nuclear weapons, and we followed a policy of containment. We did not say

we have to go into the Soviet Union and bomb their establishment. No. Finally that problem dissipated. And yet we create unnecessary problems for ourselves. We go looking for trouble, and I see this as very detrimental for what we are doing with this resolution.

There is one portion of the resolution that concerns me about our urging the Russians and China to take a firm stand, and that has to do with the resolved clause No. 3; it says to the people of Russia and China to "expeditiously consider and take action in response to any report of Iran's non-compliance" in fulfillment of the mandate of the Security Council to respond and deal with situations . . .

Any report? I mean, some report in the newspaper? Is it an IAEA report? Or whatever. That is so open-ended that this is a risky, risky resolution.

I urge a "no" vote on this resolution.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, let me just indicate to my friend from Texas that he has now discovered the ultimate oxymoron, a benign Islamic fanaticism hell bent on developing weapons of mass destruction. This takes the concept of oxymoron to a new height.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4½ minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), the distinguished Democratic whip.

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, the international community, not just America, is being challenged again by a dangerous, deceptive lawbreaker whose defiant pursuit of nuclear weapons threaten America's national security interests as well as international peace and security. Now, this is an obligation that the Iranians undertook freely and voluntarily. It was not imposed upon them.

I believe that this grave and gathering danger commands the collective attention, effort, and action of the entire international community. This time the nations of the world which are committed to peace, security, and the rule of law must embrace their responsibilities, not flinch from them, as, unfortunately, has been too often the case.

Through this resolution today, the House speaks with one voice in condemning in the strongest possible terms the many breaches and failures of the government of Iran to comply with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations. In this resolution, we call on all responsible members of the international community to impose economic sanctions designed to deny Iran the ability to develop nuclear weapons and to encourage its people to get the government to change its dangerous and reckless policies.

□ 1045

We urge the members of the United Nations Security Council to take action in response to Iran's noncompliance with its international obligations.

Let no one harbor any illusions: The government of Iran, which is recognized as a state sponsor of terrorism,

believes it can exploit international irresolution, and it will prey on vacillation. The international community must stand as one against this lawbreaker, whose record leaves no doubt of its motivations.

Iran failed to properly disclose the existence of a fuel enrichment plant and facility at Natanz until both were revealed by opposition groups. It has failed to meet its obligations under its safeguard agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency to report all nuclear material it has imported. It confirmed that it had conducted research on uranium conversion processes, but only after it denied doing so. On February 4, in response to a 27-3 vote by the International Atomic Energy Agency board to report Iran to the Security Council, Iran ended voluntary cooperation with the agency and announced it would start large-scale enrichment activities.

I suggest to us and to our international allies that standing silent, standing back, standing without action, is not an option. It goes without saying that an Iran armed with nuclear weapons constitutes a threat to the national security interests of the United States of America. Let me remind all of us, the gentleman from Texas indicated that they were not a threat to us. There are 250,000 Americans as we debate this resolution right now in range of Iranian weapons, so it is not just those who live in the Middle East who are put at risk, it is those of us who are there, and the security of the international community is put at risk.

Our concerns are only heightened by the inflammatory, irresponsible statements of the Iranian president, who has stated his hope for "a world without America." That is the nation that stands on the doorstep of becoming a nuclear power. He has further stated his desire to "wipe Israel off the map." The United States will not stand still for that. A regime that has the objective to have nuclear weapons will make the Middle East more dangerous in an extraordinary geometric way.

Madam Speaker, when the Security Council considers Iran's flagrant and deceptive abuse in March, I urge it to act as one. Today, I urge us to act as one in sending a very clear, very clear, unmistakable message: This will not stand.

Mr. LANTOS. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to yield 4 minutes to my good friend from Ohio (Mr. KUCINICH).

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

Mr. KUCINICH. I want to thank my friend and indicate that I rise in opposition.

This rhetoric that we are hearing on the House floor from people who I have to say I do respect greatly is eerily reminiscent of the debate in this House prior to the United States authorizing an attack on Iraq. I think we can look back today and say that the U.S. rushed into war against Iraq, only to

find that there were no weapons of mass destruction.

Madam Speaker, I will include for the RECORD an article from the Washington Post dated August 2, 2005, which says, "A major U.S. intelligence review has projected that Iran is about a decade away from manufacturing the key ingredients for nuclear weapons, roughly doubling the previous estimate of 5 years." It goes on to say that "this carefully hedged assessment, which represents consensus among U.S. intelligence agencies, contrasts with forceful public statements by the White House. Administration officials have asserted but have not offered proof that Tehran is moving determinedly toward a nuclear arsenal."

I also include for the record the remarks of Angela Merkel, who is the leader of Germany, who says that we have not used all of our available windows of opportunity. She saw an opportunity for a negotiated settlement. As a matter of fact, in this news dispatch out of Berlin from yesterday, the German chancellor says there are real chances for a diplomatic deal to defuse the ongoing crisis over Iran's nuclear program.

Madam Speaker, I include for the record a news report out of Moscow and Tehran of yesterday which says that Iran and Russia will hold talks on Monday on a Russian offer to conduct uranium enrichment for Iran in the Russian territory. This would avert what is a building crisis.

Madam Speaker, I include for the record an analysis that was done of the joint resolution on Iraq, this was done by myself, that pointed out the flaws in a resolution that was presented to this House. This is an analysis from October 2, 2002, that relates to analyzing the Iraq resolution. I think this would be very valuable when you compare it side by side with the resolution that we have now.

Madam Speaker, I want to call to the Members' attention the same article that Mr. PAUL called to Members' attention, section 3 of the enactment clause, which calls on members of the United Nations Security Council, particularly the Russian Federation and the People's Republic of China, to expeditiously consider and take action in response to the report of Iran's non-compliance. This is in response to a report of Iran's non-compliance and fulfillment of the mandate of the Security Council to respond and deal with situations bearing on the maintenance of international peace and security.

The importance of this point and this amendment is that this point undermines and sets aside the only possibility for a peaceful resolution of this crisis, namely the offer by Russia to enrich uranium for Iran to use in its nuclear power plants. Iran would not operate any enrichment processing facilities of its own, so we have an opportunity to put aside this crisis if we see what is developing now. This resolution, unfortunately, would scuttle the

Russian-led negotiated settlement. I ask Members to consider that this resolution would put us on the threshold of war.

Now, I stand with Mr. LANTOS in defense of the right of Israel to survive. I voted for legislation yesterday that challenges any nation that would call for the destruction of Israel, and we should do that. But we don't have to go to war against Iran or to set the stage for a war against Iran when we have diplomatic means of resolving this. We should continue to pursue diplomacy.

Madam Speaker, I include the articles referred to earlier for the RECORD.

[From washingtonpost.com, Aug. 2, 2005]

IRAN IS JUDGED 10 YEARS FROM NUCLEAR BOMB

(By Dafna Linzer)

A major U.S. intelligence review has projected that Iran is about a decade away from manufacturing the key ingredient for a nuclear weapon, roughly doubling the previous estimate of five years, according to government sources with firsthand knowledge of the new analysis.

The carefully hedged assessments, which represent consensus among U.S. intelligence agencies, contrast with forceful public statements by the White House. Administration officials have asserted, but have not offered proof, that Tehran is moving determinedly toward a nuclear arsenal. The new estimate could provide more time for diplomacy with Iran over its nuclear ambitions. President Bush has said that he wants the crisis resolved diplomatically but that "all options are on the table."

The new National Intelligence Estimate includes what the intelligence community views as credible indicators that Iran's military is conducting clandestine work. But the sources said there is no information linking those projects directly to a nuclear weapons program. What is clear is that Iran, mostly through its energy program, is acquiring and mastering technologies that could be diverted to bombmaking.

The estimate expresses uncertainty about whether Iran's ruling clerics have made a decision to build a nuclear arsenal, three U.S. sources said. Still, a senior intelligence official familiar with the findings said that "it is the judgment of the intelligence community that, left to its own devices, Iran is determined to build nuclear weapons."

At no time in the past three years has the White House attributed its assertions about Iran to U.S. intelligence, as it did about Iraq in the run-up to the March 2003 invasion. Instead, it has pointed to years of Iranian concealment and questioned why a country with as much oil as Iran would require a large-scale nuclear energy program.

The NIE addresses those assertions and offers alternative views supporting and challenging the assumptions they are based on. Those familiar with the new judgments, which have not been previously detailed, would discuss only limited elements of the estimate and only on the condition of anonymity, because the report is classified, as is some of the evidence on which it is based.

Top policymakers are scrutinizing the review, several administration officials said, as the White House formulates the next steps of an Iran policy long riven by infighting and competing strategies. For three years, the administration has tried, with limited success, to increase pressure on Iran by focusing attention on its nuclear program. Those efforts have been driven as much by international diplomacy as by the intelligence.

The NIE, ordered by the National Intelligence Council in January, is the first major

review since 2001 of what is known and what is unknown about Iran. Additional assessments produced during Bush's first term were narrow in scope, and some were rejected by advocates of policies that were inconsistent with the intelligence judgments.

One such paper was a 2002 review that former and current officials said was commissioned by national security adviser Stephen J. Hadley, who was then deputy adviser, to assess the possibility for "regime change" in Iran. Those findings described the Islamic republic on a slow march toward democracy and cautioned against U.S. interference in that process, said the officials, who would describe the paper's classified findings only on the condition of anonymity.

The new estimate takes a broader approach to the question of Iran's political future. But it is unable to answer whether the country's ruling clerics will still be in control by the time the country is capable of producing fissile material. The administration keeps "hoping the mullahs will leave before Iran gets a nuclear weapons capability," said an official familiar with policy discussions.

Intelligence estimates are designed to alert the president of national security developments and help guide policy. The new Iran findings were described as well documented and well written, covering such topics as military capabilities, expected population growth and the oil industry. The assessments of Iran's nuclear program appear in a separate annex to the NIE known as a memorandum to holders.

"It's a full look at what we know, what we don't know and what assumptions we have," a U.S. source said.

Until recently, Iran was judged, according to February testimony by Vice Adm. Lowell E. Jacoby, director of the Defense Intelligence Agency, to be within five years of the capability to make a nuclear weapon. Since 1995, U.S. officials have continually estimated Iran to be "within five years" from reaching that same capability. So far, it has not.

The new estimate extends the timeline, judging that Iran will be unlikely to produce a sufficient quantity of highly enriched uranium, the key ingredient for an atomic weapon, before "early to mid-next decade," according to four sources familiar with that finding. The sources said the shift, based on a better understanding of Iran's technical limitations, puts the timeline closer to 2015 and in line with recently revised British and Israeli figures.

The estimate is for acquisition of fissile material, but there is no firm view expressed on whether Iran would be ready by then with an implosion device, sources said.

The time line is portrayed as a minimum designed to reflect a program moving full speed ahead without major technical obstacles. It does not take into account that Iran has suspended much of its uranium-enrichment work as part of a tenuous deal with Britain, France and Germany. Iran announced yesterday that it intends to resume some of that work if the European talks fall short of expectations.

Sources said the new timeline also reflects a fading of suspicions that Iran's military has been running its own separate and covert enrichment effort. But there is evidence of clandestine military work on missiles and centrifuge research and development that could be linked to a nuclear program, four sources said.

Last month, U.S. officials shared some data on the missile program with U.N. nuclear inspectors, based on drawings obtained last November. The documents include design modifications for Iran's Shahab-3 missile to make the room required for a nuclear warhead, U.S. and foreign officials said.

"If someone has a good idea for a missile program, and he has really good connections, he'll get that program through," said Gordon Oehler, who ran the CIA's nonproliferation center and served as deputy director of the presidential commission on weapons of mass destruction. "But that doesn't mean there is a master plan for a nuclear weapon."

The commission found earlier this year that U.S. intelligence knows "disturbingly little" about Iran, and about North Korea.

Much of what is known about Tehran has been learned through analyzing communication intercepts, satellite imagery and the work of U.N. inspectors who have been investigating Iran for more than two years. Inspectors uncovered facilities for uranium conversion and enrichment, results of plutonium tests, and equipment bought illicitly from Pakistan—all of which raised serious concerns but could be explained by an energy program. Inspectors have found no proof that Iran possesses a nuclear warhead design or is conducting a nuclear weapons program.

The NIE comes more than two years after the intelligence community assessed, wrongly, in an October 2002 estimate that then-Iraqi President Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and was reconstituting his nuclear program. The judgments were declassified and made public by the Bush administration as it sought to build support for invading Iraq five months later.

At a congressional hearing last Thursday, Gen. Michael V. Hayden, deputy director of national intelligence, said that new rules recently were imposed for crafting NIBs and that there would be "a higher tolerance for ambiguity," even if it meant producing estimates with less definitive conclusions.

The Iran NIE, sources said, includes creative analysis and alternative theories that could explain some of the suspicious activities discovered in Iran in the past three years. Iran has said its nuclear infrastructure was built for energy production, not weapons.

Assessed as plausible, but unverifiable, is Iran's public explanation that it built the program in secret, over 18 years, because it feared attack by the United States or Israel if the work was exposed.

In January, before the review, Vice President Cheney suggested Iranian nuclear advances were so pressing that Israel may be forced to attack facilities, as it had done 23 years earlier in Iraq.

In an April 2004 speech, John R. Bolton—then the administration's point man on weapons of mass destruction and now Bush's temporarily appointed U.N. ambassador—said: "If we permit Iran's deception to go on much longer, it will be too late. Iran will have nuclear weapons."

But the level of certainty, influenced by diplomacy and intelligence, appears to have shifted.

Asked in June, after the NIE was done, whether Iran had a nuclear effort underway, Bolton's successor, Robert G. Joseph, undersecretary of state for arms control, said: "I don't know quite how to answer that because we don't have perfect information or perfect understanding. But the Iranian records what the Iranian leaders have said . . . lead us to conclude that we have to be highly skeptical."

[From expatica.com, Feb. 15, 2006]

IRANIAN NUCLEAR DEAL IS STILL POSSIBLE: MERKEL

German Chancellor Angela Merkel said Wednesday she still saw real chances for a diplomatic deal to defuse the ongoing crisis over Iran's nuclear programme.

"We still have not used all our available window of opportunity," Merkel said in a

Stern magazine interview, adding that she saw "real chances for a negotiated solution."

Merkel said Iran had to recognize that its decision to resume uranium enrichment and to cut inspection rights for International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) inspectors had left Tehran isolated.

Germany, France and Britain—the EU-3—led talks over the past few years aimed at reaching a deal exchanging aid and trade for cut-backs in Iran's nuclear research which the US and many European countries believe is aimed at nuclear weapons.

But last month the EU-3 declared negotiations had reached a "dead end" and referred Iran to the IAEA which voted to send Tehran to the UN Security Council.

Tehran insists its nuclear programme is for peaceful purposes.

[The Indian Express, Feb. 16, 2006]

URANIUM ENRICHMENT: IRAN, RUSSIA TALKS ON MONDAY

Iran and Russia will hold talks on Monday on a Russian offer to conduct uranium enrichment for Iran on Russian territory. "The Iran side has provided official notification on their arrival . . ." Interfax reported.

The confirmation from Iran comes a day after Iranian parliament speaker Gholam Ali Haddad Adel had called for Venezuela to join his country in forming an alliance to counter threats from the world's nuclear powers during his visit to that country. He had accused the US of attacking Iran's nuclear programme in order to undermine Iran's independence.

Haddad Adel, part of the Iranian delegation, had thanked President Hugo Chavez's government for its "favorable position" towards Iran, especially its support on the International Atomic Energy Agency board earlier this month, when Venezuela voted against referring Iran to the UN Security Council.

Asked by reporters if Iran would accept Moscow's proposal to enrich uranium on Russian soil, Haddad Adel had said: "If that means we are deprived from peaceful use of nuclear energy . . . we could study the Russian proposal."

Haddad Adel had also denied his country had flouted international rules by resuming small-scale uranium enrichment activities at Natanz, the country's main enrichment plant. "All we've done is reinstate nuclear energy research at the laboratory level. We have not said anything new or committed any crime."

Iran's economy minister, meanwhile, warned that oil prices could rise to unexpected levels if the Islamic republic was subjected to sanctions over its disputed nuclear programme.

"Any sanctions in the current situation would be more detrimental for the West than for Iran," Davoud Danesh-Jaafari was quoted as saying by the state TV. "Iran is in a very important regional situation, and any disturbance of the economic and political situation of the country could turn the regional situation into a crisis and increase price of oil higher than what the West expects," he said.

"Iran has a high economic capacity, and by relying on its experience during the war (with Iraq from 1980-88) is ready to face any problem," he added.

ANALYSIS OF JOINT RESOLUTION ON IRAQ BY DENNIS J. KUCINICH

Whereas in 1990 in response to Iraq's war of aggression against an illegal occupation of Kuwait, the United States forged a coalition of nations to liberate Kuwait and its people in order to defend the national security of the United States and enforce United Nations Security Council resolutions relating to Iraq;

Key issue: In the Persian Gulf war there was an international coalition. World support was for protecting Kuwait. There is no world support for invading Iraq.

Whereas after the liberation of Kuwait in 1991, Iraq entered into a United Nations sponsored cease-fire agreement pursuant to which Iraq unequivocally agreed, among other things, to eliminate its nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons programs and the means to deliver and develop them, and to end its support for international terrorism;

Whereas the efforts of international weapons inspectors, United States intelligence agencies, and Iraqi defectors led to the discovery that Iraq had large stockpiles of chemical weapons and a large scale biological weapons program, and that Iraq had an advanced nuclear weapons development program that was much closer to producing a nuclear weapon than intelligence reporting had previously indicated;

Key issue: UN inspection teams identified and destroyed nearly all such weapons. A lead inspector, Scott Ritter, said that he believes that nearly all other weapons not found were destroyed in the Gulf War. Furthermore, according to a published report in the Washington Post, the Central Intelligence Agency has no up to date accurate report on Iraq's WMD capabilities.

Whereas Iraq, in direct and flagrant violation of the cease-fire, attempted to thwart the efforts of weapons inspectors to identify and destroy Iraq's weapons of mass destruction stockpiles and development capabilities, which finally resulted in the withdrawal of inspectors from Iraq on October 31, 1998;

Key issues: Iraqi deceptions always failed. The inspectors always figured out what Iraq was doing. It was the United States that withdrew from the inspections in 1998. And the United States then launched a cruise missile attack against Iraq 48 hours after the inspectors left. In advance of a military strike, the U.S. continues to thwart (the Administration's word) weapons inspections.

Whereas in 1998 Congress concluded that Iraq's continuing weapons of mass destruction programs threatened vital United States interests and international peace and security, declared Iraq to be in "material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations" and urged the President "to take appropriate action, in accordance with the Constitution and relevant laws of the United States, to bring Iraq into compliance with its international obligations" (Public Law 105-235);

Whereas Iraq both poses a continuing threat to the national security of the United States and international peace and security in the Persian Gulf region and remains in material and unacceptable breach of its international obligations by, among other things, continuing to possess and develop a significant chemical and biological weapons capability, actively seeking a nuclear weapons capability, and supporting and harboring terrorist organizations;

Key issues: There is no proof that Iraq represents an imminent or immediate threat to the United States. A "continuing" threat does not constitute a sufficient cause for war. The Administration has refused to provide the Congress with credible intelligence that proves that Iraq is a serious threat to the United States and is continuing to possess and develop chemical and biological and nuclear weapons. Furthermore there is no credible intelligence connecting Iraq to Al Qaida and 9/11.

Whereas Iraq persists in violating resolutions of the United Nations Security Council by continuing to engage in brutal repression of its civilian population thereby threatening international peace and security in the

region, by refusing to release, repatriate, or account for non-Iraqi citizens wrongfully detained by Iraq, including an American serviceman, and by failing to return property wrongfully seized by Iraq from Kuwait;

Key issue: This language is so broad that it would allow the President to order an attack against Iraq even when there is no material threat to the United States. Since this resolution authorizes the use of force for all Iraq related violations of the UN Security Council directives, and since the resolution cites Iraq's imprisonment of non-Iraqi prisoners, this resolution would authorize the President to attack Iraq in order to liberate Kuwait citizens who may or may not be in Iraqi prisons, even if Iraq met compliance with all requests to destroy any weapons of mass destruction. Though in 2002 at the Arab Summit, Iraq and Kuwait agreed to bilateral negotiations to work out all claims relating to stolen property and prisoners of war. This use-of-force resolution enables the President to commit U.S. troops to recover Kuwaiti property.

Whereas the current Iraqi regime has demonstrated its capability and willingness to use weapons of mass destruction against other nations and its own people;

Whereas the current Iraqi regime has demonstrated its continuing hostility toward, and willingness to attack, the United States, including by attempting in 1993 to assassinate former President Bush and by firing on many thousands of occasions on United States and Coalition Armed Forces engaged in enforcing the resolutions of the United Nations Security Council;

Key Issue: The Iraqi regime has never attacked nor does it have the capability to attack the United States. The "no fly" zone was not the result of a UN Security Council directive. It was illegally imposed by the United States, Great Britain and France and is not specifically sanctioned by any Security Council resolution.

Whereas members of al Qaida, an organization bearing responsibility for attacks on the United States, its citizens, and interests, including the attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, are known to be in Iraq;

Key Issue: There is no credible intelligence that connects Iraq to the events of 9/11 or to participation in those events by assisting Al Qaida.

Whereas Iraq continues to aid and harbor other international terrorist organizations, including organizations that threaten the lives and safety of American citizens;

Key Issue: Any connection between Iraq support of terrorist groups in Middle East, is an argument for focusing great resources on resolving the conflict between Israel and the Palestinians. It is not sufficient reason for the U.S. to launch a unilateral preemptive strike against Iraq.

Whereas the attacks on the United States of September 11, 2001 underscored the gravity of the threat posed by the acquisition of weapons of mass destruction by international terrorist organizations;

Key Issue: There is no connection between Iraq and the events of 9/11.

Whereas Iraq's demonstrated capability and willingness to use weapons of mass destruction, the risk that the current Iraqi regime will either employ those weapons to launch a surprise attack against the United States or its Armed Forces or provide them to international terrorists who would do so, and the extreme magnitude of harm that would result to the United States and its citizens from such an attack, combine to justify action by the United States to defend itself;

Key Issue: There is no credible evidence that Iraq possesses weapons of mass destruction. If Iraq has successfully concealed the

production of such weapons since 1998, there is no credible evidence that Iraq has the capability to reach the United States with such weapons. In the 1991 Gulf War, Iraq had a demonstrated capability of biological and chemical weapons, but did not have the willingness to use them against the United States Armed Forces. Congress has not been provided with any credible information, which proves that Iraq has provided international terrorists with weapons of mass destruction.

Whereas United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 authorizes the use of all necessary means to enforce United Nations Security Council Resolution 660 and subsequent relevant resolutions and to compel Iraq to cease certain activities that threaten international peace and security, including the development of weapons of mass destruction and refusal or obstruction of United Nations weapons inspections in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 687, repression of its civilian population in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 688, and threatening its neighbors or United Nations operations in Iraq in violation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 949;

Key Issue: The UN Charter forbids all member nations, including the United States, from unilaterally enforcing UN resolutions.

Whereas Congress in the Authorization for Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1) has authorized the President "to use United States Armed Forces pursuant to United Nations Security Council Resolution 678 (1990) in order to achieve implementation of Security Council Resolutions 660, 661, 662, 664, 665, 666, 667, 669, 670, 674, and 677";

Key Issue: The UN Charter forbids all member nations, including the United States, from unilaterally enforcing UN resolutions with military force.

Whereas in December 1991, Congress expressed its sense that it "supports the use of all necessary means to achieve the goals of United Nations Security Council Resolution 687 as being consistent with the Authorization of Use of Military Force Against Iraq Resolution (Public Law 102-1)," that Iraq's repression of its civilian population violates United Nations Security Council Resolution 688 and "constitutes a continuing threat to the peace, security, and stability of the Persian Gulf region," and that Congress, "supports the use of all necessary means to achieve the goals of United Nations Security Council Resolution 688";

Key Issue: This clause demonstrates the proper chronology of the international process, and contrasts the current march to war. In 1991, the UN Security Council passed a resolution asking for enforcement of its resolution. Member countries authorized their troops to participate in a UN-led coalition to enforce the UN resolutions. Now the President is asking Congress to authorize a unilateral first strike before the UN Security Council has asked its member states to enforce UN resolutions.

Whereas the Iraq Liberation Act (Public Law 105-338) expressed the sense of Congress that it should be the policy of the United States to support efforts to remove from power the current Iraqi regime and promote the emergence of a democratic government to replace that regime;

Key Issue: This "Sense of Congress" resolution was not binding. Furthermore, while Congress supported democratic means of removing Saddam Hussein it clearly did not endorse the use of force contemplated in this resolution, nor did it endorse assassination as a policy.

Whereas on September 12, 2002, President Bush committed the United States to "work

with the United Nations Security Council to meet our common challenge" posed by Iraq and to "work for the necessary resolutions," while also making clear that "the Security Council resolutions will be enforced, and the just demands of peace and security will be met, or action will be unavoidable";

Whereas the United States is determined to prosecute the war on terrorism and Iraq's ongoing support for international terrorist groups combined with its development of weapons of mass destruction in direct violation of its obligations under the 1991 ceasefire and other United Nations Security Council resolutions make clear that it is in the national security interests of the United States and in furtherance of the war on terrorism that all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions be enforced, including through the use of force if necessary;

Key Issue: Unilateral action against Iraq will cost the United States the support of the world community, adversely affecting the war on terrorism. No credible intelligence exists which connects Iraq to the events of 9/11 or to those terrorists who perpetrated 9/11. Under international law, the United States does not have the authority to unilaterally order military action to enforce UN Security Council resolutions.

Whereas Congress has taken steps to pursue vigorously the war on terrorism through the provision of authorities and funding requested by the President to take the necessary actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those nations, organizations or persons who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001 or harbored such persons or organizations;

Key Issue: The Administration has not provided Congress with any proof that Iraq is in any way connected to the events of 9/11.

Whereas the President and Congress are determined to continue to take all appropriate actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those nations, organizations or persons who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorist attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001, or harbored such persons or organizations;

Key Issue: The Administration has not provided Congress with any proof that Iraq is in any way connected to the events of 9/11. Furthermore, there is no credible evidence that Iraq has harbored those who were responsible for planning, authorizing or committing the attacks of 9/11.

Whereas the President has authority under the Constitution to take action in order to deter and prevent acts of international terrorism against the United States, as Congress recognized in the joint resolution on Authorization for Use of Military Force (Public Law 107-40); and

Key Issue: This resolution was specific to 9/11. It was limited to a response to 9/11.

Whereas it is in the national security interests of the United States to restore international peace and security to the Persian Gulf region;

Key Issue: If by the "national security interests" of the United States, the Administration means oil, it ought to communicate such to the Congress. A unilateral attack on Iraq by the United States will cause instability and chaos in the region and sow the seeds of future conflicts all over the world.

Now, therefore, be it Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This joint resolution may be cited as the "Authorization for the Use of Military Force Against Iraq".

SEC. 2. SUPPORT FOR UNITED STATES DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS

The Congress of the United States supports the efforts by the President to—

(a) strictly enforce through the United Nations Security Council all relevant Security Council resolutions applicable to Iraq and encourages him in those efforts; and

(b) obtain prompt and decisive action by the Security Council to ensure that Iraq abandons its strategy of delay, evasion and noncompliance and promptly and strictly complies with all relevant Security Council resolutions.

Key Issue: Congress can and should support this clause. However Section 3 (which follows) undermines the effectiveness of this section. Any peaceful settlement requires Iraq compliance. The totality of this resolution indicates the Administration will wage war against Iraq no matter what. This undermines negotiations.

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION FOR USE OF UNITED STATES ARMED FORCES.

AUTHORIZATION. The President is authorized to use the Armed Forces of the United States as he determines to be necessary and appropriate in order to—

(1) defend the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq; and

(2) enforce all relevant United Nations Security Council Resolutions regarding Iraq.

Key Issue: This clause is substantially similar to the authorization that the President originally sought.

It gives authority to the President to act prior to and even without a UN resolution, and it authorizes the President to use U.S. troops to enforce UN resolutions even without UN request for it. This is a violation of Chapter VII of the UN Charter, which reserves the ability to authorize force for that purpose to the Security Council, alone.

Under Chapter VII of the Charter of the United Nations, "The Security Council shall determine the existence of any threat to the peace . . . and shall make recommendations to maintain or restore international peace and security." (Article 39). Only the Security Council can decide that military force would be necessary. "The Security Council may decide what measures . . . are to be employed to give effect to its decisions (Article 41) . . . [and] it may take such action by air, sea, or land forces as may be necessary to maintain or restore international peace and security." (Article 43). Furthermore, the resolution authorizes use of force illegally, since the UN Security Council has not requested it. According to the UN Charter, members of the UN, such as the U.S., are required to "make available to the Security Council, on its call and in accordance with a special agreement or agreements, armed forces. . ." (Article 43, emphasis added). The UN Security Council has not called upon its members to use military force against Iraq at the current time.

Furthermore, changes to the language of the previous use-of-force resolution, drafted by the White House and objected to by many members of Congress, are cosmetic:

In section (1), the word "continuing" was added to "the threat posed by Iraq".

In section (2), the word "relevant" is added to "United Nations Security Council Resolutions" and the words "regarding Iraq" were added to the end.

While these changes are represented as a compromise or a new material development, the effects of this resolution are largely the same as the previous White House proposal.

The UN resolutions, which could be cited by the President to justify sending U.S. troops to Iraq, go far beyond addressing weapons of mass destruction. These could include, at the President's discretion, such "relevant" resolutions "regarding Iraq" in-

cluding resolutions to enforce human rights and the recovery of Kuwaiti property.

PRESIDENTIAL DETERMINATION.—

In connection with the exercise of the authority granted in subsection (a) to use force the President shall, prior to such exercise or as soon thereafter as may be feasible, but no later than 48 hours after exercising such authority, make available to the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate his determination that—

(1) reliance by the United States on further diplomatic or other peaceful means alone either (A) will not adequately protect the national security of the United States against the continuing threat posed by Iraq or (B) is not likely to lead to enforcement of all relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions regarding Iraq, and

(2) acting pursuant to this resolution is consistent with the United States and other countries continuing to take the necessary actions against international terrorists and terrorist organizations, including those nations, organizations or persons who planned, authorized, committed or aided the terrorists attacks that occurred on September 11, 2001.

(c) WAR POWERS RESOLUTION REQUIREMENTS.—

(1) SPECIFIC STATUTORY AUTHORIZATION.— Consistent with section 8(a)(1) of the War Powers Resolution, the Congress declares that this section is intended to constitute specific statutory authorization within the meaning of section 5(b) of the War Powers Resolution.

(2) APPLICABILITY OF OTHER REQUIREMENTS.—Nothing in this resolution supercedes any requirement of the War Powers Resolution.

SEC. 4. REPORTS TO CONGRESS.

(a) The President shall, at least once every 60 days, submit to the Congress a report on matters relevant to this joint resolution, including actions taken pursuant to the exercise of authority granted in section 2 and the status of planning for efforts that are expected to be required after such actions are completed, including those actions described in section 7 of Public Law 105-338 (the Iraq Liberation Act of 1998).

(b) To the extent that the submission of any report described in subsection (a) coincides with the submission of any other report on matters relevant to this joint resolution otherwise required to be submitted to Congress pursuant to the reporting requirements of Public Law 93-148 (the War Powers Resolution), all such reports may be submitted as a single consolidated report to the Congress.

(c) To the extent that the information required by section 3 of Public Law 102-1 is included in the report required by this section, such report shall be considered as meeting the requirements of section 3 of Public Law 102-1.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume to refute some of the statements that have been made against the resolution.

Madam Speaker, H. Con. Res. 341 clearly outlines the Iran threat, not just as assessed by the United States, not just as assessed by the Europeans, but by the International Atomic Energy Agency. After dealing with the Iran case for over 3 years, it reaffirms the position of the United States, of the U.S. Congress, as articulated through the passage of previous measures, that Iran has forfeited any right

for any access to nuclear technology or materials.

In response to previous statements regarding this resolution and sanctions, stating that it would isolate the Iranian people, on the contrary, Madam Speaker, sanctions would empower the Iranian people because it would weaken this regime.

More importantly, due to the Iran economy's vulnerabilities, the sanctions and the denial of billions of dollars of oil investments would deny the regime in Tehran the funds that they need to carry out this nuclear program and to continue with its extremist terrorist activities.

In closing, I would like to remind my colleagues that in the summer of 2001 Iran's ayatollah expressed Iran's commitment to bring America to its knees. Those were his statements. He added that "the giant will fall," the giant being the United States of America.

Combine this with what the director of the National Intelligence Agency, John Negroponte, said in his recent testimony. He said, while the assessment of when Iran would go nuclear is about 5 to 10 years from now, he also expressed grave concerns that we did not really know the extent of Iran's nuclear activities. He said that Iran's 20-year pursuit of a covert program means that we cannot truly confirm any specific timeframe.

Mr. Negroponte also said that Iran's missile program, with a nuclear capability, posed a serious concern for our U.S. security interests.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROYCE).

Mr. ROYCE. I thank the chairwoman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution. This resolution rightfully condemns Iranian noncompliance with its nonproliferation obligations and calls upon the U.N. Security Council to expeditiously consider this matter.

Madam Speaker, this is a grave matter, one deserving of this House's full and careful consideration. Iran, the most active state sponsor of terrorism, is seeking nuclear weapons. Its regime denies it, but the U.S. and many other nations know otherwise. Iran has a long record of deceiving international inspectors and has a history of dealing with the A.Q. Khan network. As chairman of the Subcommittee on Terrorism and Nonproliferation, nothing worries me more than this deadly combination of terrorism and WMD.

For a closed country such as Iran, we actually know a great deal about the Iranian nuclear program. IAEA inspectors have played a key role in spotlighting Iranian behavior. In its most recent update to the 35 member IAEA Board of Governors, inspectors reported that Iran has in its possession a document on the production of uranium metal hemispheres. This is of

great significance, as the IAEA identified this document as being related to the fabrication of nuclear weapon components, the first time the international body has attributed a nuclear weapons purpose to activities by Iran.

Madam Speaker, if Iran were to go nuclear, many other countries in this combustible region, including Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Syria and Turkey, to name a few, might follow. This proliferation would pose a grave threat to our security and certainly the security of our allies.

Some criticize our European partners for failing in their negotiations with Iran. I agree that it has taken us too long to get to this point, but, frankly, when you think about it, our hand is strengthened at this point because of the European involvement.

At the IAEA vote the other week, we had the permanent five members of the Security Council united. I am under no illusions that this united front will last, but it is an important first step.

We will also hear from some that the administration has outsourced its diplomacy to the Europeans and has stood by as Iran moves toward a nuclear weapon. I will remind those that we alone cannot meet all security threats. We need partners. It is time to start challenging the norms that have developed over time.

The Iranians skillfully talk about their inalienable rights under the nonproliferation treaty to develop the full nuclear fuel cycle, including its most sensitive aspects. Indeed, in the eyes of the IAEA, Iran's crime has been its failure to report its nuclear materials and the technology, not the nuclear activities themselves, including uranium enrichment.

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Under the guise of the NPT, Iran is walking right up to the edge of developing nuclear weapons. This is a violation of the spirit if not the letter of the NPT.

My subcommittee will soon take a close look at this issue. This notion of rights has to be challenged, because if we don't, the world will be a very, very dangerous place.

Mr. Speaker, there are no easy answers. We need to think long and hard about what types of sanctions are constructive in reaching the goal of preventing Iran from developing nuclear weapons. This challenge will require careful and marked consideration by the administration, Congress, and our partners as we move forward. It is too serious for anything else.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I include for the record the statement of the American representative to the IAEA Special Board of Governors meeting on February 4.

Mr. Chairman, I wish to join other colleagues in expressing condolences to the Egyptian delegation, and through them to the Egyptian people, for yesterday's tragedy on the Red Sea.

My government is pleased to have joined an overwhelming majority of Board members in signaling to Iran through adoption of this resolution the Board's firm determination that Iran must meet its nonproliferation obligations.

The Board's September 24, 2005 resolution found Iran in noncompliance with its safeguards obligations pursuant to Article XII.C.

That resolution also found that pursuant to Article III.B.4, Iran's nuclear program raises questions that fall within the competence of the UNSC.

At that time and again in November, we deferred reporting Iran to the Council to give Iran yet another opportunity to choose diplomacy over confrontation.

Unfortunately, Iran did not take that opportunity. As a result, the Board today carried forward the statutory process begun in September, by voting to report this Board's past findings and concerns regarding Iran's noncompliance.

I agree with the distinguished Ambassador of Egypt that today's report to the Security Council will not divest the IAEA of the challenge posed by Iran.

We continue to expect the Agency's investigation of Iran's nuclear program to proceed actively and urgently and we look forward to the Director General's implementation report in March. We note that the DG's report will also be conveyed to the UNSC immediately after our next meeting.

By reporting Iran to the Security Council now, we seek to add the Council's weight to reinforce the Agency's role, reinforce its investigation, and add an imperative for Iran to choose a course of cooperation and negotiation over a course of confrontation.

The Agency has a specific mandate to deal with nuclear safeguards issues. This mandate is without prejudice to the rights and responsibilities of the Security Council to address matters that raise questions of international peace and security, as we have found is the case with Iran.

That is why the IAEA Statute expressly contemplates the Security Council's involvement in such instances of noncompliance. And that is why the Board made clear in September that such a report is mandatory.

In his recent State of the Union address, President Bush emphasized that, "the Iranian government is defying the world with its nuclear ambitions, and the nations of the world must not permit the Iranian regime to gain nuclear weapons."

We believe that this Board decision sends a strong and clear message to Iran's leaders to abandon their pursuit of a nuclear weapons capability.

We continue to seek a diplomatic solution and we do not envision diplomacy ending as a result of this report.

Quite the contrary, we see this as part of a new phase of diplomacy, one aimed at strengthening the ongoing efforts of the Agency to investigate Iran's deeply troubling nuclear activities, and underscoring the calls on Iran to resolve our concerns through peaceful diplomacy rather than threats and confrontation.

Through this path, and only through this path, can Iran persuasively demonstrate that it has now chosen to confine its nuclear program to exclusively peaceful purposes.

And through this path Iran can also start to restore its standing in the international community to the benefit of the Iranian people.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD the resolution adopted by the Board of Governors of the International Atomic Energy Agency.

IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN: RESOLUTION ADOPTED ON 4 FEBRUARY 2006

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS

(a) *Recalling* all the resolutions adopted by the Board on Iran's nuclear programme,

(b) *Recalling* also the Director General's reports,

(c) *Recalling* that Article IV of the Treaty on the Non Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons stipulates that nothing in the Treaty shall be interpreted as affecting the inalienable rights of all the Parties to the Treaty to develop research, production and use of nuclear energy for peaceful purposes without discrimination and in conformity with Articles I and II of the Treaty,

(d) *Commending* the Director General and the Secretariat for their professional and impartial efforts to implement the Safeguards Agreement in Iran, to resolve outstanding safeguards issues in Iran and to verify the implementation by Iran of the suspension,

(e) *Recalling* the Director General's description of this as a special verification case,

(f) *Recalling* that in reports referred to above, the Director General noted that after nearly three years of intensive verification activity, the Agency is not yet in a position to clarify some important issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme or to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran,

(g) *Recalling* Iran's many failures and breaches of its obligations to comply with its NPT Safeguards Agreement and the absence of confidence that Iran's nuclear programme is exclusively for peaceful purposes resulting from the history of concealment of Iran's nuclear activities, the nature of those activities and other issues arising from the Agency's verification of declarations made by Iran since September 2002,

(h) *Recalling* that the Director General has stated that Iran's full transparency is indispensable and overdue for the Agency to be able to clarify outstanding issues (GOV/2005/67),

(i) *Recalling* the requests of the Agency for Iran's cooperation in following up on reports relating to equipment, materials and activities which have applications in the conventional military area and in the civilian sphere as well as in the nuclear military area (as indicated by the Director General in GOV/2005/67),

(j) *Recalling* that in November 2005 the Director General reported (GOV/2005/87) that Iran possesses a document related to the procedural requirements for the reduction of UF₆ to metal in small quantities, and on the casting and machining of enriched, natural and depleted uranium metal into hemispherical forms,

(k) *Expressing* serious concerns about Iran's nuclear programme, and agreeing that an extensive period of confidence-building is required from Iran,

(l) *Reaffirming* the Board's resolve to continue to work for a diplomatic solution to the Iranian nuclear issue, and

(m) *Recognising* that a solution to the Iranian issue would contribute to global non-proliferation efforts and to realising the objective of a Middle East free of weapons of mass destruction, including their means of delivery,

1. *Underlines* that outstanding questions can best be resolved and confidence built in the exclusively peaceful nature of Iran's pro-

gramme by Iran responding positively to the calls for confidence building measures which the Board has made on Iran, and in this context *deems* it necessary for Iran to:

re-establish full and sustained suspension of all enrichment-related and reprocessing activities, including research and development, to be verified by the Agency;

reconsider the construction of a research reactor moderated by heavy water;

ratify promptly and implement in full the Additional Protocol;

pending ratification, continue to act in accordance with the provisions of the Additional Protocol which Iran signed on 18 December 2003;

implement transparency measures, as requested by the Director General, including in GOV/2005/67, which extend beyond the formal requirements of the Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol, and include such access to individuals, documentation relating to procurement, dual use equipment, certain military-owned workshops and research and development as the Agency may request in support of its ongoing investigations;

2. *Requests* the Director General to report to the Security Council of the United Nations that these steps are required of Iran by the Board and to report to the Security Council all IAEA reports and resolutions, as adopted, relating to this issue;

3. *Expresses* serious concern that the Agency is not yet in a position to clarify some important issues relating to Iran's nuclear programme, including the fact that Iran has in its possession a document on the production of uranium metal hemispheres, since, as reported by the Secretariat, this process is related to the fabrication of nuclear weapon components; and, noting that the decision to put this document under Agency seal is a positive step, *requests* Iran to maintain this document under Agency seal and to provide a full copy to the Agency;

4. *Deeply regrets* that, despite repeated calls from the Board for the maintaining of the suspension of all enrichment related and reprocessing activities which the Board has declared essential to addressing outstanding issues, Iran resumed uranium conversion activities at its Isfahan facility on 8 August 2005 and took steps to resume enrichment activities on 10 January 2006;

5. *Calls on* Iran to understand that there is a lack of confidence in Iran's intentions in seeking to develop a fissile material production capability against the background of Iran's record on safeguards as recorded in previous Resolutions, and outstanding issues; and to reconsider its position in relation to confidence-building measures, which are voluntary, and non legally binding, and to adopt a constructive approach in relation to negotiations that can result in increased confidence;

6. *Requests* Iran to extend full and prompt cooperation to the Agency, which the Director General deems indispensable and overdue, and in particular to help the Agency clarify possible activities which could have a military nuclear dimension;

7. *Underlines* that the Agency's work on verifying Iran's declarations is ongoing and *requests* the Director General to continue with his efforts to implement the Agency's Safeguards Agreement with Iran, to implement the Additional Protocol to that Agreement pending its entry into force, with a view to providing credible assurances regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities in Iran, and to pursue additional transparency measures required for the Agency to be able to resolve outstanding issues and reconstruct the history and nature of all aspects of Iran's past nuclear activities;

8. *Requests* the Director General to report on the implementation of this and previous

resolutions to the next regular session of the Board, for its consideration, and immediately thereafter to convey, together with any Resolution from the March Board, that report to the Security Council; and

9. *Decides* to remain seized of the matter.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I include for the RECORD a brief by the Deputy Director General For Safeguards on Iran's development of nuclear weapons.

DEVELOPMENTS IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE NPT SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT IN THE ISLAMIC REPUBLIC OF IRAN AND AGENCY VERIFICATION OF IRAN'S SUSPENSION OF ENRICHMENT-RELATED AND REPROCESSING ACTIVITIES

The purpose of this brief is to provide an update on the developments that have taken place since November 2005 in connection with the implementation of the NPT Safeguards Agreement in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran) and on the Agency's verification of Iran's voluntary suspension of enrichment related and reprocessing activities. The brief provides factual information concerning those developments; it does not include any assessments thereof.

Iran has continued to facilitate access under its Safeguards Agreement as requested by the Agency, and to act as if the Additional Protocol is in force, including by providing in a timely manner the requisite declarations and access to locations.

1. ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

As detailed in the Director General's report of 18 November 2005, during meetings that took place in October and November 2005, the Agency requested Iran to provide additional information on certain aspects of its enrichment programme. Responses to some of these requests were provided during discussions held in Tehran from 25 to 29 January 2006 between Iranian officials and an Agency team, headed by the Deputy Director General for Safeguards. This information is currently being assessed.

1.A. Contamination

As part of its assessment of the correctness and completeness of Iran's declarations concerning its enrichment activities, the Agency is continuing to investigate the source(s) of low enriched uranium, LEU, particles, and some high enriched uranium (HEU) particles, which were found at locations where Iran has declared that centrifuge components had been manufactured, used and/or stored.

1.B. The 1987 offer

As previously reported to the Board, Iran showed the Agency in January 2005 a copy of a hand-written one-page document reflecting an offer said to have been made to Iran in 1987 by a foreign intermediary concerning the possible supply of a disassembled centrifuge (including drawings, descriptions and specifications for the production of centrifuges); drawings, specifications and calculations for a "complete plant"; and materials for 2000 centrifuge machines. The document also made reference to: auxiliary vacuum and electric drive equipment; a liquid nitrogen plant; a water treatment and purification plant; a complete set of workshop equipment for mechanical, electrical and electronic support; and uranium re-conversion and casting capabilities.

On 25 January 2006, Iran reiterated that the one-page document was the only remaining documentary evidence relevant to the scope and content of the 1987 offer, attributing this to the secret nature of the programme and the management style of the Atomic Energy Organization of Iran (AEOI) at that time. Iran stated that no other written evidence exists, such as meeting minutes, administrative documents, reports, personal notebooks or the like, to substantiate its statements concerning that offer.

1.C. Genesis of the mid-1990s offer

According to Iran, there were no contacts with the network between 1987 and mid-1993. Statements made by Iran and by key members of the network about the events leading to the mid-1990s offer are still at variance with each other. In this context, Iran has been asked to provide further clarification of the timing and purpose of certain trips taken by AEOI staff members in the mid-1990s.

P-1 centrifuge component deliveries in the mid-1990s: Iran has been unable to supply any documentation or other information about the meetings that led to the acquisition of 500 sets of P-1 centrifuge components in the mid-1990s. The Agency is still awaiting clarification of the dates and contents of these shipments.

P-2 centrifuge programme: Iran still maintains that, as a result of the discussions held with the intermediaries in the mid-1990s, the intermediaries only supplied drawings for P-2 centrifuge components (which contained no supporting specifications), and that no P-2 components were delivered along with the drawings or thereafter. Iran continues to assert that no work was carried out on P-2 centrifuges during the period 1995 to 2002, and that at no time during this period did it ever discuss with the intermediaries the P-2 centrifuge design, or the possible supply of P-2 centrifuge components. In light of information available to the Agency indicating the possible deliveries of such components, which information was shared with Iran, Iran was asked in November 2005 to check again whether any deliveries had been made after 1995.

In connection with the R&D work on a modified P-2 design said by Iran to have been carried out by a contracting company between 2002 and July 2003, Iran has confirmed that the contractor had made enquiries about, and purchased, magnets suitable for the P-2 centrifuge design. The Agency is still awaiting clarification of all of Iran's efforts to acquire such magnets. 2.

2. URANIUM METAL

Iran has shown the Agency more than 60 documents said to have been the drawings, specifications and supporting documentation handed over by the intermediaries, many of which are dated from the early- to mid-1980's. Among these was a 15-page document describing the procedures for the reduction of UF₆ to metal in small quantities, and the casting of enriched and depleted uranium metal into hemispheres, related to the fabrication of nuclear weapon components. It did not, however, include dimensions or other specifications for machined pieces for such components. According to Iran, this document had been provided on the initiative of the network, and not at the request of the AEOI. Iran has declined the Agency's request to provide the Agency with a copy of the document, but did permit the Agency during its visit in January 2006 to examine the document again and to place it under Agency seal.

3. TRANSPARENCY VISITS AND DISCUSSIONS

On 1 November 2005, the Agency was given access to a military site at Parchin, with a view to providing assurances regarding the absence of undeclared nuclear material and activities at that site, where several environmental samples were taken. Final assessment is still pending the results of the analysis of those samples.

Since 2004, the Agency has been awaiting additional information and clarifications related to efforts made by the Physics Research Centre (PHRC), which had been established at Lavisan-Shian, to acquire dual use materials and equipment that could be used in uranium enrichment and conversion ac-

tivities. The Agency has also requested interviews with the individuals involved in the acquisition of those items.

On 26 January 2006, Iran presented to the Agency documentation the Agency had previously requested on efforts by Iran, which it has stated were unsuccessful, to acquire a number of specific dual use items (electric drive equipment, power supply equipment and laser equipment, including a dye laser). Iran stated that, although the documentation suggested the involvement of the PHRC, the equipment had actually been intended for a laboratory at a technical university where the Head of the PHRC worked as a professor. However, Iran declined to make him available to the Agency for an interview. The DDG-SG reiterated the Agency's request to interview the professor, explaining that it was essential for a better understanding of the envisioned and actual use of the equipment, which included balancing machines, mass spectrometers, magnets and fluorine handling equipment (equipment that appears to be relevant to uranium enrichment).

On that same day, the Agency also presented to Iran a list of high vacuum equipment purchased by the PHRC, and asked to see, and to take environmental samples from, the equipment in situ. The following day, some of the high vacuum equipment on the Agency's list was presented at a technical university, and environmental samples were taken from it.

On 26 January 2006, Iran provided additional clarification about its efforts in 2000 to procure some other dual use material (high strength aluminium, special steel, titanium and special oils), as had been discussed in January 2005. High strength aluminium was presented to the Agency, and environmental samples were taken therefrom. Iran stated that the material had been acquired for aircraft manufacturing, but had not been used because of its specifications. Iran agreed to provide additional information on inquiries concerning the purchase of special steels, titanium and special oils. Iran also presented information on Iran's acquisition of corrosion resistant steel, valves, and filters, which were made available to the Agency on 31 January 2006 for environmental sampling.

On 5 December 2005, the Agency reiterated its request for a meeting to discuss information that had been made available to the Agency about alleged undeclared studies, known as the Green Salt Project, concerning the conversion of uranium dioxide into UF₄ ("green salt"), as well as tests related to high explosives and the design of a missile re-entry vehicle, all of which could have a military nuclear dimension and which appear to have administrative interconnections. On 16 December 2005, Iran replied that the "issues related to baseless allegations." Iran agreed on 23 January 2006 to a meeting with the DDG-SG for the clarification of the Green Salt Project, but declined to address the other topics during that meeting. In the course of the meeting, which took place on 27 January 2006, the Agency presented for Iran's review a copy of a process flow diagram related to bench scale conversion and communications related to the project. Iran reiterated that all national nuclear projects are conducted by the AEOI, that the allegations were baseless and that it would provide further clarifications later.

4. SUSPENSION

The Agency has continued to verify and monitor all elements of Iran's voluntary suspension of enrichment related and reprocessing activities.

In a letter dated 3 January 2006, Iran informed the Agency that it had decided to re-

sume, as from 9 January 2006, "those R&D on the peaceful nuclear energy programme which ha[d] been suspended as part of its expanded voluntary and non-legally binding suspension" (GOV/INF/2006/1). On 7 January 2006, the Agency received a letter from Iran requesting that the Agency remove seals applied at Natanz, Farayand Technique and Pars Trash for the monitoring of suspension of enrichment related activities (see GOV/INF/2006/2). The seals were removed by Iran on 10 and 11 January 2006 in the presence of Agency inspectors.

Since the removal of the seals, Iran has started what it refers to as "small scale R&D". As of 30 January 2006, Agency inspectors had not seen any new installation or assembly of centrifuges, or the feeding of UF₆ material for enrichment. However, substantial renovation of the gas handling system is underway at the Pilot Fuel Enrichment Plant (PFEP) at Natanz, and quality control of components and some rotor testing is being conducted at Farayand Technique and Natanz. Due to the fact that all centrifuge-related raw materials and components are without IAEA seals, the Agency's supervision of the R&D activities being carried out by Iran cannot be effective except at PFEP, where containment and surveillance measures are being applied for the enrichment process. The two cylinders at Natanz containing UF₆, from which seals had been removed on 10 January 2006, were again placed under Agency containment and surveillance on 29 January 2006.

The uranium conversion campaign which commenced at the Uranium Conversion Facility (UCF) in Esfahan on 16 November 2005 is continuing and is expected to end in March 2006. All UF₆ produced at UCF thus far has remained under Agency containment and surveillance.

Using satellite imagery, the Agency has continued to monitor the ongoing civil engineering construction of the Iran Nuclear Research Reactor (IR-40) at Arak.

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, before yielding back our time, may I just say fanaticism in the field of international affairs is always dangerous. But fanaticism armed with nuclear weapons is not just dangerous; it is unacceptable. Iran is determined to move in the direction of developing nuclear weapons. The civilized world cannot stand by.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this resolution.

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

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume in closing.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my good friend, the gentleman from California (Mr. LANTOS), for his wise words. It is always a pleasure to work with him as well as with our chairman, HENRY HYDE.

Mr. Speaker the International Atomic Energy Agency in its February 4, 2006 resolution said that after nearly 3 years the agency is not yet in a position to conclude that there are no undeclared nuclear materials or activities in Iran.

Iran needs to hear our message loud and clear. The United Nations Security Council now has the Iran case after 20 years of Iran's covert activities and after 3 years of mocking the international community. Let us send a message loud and clear today. Let us pass this resolution.

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support H. Con. Res. 341, condemning Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations. Mr. Speaker, the United Nations Security Council must quickly consider Iran's repeated violations of international nuclear norms, impose a comprehensive sanctions regime and send an unequivocal message that the world rejects its nuclear ambitions.

In addition to its refusal to cooperate with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, Iran's President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad has drawn considerable attention for his heinous calls for the United States' greatest ally, Israel, to be "wiped off the map" and his bold denial of the Holocaust. When offered a number of reasonable solutions to avert an international standoff, the Ahmadinejad regime has unwisely refused.

It is a positive sign that Russia and Iran are continuing discussions on a proposal the U.S. and others have endorsed. This plan would have Russia enrich Iran's uranium and remove it once it's spent, thereby maintaining safeguards on the nuclear fuel. I am hopeful an agreement will be reached, but have no qualms about this body sending a resolute message to Iran that its breaches and failures to comply with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations will be met with strong resistance.

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to House Concurrent Resolution 341, which calls on the UN Security Council to expeditiously take action in response to reports of Iran's noncompliance with its nuclear nonproliferation obligations.

I am gravely concerned about nuclear proliferation in Iran and in any other nation. But, this resolution is the wrong resolution at the wrong time.

Right now, Russia is negotiating with Iran to avert their domestic production of enriched uranium. Russia and China also supported the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, decision to refer Iran to the Security Council, but requested that any action against Iran be delayed to March so these negotiations can continue.

Yet, here we are on February 16th trying to supersede those negotiations by calling on the UN Security Council to act now. This strikes me as a step toward more unilateralism.

In addition to my concern about interfering with ongoing negotiations, the latest U.S. National Intelligence Council analysis projects that Iran is a decade away from manufacturing the key ingredient for a nuclear weapon. This expert analysis gives me further reason to question this rush to unilateral action.

I urge my colleagues to give peaceful negotiations the opportunity to succeed and vote against this resolution.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, some time yesterday, a Member introduced House Concurrent Resolution 341. Earlier today, without benefit of hearings or markup by any committee or subcommittee of the House, it was brought to the floor and the vast majority of members voted for it.

They voted, I believe, for it for the best of reasons: to strengthen efforts by the international community to convince Iran to meet its obligations as a party to the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty.

The resolution makes a number of important and factual points about Iran's lack of cooperation with IAEA and then sets out six statements of Congressional policy. The first

two condemn Iran's breaches of its obligations and commend the efforts of several nations to find a diplomatic means to return Iran to compliance. The final clause urges the President to keep Congress informed on this issue. All well and good.

But, for some reason, the fourth declaration goes beyond what international treaties require and beyond anything that Congress has carefully studied. It reads as follows:

[Congress] declares that Iran, through its many breaches for almost 20 years of its obligations under the Safeguards Agreement, has forfeited the right to develop any aspect of a nuclear fuel cycle, especially with uranium conversion and enrichment and plutonium reprocessing technology, equipment and facilities.

Now, let's be clear on what "nuclear fuel cycle" means. It means any use of nuclear technology, including the use of nuclear energy for the provision of civilian electrical power.

I think there is some level of agreement that our problem with Iran is not about nuclear power plants. And it is abundantly clear that Iran intends to insist on its right to nuclear energy. If Iran's leaders want to insist that they only seek to produce electricity, we should work with the IAEA to make sure there are so many inspectors assigned to Iran that they can't produce anything except electricity. A Congressional declaration that a country cannot use nuclear power for peaceful, minutely inspected, civilian purposes is neither practical nor helpful.

Had there been hearings, I believe that the difficulties with this approach would have been identified. But once again, the Republican House leadership hasn't bothered with regular process, hasn't bothered with hearings and witnesses or even markups and amendments. The Republican leadership doesn't want to hear dissent, doesn't want to hear concerns, doesn't want to hear anything but "yes, sir!"

In addition, the convoluted language of the third declaration seems to call upon the Russian Federation to cease its unilateral efforts to bring Iran into compliance with its treaty obligations. Whether an arrangement can be designed that allows Iran access to nuclear power without creating its own enrichment facilities remains to be seen, but the attempt should not be scorned.

So now the House is on record that the Iranian people should never be allowed to use nuclear power and that Russia should stop talking to Iran about solving this problem. If the resolution had not been brought to the floor today, just one day following its introduction, these problems might have been avoided.

Mr. LEWIS of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of this resolution.

Iran must be condemned for following the path of nuclear proliferation. This past Tuesday, February 14, 2006, Iran announced that it has resumed uranium enrichment efforts, sending a signal to the world that it is taking steps to arm itself with nuclear weapons. Iran said it will no longer allow international inspectors to access its nuclear facilities. Therefore we must work to ensure that Iran is unsuccessful in the path that it has chosen.

Nuclear weapons are the most dangerous and most horrible weapons man has ever invented. These weapons pose a threat to human kind; and an even graver threat when

in the hands of a nation that supports terrorism. We need to work to reduce the numbers of nuclear weapons in our world.

Iran must join the community of nations and lay down the instruments for the development of nuclear weapons. We must encourage all nations to lay down the burden and instruments of the most destructive weaponry known to human kind. There is enough madness on this little planet that we do not need to add more. There is not any room in our society for more nations to arm themselves with weapons of mass destruction.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this resolution. We must unite the community of nations and use all diplomatic means to rid our world of rogue nuclear threats.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H. Con. Res. 341, which condemns the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations, and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

Iran is actively seeking weapons of mass destruction, which poses a threat to the national security of the United States and to the world. Iran has repeatedly violated its obligations to the international community, specifically the 1973 Safeguards Agreement with the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA. In 2002 the world learned that Iran was illegally continuing to develop a secret nuclear program, which has led to years of negotiations with the international community. Last August, however, the Iranian government resumed its conversion of uranium. Earlier this month the IAEA voted 27 to 3 to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council for further action. I urge the Security Council to use all the tools at its disposal to pressure Iran to meet its commitments to the IAEA.

The House should additionally take up and pass legislation to strengthen the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act, ILSA. The House should pass H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act, which I have co-sponsored. The bill would strengthen ILSA, provide assistance to pro-democracy groups in Iran, and require that ILSA remain in effect until the President certifies to Congress that Iran has permanently and verifiably dismantled its weapons on mass destruction programs and has committed to combating their proliferation.

I am pleased that the United States has continued to work closely with the international community—including the European Union, Russia, and China—on this urgent matter. I urge the President to keep Congress fully and current informed on this matter, as called for in this resolution. I urge the international community to impose economic sanctions designed to deny Iran the ability to develop nuclear weapons.

We cannot allow a rogue nation such as Iran to obtain nuclear weapons. Iran has actively supported terrorist groups, such as Hezbollah in Lebanon and Palestinian Islamic Jihad. Iran has funded suicide bombers in Israel and militant organizations elsewhere. Many of these terrorist groups are seeking weapons of mass destruction, WMD, so that they can kill or injure thousands or even millions of people. The Iranian President has publicly expressed his hope for "a world without America," his desire to "wipe Israel off the map," and has denied the existence of the Holocaust.

I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Speaker, I support House Concurrent Resolution 341 condemning the Government of Iran for violating its international nuclear nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council. As co-chairman of the Iran Working Group, I am increasingly concerned about Iran's movement towards the brink of a nuclear showdown. In response to the historic International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, referral of Iran to the United Nations Security Council, UNSC, Iran retaliated by halting snap inspections by IAEA inspectors. There are even reports that Iran resumed uranium-enrichment at its Natanz nuclear plant, a process that had been suspended for two years following the disclosure of Iran's covert program. Iranian President Ahmadinejad warned that Iran could withdraw from the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty if international pressure increased over its nuclear program.

President Ahmadinejad repeatedly states that his nation will develop nuclear capabilities, and continually rebuffs efforts of nations such as Russia and the EU-3 in providing a way out of a conflict. Given the Iranian President's genocidal intentions of "wiping Israel off the map," we cannot allow Iran to advance on its path towards a nuclear future.

The Congress must consider many options to prevent Iran from acquiring a nuclear weapon. That is why I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 177, which calls on our allies and the U.S. to consider quarantining gasoline sales to Iran should the Iranians reject the international effort to end the nuclear impasse.

Despite being one of the world's top oil producing nations, Iran is highly dependent on foreign gasoline due to severe mismanagement of its domestic energy supply. The need is so great that the Iranian government regularly debates rationing gasoline to manage its short supply. An oil embargo on exports from Iran could hurt Western economies, but a gasoline quarantine on imports to Iran would fall heavily on Iran alone.

Now is the time for the Security Council to take strong action against Iran. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of House Concurrent Resolution 341.

Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this resolution to condemn the Iranian government for violating its international nonproliferation obligations and to support efforts to report Iran to the United Nations Security Council.

Last week, the 35-nation International Atomic Energy Agency's, IAEA, Board of Governors overwhelmingly voted to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council, an important step in the international effort to prevent Iran from attaining nuclear weapons.

Iran has made clear its plans to enrich uranium by building its centrifuge program and constructing a heavy-water reactor which could provide plutonium for nuclear weapons. Additionally, the IAEA revealed that Iran was in possession of a document describing the procedure for fabricating uranium metal and casting it into hemispheres, which form the core of a nuclear weapon.

Following the vote on the resolution, Iranian President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad ordered Iran's nuclear commission to end its cooperation with the IAEA and begin full-scale production of enriched uranium, which can be used to build nuclear weapons.

The thought of Iran with a nuclear weapon is a frightening one, and if this issue is not addressed promptly Iran will soon have the ability and materials to produce such weapons. Nuclear proliferation alone is a threat to American interests and security; nuclear proliferation to a country with a radical Islamic leader who has supported terrorism is an even more immediate threat.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to condemn Iran's decision to advance its nuclear program and to urge the U.N. Security Council to address this issue at once.

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 341. Iran has obligations under the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty, NPT, to not carry out a nuclear weapons program. Iran has ignored its obligations by carrying out a covert uranium enrichment program. It is becoming increasingly clear that this enrichment program is not merely aimed at producing nuclear fuel for a civilian energy program. According to the IAEA, Iran has documents in their possession for casting of enriched and depleted uranium metal into hemispheres—something which has no legitimate civilian purpose and which appears clearly to be related to the fabrication of nuclear weapons components. Possession of these documents is a violation of the NPT.

I support the work of the IAEA to monitor Iran's nuclear program, to press for Iran to agree to the Additional Protocol for enhanced monitoring and inspection of that program. The British, the French, and the Germans have tried for years to convince Iran to move away from nuclear weapons capability and to agree to increased international monitoring of its nuclear activities. Iran has rejected their efforts and made it clear that it is not willing to accept the type of negotiated solution proposed by the Europeans.

Right now we face a crisis that challenges the future of the international nuclear nonproliferation regime. If the international community cannot address the issue of Iran, then we risk the collapse of the NPT.

I hope the U.N. Security Council can resolve this issue. Now that this matter has been referred to the Security Council, the international community needs to begin a dialogue about how best to respond to Iran's action. We need to start thinking about tough and enforceable sanctions that can send a clear signal to Tehran that ignoring the will of the international community on this issue has consequences.

As we call upon Iran to stop their clandestine program, however, we must remember the United States also has obligations to the NPT. We can not ask the world to enforce regulation on Iran while we shirk our obligations to the NPT by opening up nuclear trade with India, a country which has not signed the Treaty. If we seek special exemptions from international and domestic nonproliferation law for India while simultaneously seeking strict enforcement of such laws for Iran, an NPT signatory, we will undermine our credibility as a leader on nonproliferation. Iran will accuse us of hypocrisy, and other nations may seek similar special exemptions.

For example, we know that China has long had a close relationship with Pakistan's nuclear program. Pakistan has already asked the U.S. to make special exemptions for them from international and domestic nonproliferation

law. China has called for that as well. Are we going to also exempt Pakistan from the international system of controls and safeguards established by the NPT and by U.S. law? Are we going to stand by and do nothing if China goes ahead and sends the same type of nuclear technology and materials that we are talking about sending to India?

We also know that Russia has historically had a close relationship with the Iranian nuclear program. They've been trying to get the Iranians to agree to a nuclear fuel supply arrangement in return for foregoing a domestic Iranian enrichment program. But what if Moscow decides now to go far beyond that and afford Iran broader access to controlled nuclear technology, citing what we're proposing to do with India?

I think that if we want to send a strong signal to Iran that its flouting of international nuclear nonproliferation norms is unacceptable and will have adverse consequences, then now is not the time to be thinking of granting selective exemptions from nonproliferation laws and treaties for other nations, even if they are our friends. We need to be principled leaders on the most important of all issues facing our country. We do not want Iran, with a regime that has made it clear that it desires the destruction of Israel, a regime that is known to have provided material support to terrorist groups, to obtain its own nuclear arsenal.

The time for us to act as an international community is now. There are forces within Iran that want to move away from extremism. We need to send a strong signal that the international community does not accept the current Iranian government's nuclear aspirations, and that there will be consequences, there will be sanctions, if Tehran persists in its current course of action.

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as a cosponsor of this resolution. Iran's resumption of nuclear activities and its non-compliance with international commitments must be met by a united Congress and a united international community.

For almost 3 years, the United States, the European Union, Russia, the IAEA and other parties have been working to negotiate an end to those parts of Iran's nuclear program that could allow it to produce nuclear weapons. Iran has continued to mislead the international community about its efforts. It has alternated diplomatic overtures with clandestine activity on its nuclear program.

In June 2004, just a few months after making assurances to the international community, Iran was criticized by the IAEA for failing to cooperate with an inquiry of its nuclear activities. In November 2004, Iran agreed to suspend much of its uranium enrichment in a deal with the EU. However, in August 2005, Iran resumed its uranium conversion at its Isfahan plant and in January 2006, broke IAEA seals at its Natanz facility. It has since resumed enriching uranium at that facility.

Experts indicate that Iran could produce a nuclear weapon in as little as 3 to 5 years. According to a report issued by the IAEA to member governments on January 31, 2006, Iran has a clandestine effort, dubbed Green Salt, which has been working on uranium processing, high explosives and a missile warhead design. The report clearly demonstrates a nexus between Iran's efforts to develop a nuclear fuel cycle and Tehran's military, thus

undercutting the Iranian government's repeated denials that it seeks to develop nuclear weapons.

Iran's growing nuclear capability is compounded by a series of recent statements by Iran's president, in which he declared that a fellow member of the United Nations must be wiped off the map. These remarks demonstrate a disregard for human life and undermine the central principle of the United Nations. The world community cannot stand by while an outlaw regime announces its desire to annihilate millions of people and attempts to develop the nuclear weapons to do so. The community of nations has properly condemned these threats; now we must ensure that Iran will never develop the capability to act on them.

I am hopeful that all members of the United Nations Security Council will take a strong stand for international peace and security when this issue is considered by the Security Council in March. I can think of no greater priority for the Council and believe that concerted action by the Council's Permanent Members represents the best opportunity to defuse this crisis.

As a gesture of appreciation from the Congress, I, along with Mr. KIRK of Illinois and Mr. ANDREWS of New Jersey, am circulating a letter to the other Permanent Members of the Security Council. The letter thanks them for their support in reporting Iran to the Security Council and urges them to establish consequences to continued non-compliance. I encourage my colleagues to sign the letter.

I am hopeful that with a united Congress and a united international community, we can prevent Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons which could destabilize the entire region and which could be used to carry out Iran's professed desire to wipe millions of its neighbors off the map.

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, several years ago, we learned that Iran was operating a secret program to enrich uranium and carry out other sensitive nuclear fuel cycle activities.

Iran's failure to report these activities to the International Atomic Energy Agency was a blatant violation of its obligations under the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty.

The more we learn about Iran's program, the more obvious it's become that Iran's true intention is not peaceful power generation, but the development of a nuclear arsenal that could threaten the United States, our allies in the Middle East, and even Europe.

Any seeds of doubt on this issue have been dispelled once and for all by Iran's rejection of a sensible proposal put forward by Great Britain, France and Germany, and more recently, its move to resume uranium enrichment.

The election of Iranian President Ahmadinejad has made the urgency of preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons that much greater.

With his comments about the Holocaust being a "myth," endorsement for "wiping Israel off the map," and enthusiastic support of Hezbollah, Hamas and other terrorist organizations, this vile anti-Semite has made his true intentions crystal clear.

The IAEA's decision to refer Iran to the U.N. Security Council is a long-overdue step in the right direction.

But tough words must be backed by tough action. We must continue to push the other members of the Security Council—especially

China and Russia—to meet their international obligations.

Congress should also pass H.R. 282, the Iran Freedom Support Act. This important legislation will close a loophole in the Iran-Libya Sanctions Act that has allowed successive administrations to avoid penalizing foreign firms that continue to invest in Iran's oil and gas sector.

Mr. HYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Con. Res. 341. This resolution is closely modeled on a resolution, Senate Concurrent Resolution 78, introduced in the Senate by the majority leader, Senator FRIST, cosponsored by Senator REID, the minority leader, Senators LUGAR and BIDEN, and a bipartisan group totaling 32 Senators, and adopted unanimously on January 27. Our colleague, Representative ROS-LEHTINEN of Florida, has worked with me and other members of the House Committee on International Relations, including our distinguished ranking Democrat, the gentleman from California, Mr. LANTOS, on this resolution. She has updated the text of the Senate resolution in the light of recent events and in the light of the understanding that we in the House have about Iran's actions and intentions.

This House may be divided on precisely how to respond to every aspect of the Iranian challenge, but we are certainly united, as our vote will show, in our support for the current efforts to bring the weight of the Security Council of the United Nations to bear against Iran's continuing violations of its formal and informal obligations concerning its nuclear activities.

These efforts are not only American efforts, but ones which involve many responsible members of the international community. The administration deserves credit for coaxing some of the reluctant states to this point: the International Atomic Energy Agency, IAEA, has indeed reported to the Security Council on the Iranian nuclear program. Although the IAEA may make additional reports during the next month, the die is cast: the Security Council is in a position to take action, and it should do so. It should respond to what is clearly a threat to international peace and security—and making such responses in a collective way is precisely the purpose it is meant to serve.

The administration deserves credit for having brought along the IAEA Board of Governors and, in particular, all of the permanent members of the Security Council, to this stage in the process. The signal to Iran could not have been more stark.

Critical to arriving at this point was the support extended by the Bush administration for the so-called "ED-3" process, in which Britain, France, and Germany conducted negotiations with Iran—negotiations that ultimately failed to contain Iran's efforts, to be sure, but which succeeded in keeping the international community moving forward in unison.

At this point, we need to continue to keep the pressure on, but let us keep the pressure on the recalcitrant party—the Iranians—and not begin internecine warfare among the Western powers. It is only with the cooperation of other States that we can truly pressure Iran.

As we consider other legislation in the next months—and the consideration of this resolution does not, in my mind, prejudice the ability of the House to consider other legislation—we should bear in mind that we need allies in this

struggle. Sticking our finger in the eye of other states which are, in general terms, "on our side" will do nothing to bring Iran to heel.

Another reason to work with our friends is that if the Security Council does not achieve consensus on how to deal with Iran, we will need to work with them to arrive at a "Plan B," as an alternative. That plan should consist, in all likelihood, of a series of comprehensive economic and diplomatic sanctions.

Those sanctions should be designed to serve several purposes. First, they should make it clear to the Iranian people that their leaders' course of action needs to change. Second, they should serve to inflict some pain on the Iranian leadership in an effort to coerce those leaders to behave in a responsible way. Finally, they should reduce the resources available to the Iranian state to continue their nuclear weapons program.

In summary, Mr. Speaker, this is an important resolution; it indicates quite clearly that we are behind the administration's approach. I hope that we will continue to support it in the days ahead.

Mr. SHAW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to voice my support of the resolution condemning Iran for violating its nonproliferation obligations and expressing support for efforts to report them to the United Nations Security Council.

Early last month, the Iranian regime announced that it planned to restart its nuclear research program. This was in clear violation of a 2004 agreement that had been reached with Britain, France and Germany to suspend uranium enrichment operations.

Iran claims that the program is aimed at generating electricity, but I think the United States and the world know better. In fact, the International Atomic Energy Agency has already voted to report Iran to the U.N. Security Council.

The president of the Iranian regime, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has also caused concern in the United States and Europe with his confrontational statements denying the Holocaust happened and stating his desire to annihilate Israel.

The United States fully expects the Security Council to add its weight to the IAEA's calls for Iran to return to the 2004 agreement, suspend all enrichment and reprocessing activity, cooperate fully with the IAEA and return to negotiations with Great Britain, France and Germany.

Only then will the Iranian regime restore any confidence that it is in fact, not seeking nuclear weapons under the guise of an "electricity program."

Mr. Speaker, with their continued defiance it's imperative that the United Nations act quickly. We must send a clear message to the Iranian regime that the world will not permit them to obtain nuclear weapons.

Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to the order of the House of Wednesday, February 15, 2006, the concurrent resolution is considered read and the previous question is ordered on the concurrent resolution and on the preamble.

The question is on the concurrent resolution.

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

Mr. LANTOS. 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 404, nays 4, answered “present” 4, not voting 20, as follows:

| | | |
|----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| | [Roll No. 12] | |
| | YEAS—404 | |
| Ackerman | Davis, Tom | Inslee |
| Aderholt | Deal (GA) | Israel |
| Akin | DeFazio | Issa |
| Alexander | DeGette | Istook |
| Allen | Delahunt | Jackson (IL) |
| Andrews | DeLauro | Jackson-Lee |
| Baca | DeLay | (TX) |
| Bachus | Dent | Jefferson |
| Baird | Diaz-Balart, L. | Jenkins |
| Baker | Diaz-Balart, M. | Jindal |
| Baldwin | Dicks | Johnson (CT) |
| Barrett (SC) | Dingell | Johnson (IL) |
| Barrow | Doggett | Johnson, E. B. |
| Bartlett (MD) | Doolittle | Johnson, Sam |
| Barton (TX) | Doyle | Jones (NC) |
| Bass | Drake | Jones (OH) |
| Bean | Dreier | Kanjorski |
| Beauprez | Duncan | Keller |
| Becerra | Edwards | Kelly |
| Berkley | Ehlers | Kennedy (MN) |
| Berry | Emanuel | Kennedy (RI) |
| Biggart | Emerson | Kildee |
| Bilirakis | Engel | Kilpatrick (MI) |
| Bishop (GA) | English (PA) | Kind |
| Bishop (NY) | Eshoo | King (IA) |
| Blackburn | Etheridge | King (NY) |
| Blunt | Everett | Kingston |
| Boehlert | Farr | Kirk |
| Boehner | Fattah | Kline |
| Bonilla | Feeney | Knollenberg |
| Bonner | Ferguson | Kolbe |
| Bono | Filner | Kuhl (NY) |
| Boozman | Fitzpatrick (PA) | LaHood |
| Boren | Flake | Langevin |
| Boswell | Foley | Lantos |
| Boucher | Forbes | Larsen (WA) |
| Boustany | Ford | Larsen (CT) |
| Boyd | Fortenberry | Latham |
| Bradley (NH) | Fossella | LaTourette |
| Brady (PA) | Fox | Leach |
| Brady (TX) | Frank (MA) | Levin |
| Brown (OH) | Franks (AZ) | Lewis (CA) |
| Brown (SC) | Frelinghuysen | Lewis (GA) |
| Brown, Corrine | Gallely | Lewis (KY) |
| Brown-Waite, | Garrett (NJ) | Linder |
| Ginny | Gerlach | Lipinski |
| Burgess | Gibbons | LoBiondo |
| Burton (IN) | Gilchrest | Lofgren, Zoe |
| Butterfield | Gillmor | Lowe |
| Buyer | Gingrey | Lucas |
| Calvert | Gohmert | Lungren, Daniel |
| Camp (MI) | Gonzalez | E. |
| Cannon | Goode | Lynch |
| Cantor | Goodlatte | Mack |
| Capito | Gordon | Maloney |
| Capps | Granger | Manzullo |
| Cardin | Graves | Marchant |
| Cardoza | Green (WI) | Markey |
| Carnahan | Green, Al | Marshall |
| Carter | Green, Gene | Matheson |
| Case | Grijalva | Matsui |
| Castle | Gutierrez | McCarthy |
| Chabot | Gutknecht | McCaul (TX) |
| Chandler | Hall | McCollum (MN) |
| Chocoma | Harman | McCotter |
| Clay | Harris | McCrery |
| Cleaver | Hart | McGovern |
| Clyburn | Hastings (FL) | McHenry |
| Coble | Hastings (WA) | McHugh |
| Cole (OK) | Hayes | McIntyre |
| Conaway | Hayworth | McKeon |
| Conyers | Hefley | McMorris |
| Cooper | Hensarling | McNulty |
| Costa | Herger | Meehan |
| Costello | Herseth | Meek (FL) |
| Cramer | Higgins | Meeks (NY) |
| Crenshaw | Hobson | Melancon |
| Crowley | Hoekstra | Mica |
| Cubin | Holden | Michaud |
| Cuellar | Holt | Millender- |
| Culberson | Honda | McDonald |
| Davis (AL) | Hookey | Miller (FL) |
| Davis (CA) | Hostettler | Miller (MI) |
| Davis (FL) | Hoyer | Miller (NC) |
| Davis (KY) | Hulshof | Miller, George |
| Davis (TN) | Hyde | Mollohan |
| Davis, Jo Ann | Inglis (SC) | Moore (KS) |

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|---------------|------------------|---------------|
| Moore (WI) | Renzi | Souder |
| Moran (KS) | Reyes | Spratt |
| Moran (VA) | Reynolds | Stearns |
| Murphy | Rogers (AL) | Strickland |
| Murtha | Rogers (KY) | Stupak |
| Musgrave | Rogers (MI) | Sullivan |
| Myrick | Rohrabacher | Sweeney |
| Nadler | Ros-Lehtinen | Tancredo |
| Napolitano | Ross | Tanner |
| Neal (MA) | Rothman | Tauscher |
| Neugebauer | Roybal-Allard | Taylor (MS) |
| Ney | Royce | Taylor (NC) |
| Northup | Ruppersberger | Terry |
| Norwood | Rush | Thomas |
| Nunes | Ryan (OH) | Thompson (CA) |
| Nussle | Ryan (WI) | Thompson (MS) |
| Oberstar | Ryun (KS) | Thornberry |
| Obey | Sabo | Tiahrt |
| Olver | Salazar | Tiberi |
| Ortiz | Sánchez, Linda | Tierney |
| Otter | T. | Towns |
| Owens | Sanchez, Loretta | Turner |
| Oxley | Sanders | Udall (CO) |
| Pallone | Saxton | Udall (NM) |
| Pascarella | Schakowsky | Upton |
| Pastor | Schiff | Van Hollen |
| Payne | Schmidt | Velázquez |
| Pearce | Schwartz (PA) | Visclosky |
| Pelosi | Schwarz (MI) | Walden (OR) |
| Pence | Scott (GA) | Walsh |
| Peterson (MN) | Scott (VA) | Walters |
| Peterson (PA) | Sensenbrenner | Watson |
| Petri | Serrano | Watt |
| Pickering | Sessions | Waxman |
| Pitts | Shadegg | Weiner |
| Platts | Shaw | Weldon (FL) |
| Poe | Shays | Weldon (PA) |
| Pombo | Sherman | Weller |
| Pomeroy | Sherwood | Wexler |
| Porter | Shimkus | Whitfield |
| Price (GA) | Shuster | Wicker |
| Price (NC) | Simmons | Wilson (NM) |
| Pryce (OH) | Skelton | Wilson (SC) |
| Putnam | Slaughter | Wolf |
| Radanovich | Smith (NJ) | Wu |
| Rahall | Smith (TX) | Wynn |
| Ramstad | Smith (WA) | Young (AK) |
| Regula | Snyder | Young (FL) |
| Rehberg | Sodrel | |
| Reichert | Solis | |

NAYS—4

| | |
|-----------|-------|
| Kucinich | Paul |
| McDermott | Stark |

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—4

| | |
|-------------|--------|
| Abercrombie | Kaptur |
| Capuano | Lee |

NOT VOTING—20

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|--------------|
| Berman | Evans | Rangel |
| Bishop (UT) | Hinchee | Simpson |
| Blumenauer | Hinojosa | Wamp |
| Campbell (CA) | Hunter | Wasserman |
| Carson | McKinney | Schultz |
| Cummings | Miller, Gary | Westmoreland |
| Davis (IL) | Osborne | Woolsey |

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1131

Mr. MOORE of Kansas changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

Ms. LEE changed her vote from “yea” to “present.”

So the concurrent resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote today on H. Con. Res. 341 because I was traveling on official business to a Middle East regional security conference in Athens, Greece, and then on to Egypt and Israel for meetings with top government officials. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to record my vote for rollcall vote 12. Had I been present I would have voted “yea.”

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. CAPUANO. Mr. Speaker, I was prepared today to vote for this resolution but a late language change has made that impossible.

The phrase “and take action” was added to paragraph three which now reads: “calls on all members of the United Nations Security Council . . . to expeditiously consider *and take action* . . . to respond to and *deal with* situations bearing on the maintenance of international peace and security” (emphasis added). Because of that change, I cannot support this resolution. However, since I do believe that Iran poses a serious threat to the world and demands the attention of the world, I could not vote against the proposal. Therefore, I voted “present.”

I strongly agree that Iran poses a real security threat to the world and I encourage continued vigilance. However, I have real concerns that the wording of this resolution might be interpreted by the Bush administration as all that is necessary to take military action. Although the day may come when I do support such action, today is not that day. I do not trust the Bush administration to come back to Congress if they wish to pursue military action. My lack of trust is, unfortunately, based on past actions. I voted to support military action against Afghanistan but the President is insisting today that Congress in so voting also granted him the legal authority to intercept telephone calls and other forms of communication without a warrant. I completely reject that assertion and I am concerned with future interpretations of H. Con. Res. 341. I regret that I cannot trust the President of the United States to use military force prudently and when all non-violent means have been exhausted. I regret that I cannot support this resolution.

PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE—PRIVILEGED RESOLUTION REGARDING CULTURE OF CORRUPTION SURROUNDING BUDGET RECONCILIATION

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to rule IX, I rise in regard to a question of the privileges of the House, and I offer a privileged resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 687

Whereas the Republican Leadership has engaged in a continuing pattern of withholding accurate information vital for Members of the House of Representatives to have before voting on legislation, and has inserted numerous controversial provisions into completed conference reports in the dead of night without notifying Democratic Members of the House, the press, or the public;

Whereas on February 1, 2006 the Republican Leadership permitted a vote on House Resolution 653 to concur in a Senate amendment to the conference agreement on Budget Reconciliation, despite the inclusion of inaccurate numbers in provisions that cost the

Medicare program an additional \$2 billion dollars;

Whereas although the Senate Enrolling Clerk had mistakenly changed critical numbers which had a major financial significance for Medicare, and had notified the House of those errors two weeks prior to the vote on February 1, the Republican Leadership deliberately chose to ignore that notification and instead allowed the House to vote on an incorrect version of this legislation;

Whereas the conference agreement on Budget Reconciliation passed the House by the narrowest of margins, 216-214, with every Democrat voting in opposition, and knowledge of this mistake may have influenced the outcome of this vote, which is why the Republican Leadership chose not to pursue the proper course in correcting this legislation;

Whereas as a result of the concealment of these errors in the enrollment of the bill, the law signed by the President of the United States on February 8, 2006 is not the same as the text cleared by the House on February 1, 2006;

Whereas the effect of these actions raises serious constitutional questions and jeopardizes the legal status of this legislation and The Washington Post has reported: "Now there are questions about the legality of signing a bill the House technically did not pass" (The Washington Post, February 9, 2006);

Whereas Republican incompetence led to numerous errors in this legislation, and two additional errors in the Senate amendment that was agreed to by House Resolution 653 were found by the Congressional Budget Office in a report dated January 27, 2006, five days BEFORE the House voted on the final conference report: "The (conference report on Budget Reconciliation) contains two apparent errors in legislative language: one in section 8006 regarding direct loans to parents of postsecondary students, and one in section 10002 regarding bankruptcy fees." (CBO Report on S. 1932, January 27, 2006);

Whereas in this ongoing pattern of abuse of power, the Republican Leadership on December 17, 2005 deliberately misled Members of the House by inserting into a completed conference report without debate or notification a provision granting liability protection for drug companies from cases involving consumers injured by avian flu vaccine; (HR 2863, the Defense Appropriations Conference Report);

Whereas the Republican Leadership inserted this liability vaccine provision at midnight, AFTER conferees signed what they understood to be the final document seven hours earlier, thereby breaking their word and assurances that "Avian Flu shall be funded at the House level, and will not include either indemnity or compensation provisions." (House Appropriations Committee Summary, December 17, 2005, 4:40 PM);

Whereas during passage of the Prescription Drug bill in 2003, the Republican Leadership and the committees of jurisdiction ignored the warnings from knowledgeable experts that the true cost of the legislation was potentially hundreds of billions of dollars higher than the official estimate, and intentionally misled Members of the House by withholding information for the sole purpose of winning passage of this extremely controversial bill by a single vote in the middle of the night; and

Whereas the Republican Leadership's culture of corruption and its repeated efforts to thwart the normal legislative process by cutting corners, inserting hand-written provisions into completed conference reports in the dead of night, and rushing through legislation with major errors, forces Members to vote on controversial legislation without

thorough time for review and must be denounced: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct shall begin an immediate investigation into the abuse of power surrounding the inaccuracies in the process and enrollment of the Budget Reconciliation legislation cleared for the President on February 1, 2006.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO TABLE OFFERED BY MR. BOEHNER

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I move to table the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

RECORDED VOTE

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I demand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered. The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 219, noes 187, answered "present" 6, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 13]
AYES—219

| | | |
|-----------------|------------------|-----------------|
| Aderholt | Fitzpatrick (PA) | Linder |
| Akin | Flake | LoBiondo |
| Alexander | Foley | Lucas |
| Bachus | Forbes | Lungren, Daniel |
| Baker | Fortenberry | E. |
| Barrett (SC) | Fossella | Mack |
| Bartlett (MD) | Fox | Manzullo |
| Barton (TX) | Franks (AZ) | Marchant |
| Bass | Frelinghuysen | McCaul (TX) |
| Beauprez | Gallegly | McCotter |
| Biggart | Garrett (NJ) | McCrery |
| Bilirakis | Gerlach | McHenry |
| Blackburn | Gibbons | McHugh |
| Blunt | Gilchrest | McKeon |
| Boehlert | Gillmor | McMorris |
| Boehner | Gingrey | Mica |
| Bonilla | Gohmert | Miller (FL) |
| Bonner | Goode | Miller (MI) |
| Bono | Goodlatte | Moran (KS) |
| Boozman | Granger | Murphy |
| Boustany | Graves | Musgrave |
| Bradley (NH) | Green (WI) | Myrick |
| Brady (TX) | Gutknecht | Neugebauer |
| Brown (SC) | Hall | Ney |
| Brown-Waite, | Harris | Northup |
| Ginny | Hart | Norwood |
| Burgess | Hastings (WA) | Nunes |
| Burton (IN) | Hayes | Nussle |
| Buyer | Hayworth | Otter |
| Calvert | Hefley | Oxley |
| Camp (MI) | Hensarling | Paul |
| Cannon | Herger | Pearce |
| Cantor | Hobson | Pence |
| Capito | Hoekstra | Peterson (PA) |
| Carter | Hustettler | Petri |
| Castle | Hulshof | Pickering |
| Chabot | Hyde | Pitts |
| Chocola | Inglis (SC) | Platts |
| Coble | Issa | Poe |
| Cole (OK) | Istook | Pombo |
| Conaway | Jenkins | Porter |
| Crenshaw | Jindal | Pryce (OH) |
| Cubin | Johnson (CT) | Putnam |
| Culberson | Johnson (IL) | Radanovich |
| Davis (KY) | Johnson, Sam | Ramstad |
| Davis, Jo Ann | Jones (NC) | Regula |
| Davis, Tom | Keller | Rehberg |
| Deal (GA) | Kelly | Reichert |
| DeLay | Kennedy (MN) | Renzi |
| Dent | King (IA) | Reynolds |
| Diaz-Balart, L. | King (NY) | Rogers (AL) |
| Diaz-Balart, M. | Kirk | Rogers (KY) |
| Doolittle | Kline | Rogers (MI) |
| Drake | Knollenberg | Rohrabacher |
| Dreier | Kolbe | Ros-Lehtinen |
| Duncan | Kuhl (NY) | Royce |
| Ehlers | LaHood | Ryan (WI) |
| Emerson | Latham | Ryun (KS) |
| English (PA) | LaTourette | Saxton |
| Everett | Leach | Schmidt |
| Feeney | Lewis (CA) | Schwarz (MI) |
| Ferguson | Lewis (KY) | Sensenbrenner |

| | | |
|------------|-------------|--------------|
| Sessions | Stearns | Walsh |
| Shadegg | Sullivan | Weldon (FL) |
| Shaw | Sweeney | Weldon (PA) |
| Shays | Tancredo | Weller |
| Sherwood | Taylor (NC) | Westmoreland |
| Shimkus | Terry | Wicker |
| Shuster | Thornberry | Wilson (NM) |
| Simmons | Tiahrt | Wilson (SC) |
| Smith (NJ) | Tiberi | Wolf |
| Smith (TX) | Turner | Young (AK) |
| Sodrel | Upton | Young (FL) |
| Souder | Walden (OR) | |

NOES—187

| | | |
|----------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Abercrombie | Green, Al | Oberstar |
| Ackerman | Grijalva | Obey |
| Allen | Gutierrez | Oliver |
| Andrews | Harman | Ortiz |
| Baca | Hastings (FL) | Owens |
| Baird | Herseth | Pallone |
| Baldwin | Higgins | Pascrell |
| Barrow | Holden | Pastor |
| Bean | Holt | Payne |
| Becerra | Honda | Pelosi |
| Berkley | Hoolley | Peterson (MN) |
| Berry | Hoyer | Pomeroy |
| Bishop (GA) | Inlee | Price (NC) |
| Bishop (NY) | Israel | Rahall |
| Boren | Jackson (IL) | Rangel |
| Boswell | Jackson-Lee | Reyes |
| Boucher | (TX) | Ross |
| Boyd | Jefferson | Rothman |
| Brady (PA) | Johnson, E. B. | Ruppersberger |
| Brown (OH) | Kanjorski | Rush |
| Brown, Corrine | Kaptur | Ryan (OH) |
| Butterfield | Kennedy (RI) | Sabo |
| Capps | Kildee | Salazar |
| Capuano | Kilpatrick (MI) | Sánchez, Linda |
| Cardin | Kind | T. |
| Cardoza | Kucinich | Sanchez, Loretta |
| Carnahan | Langevin | Sanders |
| Case | Lantos | Schakowsky |
| Chandler | Larsen (WA) | Schiff |
| Clay | Larson (CT) | Schwartz (PA) |
| Cleaver | Lee | Scott (GA) |
| Clyburn | Levin | Scott (VA) |
| Conyers | Lewis (GA) | Serrano |
| Cooper | Lipinski | Sherman |
| Costa | Lofgren, Zoe | Skelton |
| Costello | Lowey | Lynch |
| Cramer | Lynch | Maloney |
| Crowley | Maloney | Markey |
| Cuellar | Marshall | Snyder |
| Cummings | Marshall | Solis |
| Davis (AL) | Matheson | Spratt |
| Davis (CA) | Matsui | Stark |
| Davis (FL) | McCarthy | Strickland |
| Davis (IL) | McCollum (MN) | Tanner |
| Davis (TN) | McDermott | Tauscher |
| DeFazio | McGovern | Taylor (MS) |
| DeGette | McIntyre | Thompson (CA) |
| Delahunt | McKinney | Thompson (MS) |
| DeLauro | McNulty | Tierney |
| Dicks | Meehan | Towns |
| Dingell | Meek (FL) | Udall (CO) |
| Doggett | Meeks (NY) | Udall (NM) |
| Edwards | Michaud | Van Hollen |
| Emanuel | Millender- | Velázquez |
| Engel | McDonald | Vislosky |
| Eshoo | Miller (NC) | Waters |
| Etheridge | Miller, George | Watson |
| Farr | Moore (KS) | Watt |
| Fattah | Moore (WI) | Waxman |
| Filner | Moran (VA) | Weiner |
| Ford | Murtha | Wexler |
| Frank (MA) | Nadler | Wu |
| Gonzalez | Napolitano | Wynn |
| Gordon | Neal (MA) | |

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—6

| | | |
|-------------|------------|---------------|
| Doyle | Jones (OH) | Roybal-Allard |
| Green, Gene | Mollohan | Stupak |

NOT VOTING—20

| | | |
|---------------|--------------|-----------|
| Berman | Hinojosa | Simpson |
| Bishop (UT) | Hunter | Thomas |
| Blumenauer | Kingston | Wamp |
| Campbell (CA) | Melancon | Wasserman |
| Carson | Miller, Gary | Schultz |
| Evans | Osborne | Whitfield |
| Hinchey | Price (GA) | Woolsey |

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAHOOD) (during the vote). Members are advised that 2 minutes remain in this vote.

□ 1155

So the motion to table was agreed to. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. CARSON. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably detained and unable to record my vote for rollcall vote 13. Had I been present I would have voted "no."

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I regret that I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 12, and "no" on rollcall No. 13.

LEGISLATIVE PROGRAM

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, the first thing I want to say is to my good friend, JOHN BOEHNER, congratulations on his election as majority leader. It is a great honor to be selected by your colleagues in the House, of course, but of your own party to be one of its leaders.

JOHN BOEHNER has, of course, been a leader in his party for many years now, chairman of a major committee, sponsor of one of the hallmark pieces of legislation the Bush administration points to as a great success. He worked in a bipartisan fashion on that bill.

I look forward to working with him. I know our side of the aisle looks forward to working with him. I want to congratulate him on his election.

Mr. Leader, let me ask you about a couple of things, and I will mention the PATRIOT Act. I know you are not sure what that status is. There are a couple of pieces of legislation, three pieces of legislation, that we do anticipate in the relatively near future. I wonder if you might comment on them.

I know we are not meeting next week and will not be back until the 28th of February. The tax reconciliation conference report, I talked to Mr. RANGEL about that this morning. His understanding is the conference is ongoing. Might you have any idea of when the tax reconciliation conference report, assuming it is approved, might come to the floor?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. I want to thank my colleague for yielding, and I thank you for your kind words of success. It is an honor to have been chosen as the new majority leader. Some of you can recall some words that I said earlier. When I won, I felt like the dog who caught the car. I have my teeth on the bumper. Maybe they are just around the bumper today.

I want to thank my colleague for his kind words. The House will have a dis-

trict work period next week. But when we come back and in the weeks following, up to the Easter recess, I would expect that the House will deal with the concurrent resolution on the budget. I believe that the House and Senate will receive today a supplemental spending request from the White House for the ongoing efforts in Iraq.

We expect the supplemental will include money for the ongoing efforts in Iraq and the war on terror. We also believe that the request will include money for the ongoing efforts in Katrina and Rita, in the cleanup efforts in the gulf area. Sometime over the next month or so, 6 weeks, we expect that we will be taking that up.

We also believe that when we get back, maybe in the first week that we are back, a possible motion to go to conference on the pension bill.

The tax reconciliation conference is under way. It is hard to predict when they will come to an agreement, but I would be surprised if it were the week that we came back.

Mr. HOYER. Thank you for that information. Mr. Leader, in terms of the budget itself, the budget resolution for 2007, when is your expectation that that might be on the floor? We understand that it might be marked up in committee the first week in March. Would it be your expectation that it would be on the floor the second week in March?

I yield to my friend.

Mr. BOEHNER. That is a bit unclear as of yet. It would be nice if we could do it that second week in March, but I think it is a little too early to predict exactly when it will be on the floor.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the gentleman for that. You mentioned the supplemental appropriation. We understand it may be coming down today. Has it come down? It is supposed to arrive today. Do you have any information as to how quickly we would attempt to consider and move the supplemental appropriation bill?

□ 1200

Mr. BOEHNER. Clearly, sometime in the coming weeks, but I think the Appropriations Committee will have their hands full looking at the request, going through all of the items in the request. I think we would like to have it through the House before the Easter recess, but, again, they have got an awful lot of work to do in the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. HOYER. I thank the leader for those comments.

I would say, Mr. Leader, not as a question but as an observation, as you know, there has been a great deal of concern on both sides of the aisle with reference to the PATRIOT Act, the provisions in the PATRIOT Act and to the extension of the PATRIOT Act. Obviously, the majority of the PATRIOT Act is in permanent law, but there are some portions that needed to be reauthorized.

I do not ask you a question because I know that this is still up in the air, but

we are hopeful that as soon as the majority may have a better view of the scheduling of the PATRIOT Act, the sooner you could inform us of that would be better.

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

Mr. HOYER. I yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. BOEHNER. As the gentleman knows, the Senate has taken up the reauthorization of the PATRIOT Act. When the Senate completes their work it will come here, and I think those of us in the House never want to predict the speed at which the Senate may or may not move this bill.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, reclaiming my time. I will tell the majority leader that I will not ask you the question trying to predict the actions of the other House in the future. I thank him for his comments, and again congratulate the leader on his election.

PROVIDING FOR AN ADJOURNMENT OR RECESS OF THE TWO HOUSES

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 345) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 345

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring). That when the House adjourns on the legislative day of Thursday, February 16, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand adjourned until 2 p.m. on Tuesday, February 28, 2006, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first; and that when the Senate recesses or adjourns on any day from Friday, February 17, 2006, through Tuesday, February 21, 2006, on a motion offered pursuant to this concurrent resolution by its Majority Leader or his designee, it stand recessed or adjourned until noon on Monday, February 27, 2006, or such other time on that day as may be specified by its Majority Leader or his designee in the motion to recess or adjourn, or until the time of any reassembly pursuant to section 2 of this concurrent resolution, whichever occurs first.

Sec. 2. The Speaker of the House and the Majority Leader of the Senate, or their respective designees, acting jointly after consultation with the Minority Leader of the House and the Minority Leader of the Senate, shall notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, to reassemble at such place and time as they may designate if, in their opinion, the public interest shall warrant it.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONDITIONAL ADJOURNMENT TO MONDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 2 p.m. on Monday, February 20,

2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its concurrence in House Concurrent Resolution 345, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

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

There was no objection.

AUTHORIZING THE SPEAKER TO DECLARE A RECESS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006, FOR THE PURPOSE OF RECEIVING IN JOINT MEETING THE HONORABLE SILVIO BERLUSCONI, PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF ITALY

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that it may be in order at any time on Wednesday, March 1, 2006, for the Speaker to declare a recess, subject to the call of the Chair, for the purpose of receiving in joint meeting the Honorable Silvio Berlusconi, Prime Minister of the Republic of Italy.

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

There was no objection.

DISPENSING WITH CALENDAR WEDNESDAY BUSINESS ON WEDNESDAY, MARCH 1, 2006

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the business in order under the Calendar Wednesday rule be dispensed with on Wednesday, March 1, 2006.

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

There was no objection.

APPOINTMENT OF HON. MAC THORNBERRY, HON. FRANK R. WOLF, AND HON. TOM DAVIS TO ACT AS SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE TO SIGN ENROLLED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS THROUGH FEBRUARY 28, 2006

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
February 16, 2006.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MAC THORNBERRY, the Honorable FRANK R. WOLF, and the Honorable TOM DAVIS to act as Speaker pro tempore to sign enrolled bills and joint resolutions through February 28, 2006.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the appointment is approved.

There was no objection.

NEW ORLEANS' TULANE HOSPITAL REOPENS

(Mr. BURGESS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, my committee, the Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, held a field hearing down in the City of New Orleans during the January break. For me, it was my second trip to that storm-ravaged area; and, once again, you just cannot help but be overwhelmed by the size and the scope of the destruction that has happened down on our gulf coast area.

But Mr. Speaker, although we were there primarily to study the health care issues going on, and there were some significant problems down there, we saw the facility at LSU, Charity Hospital, one of the venerable old institutions in this country's history for training of medical doctors, completely in tatters. But there was not all bad news. There was some good news. Right across the street at Tulane University Medical Center, HCA, the Hospital Corporation of America, had that facility almost up and ready to go.

Mr. Speaker, I am happy to report that yesterday they held the ribbon-cutting for New Orleans Tulane Hospital as it reopened. In fact, Mr. Speaker, according to a news report, more than 100 nurses and doctors, in lab coats and scrubs, performed the wave in celebration, prompting Mayor Ray Nagin to ask them what was in their coffee. "I don't know what you're taking at Tulane, but I want some of that," he said.

Well, Mr. Mayor, it is old-fashioned American ingenuity and entrepreneurship. It works every time it is tried. I hope we will see more of that down in New Orleans.

ADMINISTRATION MISSING IN ACTION

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

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, last week, like so many Members, I attended the funeral celebration of Coretta Scott King. Her words: Struggle is a never-ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation.

And, of course, President Carter was profound when he talked about the face of racism; and that face is the face of the Katrina victims. As we take a look at the devastation, man-made devastation that this administration, the Bush administration have, as the report says, it is no question they did not do a good job in the past. But we are not talking about the past. We are talking about the present. We are talking about 6 months later, here and now, and the Bush administration is missing in action.

But the sad thing is that the leadership in this House, the leadership in the other body is also missing in action. We have failed the people of the United States in the People's House.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

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

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

OUR NEW 51ST STATE

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

Mr. NORWOOD. Mr. Speaker, there was a very subtle illegal guestworker plan stuck in the budget the administration just submitted to Congress. That budget calls for the United States to allow over one million new illegal immigrants to infiltrate our borders during 2007.

As a matter of fact, last year's budget is allowing one million illegal aliens to enter this year as well. That is how many immigrants enter our country illegally each year under our current enforcement plans.

We know it will happen because it happens every year under current enforcement policy; and we are going right ahead with the same old plan, knowing in advance that it will be a near total failure.

We continue talking about how we are adding 1,500 new border agents in 2007. That won't be in the field until 2009, letting another two million illegal aliens to walk across our border.

We talk about how we are adding technology and fencing, but that won't be ready until 2010, allowing another million illegals in our country.

Right now, with our current budget and reform plans, we are, by default, agreeing to allow an additional four million illegal aliens into our country. That is equivalent to the population of South Carolina or Oregon.

Think about that. We are being asked to add a 51st state populated entirely by low-income illegal aliens.

Mr. Speaker, I cannot find an excuse for this. We know right now how to bring this flood of illegal immigration to a virtual halt, and I think within the next 2 weeks. We need somewhere between 36 and 48,000 troops immediately deployed to the southern border.

Now, the Minuteman Project in April showed that with between 18 and 24 additional enforcement personnel per mile, we can effectively secure our border for the first time. And it was not just the Minuteman Project that revealed these statistics. The U.S. Border Patrol conducted similar demonstration projects in 1993. Operation Blockade in El Paso and Operation Gatekeeper in San Diego produced the identical same results.

We have a good idea on how much a deployment like this would cost. \$2.5 billion a year. But, you know what? That is less than 4 percent of the minimum \$70 billion a year we are currently spending covering the health care, education and the different costs for illegal immigrants.

We already know how long it would take to get these troops on line and end this nightmare. One week. That is how long it took NORTHCOM to place 70,000 National Guard and regular Army troops on the Gulf Coast in response to Katrina, and we are still railing about how that took too long. One week.

If the burden of the National Guard is too heavy, we can ask our governors to loan the Nation's 15,000 State defense forces to help. We can call up the Coast Guard Auxiliary and the U.S. Air Force Civil Air Patrol.

We have laws in place, thanks to changes we made in the 108th Congress. Title 32, Section 9, U.S. Code now allows our governors to call out their National Guard for homeland security missions such as this at 100 percent Federal expense.

□ 1215

Governor Janet Napolitano of Arizona has supposedly made such a call on the Department of Defense. Her State legislature voted earlier this week to force her to follow up on that request.

Mr. Speaker, we need every Member of the House to urge their Governor to deploy all necessary forces to combat this invasion. We need the President to order the Department of Defense to fund this mission at 100 percent, and we need new legislation forcing the issue if action is not forthcoming. We can solve this problem if only Congress has the will.

THE VICTIMS OF HURRICANE KATRINA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CORRINE BROWN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, as I said in my 1-minute and I want to repeat, because so many Members and people from all over the country went to the great celebration of the life of Coretta Scott King, her words: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and you win it in every generation."

And clearly we have a failure in this generation. If you would take a look, as President Carter said, at the faces of the Katrina victims: the faces of the poor, old, black and white, poor, infrastructure not in place. Thousands of people died because of the inefficient government. The report that was released, "A Failure of Initiative," was released by the House Select Committee on Katrina, which criticized the

poor preparation for the response to Hurricane Katrina. We all know that the slow response to Hurricane Katrina led to mass destruction in the gulf region, particularly in New Orleans. The loss of lives, the loss of homes. But those were just a few problems which were revealed. But the sad fact is that those conditions exist today. Six months later those conditions still exist. The question I ask now is whether the Bush administration is prepared today for a disaster of any proportion, man made or natural disaster.

There is no question that the Bush administration failed in its response to Hurricane Katrina. The sad thing is, and I want to repeat, that it continues to fail the victims of the storm today. I am calling on the people's House. The Congressional Black Caucus leadership has put together a comprehensive bill, H.R. 4197, a bill that would lead to the recovery of the gulf coast region for the scope of Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation, some of the points made in the committee's report and one that we made today in our press conference.

This devastation stands today, 6 months later. The region of New Orleans looks like a hurricane disaster, bombed-out area. It sends a serious indictment that we can spend \$6 billion a month in Iraq, and yet we cannot solve the problems right here at home.

Where is the leadership in this House? Where is the leadership in the other body? And where is the leadership in the Bush administration? And I am starting with the top, the President, George W. Bush.

And I thank God that when we had our disasters in Florida that we had another administration that we worked with, the Clinton administration. I did not deal with the FEMA that was inept. Because we have had fires in Florida, we have had tornadoes in Florida, we have had hurricane after hurricane in Florida; but we dealt with a different administration, an administration that was willing to come to the community, that one piece of paper, if it was not filled out, we were able to get services. And how do you get that piece of paper? Well, we controlled that piece of paper.

God help us. God help America. And will the people in the people's House speak up for the people in the gulf region.

(1) The failure of a complete evacuation of New Orleans;

(2) Levees protecting New Orleans were not built for the most severe hurricanes, leading to a breach in the system;

(3) The collapse of local law enforcement and lack of effective public communications led to civil unrest and further delayed relief.

These are just a few of the problems which reveal that the government was not adequately prepared for a disaster of this proportion. The question that I ask now is whether the government is prepared today for a disaster of any proportion, man-made or natural.

There is no question the Bush administration failed in its response to Hurricane Katrina.

The sad thing is that it continues to fail the victims of the storm still today.

Along with my colleagues in the Congressional Black Caucus, we are urging the Bush administration to support our hurricane relief bill, H.R. 4197, a bill that if passed into law, would be a great first step towards the recovery and restoration of the gulf coast region.

GENERAL MESSAGE POINTS FOR CBC PRESS CONFERENCE

The House Select Committee Report on Katrina, "A Failure of Initiative," is a scathing indictment of the incompetence of the actions of the Bush Administration and the federal government.

Unfortunately, almost six months after Hurricane Katrina devastated the Gulf Coast region, the incompetence of the Bush Administration continues everyday to the detriment of the 1.5 million people who were displaced.

Natural disasters will continue to occur and we are not prepared to handle them. Man-made disasters may happen unexpectedly, and we clearly are not prepared to handle them either.

The Congressional Black Caucus has been active legislatively and we have been in regular contact with the people of the Gulf Coast region. We are in the planning stages of scheduling another visit to the region and holding a hearing in Washington around our legislation and related topics. We will also be holding the people in decision-making positions, like the President, Secretary Chertoff, the FEMA director, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Congressional leadership in the House and Senate accountable for their actions.

WASHINGTON, DC.—With respect to the House Select Committee Report on Hurricane Katrina, Congresswoman Corrine Brown made the following statement:

I would like to begin with a quote from Coretta Scott King: "Struggle is a never ending process. Freedom is never really won. You earn it and win it in every generation."

My colleagues and I in the Congressional Black Caucus, the Hispanic Caucus, and the Asian Caucus, were utterly disappointed upon reading the report, "A Failure of Initiative," which was released by the House Select Committee on Katrina, and criticizes the poor preparation and response to the hurricane.

We all know that the slow response to Hurricane Katrina led to the massive destruction of the Gulf Coast region, particularly New Orleans. The numerous warnings, inadequate planning and apathy in preparing the region for the scope of Hurricane Katrina's massive devastation are some of the points made in the Committee's report.

Unfortunately, the government's botched response has ruined the lives of millions of Americans, who are now forced to go without the most basic human needs. In the report, The Select Committee identified failures at all levels of government which led to the destruction of the region.

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

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

SIMPLIFIED USA TAX

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to

claim the time of the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. JONES).

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to focus on an issue that is critical to the survival of America's manufacturing base and the stabilization of American growth and job creation.

While Washington continues to explore initiatives to restrain outsourcing and level the playing field for U.S. employers in the international trading system, it is imperative that we maximize the Federal Government's most potent economic tool, tax policy, to promote growth.

In order for U.S. employers and businesses to remain competitive in the 21st century's global market, Congress must create a Tax Code that serves as a source of support to American companies rather than as a hindrance.

I recently introduced legislation, the Simplified USA Tax, or SUSAT, to help untangle the web of red tape that individual and corporate taxpayers have to navigate every year. My proposal includes a new and better way of taxing businesses that will allow them to compete and win in global markets in a way that exports American-made products, not American jobs. I have studied this issue and I believe that, if enacted in America, this innovative approach to business taxation will set the worldwide standard and create an opportunity for the United States to thrive.

In fact, many of the provisions included in my bill were recommended by the President's advisory panel on Federal Tax Reform as part of their Growth and Investment Initiative.

Under my proposal all businesses, incorporated or not, are taxed alike at an 8 percent rate on the first \$150,000 of profit and at 12 percent on all amounts above that small-business level. Additionally, all businesses will be allowed a credit of 7.65 percent payroll tax that they pay under the current law. One of the most pro-growth elements in SUSAT is that all costs for plant and equipment inventory in the U.S. will be deductible in the year of purchase.

There is broad-based support for expensing in Washington. Recent data show that orders for capital goods were on a steady decline from early 2000. However, when Congress passed "bonus depreciation," an initiative that I worked on with my colleague, Mr. WELLER from Illinois, as part of the 2002 and 2003 tax bills, the trend was immediately reversed and orders for goods steadily rose.

Every economic principle and every piece of data tells us that immediate expensing must be a major component of any tax reform package. It has the highest bang for the buck, about \$9 of

growth for every \$1 of tax cut. It has bipartisan appeal, and it directly translates into greater competitiveness and better paying jobs.

Another key component of SUSAT which will make American businesses more competitive is border adjustability. SUSAT would end the perverse practice, unique among our trading partners, of taxing our own exports. The absence of some type of border tax adjustments for exports of American-made goods places our businesses, particularly manufacturers, at a major disadvantage.

Any entrepreneur will tell you that whether a product is taxed at the corporate level or through a consumption tax paid at the register, the burden will fall largely on businesses, which includes the employees and shareholders. So when our trading partners rebate the taxes paid to their businesses and we do not, it necessarily means that we are at a disadvantage.

Under SUSAT, all export sales income is exempt and imports are taxed at a 12 percent rate. In turn, all companies that produce abroad and sell back into U.S. markets will be required to bear the same tax burden as companies that produce and sell from here in the United States. This policy will finally take away the bias in favor of imports built into our current tax structure, which, in my view, has contributed to our record trade deficit, which continues to increase at a breath-taking rate.

Mr. Speaker, we noticed that on Monday the WTO rejected an appeal of an early ruling which found transition rules repealing the export subsidy known as FSC/ETI. This decision requires us to come back and look again at fundamental reform. Not only are our products at a disadvantage in the global marketplace; the EU now has a legal right to impose sanctions on American products, giving them an even greater competitive disadvantage. Monday's decision makes tax reform even more timely and even more essential.

The other underlying absurdity in our Tax Code is that we currently condition territoriality on foreign subsidiaries reinvesting profits in foreign countries instead of repatriating the profits for investment in the United States. I authored a provision with Senator ENSIGN that made it into the tax law that effectively allowed the repatriation of over \$300 billion in foreign profits that have come back into the United States and have been reinvested into our homeland.

Anyone who has any doubts that U.S. companies have an incentive to keep money abroad has just to look at those figures. Until we change our current structure, the foreign companies will continue to reap the economic benefits of our tax laws' backwards incentives.

The time has come for us to move forward on fundamental tax reform, and I challenge my colleagues in the House and on the Ways and Means

Committee to move forward on this issue to engage the Treasury. At a time when we need to make sure we are doing everything to make our economy competitive, now is the time to move forward on tax reform.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. KAPTUR addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

MEDICARE PART D IMPLEMENTATION, MEDICAID REIMBURSEMENT, AND COMMUNITY PHARMACISTS

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from South Dakota (Ms. HERSETH) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. HERSETH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a problem of potentially catastrophic proportions. It is not a matter of foreign policy or national security, and it is not natural disasters like this past summer's hurricanes or the ongoing drought in States like my home State of South Dakota.

No. This is a man-made disaster. This debacle is of government creation and, in particular, legislative irresponsibility. This is a crisis that we, as elected representatives, have an obligation and a duty to address. I rise to discuss the crisis facing our community pharmacists, particularly those who serve rural communities.

As I mentioned on Tuesday of this week, of all the health care professionals struggling with the implementation of the new Medicare drug benefit, pharmacists appear to be the most negatively affected. This past weekend I spent several hours meeting with health professionals from South Dakota communities, small and large, to discuss their ongoing efforts to implement the new Medicare prescription drug benefit.

These meetings proved incredibly beneficial to me and to my staff, and I have scheduled more of them in the near future. I encourage my colleagues to take the time to sit down with those administering the program in their districts. It is important that you hear from them first hand. But because of the urgency of this issue, I feel compelled to share with you now some thoughts on the crisis facing rural and community pharmacists.

Here is what is happening: PHARMACIES large and small receive no or inadequate compensation for the time they spend filling prescriptions. This is particularly troubling for those serving

“dual-eligible” beneficiaries, those who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid; and those in assisted living facilities who take large numbers of pre-packaged medication. Much of the responsibility of ensuring the drug benefit’s implementation has been assumed by the pharmacist. To the extent that it is working at all, we have them to thank. In many ways for many of the pharmacists I spoke with, much of the damage has already been done.

On the horizon, however, are significant cuts to the Medicaid program that will be achieved primarily by changing the way we reimburse pharmacies for prescription drugs. That is right. The choices we made during the budget reconciliation process once again targeted our Nation’s pharmacists, without asking for corresponding sacrifices from the insurance companies or the pharmaceutical manufacturers, which is outrageous.

□ 1230

It is truly shameful. And the implications will be significant. After absorbing significant losses during the rollout of the Medicare drug program, pharmacists will soon be hit by changes to the Medicaid program, and many simply will not survive. This one-two punch is not only bad policy, it is inexcusable.

Health and Human Services Secretary Mike Leavitt even praised pharmacists last week for their “heroic” efforts in shouldering the burden for implementing Medicare Part D. Their reward for their selfless and heroic behavior? Drastic pharmacy reimbursement cuts in the Medicaid program that will have a devastating impact on our communities, disproportionately impacting the poorest and sickest Americans and that will no doubt put hundreds if not thousands of small businesses out of business.

I encourage my colleagues to talk to their pharmacists, learn more about this situation, and work with me in a bipartisan manner to ensure that we are not sacrificing the health of our Nation and the good-will of our community pharmacists by taking the path of least resistance and caving to large and powerful interests.

JOB STATISTICS NOT ACCURATELY TRACKING JOB GROWTH

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

Mr. DREIER. Mr. Speaker, last night I stood here in the well to talk about our out-of-date job surveys that we have, the payroll versus the household surveys. I discussed the changing nature of job creation in the 21st century economy.

We have evolved into a technologically advanced, upwardly mobile, highly flexible workforce. The types of jobs, the way jobs are created and our

methods for finding new work have all changed dramatically in the 6½ decades since our job surveys were developed; and yet, Mr. Speaker, our surveys remain fundamentally unchanged over that period of time. The result has been job statistics that are increasingly incapable of accurately tracking job growth in a dynamic economy.

This afternoon I would like to talk about another economic indicator that is unable to fully portray the true state of our modern economy, that being the gross domestic product.

Growth in GDP is our broadest measure of economic strength; and, as such, it is perhaps the most commonly cited and heavily relied upon statistic. And yet, like our job surveys, our methods for calculating GDP were developed in the industrial age and have remained unchanged while our economy has been transformed dramatically, as we all know.

The need for assessing and tracking GDP was borne out of the Great Depression. As our Nation faced the worst economic crisis in its history, policymakers found that they lacked the tools to assess whether our economy was getting better or getting worse, so the Department of Commerce began the first accounting of national income and output. In an industrial economy, this meant tallying such tangibles as machines, tractors and buildings.

Purchasing new factory equipment or building a new facility was counted as long-term investment, while spending on research or training was not. For example, AT&T’s investment in Bell Labs where the transistor radio was invented didn’t show up at all in the GDP numbers. Even at the time, the economists who developed the methodology recognized the limitations. But an economy based on heavy industrial manufacturing could be adequately analyzed, by and large, on the basis of tangible, easily identified and easily quantified investments.

However, as we all know, Mr. Speaker, today’s economy is drastically different from the economy that we faced following the Great Depression. Our knowledge-based economy is based on ideas rather than things. Investing in research and development, developing brand equity and exporting best practices are driving successful businesses in our innovation economy. Yet they are absent from our most important measure of economic vitality, and by missing these intangible but fundamentally important factors, our GDP numbers are misleading.

For example, Mr. Speaker, since 2000, the 10 largest U.S. companies that report research and development spending have increased capital spending by only 2 percent. That means that the types of investments that are captured in the GDP calculation, new buildings and more equipment, have been meager over the last half decade. Based on this number, we would be led to believe that some of the country’s greatest engines of growth are stagnating and failing to make long-term investments.

But, Mr. Speaker, these same 10 companies have actually increased R&D, research and development spending, by a whopping 42 percent over that period of time. They are investing rigorously in tomorrow’s innovations, better products, better services, better ways of doing things. Our economy’s creative thinkers are propelling our economy forward and ensuring growth in the future. Yet our old economy calculations miss this good economic news entirely.

To give another example, look at how the value of Apple’s iPod is incorporated into GDP. While superior design, quality and marketing, all developed in my State of California, have led to a global powerhouse brand, the actual product, the iPod, is assembled in China. So when the Commerce Department’s Bureau of Economic Analysis calculates our GDP, it does not count the \$800 million, nearly a billion dollars, that Apple spent in research and development and brand development last year. It merely counts the number of units shipped here from China and sold in the United States. As Business Week put it in an article 2 weeks ago, this sort of accounting reduces Apple, one of the world’s greatest innovators, to nothing but a reseller of imported goods.

Mr. Speaker, there is no doubt that quantifying intangibles like technical innovation and marketing savvy presents some formidable challenges; and adopting hasty changes that make our GDP numbers too confusing or complicated would obviously be no improvement to the status quo. It is essential that we begin to look at ways to make our economic statistics more meaningful by bringing them into the 21st century. We need to do that by looking at these major modifications.

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.)

KEEPING MERCURY OUT OF VACCINATIONS

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

Mr. BURTON of Indiana. Mr. Speaker, over the past couple of weeks in the newspapers and on television and on the radios across this country people have been warned not to eat too much tuna and other seafood because of the mercury content in the fish. They said that women who are pregnant and women and men who are eating a lot of these seafood products could have neurological problems created because they are eating so much seafood with mercury in them.

I think that it is good that they are telling the American people that. But

at the same time that that is going on, our health agencies are allowing mercury to be put into almost every vaccine an adult gets and many of the vaccines that children get.

Since the late 1920s and early 1930s, there has been a product called Thimerosal put into many of the vaccines, in fact, most of the vaccines that people get today. Thimerosal is 50 percent ethyl mercury, and mercury is toxic to the neurological system of the human being. Yet we have talked about this for 4, 5, 6 years now, and we cannot get the mercury out of the vaccines. It is being used as a preservative.

The interesting thing about it is that it has never been tested. You might say it was tested back in 1929, because they said they tested it on 27 people that had meningitis. All of them died from meningitis, but none of them died from the mercury they were being injected with. But they died anyhow from the meningitis. There wasn't enough time to find out about the neurological problems that might ensue because they were having mercury injected into their bodies.

Our children today, before they go to the first grade, get between 25 and 30 shots. Most of those shots used to contain mercury. Now there are only about three or four that contain mercury. Nevertheless, it has caused severe neurological problems in children.

We have gone from where 1 in 10,000 children were found to be autistic to one in 166. It is an absolute epidemic. We have also seen a tremendous increase in people that have Alzheimer's and other neurological diseases. Yet we continue to allow our health agencies to allow the pharmaceutical industry to put mercury into the vaccines going into every single human being into this country, and in particular our military personnel overseas.

Now we are hearing about the bird flu, Mr. Speaker, and we are going to spend billions of dollars preparing this country for a possible bird flu epidemic. That means they are going to create vaccines, and those vaccines, in all probability, will have mercury in them, which means that every single person that is vaccinated with the bird flu vaccine will probably be getting Thimerosal in them, which is 50 percent ethyl mercury.

It does cause severe neurological problems when it is given over a long period of time. Your brain accumulates this mercury. It doesn't chelate out of the body in a very efficient way. So if you get 10 shots, that mercury stays and keeps building up, and it gets worse and worse as time goes by. The health agencies know this is a problem, and yet we continue to allow mercury to be put into these vaccines.

So today, since the people of this country are being warned about not eating too much fish that contains mercury like tuna and so forth, I think it is high time that the health agencies of this country get the mercury out of all vaccines that are being injected

into children and adults in this country because of the danger to their neurological system. It is extremely important.

It can be done. This Thimerosal is supposedly a preservative. If we go to single shot vials, which don't cost much more than the multi-shot vials being used, you can take the mercury out of them because you don't need that preservative in there, you don't need that kind of purifying agent, if you will, in that vaccine.

It is extremely important, Mr. Speaker, that we get mercury out of all vaccines. Right now, with the warnings being given to people not to eat too much fish with mercury in them, it is high time our health agencies get mercury out of all vaccines.

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

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

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

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

RAISING CONCERNS ABOUT UNITED ARAB EMIRATES' TAKING OVER U.S. PORTS

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

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to bring to the House's attention a transaction that is being contemplated on five of our major ports, five important ports of entry in the United States. New Orleans, Miami, Newark, Philadelphia and New York are all being considered as an asset to be transferred to the United Arab Emirates soon after review of the transactional details.

I am concerned about this transaction for several reasons. First and foremost, it has occurred under what is called Council for Foreign Investments, as it is known, chaired by the Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Snow, and multiple agencies of the United States Government to review transactions launched by foreign entities to purchase assets here in the United States.

Why am I concerned about the United Arab Emirates' ownership and potential management of our ports of entry, these five strategic ports? For many reasons.

Just yesterday, it was reported that the United Arab Emirates was in negotiations urging a more robust trade relationship with Iran. Just yesterday, they were making a decision to move

forward with a more robust trading platform with Iran.

I am sure most of our colleagues realize that in recent days we have gone to enormous lengths to convince our allies and our friends around the world to put pressure on Iran in order to reduce the likelihood of their using nuclear weapons or building nuclear capabilities. So at a time when we are trying to get our international partners to put pressure on Iran, the United Arab Emirates is doing the exact opposite by encouraging and engaging in trade debate with Iran.

The United Arab Emirates has worked with us since 9/11 on helping us fight the War on Terror, but it has always been well known and documented that a number of the terrorist activity planning and financing was taking place in these very countries that would now have control of our ports.

In this country, if we were asked to turn over our airport security to another foreign national, people would be rightfully outraged. But in this particular transaction, we cannot seem to get any information as to what are the requirements of security, what are the requirements for people and personnel who would be employed there, what are the kind of safeguards of inspection of cargo.

I have long stated my concern on port security. I feel we have failed to adequately secure cargo coming into this country. Now I am told in my inquiry to Secretary Snow that they couldn't really answer any of my questions yesterday in the committee because it was a more secretive or at least private transaction that could not be commented on.

As a Member of Congress, it bothers me that we have a transaction being considered and contemplated where we have no information provided to Members of Congress.

□ 1245

Tomorrow, President Bush travels to my home State of Florida, and he will visit the port of Tampa, not a port being considered for sale, but a port nonetheless, a very important port of commerce in the State of Florida.

I hope the President as he flies to Florida will contemplate the utilization of the law known as Exxon-Florio, which allows the President to intercede and stop a transfer of assets if it is reflected to be of some national security concern.

We have recently seen, because of the outpouring of opposition to the Chinese Government's acquisition of a United States domestic oil producer, we have seen that deal unravel because of domestic pressure on not allowing the Chinese Government to take ownership of a domestic refinery operation.

Now, I hope the same outrage is expressed by our constituents in trying to figure out what is involved in this transaction. How can we bring to fruition, at least we hope, a termination of these engagements, and continue the

operation of the ports as they currently are conducted.

Again, they are the largest seaports in the United States on the eastern seaboard, including New Orleans, so the potential threat to our country is not imagined, but is real. We have heightened security, as I mentioned, at the airports. We are trying to heighten security at the seaports, but I believe we will be impeded if we do not look at this transaction.

It is not a foreign entity; it is a foreign government that seeks to have controlling interest in these six ports on the eastern seaboard. We again inquired of Secretary Snow yesterday. We inquired yesterday of Ambassador Portman. I hope some answers are forthcoming as to how they strategically thought through this transaction.

But it is my fervent hope that as we continue to debate and discuss this issue that the President again will use the authority granted to him by the Congress and intercede and not allow the transaction to take place.

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

(Mr. WYNN 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 gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California 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. GOHMERT) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. GOHMERT 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 Maryland (Mr. CUMMINGS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

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

THE NEED FOR STRAIGHT TALK ON NATIONAL SECURITY

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

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, as I talk to my constituents, Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike, there is an increasing concern that the Bush administration is not talking straight to the American people on important issues of national security.

We know that during the lead-up to the war in Iraq, the intelligence community was put under pressure to come up with a certain view of the facts. And where we put ideology over facts, instead of having the facts shape our policy, it was the other way around.

We have now learned recently from a former CIA analyst, Paul Pillar, that not only did we play with the facts with respect to whether or not there were weapons of mass destruction and whether or not there were links between al Qaeda and Saddam Hussein, but we also ignored many of the facts brought to us by some of the intelligence community with respect to the difficulties we would confront in Iraq in the case of a military invasion there.

And what happened, and he has laid this out very clearly, is the administration cherry-picked the information. They always took the rosy view of the facts as they presented us with their support of their case and tended to ignore those facts that did not support their case.

Now, whether you were for or against taking military action in Iraq, we should all be able to agree as Americans that it is important that we listen to those people who have experience, who have the professional know-how, people in our intelligence community who have spent years looking into issues around the world and in this case, issues with respect to the Middle East.

So I think it should concern all Americans that the administration decided to ignore warnings from non-partisan individuals who brought information to their attention. And it is not just the failure to take heed of that information. Now we are seeing the consequences in terms of the manpower in different intelligence agencies.

U.S. News and World Report has a story about how we are losing many of the most experienced people in the CIA as a result of the fact that they feel pressure to take a political position or that they are forced out of their positions. We are losing many of our most experienced people in the ranks of our intelligence community, and that certainly is not good for our national security.

We would have thought that after 9/11 we would have heeded some lessons, and in fact we formed a bipartisan 9/11 Commission that came out with a number of recommendations. One of their recommendations was to do more about the so-called "lose nukes," nuclear weapons in the former Soviet Union.

Unfortunately, if you look at what has been done to date, it is very little. We are not doing what we should with

respect to the Nunn-Lugar program; and that is why if you look at the most recent report by the 9/11 Commission, they have given this administration and this Congress Ds and Fs, failing grades, in a whole range of categories, making it clear that we have not learned our lessons and that we are not more prepared.

In fact, we know we are not prepared because all we have to do is look at the government's response to Hurricane Katrina and the recent reports that have come out in the last couple of days showing the total failure of initiative by the Federal Government.

You know, a lot of people talk a good game about being prepared to deal with national security threats; but the fact of the matter is when you take the lid off and look underneath as to what is actually being done, the news is not good: more people leaving our intelligence agencies, the fact that we are continuing to get failing grades from the 9/11 Commission.

And just the other day in the Government Reform Committee, we had a hearing with a number of whistleblowers, all from national security agencies. These are people who have uncovered abuses within national security agencies, from the FBI to the NSA.

And instead of welcoming these individuals who have come forward to present the administration and the public with some truths, the testimony of these individuals, all under oath, sworn under oath, is that they are actually being punished for having come forward to try and tell the truth.

Now, again, I do not care what party affiliation you may have; it is not in the security interests of this country for us to punish people who come forward and tell the truth and reveal abuses that are going on within different national security agencies. That undermines our national security. That undermines our credibility as a government.

So I would just suggest that as we listen to a lot of the rhetoric from the administration, we remember that, unfortunately, this is the gang that cannot shoot straight with the American people. And in the last couple of days we have learned that that is not just figuratively true, it is also, unfortunately, actually true.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

BALLOTS NOT BULLETS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms.

MCKINNEY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to begin my remarks this afternoon by congratulating first of all the people of Haiti, a small, very poor country that is our neighbor, but a country whose people still believe in the power of democracy. They still believe in the power of the vote. And so despite all odds, despite all intimidation, the people of Haiti overwhelmingly showed up at the polls and they voted. And not only did they show up at the polls and vote; they demanded that their vote be counted.

Now, we understand that there were about 85,000 ballots that had nothing on them. They were probably ready to have something put on them. But the people of Haiti demanded that the vote that was actually voted and the results of that actual vote count be the results of the election.

And I am also down here this afternoon to congratulate not only the people of Haiti, who prevailed, but to congratulate Rene Preval, who was their candidate of choice.

Now, the people of Haiti have to be congratulated because they have gone to the polls over and over and over and over again. They have gone to the polls. A few years ago, when I had just come to Congress, they went to the polls, before I got to Congress, they went to the polls and they elected a former priest, a man of the cloth, a man of the community, of the neighborhood, a man of the poor to represent them.

And hired thugs who were on the CIA payroll, whose leader enjoys the solace and solitude of America's neighborhoods, he should not even be here, helped to oust President Aristide.

And so the hopes and aspirations of the people of Haiti, who were finally able to throw off the yoke of American-imposed and -supported dictatorship, saw their hopes and their dreams vanish once again.

But thank goodness there was an administration in Washington, DC and there was a change in the face of the Democratic Caucus and so Members of the Congressional Black Caucus would not stand to allow this outrage to continue. And so working in concert with the Clinton administration, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus worked day in and day out and successfully saw the return of Jean Bertrand Aristide to power.

But that was not enough. Because, as soon as Clinton was out of office, and the George W. Bush administration was in office, something else happened, after the people of Haiti voted to renew President Aristide's mandate. And what happened happened 2 years ago.

The people of Haiti, in free, fair and transparent elections, elected Jean Bertrand Aristide to another term in office. U.S. Armed Forces showed up at his house and took him and his family away, put them on a plane, destination unknown. Kind of like what happened with the Katrina survivors.

So once again, the people of Haiti saw that when they went to the polls, participated in the process, put their full faith and confidence in the power of the ballot box, ballot box, not bullets, that bullets from some place else could come and dash their dreams. So now former President Aristide lives in South Africa.

I have to acknowledge the tremendous role that was played by my sister Congresswoman, Ms. WATERS. Here she is. Now I am all discombobulated because my sister is here.

□ 1300

I will let her tell her story. MAXINE, can I invite you to please tell the story of how you saved a little piece of America's honor by making sure that Jean Bertram Aristide was at least safely delivered to his final destination.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to my sister. Ms. WATERS. I thank you very much. Congresswoman, I am very pleased that you have taken time to come to this floor to talk about what has just happened in Haiti.

As you know, Haiti for too long has been dropped off of the corporate media's agenda. And whenever they have written stories, for the most part it has been distorted information which helped to lead to the unrest and the destabilization of Haiti. But you are absolutely correct. There was a coup d'etat that removed President Aristide from office. They did drop him off in the Central Republic of Africa.

I got together with Randal Robinson and a few other people, and we chartered a plane, and we traveled to the Central Republic of Africa, and we negotiated with President Bokassa I think it is, who was holding him there and was afraid to release him because they had some kind of agreement with the French and also because the United States had brought him there. But we were able to convince them after many hours up in that country that they should let him go.

As a matter of fact, they did not want us to leave. They had said we could not leave the night we came in. We basically said to them we had to leave and we had to leave with him and that if I was not back in Washington by the next day or so, then they would consider that he had kidnapped me also and that he was holding Aristide prisoner. And they did not want that reputation. They were negotiating at the World Bank at the time, and they did not know what it all meant, but we finally got him out of there.

We took him to Jamaica where they kept him for 6 weeks. P.J. Patterson, the president there, gave him refuge until President Mbeki could be re-elected in South Africa. After his re-election, he gave him asylum in South Africa, and that is where he is now, and now he is working with the university. But the fact of the matter is he is alive and he is well.

I hope that he gets some joy in understanding that the Lavalas Party did

win, even though there was an attempt maybe to deny them the win. The people rose up. The people went into Port-au-Prince, and the people went to the Montana Hotel, and they were basically nonviolent, but they went in numbers. And they had no choice but to work something out.

I think Congresswoman MCKINNEY is telling you about the ballots and we will be talking about that a little more. I yield back and thank you very much, Congresswoman.

PARLIAMENTARY INQUIRY

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have a parliamentary inquiry. I would like to suspend my special order. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) has requested a 5-minute special order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). The gentlewoman may yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) on her time.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I have an hour, so I will yield to the gentlewoman.

CONGRATULATING RENE PREVAL, PRESIDENT-ELECT OF HAITI

Ms. WATERS. Thank you very much, Congresswoman. I appreciate your generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I really came to the floor today to congratulate Rene Preval, the President-elect of Haiti. Rene Preval was just declared the winner in Haiti's presidential elections this morning with 51.15 percent of the vote. President-elect Preval has said that his first priority as president will be to provide relief to the two-thirds of Haiti's population that is living in extreme poverty. His plans include universal public school education and at least a free meal a day for all of the poor children.

A little bit about him. He was first elected President of Haiti in 1995 as a member of the Lavalas Party, the party that represented the poor majority. He succeeded President Aristide and served until President Aristide's reelection in 2000. President Aristide, of course, as we have just talked about, was forced to leave Haiti 2 years ago in a coup d'etat that was planned and implemented and orchestrated by the United States, France and Canada.

This election that took place on Tuesday, February 7 was very interesting. At first, the early results showed an overwhelming victory for Rene Preval. Many polling stations posted their results the day after the election, and Preval won between 60 and 90 percent of the vote in all of these polling places. But then something happened. By Thursday, the election officials, the one heading the CEP, reported that, well, no, at that time by Thursday they reported that he had 61.5 percent of the votes counted thus far.

Then Haiti's anti-Aristide elites who opposed him, Rene Preval, they were opposing him because they believed

that he was influenced by President Aristide and he would carry out President Aristide's policies, policies that benefit Haiti's poor. These elites, of course, are the same people who helped to organize the coup d'etat in 2004 and the same people who have been responsible for oppressing the people of Haiti for decades in order to continue to operate the sweatshops and to profit from cheap labor and keeping the living standards low.

Well, the elites reacted to the news of Preval's decisive victory and we believe that there really was something in play, an attempt to steal the election. And there was evidence of election fraud. It was abundant. Just yesterday hundreds and possibly thousands of burned ballots marked for Preval were found in a garbage dump.

The counting rules used by Haiti's Provisional Electoral Council seemed to be rules that were designed to deny Preval a victory. About 125,000 ballots, or 7.5 percent of the votes cast, were declared invalid because of alleged irregularities. And another 4 percent of the votes were allegedly blank, but nevertheless they included them in the vote count, thereby pushing Preval's percentage below 50 percent.

When they announced that he was allotted 47 percent, I mean, not only did I, I simply could not believe my ears, the people of Haiti, the Lavalas Party, people normally referred to as shemeres, they said, oh, no. Not only do we want our President. These are people who were denied polling places in Cite Soleil and Bellair and other poor places.

Ms. MCKINNEY. I would like to point out that there were certain Members of Congress who actually traveled with Condoleezza Rice and they came back and said that Condoleezza Rice had promised that there would be some ballot access in Cite Soleil; isn't that correct?

Ms. WATERS. I am told that they were given assurances that there would be an election and there would be polling places in all of the provinces and that the rumors that we were hearing about the CEP not having the polling places in Cite Soleil and Bellair would not happen. So when they said it I was suspicious, and I thought that perhaps she was saying that to try to appease them at the time.

But we know that the Secretary of State has not paid any attention to Haiti. This is not on her radar, and I did not expect that there would be any follow-through to ensure that the people would have access to the ballot.

As a matter of fact, they did have the polling places. But people got up in the wee hours of the morning, and they walked for hours, and they stood in line and they demanded that the polling place be open. When they got there, the polling places were supposed to be open. They were not. They demanded they open them. They stayed in line, and they voted in record numbers. They voted in record numbers. And

that is why, when the announcement came that somehow his majority had fell below 50 percent, we were all upset, and I fired off a press release that was not too nice at all.

The Haitian people have suffered tremendously for decades. Haiti has been ruled by brutal dictators such as Papa Doc and Baby Doc Duvalier. They really were doing the bidding of the elites there. They kept their feet on the necks of the people so that the elites could profit from the cheap labor and from slave labor. These dictators controlled a brutal army that protected the interests of the wealthy elite and foreign visitors while oppressing poor people.

Haitians worked in sweatshops for foreign investors, receiving just pennies a day. Those who protested the exploitation and demanded better living conditions were arrested or killed by the army. The U.S. Government trained the army and supported the elite. After all of this suffering it would have been outrageous for the U.S. government to allow of the anti-Aristide elites to deny the Haitian people who have withstood so much pain, poverty and disenfranchisement and who persevered on election day, walked for miles, and waited for hours, the right to be governed by the president of their choice.

Well, the people have spoken, and I think it is clear, and this interim government that was put in, Mr. Latour from Boca Raton and the others, they should pack up their bags and go home. They should get out of the way and allow this new President to do everything in his power to really exercise democracy in Haiti. They stole it and they took it from President Aristide.

He was a priest who came from Cite Soleil, who was of the liberation theology, who preached for the least of these and who fought for the poor and fought for them, became a voice for them, speaking to them in Creole, in ways that had never been done before because the elite spoke in French to keep the poor people from even knowing what they were talking about. They never had a responsive government. Now they have got to give Preval a chance.

My message today is, Mr. Andy Apid of the Group of 184 that helped to implement the coup d'etat, Mr. Apid, get out of the way of Mr. Preval and allow him to preside.

To the Group of 184, to the elites who have profited so mightily on the backs of these poor people, they have to get out of the way.

To Mr. Wolfowitz over at the World Bank, you need to meet with Mr. Preval right away.

The International Monetary Fund, the funding agencies, USAID, let us get the resources in there to put in a water system so that people can have clean water. Let us support a health care system. Let us deal with the poor. Let us make sure that they have an opportunity to live and to grow and to have a decent quality of life.

I am optimistic.

And for all of those who have denied the people the right to just have a decent quality of life, I am not personally, and I think you, Congresswoman, we are going to say, okay, let bygones be bygones. If you do not try to oust this president, if you do not try to kill him, if you do not try to jail him, we are willing to work with you. We are willing to work in every way that we can to involve our country and our government in a way that it should have been involved before, for the people, on behalf of our neighbors in this very poor country.

So my message today to all of those who have undermined Haiti for so long, who have profited on the backs of the people for so long, give Haiti a chance, give this President a chance. We look forward to working with everybody, but we are certainly going to work with Mr. Preval. We are going to be there with him. We are going to back him up. We are going to stand with him. Now is an opportunity for a new day in Haiti.

Mr. Speaker, I would yield back the balance of my time, and I thank you so much, Congresswoman, for sharing this moment with me.

Ms. MCKINNEY. I am absolutely blown away by the things that Congresswoman MAXINE WATERS just said. She reminded us that the French and the Americans and the Canadians, which I did not realize that the Canadians were involved in this, they all got together to oust a duly elected president.

But now let me just tell you that from 2000 in Florida this President was not duly elected. I will say that because the election was stolen, and we all know that the election was stolen. And it is interesting that you would use invalid ballots, blank ballots. This is the same mechanism that was used to disenfranchise black people in this country in 2000 in the presidential election. And so now, of course, they surface again in Haiti, invalid ballots, blank ballots. But the people of Haiti took to the streets.

□ 1315

They demanded a fair vote count, and they got a fair vote count, and they got a President.

I want to thank my sister congresswoman for joining me on the House floor but also for those strong and powerful words. Because she is absolutely right, that it is our responsibility now that the people's voices have been heard and so now we have to respect that. We need to respect that.

I want to shift gears for just a moment, and I do not think this poster should present a surprise to anyone as to what I am going to talk about now, and that is Hurricane Katrina. I want to remind people of these images that went all over the world. The black person who is trying to go through the water for food is looting. That is what Associated Press writes. That is what

Associated Press wrote, the black person was looting. Agence France-Press saw these white people, and they were finding bread and soda. Blacks loot; whites find. There is nothing more stark.

This is the beginning of the Hurricane Katrina story, and this is the way Hurricane Katrina was portrayed to the American people and throughout the world. We need to question all of the press images from not just Associated Press but every newspaper and on television.

What were our administration leaders doing as New Orleans was filling with water? The President was on vacation in Texas at the ranch. The Vice President was on vacation in Wyoming. He was fly fishing. The Secretary of State was visiting New York City and even in the midst of what was happening in New Orleans, she got booted, so the press reports tell us, because she took in a play, and then after she took in a play she went shopping for Ferragamo shoes and bought \$7,000 worth, reportedly, of Ferragamo shoes, and then, after that, she decided to play a little tennis. Donald Rumsfeld took in a Padres' game in San Diego, and Michael Chertoff, who is the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, who is charged with taking care of the United States in a time of great trial and stress and catastrophe, stayed at home.

So, as a result, the select committee that was formed by this Congress to investigate the government's preparations for and actions during Hurricane Katrina issued a report yesterday. The name of the report, "A Failure of Initiative." It is a huge report.

The bottom line is that Secretary Chertoff needs to resign. It is amazing to me to see the Secretary on television through the powers of C-SPAN doing an intellectual dance, trying to defend the indefensible.

What happened to the people of the gulf States region and what is happening to them today is indefensible. And if thousands of families are being kicked out of their temporary homes, their temporary housing which was the hotel rooms, that is the responsibility at the end of the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security who said, okay, we will let FEMA go ahead with that call. Of course, the President bears responsibility, too, and he has accepted responsibility, but I have not yet heard Secretary Chertoff accept responsibility.

Another sad fact about Hurricane Katrina and its aftermath is that in the metropolitan Atlanta area we have about 60- to 70,000 Katrina survivors. They want to go back home, many of them, but there is so much uncertainty because, as the congresswoman from Florida said earlier, there is still uncertainty as to how the Hurricane Katrina survivors are going to be treated.

I have introduced legislation that will force the EPA to look at tests and

make public the environmental circumstances under which people will be returning, in particular to New Orleans. It is a shame that we would have to have legislation in order to get the EPA to do its job, but, right now, structures are being tested for habitability on their structural soundness but not on their environmental soundness, and we have that toxic sludge that is everywhere.

So I would ask that this Congress look at the omnibus piece of legislation that was dropped in and signed by all of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus which addresses all aspects of the problem faced by those Katrina survivors.

In addition, I find it curious that the panel that produced this, what some people are calling, scathing report was boycotted by the Democrats. Well, it was boycotted by the Democratic leadership. I chose to participate in it because there is one thing about participating in Congress. We are elected, we come here, we write, and we speak, and everything that we write and speak for the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD will survive as long as there is a CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and academicians and scholars, lawyers can search the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD to understand the environment within which certain actions were taken, certain legislation was passed. Attorneys and judges all rely on the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, as well as scholars and academicians and historians and archivists. So the power of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD is one that must not be thrown away.

I participated in the hearing and my remarks are included in the panel's report, but the leadership was suggesting that, instead, we needed an independent commission, like the 9/11 Commission. I do not have a problem with an independent commission, but to use the 9/11 Commission as a paragon of an example of how you ferret out the truth and find out what actually happened in a tragic event I think is not appropriately stated. Because yesterday in the Armed Services Committee we had three people who appeared before the Armed Services Committee in an Able Danger hearing. Able Danger is the data mining program that has been in the newspaper a lot because of the persistence of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON), one of our colleagues. These experts from the military and from intelligence said that if they had been allowed to do their job, their work product could quite possibly have prevented September 11. It provided the American intelligence community with the tools necessary to understand what was happening to our country in real time, but the program was shut down, and when efforts were made to brief the 9/11 Commission on what this Able Danger work product had demonstrated and had shown, their work was denigrated. Their work product was denigrated, and they were not given an opportunity to present their findings to the Commission as directly.

It has been said in public statements that their work was historically insignificant. Yet we have three people in open session yesterday say to us that if they had been allowed to do their job, to do their work, that quite possibly September 11 could have been prevented. And instead of grasping on to this information, the staff of the 9/11 Commission said that these people were not credible and that the results that they touted were historically insignificant and, therefore, this program was ignored.

Now I do not know why it was ignored, but the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) has had a lot to say about Able Danger and what it meant to our country and why it was shut down. I would encourage people to pay attention to Able Danger and the hearings that the House Armed Services Committee is having.

Also, there was one other thing very sad that came out of the hearing that we had yesterday, and that is poor whistle-blower treatment. In fact, whistle-blower mistreatment and all kinds of allegations were made against average, ordinary Americans who had extraordinary jobs that put them in a position to know something, and because they saw something was wrong and they tried to inform the higher ups that something was wrong, they were personally mistreated at the workplace and away from the workplace, even comments made about their personal and private lives.

□ 1330

What that says to us is that we have got to do a better job in this place of allowing the truth to come out. I remember when I was in Congress during my previous tenure, and at that time we were working very hard on U.S. foreign policy in Africa. We wanted the truth to come out about the real events surrounding the Rwandan genocide. It seemed that everybody who was associated with not telling the truth, or making sure that we didn't get access to the truth, got a promotion.

I have become fond of saying, it seems that it is only in Washington, DC where you can be incompetent and get a promotion. Anywhere else in America, if you are incompetent, you lose your job, but not so here in this country.

As we contemplate the enormity of what the Able Danger panelists told us in open testimony yesterday, as we contemplate as a country the enormity of this revelation, let us also weigh it against what is happening now. What is happening now is that the war drums are beating once again.

I have a constituent who is over the age of 40, and he has been told he has got to report for duty to go to Iraq. Over 40. The drumbeats for war are sounding, not just against Iraq now, but also against Iran and Syria.

In the face of these beating drums, the backdrop is that this administration is being investigated. This administration being investigated has two

ongoing investigations. The Department of Justice just opened another one today, which makes this the third investigation, the third investigation on wiretapping. This administration is being investigated and has drawn indictments and a guilty plea. The Vice President's former chief of staff, Lewis Libby, has been indicted, and Lawrence Franklin, who is being investigated by Paul McNulty, has been sentenced for 12 years for passing classified material over to another country.

This administration is being investigated on how we got into the first war, and now they want us to go to a second war, to open another front on this war. It is about time that we say no more war. No more war, Mr. Bush.

I also want to, as I remember the gentleman in my district who is over 40 years of age who has been told that he has got to report for duty in Iraq, remember Kevin Benderman, whose wife frantically contacted my office asking for help for her husband. Kevin Benderman went to Iraq one time. He was asked to do things that he thought as a human being went against his conscience.

We know that collateral damage is not just a number: 100,000; 200,000. It is people. It is little boys and little girls. It is women. Kevin Benderman said, I am not going to kill innocent people. Don't ask me to do that. I have done it once. Once is too much.

He decided that he would apply for conscientious objector status. Well, Kevin Benderman is in the brig because he did not want to kill innocent little girls and little boys and women and men in Iraq. He is in the brig.

Last weekend, there was an action to free Kevin Benderman. It's a shame.

I didn't expect to take all of my time, but I was pleased that my sister from California chose to come down and say a few words of congratulations to the people of Haiti and to the new President-elect, Rene Preval.

I was clicking around on the computer, and I came across a very interesting article written by Thom Hartmann, and it can be found on Common Dreams at commondreams.org. The title of it is "Rumsfeld and Cheney Revive Their 70's Terror Playbook."

Basically what they say in this article, which I am going to submit for the RECORD, is that when they were in office before, this dynamic duo decided to cook up an idea of Soviet military dominance to frighten the American people and justify huge defense contracts, or the huge defense budget, which then would result in defense contracts.

Let me just read. They said that the Soviets had a new secret weapon of mass destruction. They succeeded in recreating an atmosphere of fear in the United States, and making themselves and their defense contractor friends richer than most of the kingdoms of the world. Trillions of dollars and years later, it was proven that they had been wrong all along, and the CIA

had been right. Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Wolfowitz lied to America in the 1970s about Soviet weapons of mass destruction and the Soviet supersub technology.

But the Cold War was good for business and good for the political power of its advocates, from Rumsfeld to Wolfowitz to Cheney, who have all become rich, in part, because of the arms industry.

I am going to place this into the RECORD, because it appears that America has been through this before.

[From the Common Dreams News Center,
Feb. 13, 2006]

RUMSFELD AND CHENEY REVIVE THEIR 70S
TERROR PLAYBOOK
(by Thom Hartmann)

Donald Rumsfeld and Dick Cheney are at it again.

Last week, Rumsfeld told the press we should be preparing for "the Long War," saying of the war this administration has stirred up with its attack on Iraq that, "Just as the Cold War lasted a long time, this war is something that is not going to go away."

The last time Rumsfeld talked like this was in the 1970s, in response to the danger of peace presented by Richard Nixon.

In 1972, President Richard Nixon returned from the Soviet Union with a treaty worked out by Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, the beginning of a process Kissinger called "détente." On June 1, 1972, Nixon gave a speech in which he said: "Last Friday, in Moscow, we witnessed the beginning of the end of that era which began in 1945. With this step, we have enhanced the security of both nations. We have begun to reduce the level of fear, by reducing the causes of fear—for our two peoples, and for all peoples in the world."

But Nixon left amid scandal and Ford came in, and Ford's Secretary of Defense (Donald Rumsfeld) and Chief of Staff (Dick Cheney) believed it was intolerable that Americans might no longer be bound by fear. Without fear, how could Americans be manipulated? And how could billions of dollars taken as taxes from average working people be transferred to the companies that Rumsfeld and Cheney—and their cronies—would soon work for and/or run?

Rumsfeld and Cheney began a concerted effort—first secretly and then openly—to undermine Nixon's treaty for peace and to rebuild the state of fear.

They did it by claiming that the Soviets had a new secret weapon of mass destruction that the president didn't know about, that the CIA didn't know about, that nobody knew about but them. It was a nuclear submarine technology that was undetectable by current American technology. And, they said, because of this and related-undetectable-technology weapons, the US must redirect billions of dollars away from domestic programs and instead give the money to defense contractors for whom these two men would one day work or have businesses relationships with.

The CIA strongly disagreed, calling Rumsfeld's position a "complete fiction" and pointing out that the Soviet Union was disintegrating from within, could barely afford to feed their own people, and would collapse within a decade or two if simply left alone.

As Dr. Anne Cahn, Arms Control and Disarmament Agency from 1977 to 1980, told the BBC's Adam Curtis for his documentary "The Power of Nightmares": "They couldn't say that the Soviets had acoustic means of picking up American submarines, because they couldn't find it. So they said, well

maybe they have a non-acoustic means of making our submarine fleet vulnerable. But there was no evidence that they had a non-acoustic system. They're saying, 'we can't find evidence that they're doing it the way that everyone thinks they're doing it, so they must be doing it a different way. We don't know what that different way is, but they must be doing it.'

"INTERVIEWER (off-camera): Even though there was no evidence.

"CAHN: Even though there was no evidence.

"INTERVIEWER: So they're saying there, that the fact that the weapon doesn't exist . . .

"CAHN: Doesn't mean that it doesn't exist. It just means that we haven't found it."

But Rumsfeld and Cheney wanted Americans to believe there was something nefarious going on, something we should be very afraid of. To this end, they convinced President Ford to appoint a commission including their old friend Paul Wolfowitz to prove that the Soviets were up to no good.

Wolfowitz's group, known as "Team B," came to the conclusion that the Soviets had developed several terrifying new weapons of mass destruction, featuring a nuclear-armed submarine fleet that used a sonar system that didn't depend on sound and was, thus, undetectable with our current technology. It could—within a matter of months—be off the coast of New York City with a nuclear warhead.

Although Wolfowitz and Rumsfeld's assertions of this powerful new Soviet WMD was unproven—they said the lack of proof proved the "undetectable" sub existed—they nonetheless used their charges to push for dramatic escalations in military spending to selected defense contractors, a process that continued through the Reagan administration.

Rumsfeld and Wolfowitz helped re-organized a group—the Committee on the Present Danger—to promote their worldview. The Committee produced documentaries, publications, and provided guests for national talk shows and news reports. They worked hard to whip up fear and encourage increases in defense spending, particularly for sophisticated weapons systems offered by the defense contractors for whom many of these same men would later become lobbyists.

And they succeeded in recreating an atmosphere of fear in the United States, and making themselves and their defense contractor friends richer than most of the kingdoms of the world.

Trillions of dollars and years later, it was proven that they had been wrong all along, and the CIA had been right. Rumsfeld * * * and Wolfowitz lied to America in the 1970s about Soviet WMDs and the Soviet super-sub technology.

Not only do we now know that the Soviets didn't have any new and impressive WMDs, but we also now know that the Soviets were, in fact, decaying from within, ripe for collapse any time, regardless of what the US did—just as the CIA (and anybody who visited Soviet states—as I had—during that time could easily predict). The Soviet economic and political system wasn't working, and their military was disintegrating.

But the Cold War was good for business, and good for the political power of its advocates, from Rumsfeld to Wolfowitz to Cheney who have all become rich in part because of the arms industry.

Today, making Americans terrified with their so-called "War On Terror" is the same strategy, run for many of the same reasons, by the same people. And by hyping it—and then invading Iraq to bring it into fruition—we may well be bringing into reality forces

that previously existed only on the margins and with very little power to harm us.

Most recently we've learned from former CIA National Intelligence Officer for the Middle East and South Asia Paul Pillar that, just like in the 1970s, the CIA disagreed in 2002 with Rumsfeld and Cheney about an WMD threat—this time posed by Iraq—even as Rumsfeld, Cheney, and Wolfowitz were telling America how afraid we should be of an eminent “mushroom cloud.”

We've seen this movie before. The last time, it cost our nation hundreds of billions of dollars, vastly enriched the cronies of these men, and ultimately helped bring Ronald Reagan to power. This time they've added on top of their crony enrichment program the burden of over 2200 dead American servicemen and women, tens of thousands wounded, as many as a hundred thousand dead Iraqis, and a level of worldwide instability not seen since the run-up to World War Two.

When Hillary Clinton recently noted that the only political card Republicans are any longer capable of playing is the card of fear, she was spot-on right. They're now even running radio and TV commercials designed to terrorize our children (“Do you have a plan for a terrorist attack?”), the modern reincarnation of “Duck and Cover.”

Now that former Homeland Security Secretary Tom Ridge has confessed that many of the terror alerts that continually popped up during the 2004 election campaign were, as USA Today noted on 10 May 2005, based on “flimsy evidence” or were done over his objection at the insistence of “administration officials,” it's increasingly clear that the Bush administration itself is the source of much of the “be afraid!” terror inflicted on US citizens over the past 5 years.

It's time for patriotic Americans of all political affiliations, and for our media, to join with Senator Clinton, former CIA official Paul Pillar, and the many others who are pointing this out, and refuse to allow the Bush administration to inflict terror on Americans—and the world—for political gain.

As Franklin D. Roosevelt said in his first inaugural address in 1932, when Americans were terrorized by the Republican Great Depression, the echoes of World War One, and the rise of Communism in Russia: This is preeminently the time to speak the truth, the whole truth, frankly and boldly. Nor need we shrink from honestly facing conditions in our country today. This great Nation will endure as it has endured, will revive and will prosper. So, first of all, let me assert my firm belief that the only thing we have to fear is fear itself—nameless, unreasoning, unjustified terror which paralyzes needed efforts to convert retreat into advance.

Indeed, the best hope for the growth of democracy around the world and the survival of individual liberty in the United States is for us to turn away from Rumsfeld's and Cheney's politics of terror and fear, and once again embrace the great vision of this nation, held by her great statesmen and women from 1776 to today. Indeed, they are still among us, as we saw most recently when a brave few senators stood up to filibuster the nomination of Samuel Alito.

In this election year, we must redouble our efforts to swell their ranks, to involve ourselves in local and national political groups, and to return America to her destiny as the world's beacon of courage, liberty, and light.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY.) The gentlewoman will suspend. The gentlewoman is reminded to refrain from personalities toward the Vice President.

Ms. MCKINNEY. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman is not suggesting that I cannot say the name of the Vice President. I am reading an article. Is the gentleman suggesting?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman will suspend. The gentlewoman may state the name of the Vice President or make policy references, but she should refrain from engaging in personalities with regard to the Vice President, even by quoting the words of another.

Ms. MCKINNEY. I did not make a personal reference, so I will move on with my time. I would commend this article to this Congress: “Rumsfeld and Cheney Revive Their '70's Terror Playbook,” and everything I have said is quoted right here in this article. Now, I think the last thing this Congress wants to do is try to snuff out the right of people to speak.

The next thing I would like to draw to your attention is an excerpt from a book. The name of the book is “War is a Racket.” It is written by Major General Smedley Butler, and this is how it goes:

War is a racket. It always has been. It is possibly the oldest, easily the most profitable, surely the most vicious. It is the only one international in scope. It is the only one in which the profits are reckoned in dollars and the losses in lives. A racket is best described, I believe, as something that is not what it seems to the majority of the people. Only a small inside group knows what it is about. It is conducted for the benefit of the very few at the expense of the very many. Out of war, a few people make huge fortunes.

In the world war, because this was written at the time of World War I, a mere handful garnered the profits of the conflict. At least 21,000 new millionaires and billionaires were made in the United States during the world war. That many admitted to their huge blood gains in their income tax returns.

How many other war millionaires falsified their tax returns, no one knows. How many of these war millionaires shouldered a rifle? How many of them dug a trench? How many of them knew what it meant to go hungry in a rat-infested dugout? How many of them spent sleepless, frightened nights ducking shells and shrapnel and machine gun bullets? How many of them parried a bayonet thrust of an enemy? How many of them were wounded or killed in battle?

Millions and billions of dollars would be piled up by a few. Munitions makers, bankers, ship builders, manufacturers, meat packers, speculators, they would fare well. Yes, they are getting ready for another war. Why shouldn't they? It pays high dividends. But what does it profit the men who are killed? What does it profit their mothers, their sisters, their wives and their sweethearts? What does it profit their children? What does it profit anyone except the very few to whom war means

huge profits? Yes, what does it profit the Nation?

But the soldier pays the biggest part of the bill. If you don't believe this, visit the American cemeteries on the battlefields abroad, or visit any of the veterans hospitals in the United States where there are thousands of the living dead. The very able chief surgeon told me that mortality among veterans is three times as great as among those who stayed at home. Boys with a normal viewpoint were taken out of the fields and offices and factories and classrooms and put into the ranks.

□ 1345

There they were remolded. They were made over. They were made to about face, to regard murder as the order of the day. They were put shoulder to shoulder and through mass psychology they were entirely changed. We used them for a couple of years and trained them to think nothing at all of killing or of being killed.

Then, suddenly, we discharge them and told them to make another about face. This time they had to do their own readjustment, without mass psychology, without officers aid and advice and without nationwide propaganda. We did not need them anymore, so we scattered them about without any speeches or parades.

Too many of these fine young boys are eventually destroyed mentally because they could not make the final about face alone. In the government hospitals, these boys are in a barracks with steel bars and wires all around outside the buildings and on the porches. These already have been mentally destroyed. These boys do not even look like human beings. Oh, the looks on their faces. Physically, they are in good shape. Mentally, they are gone. There are thousands and thousands of these cases, and more and more are coming in all the time. Another step is necessary in this fight to smash the war racket.

To summarize, three steps must be taken to smash the war racket. One, we must take the profit out of war. Two, we must permit the youth of the land who would bear arms to decide whether or not there should be war. And three, we must limit our military forces to defense purposes. He says home defense purposes. This is an excerpt from Smedley Butler's War is a Racket.

Now, juxtapose what this man of war said to the drumbeats of war that we hear in our media now, that are emanating from high places within this administration, people who have not borne the rifle, who have not been in war. In fact, when America called them because America needed them, they were full of deferments. And yet they want to put a young man like Kevin Benderman who does not want to kill children and women and innocent people in Iraq anymore in the brig, and they would tell our country that we need to prepare for a long war. We do

not prepare for a long war. Certainly not George Bush's war. And if Tom Hartman is right in his assessment, we do not need to prepare for Dick Cheney's war either.

We have had some discussion in this body about war, and one of my colleagues from Pennsylvania did what Major General Smedley Butler said we ought to do. He visited the young men and women who have been asked to fight this war, who are on the front lines of Donald Rumsfeld's long war. There he was compelled to make a change, a change in his conviction, that perhaps this is not the right war for America; and he came back to this Congress and he said so. I am talking about my colleague from Pennsylvania, Mr. MURTHA.

We need to really think about where we are as a country. We need to think about who we are as a country, as Americans. What does it mean to be an American?

Look at the people of Haiti who have nothing but their hopes and aspirations in democracy. And despite dictatorship and coup d'etat and dictatorship and coup d'etat again, they went to the polls and they demanded that their votes be counted.

We, too, have, in this country, the opportunity to express ourselves at the ballot box. The way I stand here is the way all 535 Members of Congress stand here, because people choose to participate or people choose not to.

In my case, I was put out of Congress because I spoke up about September 11. And the people of the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia said, we are not going to stand for that, and they sent me back, showing the power of the vote, as the people of Haiti have demonstrated to the world the power of the vote. I would hope all Americans would value the power of the vote and exercise it.

OFFICIAL TRUTH SQUAD

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. PRICE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the courtesy that the leadership has extended me in hosting this hour. We are going to talk about a number of things this hour, but I think it is important for the folks at home to know what this hour is. This is called the leadership hour, and what that means is that the leadership of the Republican party allows individuals to come to the floor for this hour. The leadership of the Democrat party allows individuals to come to the floor and speak about topics that are of interest to Congress and of interest to the American people, of interest to the world.

And what you have just heard is an interesting presentation that, apparently, the leadership of the Democrat

party endorses. I am not certain what, how one would describe it or how one would categorize it, but it was more fiction than truth. I would love to hear the other side, the leadership of the other side stand up and say what they disagree with about what has just been presented.

You know, when I go home and I talk to constituents, one of the things that they say over and over and over again is that they just cannot understand the tone that is going on in Washington. What is going on? Why are people so angry? And I do not understand it, frankly.

We are all elected here to come solve problems, and that is the challenge that we have been given. But the tone that we get so often is this culture of cynicism. It is a culture of pessimism. It is a culture of negativity. To make statements about our members of the executive branch and leaders who are elected in ways that just have no foundation does a disservice to everybody.

So I am a member of the freshman class, and as a member of the freshman class we get together once a week. And one of the things that we talked about toward the end of last year was we need to try to raise the level of the rhetoric here. We need to try to put a more positive message out because of the tone that we so often hear in Washington.

So we have developed what we call the Official Truth Squad. This is a group of individuals who are willing to come to the floor and talk about messages, talk about things that are of interest to the American people in a positive light and also to bring truth to the debate. Because, as you oftentimes hear, those who have been watching, we are given great latitude in what we can say and, in fact, it does not have to be the truth. Many people put issues out here and things are not countered, so people begin to believe them. You know, they say that in Washington, if somebody says something three times, that makes it true. Well, it just is not so, Mr. Speaker, as those around the Nation know.

So what we would like to do is to talk about things in a truthful way to try to make certain that we counter much of the negativity that has been presented. You know, Senator Moynihan had a wonderful, wonderful quote that he had. It was, you know, everybody's entitled to their opinion, but they are not entitled to their facts. And I think that is so true.

So this afternoon, what we, the Official Truth Squad, are going to be talking about is national security. It kind of dovetails with the discussion that we have just heard.

I am pleased to be joined by many of my colleagues in the freshman class and others, and I would like to introduce first to talk about national security, Congresswoman JEAN SCHMIDT. Congresswoman SCHMIDT is from Ohio. She comes with great expertise, representation at the State level, and has

a passion for not just America, a positive passion for America, but a passion for national security and national defense.

So, Congresswoman SCHMIDT, I would like to yield to you and have you bring us some words about national security.

Mrs. SCHMIDT. Mr. Speaker, Congressman PRICE, I rise today to speak on the importance that we as a Nation do all that we can to prevent another terrorist attack on our homeland.

Like many of my colleagues, I will never forget the attacks of September 11. My daughter lived in New York City at the time. I remember that morning all too well because I did not know where she was. I did not know how close she was to the proximity of the attacks. For hours and hours, literally, almost 2 days, I could not get through to her, worrying about her safety and her well-being, worrying about how she was. My husband and I were so blessed and so grateful that she was just scared, but certainly safe.

But, you know, thousands of other people were not lucky like us. Thousands of others lost their loved ones in that attack. We must do everything in our power to prevent another attack from happening.

I rise today to congratulate the hard-working men and women of our intelligence agencies and the first responders on preventing another attempt like 9/11. I, like most Americans, wake up each morning safe, proceed with my day without even worrying about the threat of an attack because I know, from law enforcement to our national security apparatus, thousands of highly trained professionals are diligently watching and working. Men and women using the latest technologies and a lot of muscle are hard at work around the clock making sure that those that want to hurt us are kept at bay.

I hope everyone understands that the desire of the terrorist organizations to launch a deadly attack has not gone away. It has not subsided. They are out there. They want to attack us.

What has changed is our ability to thwart the attacks. That ability has dramatically increased. The latest in database technology, coupled with surveillance technologies, is proving to be a powerful force in identifying potential attackers. We owe a great deal of gratitude to these men and women on the front lines of our defense here at home as well as abroad.

Just this week the media reported that some 200,000 people across the globe are on our watchlist, persons that we have reason to believe wish us harm, wish us death, wish our Nation destruction.

□ 1400

But most importantly, 200,000 persons we have already identified as potential threats. When we wake up each morning and turn on our television sets and there is no news of an attack, we do not even think that there might have been one. That in itself is a tribute to

the hard work of our national security team. We go about our lives without fear of an attack each day because of the job they are doing. We must give them every tool needed to complete their mission. Their mission is not only important; it is a matter of life and death.

Much has been said about the National Security Agency's surveillance program in the media. Much of it is nonsense and distortion. Mr. Speaker, I asked my constituents in a survey what they think of the National Security Agency's surveillance program. Over 2,000 people have responded to date. Almost 80 percent support the program, eighty percent is a huge supermajority of folks representing all kinds of ideologies and political affiliations. Eighty percent. The media just does not always get it, Mr. Speaker, but the American people do.

The American people first and foremost want to be safe in their homes and go about their lives without the fear of another attack. They exhibit far more common sense than the media ever gives them credit for. One of our colleagues from the great State of Texas has a great saying that Texas could use a whole lot less of Washington and Washington could use a whole lot more of Texas. Unfortunately, someday, I believe, and I really hope and pray in the very far distant future, we may well be attacked again. That attack may well be much larger in scope than we ever could believe, much larger than 9/11. On that day I hope and I pray we can say honestly and wholeheartedly we did everything we could to prevent it.

It is our job, Mr. Speaker. It is our job as Members of Congress to make sure that Americans are safe, safe and free, safe and free from the terrorist attack of yesterday and tomorrow. We have to continue to do that. To do nothing less is not just irresponsible; it is un-American.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for her leadership on this issue.

And what a moving story that was about the communication that you had with your daughter, and it brings back the memory of September 11 to all of us and where we were and what we were doing that day.

As Members of Congress, as you know, we have some opportunities to get some information about our intelligence and about what things are happening in the world that we are not often able to share, and I am moved by the stories like that that I hear; but I also, when I go home, tell folks that the fact that we have not been attacked again is not a mistake. It is not a mistake. We have thousands, millions of men and women who are just working night and day to make certain that we are safe as a Nation, and I am proud of that fact. I am proud of that fact.

Joining us now is Congressman TED POE. Congressman POE is a judge from Texas, a leader in his area, his commu-

nity and his State and certainly in our Nation, and an individual who has such an incredible fund of knowledge as it relates to national security and specifically border security. I know that in Georgia we have got major challenges. I know that in Texas there are major challenges.

So I yield to Congressman POE to discuss some things about national security and border security.

Mr. POE. Thank you, Dr. PRICE. I appreciate this opportunity to share this time with you and discuss the things that are important to our country.

As you know, my background has always been one that enforced the law, law enforcement, down in Texas. I prosecuted, and then I tried cases as a judge for 22 years, and now I am here. So I probably see things from maybe a different background and perspective than many other people. And I always like to relate what is going on today to history. As our good friend, the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. SCHMIDT), just said about September 11, we are working on 3½ years since that event occurred, and it is still fresh in the minds of many Americans.

On that day I was driving my Jeep to the courthouse, and I am listening to the country western station here on the radio that a plane had hit the World Trade Center. And then a few minutes later, a second plane hits the World Trade Center. People on the highway that morning, some of them were pulling over to listen to the national broadcasting of what was occurring, that attack on America. Then the third plane crashes in Pennsylvania because some good people on that plane, some real American heroes, took control of that situation and saved some building, either this building or the White House, from being hit that morning. And then that fourth plane that hit the Pentagon.

And later that day, I, like many other people, was watching television, and I noticed that when those planes hit the World Trade Center that there were thousands of Americans, thousands of people from all over the world, when those planes hit the World Trade Center, they were running as hard as they could to get away from that terror, that terror in the skies. I am not faulting them for that, but that is what took place.

But there was another group of people, not very many, but a group of individuals who, when those planes hit the World Trade Center, they were running as hard as they could to get to that terror. They were volunteers; emergency medical technicians; firefighters; and cops, police officers. And while it is very important that we continue to remember the people who died that day, we also need to remember the people that lived because those first responders did the first duty of government, which is to protect the public; and we will never know how many lives they saved. Many of them gave their own lives that day, because it is the duty of

our country to protect America, to protect us against criminals that live among us and to protect us against those criminals that live in other lands that want to do us harm. And we cannot say enough about those first responders that are still working throughout our country protecting us at home.

Because of those events, one thing led to another and we took the war on terror to the enemy. And now we have the greatest military ever assembled on Earth in Iraq and Afghanistan and other parts of the world fighting and winning the war on terror.

I was privileged, as many Members, to go to Iraq. I got to go there a year ago on election day, one of two Members that were there on election day, January 30, when Iraq had their first free elections in the history of their country. But I was also there to see our military, and I think it is very important that if Members of Congress are going to send our young men and women into combat, we ought to be there on the ground to see firsthand what the situation is like. That is why I went. That is why I am going back.

And it is interesting to me, Dr. PRICE, how there are some who criticize what is taking place in Iraq and Afghanistan but yet refuse to go there to see what it is like. I have invited those people to go with me. Some of them are down the hallway. We call that the U.S. Senate. To go with me, I will plan the trip and all they have got to do is show up. But if we are going to send people into combat, we need to see what it is like so we can make better judgment calls on this end. But our troops, the morale is tremendous.

It is interesting how we see a lot in the media about the war on terror, but very seldom do we ever see an interview of some soldier, sailor, marine, somebody in the Air Force, a personal story about their reflections on what they are doing in the war on terror.

Some people ask, why are we fighting the war on terror over there? Well, there is more to it than that. We are also fighting the war by establishing a democracy in Iraq and Afghanistan because democracies are the enemy of terrorists. They do not want democracies. They want chaos. They want dictatorships. They want a safe haven where they can strike throughout the world. So that is why the war is there in Iraq and Afghanistan. It is because those two countries are going to be democracies, just like Japan and Germany were democracies at the end of World War II. And the cynics and the skeptics, oh, they lived back then too, said it is not going to happen, that the Japanese cannot have a democracy and certainly not the Germans. Now look at them. Democracies, world powers today.

So democracy, of course, takes time. It took us 7 years to free ourselves from the British. The British did not get the point. They came back in 1812, burned this building down, and we had

to fight them again. And the Iraqi people are doing a tremendous job of securing their own nation.

I had a general tell me when I was in Iraq, and he said this in a kind way but he was serious, about the Americans being there and the Iraqi security forces. He said, If the Americans stay much longer, we are going to start charging them rent for being here. And what he was saying was another version of what the plan is. The plan is relatively simple: secure the stability of the country, train the Iraqi security forces, and let them take care of their own country. And that is what is going on. And we see now on a daily basis the casualties of the Iraqi security forces. Those people are giving up their own lives for their own democracy, fighting the war on terror.

So we are winning that war. The national security, public safety, is an obligation of this country, at home, overseas, and to fight that war wherever it occurs.

Just one other thing I would like to mention. I do not want to take up too much of your time, Doc, but there is a third area where we have to have national security. It is not just locally with our first responders, our police officers, and our small towns and big cities. It is not just overseas where we have the war on terror going and our military doing a good job working with the CIA and the FBI. But then we have the national security issue of the dignity and sovereignty of this country, and I am talking about border security.

I live down in southeast Texas. The southern Texas border, some have said, is a war zone because it is an area of national concern for three reasons: we have the narcoterrorists coming across the border. Those are drug dealers that are armed better than our own sheriffs, bringing in that cancer to sell throughout the United States. That is a national concern. It is also a national security problem.

The second thing is we have those next terrorists that come into the United States. They are probably not going to fly over to Reagan National Airport, get off the airplane, look around and see what damage they can do. They are probably not going to do that. But they are probably going to come across our Texas border, our southern border, and do some harm to us. We know that that is the plan of many of those terrorists because our borders are open.

And, of course, we have the third problem of just purely folks coming here illegally. It is not that people are coming here that is the problem. It is the way they are coming here. If we are going to have the rule of law, the government has the responsibility to support and make sure the rule of law is enforced.

One example of how our national security maybe needs to be revved up a little more on our southern border, let me speak specifically about our narcoterrorists. I have been down to

the southern Texas border with our sheriffs, and we had 16 of the Texas border sheriffs up here last week. I do not know if you saw them or not. It would be hard to miss 16 Texas sheriffs walking down Pennsylvania Avenue.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. They are big.

Mr. POE. They were impressive fellows. And let me tell you something, Doc. They look like Texas sheriffs. You have that image. They all look like that. But they are concerned about border security as well, and it is more than just the terrorists that are coming over. It is the narcoterrorists that are coming in. But one of them not too long ago took this photograph.

□ 1415

His deputies took this photograph. This is a photograph in the Rio Grande River taken from the Texas side looking over to the Mexican side. In this, you have a raft. You see there are six or seven individuals who are all dressed in black camo outfits, armed with AK-47s. You will see one of them right here, an AK-47. On their backs they have backpacks which were later determined to be cocaine, bringing it to the United States.

And who are these people? It turns out that probably these individuals are Guatemalan mercenaries hired by the drug cartels to bring drugs into the United States. It is an epidemic, it is a border war, and it is a violent war.

So I would just hope that we in Congress can make sure that we enforce the rule of law, enforce the first obligation of government, which is to protect the public. Public safety is our number one concern.

Let me just conclude by saying that we should make sure that people throughout the world know that this country believes in freedom and liberty because of all of the benefits of it, whether you are here in the United States or some other country, like Iraq or Afghanistan.

President Kennedy said it probably better than anybody when he made the comment that let every nation know that, whether it wishes us well or ill, that we will pay any price, we will bear any burden, we will meet any hardship, we will support any friend, and we will oppose any foe to assure the survival and success of liberty. He couldn't have said it better.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Congressman POE, I thank you ever so much for your leadership in this area. Your knowledge is just so very, very helpful to all of us, not just in Congress but literally across the Nation. As you were relating your story about where you were on 9/11, we all have those stories, and I get chills listening to you and what you were describing. I remember that day just as clearly as everybody else.

It is just phenomenal when you think about again the fact that we have so many wonderful men and women working right now to make certain that that doesn't happen again and for bringing clarity to what is happening

in Iraq, the positive news that is coming from Iraq.

As the Official Truth Squad, we have got some truths I would like to just share with the American people and with our colleagues, because you oftentimes don't hear of all of the good things that are happening over there. We are making incredible, incredible progress, regardless of what you think about how we got there or the like of it, incredible progress. I know this is tough to read, but I will go through a few points.

In August of 2004, about a year-and-a-half ago, there were only a handful of Iraqi army battalions in the battle, in the fight. Today, there are 100 Iraqi Ministry of Defense combat battalions in the fight, in the battle.

In July, 2004, there were no operational army division or brigade headquarters. Today, there are eight brigade headquarters and 37 battalions that have assumed battle space.

In July, 2004, again about a year and a half ago, there were no operational special police commandos, public order, mechanized police or emergency response units under the Ministry of the Interior in Iraq. Today, there are 28 such battalions in the fight.

November, 2004, just a little over a year ago, there were there 115,000 trained and equipped Iraqi security forces. How many today? 227,000 trained and equipped security forces. There are more if you count all of the local police officers.

The experience and ability of the Iraqi forces has increased remarkably. This is General Peter Pace who said just a week ago in December the Iraqi armed forces had more independent operations than did the coalition forces. Did you hear that, Mr. Speaker? The Iraqi forces were providing more independent operations than the coalition forces. That didn't make any headline. You didn't hear that on the news or read that in your newspaper. That is progress for freedom, it is progress for liberty, and it is progress for, frankly, I believe the stability of that region certainly and ultimately the world.

We are sharing some thoughts, Mr. Speaker, about national security, and the operation Official Truth Squad is pleased to have Congresswoman MARSHA BLACKBURN join us again. Congresswoman BLACKBURN is just an incredible leader from Tennessee. She has I know a great interest in the area and great expertise in what it means to provide national security, homeland security and to fight for liberty and freedom.

Congresswoman BLACKBURN, thank you so much for joining us today.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Thank you so much. I thank the gentleman from Georgia for his exceptional work on the Truth Squad and his commitment to this, to being certain that we get the message out.

You know, I, like you, believe in the American dream and believe in the goodness of this great country and

search each and every day for ways that we can all work together to be certain that we preserve freedom and hope and liberty for future generations. I think that is a worthy goal.

We had talked about national security one night on this floor. Yesterday, we talked about economic security. Today, we are back on the national security focus. I like what you are saying, because you are addressing the military efforts that are taking place so that we are fighting terrorists over there and we are not having to fight them over here.

As Judge POE was saying, we have got different fronts in this war, with our first responders and the work they do on our home streets, with our border agents and the work they are doing along the border, and then also with our military operations. I think it is something that we want to keep our focus on as we address this situation in the Middle East and being certain we are addressing taking this fight to the heart of where terrorism has had its breeding ground and addressing it right there on their own soil.

A couple of points, too, I think that we need address as we talk about homeland security and we talk about national security and the war on terror. Things that we want to remember is our President and the leadership, our military leadership, has told us from day one, this is going to be a very long war. It is not going to be easy. But this is going to be a long war, and we need to remember that and use that to keep it in perspective.

We feel like we take two steps forward and one step back so very, very often, and it is going to be a long time. But preserving freedom and the fight for freedom, that is a worthy, worthy goal.

I think another thing we need to keep in mind is that when all of this started in 2003, our President and our military leadership said, basically, it is a seven-step process and told us at that point we would go in, secure the country, they would appoint an interim government, they would appoint a constitution writing committee, they would go through the process of writing that constitution, ratifying that constitution, then they would hold their national elections and install their national government, and then the seventh and final point will be to dissolve the coalition.

Right now, the Iraqi people are in the process of installing that government; and following that government standing up on its feet, then we will begin to dissolve the coalition.

Another thing we have to keep in mind, I love your points, Mr. PRICE, about what is taking place there and the progress that is being made. One of the things that I have enjoyed talking with my constituents about is how dealing with Iraq has to be an orderly process, and a part of that orderly process is being certain that we do some things in conjunction with other

things. We want to be certain we raise up the military at the same time we are raising up the government so that one can support the other.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to make certain that people are hearing what you are saying. Because so oftentimes we hear there is no plan, the President doesn't have a plan, we don't have a plan. But what you have said so clearly is that when the President talked about this in the spring of 2003, 3 years ago, that he outlined a seven-step process. As far as I can tell, we are on the sixth step of that. So the plan is there.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. That is correct, and I thank the gentleman for those comments. That is correct. Going through an orderly process. And now as that government is standing up, and that is the sixth step, and as we move forward, we look at being certain that the military operations and your government operations, and you need that infrastructure. We know in our own Nation it has worked well to have divisions in our government with your executive and legislative and judicial branches. So as we stand the military up and the government with those different branches standing up, we also have an eye on education and what is being done to help lift the people.

We forget many times that many of these individuals did not have access to an education. When I first went into Iraq in October of 2003, one of the things that stunned me and one of the facts that I was really quite amazed to learn was that the country's population was about 65 percent female and, out of that, about 70 percent of that female population was considered to be illiterate. That is so troublesome to know, with the education process for women, the education process for children, the fact that young girls are able to go to school, and putting in place the schools, I think it is 2,800 schools that our U.S. military has helped to rehabilitate and get the doors open. And, of course, USAID has supplied notebooks and backpacks and the things that are necessary to begin to put that quality of life in place.

So it is the ability to go in and assist with those processes and the functions of the military, the government and the community, the quality of life that will enable Iraq to stand up and to stand on their own two feet and to enjoy, enjoy successes, and that is what General Pace was speaking of, with their forces actually conducting more operations than the coalition forces. I think that is really quite remarkable.

You think of how far they have come in 3½ years. To us, many times, yes, we live in a world where we expect instant everything. We watch a 30-minute TV show or a one-hour TV show, and we want the problem solved within that period of time.

Freedom is a little bit harder. It doesn't move quite that quickly. Three-and-a-half years, look how far

they have come in their steps to freedom and their steps to readiness.

I will close with saying my last trip into Iraq over New Year's this year and spending time with some of our troops and then spending time with three women who are each one running a different woman's organization in Iraq was a very touching time. One of the things they repeatedly do is to express thanks to our coalition forces and then to place a reminder with us, don't leave us now. Do not leave us now. Be certain that we are standing on our own two feet before you leave us.

I thank the gentleman again. The freshman class is doing a wonderful job with the Truth Squad. It is always a pleasure to come and stand here in this wonderful hall before this great body and join you in talking about the good work that is being done and the focus of this Republican Conference to address the security of this great Nation.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank the gentlelady for coming and being such an integral part of the discussion and the leadership in this House of Representatives. Again, I think it is incredibly important that we appreciate that those that say that there is no plan, hasn't ever been a plan, that that is just not truthful.

Again, we are the Official Truth Squad, and the truth of the matter is that there has been a plan, and that plan was outlined very eloquently by the gentlelady from Tennessee, a seven-step process. The final step is to have coalition forces leave, and we are on the sixth of seven steps. So we are moving incredibly well and orderly, moving through a process that is bringing about freedom and liberty to people who, frankly, may never have even hoped that it could occur.

The gentlelady was so appropriate in defining those different areas of the Nation that we are addressing, not just the military but standing up the government, education, educating individuals who in their wildest dreams could never have dreamed of the opportunity to have the kind of education that they are able to receive now because of their freedom.

As a physician, I know that the health care services that are being provided there in Iraq now are of a higher quality than before and accessible to all, which certainly was not the case before.

So truth, truth is so incredibly important when you talk about public policy. If we don't deal in truth when we talk about these issues that come before our Nation, then it is difficult to reach the right conclusion. It is difficult to reach the right solution. So that is why we are so enthusiastic about the need and the importance of truth.

□ 1430

I have been searching for a number of quotes on truth. This is one that I am very fond of. George Washington, in a letter to Edmund Randolph in 1795 said

that there is but one straight course, one appropriate course, one straight course, and that is to seek truth and pursue it steadily.

Seeking truth and pursuing it steadily. And I think that is what is so imperative, because so often you hear from the folks who want to blame America first, all of the things where they have stretched, stretched is being generous, the truth; and so it is appropriate that we come here day after day, literally, and put forward to the American people the appropriate information that is necessary for individuals to have the truth.

And the other quote that I have shared with folks before is the one from Senator Moynihan, that is, that everyone is entitled to their own opinion, but not their own facts. And so with that, I would like to talk about another aspect of truth. And one of the things, as I mentioned before, we have some great latitude in this Chamber to talk about things and to say things that may not necessarily be so.

Just yesterday, as a matter of fact, in one of the speeches that was given from the well on the other side, a Member of the other side said, we are talking on this side of the aisle, that is, the Democratic, the minority side, Mr. Speaker, that we embrace and we appreciate our troops and veterans. That is a wonderful thing.

But meanwhile, this is the statement on the floor, meanwhile in the President's budget it talks about cuts in veterans affairs, cuts in veterans affairs. I know this is a little hard to read over here, but, in fact, the truth of the matter, in particular \$34.3 billion for medical care a \$3.5 billion, 11.3 percent increase over the 2006 enacted level, and an increase of 69 percent since President Bush took office.

So what you see here is the allegation, and here is the truth. There are a couple of other ways to show that, to demonstrate that with certainty, and it is even more vivid. This chart, this graph, shows the Department of Defense military discretionary budget in billions of dollars from 2000 to projected 2007. That asterisk there is because we have not adopted the 2007 budget yet, will not do so until later this year.

But the President's proposal is listed. What you see here are the levels of expenditures, Federal expenditures for the Department of Defense. Now remember the allegation is that there are cuts in the military: 2000, \$287 billion; 2001, \$303 billion; 2002, \$328 billion.

You notice that we are going in a direction that looks like it is increasing. Only in Washington can a cut be an increase. Only in Washington can a cut be an increase: 2003, \$365; 2004, \$376; 2005, \$400 billion; and last year, \$411 billion.

Now I do not know about you, Mr. Speaker, but where I come from those are not cuts, those are increases, and appropriate increases, appropriate increases to our defense establishment

and to the veterans who are serving so well.

What about medical care? You hear about veterans medical care. All the time the allegation was, as was in that quote just yesterday, that veterans medical care is being cut. Well, here is the before and after. 1995: what happened in 1995 was that the Republicans took control of the House of Representatives, and you see before then the gradual increases, mostly fixed to inflation, sometimes not even at inflation.

And then the entire budgetary allotment for medical care, veterans medical care, is in the yellow bars there from 1995 to 2005. And what you see is an increase from \$16.2 billion to \$29.9 billion.

Mr. Speaker, that does not look like a cut to me. That does not look like a cut to America. That does not look like a cut to veterans. They know the truth. And it is so important. You cannot reach the right conclusions, you cannot reach the right solutions if you are not talking truthfully. So we are pleased to come to the floor and talk about what is true.

What about discretionary spending on veterans, not just medical care, but discretionary spending on veterans? This is the same kind of graph: before 1995 and since 1995. Again, remember the allegation is that this money, discretionary spending for veterans, is being cut.

Well, Mr. Speaker, again, I mean, my eyes may deceive me sometimes, but I cannot for the life of me figure out how moving from \$17.6 billion in 1995 to \$30.7 billion in 2005 could ever be described as a decrease or a cut.

This is a commitment by the Republican leadership and the Republican House to make certain that we appropriately, appropriately, provide resources for veterans, our military individuals who serve us so incredibly well.

But, again, truth. The truth is that the resources have been increased every single year, that there has been no cut. And so I am pleased to have the opportunity to be able to come and share that kind of truthful information with the American people.

I am honored to be joined right now by another colleague, another gentleman from Texas, another judge from Texas, Congressman GOHMERT, who has a wealth of experience in his State and is a true leader in the area of national security knowledge and intelligence.

So we appreciate Congressman GOHMERT you coming and joining us today. Please, I look forward to your remarks.

Mr. GOHMERT. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that from my good friend from Georgia. And it is an honor to not only be on the floor here, but to serve with the kind right honorable gentleman from Georgia, a physician to the body before he got here and now a physician to the heart of America since he is here. So that is an honor.

But, you know, you were talking about, and to observe the House rules

we do not call people by their first names here, so, Dr. Price, you were talking about truth. And one of the great disappointments over the last few decades has been the United Nations. It should be an integral part of our national security.

Yet it has failed miserably. It has taken the wrong side so often, and yet we had an administration and a President who wanted someone as an ambassador to the U.N. who would be truthful, call things like they were.

And as we saw in the Senate, when it came time to confirm Mr. Bolton, they threw on the brakes. Oh, my gosh, this guy can be rude. He will actually tell people what he thinks. We do not want someone going to the U.N. representing the United States that tells them what he thinks. Goodness, that might offend them. They need some offending.

We needed Mr. Bolton in there. Son of a gun, that is his history. He tells people what he thinks. He got to the U.N. and he has been doing that, but without any thanks to the Democrats in the Senate that blocked it at every turn.

But as we look today, a matter of national security is what is happening with Iran. Iran wants to have nuclear weapons. They have said that Israel has no right to exist. They want to nuke it out of existence. This is a dangerous country. And so what have we done? Well, we are sending that to the U.N. to let them see what they can do.

Well, we are better off with Mr. Bolton there helping us and representing our interests. But the trouble is, that is one person in a myriad of people who are just overwhelmed with self-interest. And I really rise in frustration to the toothless tiger that we call the United Nations. You know, it was born out of the best of intentions. It was born out of the greatest and noblest aspirations, that we would bring peace to a war-torn world and justice to the oppressed.

Yet what has happened is living proof that there is no such thing as institutional evolution. What has evolved has not been a higher, better entity in the United Nations. The U.N. has devolved into a mire of self-aggrandizement and self-absorption. They provided wealth to family members in the U.N., wealth to their own cronies, along with some of the most evil oppression in history.

The U.N. sometimes barks, but never has any bite. It reminds me of a school teacher I had once years ago who often defended the bullies in our class and would lash out at anybody that tried to defend themselves against the bully. She would not help the oppressed; she took up for the bullies. That is what has started happening with the U.N.

They do not want to help address the issue of bullies; they want to turn their heads, continue to help family members and cronies. But anyway, the U.N. has been a willing accomplice to some of the world's worst, most oppressive people; and sometimes it has been one of the biggest obstacles to people's liberty, freedom, and self-respect.

We all know, or we should know, that referring Iran to the U.N. is problematic because of the lies and the intentional distortions. Iran has said that they want to destroy another nation, and yet the U.N. has shown they have no stomach for doing what is required. They pass resolution after resolution. But when it comes to putting teeth in anything, they just do not do it. They will try to justify what they are doing.

I mean, I guess asking the U.N. to protect us would be tantamount to saying let us send in Scott Ritter to protect us from an oncoming train. I mean, he will notice the train's existence, try to justify why it is about to run over him and everybody on the track, but he will do no good. The U.N., that is the kind of actions they take. They try to justify things' existence, lash out at those being bullied, but not do what needs to be done.

The U.N.'s word means nothing, and its corruption and deceit are an embarrassment, and it is no longer an advocate or a defender of truth and justice. In fact, they are often the impediment to those very things. It is high time we confronted them with that.

And I would submit, Dr. Price, that sending an item to the U.N. for action is a bit like sending raw food to a kitchen that is filled with corruption, confusion, and selfishness. You are lucky if they act in that kitchen before the food spoils. And even if they do act before the food spoils, odds are they are going to consume it, and you will never see it again.

That is kind of what it is like when you send something to the U.N. They are either going to let it spoil, let it go rotten, or they are going to use it to their own self-fulfillment. What a sad nightmare this once great dream has become in the United Nations. I hope and pray that they will assist us with this international problem in Iran, because it involves our own national security. Some want to turn their heads and say, just like they did with Hitler, well, if we just let him have a little bit of what he wants, then he will leave us alone.

But that kind of ambition and that kind of desire for world conquest does not ever go away. It continues to proceed on, and in some cases unimpeded where you meet pacifists, Dr. Price, I saw back a couple of years ago a bunch of signs being held by protesters about the war in Iraq. And they actually said this: war never brought about peace. That is it. War never brought about peace.

I thought, my goodness, these people never studied history. War never brought peace? That is the only time there has been any kind of sustained peace where people had liberty during that peace is when there has been a war and the good guys won.

So it is unfortunate that we have uneducated people who do not know history, refuse to learn from history. But I appreciate so much your efforts at bringing truth. And as you and I

have talked about, and you have said, sunlight is one of the best disinfectants there is.

So bringing truth out, I know at times we struggle as we listen to things that were not true. It is like there is a culture of deceit in this body, and the people need to know the truth.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman GOHMERT for his kind words and for his truth. Sometimes truth is a bitter pill to swallow.

□ 1445

Mr. GOHMERT. But you prescribe that, do you not?

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. But the area of support that the United States has received for freedom and for liberty around the world from the United Nations is often time lacking. And that is a bitter pill to swallow, but it does not mean that you do not keep working. It does not mean that you do not keep trying. But I think it is important, the perspective you bring, to maybe hopefully wake up some Americans who need to hear the information and appreciate that the U.N. needs to be moving in a bit of a different direction.

I thank you so much for your participation.

Mr. GOHMERT. If the gentleman would yield for one more moment, you come from a background as a physician of healing people. I come from a background of being a judge and chief justice and wanting to see justice. And it is amazing how we can work together and America allows that kind of freedom. So thank you for your efforts at bringing about what they used to say, as Superman started, truth, justice and the American way.

Mr. PRICE of Georgia. I thank Congressman GOHMERT so much for your comments and for your participation.

What we are doing is the Official Truth Squad. The Official Truth Squad is primarily a group of freshmen Congressmen and women frustrated by the tone in Washington, frustrated by the animosity and doing our doggonedest to raise the level of discussion, raise the level of the rhetoric, be a little more positive, and put out the word that, yes, there are individuals in Congress who love this Nation, who believe that it is the finest Nation on the face of the Earth and are proud of the work that we are doing and trying to correct the record sometimes, bringing truth to light.

To that end, I think it is important that we sometimes highlight statements by people who may have a certain forum or a certain podium that simply is untrue, because it is important that somebody stand up and say, no, that is not the case; and I refer now to comments that were made just this past Sunday by former Vice President Al Gore.

He was visiting Saudi Arabia and he was talking to an audience there, and oftentimes when he talks sometimes there is a bit of hyperbole, but this is

not hyperbole. These are flat-out lies. This is just not the truth. What he said was that the U.S. government has committed "terrible abuses" against Arabs after the September 11, 2001, attacks. He went on to say that the United States "indiscriminately rounded up" and held in "unforgivable conditions."

Now, I ask you, Mr. Speaker, where is the evidence for that? I ask you, where is the evidence for that? That is as unconscionable and irresponsible a comment as I have ever heard uttered.

I ask the Democratic leadership, are you supportive of these comments? Is that what you believe? The silence from the other side really is, again, a disservice to the debate. It does a disservice to the Nation, frankly.

So I call on my colleagues to stand up and be counted on this. If you got the evidence, then let us show it. But to make those kind of comments, especially overseas, there used to be some protocol or some common courtesy that former members of the executive branch, especially when traveling overseas, would not criticize a sitting President or the United States. Well, those common courtesies are long since gone.

Again, that is kind of what the Official Truth Squad is all about, raise the level of the rhetoric and hopefully be able to bring some truth to light.

I have a few minutes left, and I wanted to talk about the National Security Agency and the domestic terrorism surveillance. When I talk with constituents back home in Georgia and I ask them and I ask big groups, tell me if you were running the country and you knew that there were certain cell phones or certain telephones of communication devices that were owned or utilized by terrorists, international terrorists, and you knew that, and you knew when one of those individuals was going to make a call into the United States, would you want to know who they were talking to? Would you want to know what number they were calling?

I have not gotten a single person yet to tell me that they would not want to know that. Not one.

The American people know the truth about this program, this domestic terrorist surveillance program. They know that what this government is doing is protecting them. It is protecting them. So much so that when the discussion initially occurred about this program, the Members on the other side, many Members of the other side stood up and just shouted it down, just said awful things about the individuals performing it, awful things about its being in place.

Then they heard from their constituents. Most districts, it is 65, 75, 80 percent of folks at home who believe this type of program is appropriate. We are not talking about listening to American calls. We are talking about, appropriately so, to calls from known terrorists, outside the United States into the United States. I would suggest to the

House, Mr. Speaker, I would suggest to the American people that if we were not doing that, if we were not doing that, we would be irresponsible.

Well, the Members on the other side of the aisle certainly got that information at home. Because this past Sunday on Meet the Press Mr. Russert had the sitting ranking member of the House of Representatives on the Intelligence Committee, Representative HARMAN, and former Senator Daschle, who was the minority leader in the Senate when this program began, and asked them some very specific questions.

One of the questions he asked was, Senator Daschle, were you briefed? He was talking about this program. Senator Daschle's response, it goes into long details, but, yes, we were briefed. We were briefed.

As the President said, if he wanted to break the law, why did he come to Congress and tell him what he was doing? So the truth is that this is an appropriate program. The truth is Congress knew about it in the appropriate ways.

Representative HARMAN was asked, do you support the program? And she says, I still support the program. This is the thing they are arguing so much about and complaining so much about.

Senator Daschle, should the President stop this program? Senator Daschle replies, no, absolutely not.

Mr. Russert asked Representative HARMAN, do you think the program should be stopped? Representative HARMAN, no, I think the program should go on.

So, Mr. Speaker, truth is an important thing to talk about when we are discussing about matters of public policy.

As Congressman GOHMERT and others have mentioned, I am a physician. I am an orthopedic surgeon. I practiced for nearly 20 years in the Atlanta area, and I know if you do not listen to the right results of tests, if you do not investigate, if you do not get the right information, if you do not get the truth, you cannot make the right diagnosis. And the same is true in public policy. If you are not talking about things in a truthful manner, if you are not putting out information that is accurate, then there is no way that you can reach the right solution.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the leadership that the Speaker is providing. I am proud of the leadership the Republican leadership is providing about the area and the issue of national security. Because this is not a Republican issue, it is not a Democrat issue, it is an American issue, and it may be the most important thing that we have to do as Members of the House of Representatives.

So my hope and prayer truly is that all Members of the House and the Senate will work together in this most solemn, solemn of challenges and tasks that we have and ensure the protection of our Nation.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON SCIENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania) laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Science:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, February 15, 2006.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Effective today, February 15th, I resign my seat on the Committee on Science pending my appointment to the Committee on International Relations.

Sincerely,

RUSS CARNAHAN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

30-SOMETHING WORKING GROUP

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2005, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, we appreciate the opportunity once again to come to the floor of the House of Representatives as the 30-Something Working Group. Myself along with KENDRICK MEEK, Mr. MEEK from Florida, and also Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ from Florida, we have been coming here now, Mr. Speaker, for a couple of years talking about the condition of the United States, our fiscal situation, Mr. Speaker, our investment situation or lack of investment in the United States of America, and also what we believe is the Democratic Caucus and Leader PELOSI and STENY HOYER and the issues that we are trying to put forward.

It has been a very interesting week here for the Democratic Caucus, Mr. Speaker. We had a wonderful guest, George Lucas, the famous writer, director, producer of the great Star Wars movies; and he was here to talk about the innovation agenda that the Democratic party is beginning to put forward. And we have, Mr. Speaker, an innovation agenda to keep America competitive in the 21st century.

As we look at what has been happening here in the United States, this kind of breaks down into two or three separate categories. One, if we want to be a strong country, we have got to start here at home; and we got to start making the investments here in the United States. Research and development, education, health care, alternative energy technologies must start here; and we must begin to grow our economy here, Mr. Speaker, if we are going to be of any good to anyone else here in the world.

Unfortunately, our friends across the aisle on the Republican side have failed miserably in their attempt to try to balance the budget here in the United

States of America. We have, as citizens of this country, regardless of what political party you belong to, we have as a country an \$8.2 trillion national debt, \$8.2 trillion dollars. Each citizen in this country owes \$27,000 to our national debt. If a baby is born today, that baby owes \$27,000 to the United States government to help us pay our debt. If you are a senior citizen, you owe \$27,000 to the United States Government. And if we keep going down the path that we have been on, and here it is, \$8.2 trillion as of Valentine's Day, 2006, and your share of the national debt is \$27,500.

Mr. Speaker, we have a real situation in the United States of America. So not only do we owe this, not only does each person owe that, what do we do? So if we are running a \$400 billion annual deficit or \$300 billion, what do we do to fund business in the United States of America? We have got to go out and borrow the money. And this President in the first 4 years of his term borrowed more money from foreign interests than every single administration prior to his in the last 224 years. This President borrowed \$1.05 trillion from foreign interests in 4 years, more than every other president before him.

Is that making America stronger, Mr. Speaker? I do not think it is. I think it weakens our country. And here it is. This President in a Republican House and a Republican Senate has borrowed \$1.05 trillion from 2001 to 2005. And all of these Presidents did not borrow as much from foreign interests as this one has.

And that puts us, Mr. Speaker, that puts us at a position of weakness because guess who we are borrowing the money from to pay the bills. We borrow some from U.S. interests, but this is a chart that outlines who else we are borrowing this money from. \$682 billion we have borrowed from Japan; \$249 billion we have borrowed from China; \$67.8 billion from OPEC.

□ 1500

Are you kidding me? We are borrowing money from OPEC to help fund and plug the hole in our annual deficits here? Meanwhile, they are making money hand over fist. This is a very dangerous situation that we are in, Mr. Speaker, because here is the end result. Here is where the rubber meets the road.

As we all take out loans to pay for our homes or our cars or our kids' education, unfortunately you cannot just borrow the money at zero percent interest. You have got to pay interest on the money you borrow. So the interest on \$8.2 trillion is a lot of money. So what does that mean for our annual payments that we have to make just on the interest?

This chart is the 2007 budget in billions of dollars. This big red bar that gets up to \$230 billion is what we are going to pay in the 2007 budget projected on interest on the debt, just the

interest. We are not paying it down. We are just paying the interest on it, and this nice lavender bar that barely gets up over \$50 billion is what we are going to spend on education and then homeland security and then veterans.

The irresponsible policies of this administration put our fiscal house in disorder because we are spending so much money on just paying the interest on the money we owe the Chinese and the Japanese and the OPEC countries. That is a great deal for those countries, great deal for them, but what about us?

A stronger America starts here at home. So until we fix this problem, there is no issue we can go on addressing because it straps our hands behind our back, Mr. Speaker, because we want to make investments in education, research and development, Pell grants to lower the cost of college tuition, put research money into figuring out an alternative energy source so we are not dependent on some of these OPEC countries.

But check this out: this is the interest on the debt that I just showed. This is what we could spend every day in this country if we did not have to pay all this interest on the debt. We could invest \$1 million a day into every congressional district.

I represent a district in northeast Ohio, Youngstown, Ohio; Akron, Ohio; Niles, Ohio; Warren, Ohio; Portage County. Kent State University is in my district. This is an older area in the northeast of the great State of Ohio, the great Buckeye State. \$365 million I could have to go back to this area and invest in the schools, Head Start, all kinds of other different things just from my district; and every other Member in here, Mr. Speaker, would get \$365 million, a tremendous difference. Give it to the Chinese banks, the Chinese Government; give it to the Japanese banks, the Japanese Government; give it to OPEC or give it to the kids who are trying to go to school in Youngstown, Ohio, of which 80 percent live in poverty that go to Youngstown city schools. I know what I would like to choose.

Some other things here. We could provide health care to 79,925 more veterans if we would not have to pay the interest on the debt like in the late 1990s when we made the very difficult decision here, and I am glad the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MEEK) is joining us for this point.

A very difficult decision in 1993 when President Clinton got into office. We were running budget deficit after budget deficit every year, and our Democratic House and a Democratic Senate, with a Democratic President, balanced the budget in 1993 without one Republican vote. I am not saying some Republicans would not vote for it now, but at that time, when the heat was on, without one Republican vote, and it led to balanced budgets, surpluses as far as the eye could see, investments into education, Hope scholarship, the whole

nine yards and the greatest economic expansion in the history of this country.

More important, the private sector, because interest rates were low, the private sector was able to go out and create over 20 million new jobs. We cannot create jobs here in government. That is not our duty. That is not our responsibility. This is the chart, Reagan, Reagan, Reagan, Bush, Bush, Bush, all in the red; and Clinton in the late 1990s, after the 1993 budget was implemented, we started having surpluses in the late 1990s, projected out as far as the eye could see because of fiscal discipline.

That is what our job is here, balance the budget, keep interest rates low, invest in the education and research, like this country has always done, and the private sector will join and take over.

Some other things. If we did not have to pay the interest on the debt, we could enroll 60,000 kids into Head Start. You want to talk about being compassionate, you want to talk about if you practice the Christian faith, being a Christian, I think somewhere that means making sure we can invest into those poor districts, those poor children, and I am so glad that Mr. MEEK is joining us because we started out here, and that "we" being me, talking about the impact of the budget deficit and the fiscal situation that we are in right now and the damage that it is causing to the American economy and the lack of investment because we are paying the interest on the debt to many of these countries overseas.

So thank you very much for joining us. I know you were busy in a Homeland Security Committee hearing, and I appreciate you coming up to support the 30-somethings.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, anytime we get the opportunity to share with the Members of this House and the American people what the truth is all about, and sometimes the truth hurts, as we share with America and also the majority our positive message for change and putting this country on the right track, because we know that working together with the American people that we are going to put this country on the right track.

I mentioned once before, just as late as last night, on some of the last hours of our Innovation Agenda that we have, the Innovation Agenda that we would like to carry out, Mr. Speaker, but the bottom line is the difference between the Republican message on innovation and investment in our young people and our message is the fact that the Republican majority has everything at their fingertips to bring about true innovation here in the United States. They have control of the House of Representatives, have control of the U.S. Senate, have control of the executive branch. We are stopping the Republican majority from moving forward. We have made some very strong statements, and I encourage the Members to go to housedemocrats.gov, and you can download our agenda for innovation.

The real issue is that we want to create an educated, skilled workforce for the future; and the bottom line is that we want to make sure that we can move forward in the math and sciences and engineering. We cannot get there by just saying it, Mr. Speaker. We have to put the investment in.

But guess what, guess what, the President's budget does not speak to what he said here in the Chamber during the State of the Union, that he is committed to innovation. If you are committed to innovation, you do not cut off the very lifeblood that young people need to be able to pursue an undergraduate degree or a graduate degree. You do not say that we are going to slash student assistance. We are no longer going to assist you in a way of being able to achieve the American Dream in educating yourself.

I think it is also important that we have made a commitment on this side of the aisle to guarantee access to broadband in every home.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. In 5 years.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. In 5 years. We do not want some neighborhoods to have access to broadband and other neighborhoods, they do not have access. If we are going to move together as a people and society, people in rural America, folks in urban America, individuals that are living from paycheck to paycheck, we have got to level the playing field.

This thing of two Americas is not going to get us past other countries in this world that are competing against us. U.S. companies, what I want you to do before we leave this hour, if you would, just read off the comments of the CEOs again. You know, someone might have heard it once before, but they need to hear it again.

American technology companies are saying, please, please come together in a bipartisan way, please move in the direction of innovation so we can be competitive; but we cannot complain, Mr. Speaker, when they have to go overseas and hire individuals from other countries to fill jobs that can be provided to Americans right here. So that is the difference between us and the majority.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Let me share a statistic that is Americans' ranking with broadband penetration as of January of 2005. Korea has almost a 25 percent penetration; China, 20 percent; Iceland, 15 percent; the U.S., 11 percent. This is one area where we are falling behind in a big way.

Another area that you touched upon, this is the number of engineers, people with engineering degrees this year: China, 600,000; India, 350,000; U.S., 70,000. We cannot compete in a brutal, brutal global economy if we are not making the kinds of investments that are going to increase this number. Now, I understand that the Chinese and India, they have more people than we do, all the more reason that we need every single citizen in our country on the field with the opportunity to play

and to help make investments in the United States and create wealth in the United States.

That is what this Innovation Agenda does, broadband penetration, next 5 years in every household as Mr. MEEK said, increasing the number of engineers and scientists by 100,000 in the next 4 years. That is in the Democratic Innovation Agenda, and let me just share with you who assisted the Leader PELOSI and the Democratic Caucus with putting this together.

John Chambers, president and CEO of Cisco Systems, Incorporated, said that, "The Innovation Agenda focuses on the right issues for building our Nation's competitiveness, from investing in basic R&D, expanding science and math education and broadband infrastructure, to creating a globally competitive business environment . . . I look forward to working with both sides . . . to implement these laudable goals."

That is not TIM RYAN; that is not KENDRICK MEEK; that is not NANCY PELOSI. That is the CEO of Cisco saying get our act together and make the proper investments that need to be made.

Also, the Federal Government affairs person at Microsoft says that "we ask Congress to give these issues serious consideration and support." And he says, "At Microsoft, we are committed to changing the world through innovative technology and, in order to fulfill that commitment, we need a pool of well-educated, skilled workers."

This is not just one party. These are CEOs, probably even Republicans; and if you go to our Web site, we have all of the quotes from a lot of people, from the American Corn Growers Association, TechNet.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We need the corn growers, Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We need corn, I love corn; but these are folks that are not just aligned with us philosophically. This is a very pragmatic approach to how to keep America competitive, and I think our plan is much better than the plan or lack of plan that the other side has. They have been in charge of this House since 1994 and have not been able to make strides in this area, and the numbers bear that out. These are facts. This is not something that we have made up.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. The reality of the situation is the fact that the Republican side will come to this floor, if not within minutes, in another couple of hours or when we come back off of the break that we are taking for a week to go back to our districts and work and what have you, they will come and say, oh, we have an innovation agenda. They will come and say, we want to cut the budget, we want to cut the deficit in half, and we believe in the things that the President believes in, we believe in veterans affairs, we believe that veterans should have health care, we believe that American families should have health care. They

will say all of these great things; but guess what, the evidence does not reflect the action that they have taken.

The President comes here and says that he believes in innovation, he believes in investing in America's future, and in so many words, he believes in the good old American spirit of saying that we will be first, that we will leap forward, that we will lead the world in the areas of education and in sciences and engineering, all of those things.

□ 1515

All of those things, but his budget doesn't reflect that, Mr. RYAN. One may say, well, why do you have to identify the negative part of this argument? I have to identify it, Mr. RYAN, because it is the reality of the legislative process, because the President sets the tone on what the budget will look like.

You have our Republican majority here, and we have these partisan votes all the time. They vote in the spirit of the President's budget. Now, one says trust us with the money, Mr. RYAN. Every time we come to the floor, I have to identify what is going on as it relates to trust us with the money.

Here is our friend, Secretary of the Treasury, Mr. Snow. He is a good guy. He is a good guy.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Good guy.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. But I want to make sure we understand that he has a responsibility to make sure that this government doesn't run out of money. He is paying attention to what is going on, Mr. Speaker. By him paying attention, all he can do is react to the bad policies that come out of this Chamber, right here. He didn't do it by himself. He doesn't have the checkbook to write checks that he is not authorized to write.

He is almost what you might call, Mr. RYAN, the accountant for the United States of America, the individual that makes sure we get a warning when we are heading down the wrong track. Here is a letter to Senator MCCONNELL by Secretary Snow, dated the 29th of last year. This is almost on New Year's Eve, Members. This is like on New Year's Eve. This is during the high holy time. This is during the time that folks are with family and all and the Congress is out of session.

But the last act of the Secretary, probably in 2005, was to write this letter, to write this letter so that hopefully maybe one day someone will pick it up and say, oh, wow.

In this letter he is saying that we project that the debt limit, which is currently at \$8.1 trillion, will be reached by mid-February, 2006, which is now, ladies and gentlemen.

At that time, unless the debt limit is raised, or the Department of Treasury authorized extraordinary actions, we will be unable to continue financing government operations. It is not that we are not going to be able to keep the snack room open over at the Depart-

ment of the Treasury. We will not be able, Mr. Speaker, to continue government operations.

What is government operations? Government operations is making sure that we have enough dollars to be able to fulfill what the American people want us to fulfill, make sure that we have adequate education dollars, and make sure that we can run the government and that we have agencies that are performing services for the people, make sure that the troops have what they need that are in harm's way right now, all of these very, very important things, to make sure that the veteran hospitals are open, to make sure that children with free and reduced lunch are able to get what they need. They are saying unless the debt ceiling is raised, we will not be able to do any of that.

Now, Mr. Snow, I can tell you, who is appointed by the President of these United States and confirmed by the U.S. Senate, is not a member of the Democratic Caucus. As a matter of fact, he can be an independent, because he is just an accountant for the United States of America, Mr. Speaker. The bottom line is, it is not his fault, but he wrote that letter 2 days before the end of 2005. While the rest of us are thinking about New Year's resolutions, he is back here in reality, because the Congress left here trying to pass a budget.

He knows that he is going to have to write another letter. There are five other letters that have been written like this by this Republican majority because of their actions. Now, this is letter number six, Mr. RYAN?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I think so.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. It is letter number six, letter number seven, letter number eight is coming. The reason we have to do it is because we have to pay on the debt, and it is irresponsible policy by saying that we want to make tax cuts permanent for billionaires.

Meanwhile, Mr. RYAN, we cannot carry out an innovation agenda, we can't carry out a true health care agenda. The President comes here and says, hey, let's talk about health care. Okay, let's talk about health care. No, it is not really a discussion. I just want to expand a program that only those that have disposable income to put on the side for a rainy day for when they get sick, but the folks that are living from paycheck to paycheck, I want to tell you something, many of those individuals are making good money. Many of those individuals are trying to pay for college loans and tuition, many of them are trying to do that. Many of them have sick family members. They don't have \$1,000 or \$2,000 to put to one side for the rainy day fund for when they get sick. That is not a health care policy. That is a health care policy for a couple of folks that can afford to do it.

I think it is important that we engage, Mr. RYAN, as we do, we come to this floor in this 30-something Working

Group, we engage the majority, not in the political sense, but in the sense of saying that the American people deserve better. In the same breath, Mr. Speaker, I think it is important that we identify, not only to the Members but to the American people, the only way we will be able to get on track to be able to deal with the issue of health care, to deal with the issue of innovation, to be able to make sure that we do away with the culture of corruption and cronyism and incompetence and do away with the corruption tax that the American people are paying because of the incompetence and the cronyism and the corruption that is going on right now in Washington D.C.

This is not my report. This is you pick up the paper, you turn on the television. It is going on, Mr. RYAN. We talked about the K Street Project. Folks are saying, well, that is not news. We know it exists. We have Members on the majority side boasting about the K Street Project: Yes, we created it. What's the problem?

Now, after a certain lobbyist here in this town gets indicted, does he go to trial? No. Was there a jury pool call? No. He said, guess what, I am guilty, and I am willing to help.

Then all of a sudden, 3 days later, oh, well, the K Street Project, we are doing away with that, as though it was right in the first place. I use that example, Mr. RYAN, so that the Members and the American people understand that what we are talking about now is not fiction; it is fact.

I said that last night, Mr. Speaker, and I am going to say it every time we come to the floor. We are not promoting fiction. We are promoting facts. That is where we are right now. Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We talked about raising the debt limit. If you go back and review what happened during the Clinton administration, two times President Clinton had to raise the debt ceiling. Twice. Those were early on. They passed the balanced budget in 1993 without one Republican vote. Democratic House, Democratic Senate, Democratic White House, balanced the budget, helped the private sector create and provided the environment for the private sector to create over 20 million new jobs.

We need to provide that environment again for the private sector to go out and do its work. We are not going to create the jobs here. We cannot create any jobs. It is not our job to create jobs.

Our job is to create an environment in which people can go out and seize the opportunity that we helped create. So Clinton did it twice. This President has done it five times already, and he has only been in office 5 years. President Clinton was in office 8 years.

Democrats know how to balance budgets and make proper investments. If you look at the execution of government, from this President, this Republican House, the Republican Senate.

Katrina, a disaster, the way FEMA reacted, an absolute disaster. The way the American people in that region were treated and are still being treated, and the money that is being wasted, because there are 11,000 trailers sitting in Hope, Arkansas, that cost \$300 million that are now sinking in the mud that no one is living in.

I mean, give me a break. You look at the war in Iraq. We just find out in the last few days, \$9 billion. Nobody knows where it is. Where is it? I don't know. Somebody find it. We don't know where it is. What would you do with it? I don't have it. I gave it to him. What did you do with it? He got it. It is like watching a Three Stooges episode. \$9 billion of public money wasted.

Halliburton, overcharging for food and all kinds of other stuff. Halliburton has already been fined \$2 million for wasting the taxpayers' money. Fraud. Come on. All we are saying here is there is a way to execute government, and we know how to do it. You could know better than anybody else, Mr. MEEK, living in south Florida, with how FEMA operates and how they don't always follow the proper procedure. We can compare that to FEMA as it was executed under President Clinton.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I will be happy to yield.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. As you know, I am the ranking member on the Management, Integration and Oversight Subcommittee in Homeland Security.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I know that.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I will tell you the reason why I was a little delayed here, Mr. RYAN, is we had two individuals, one from General Services and another from the Department of Homeland Security. We are about to move into what we call this American Shield Initiative, which is along our borders using technology to protect America from illegal immigration.

We set out with an initial program, Mr. Speaker, similar to the one that is about to start now. In that program, there was a quarter of a billion dollars wasted because of incompetence. A quarter of a billion dollars. Now, let me tell you, a quarter of a billion dollars, Mr. RYAN, it is not even in some sort of program that was at some university and someone was to work on some sort of research project and it went south. This is protecting the borders of the United States of America, a quarter of a billion dollars. The four individuals that were involved, Mr. Speaker, only received a demotion. A demotion.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you, I used to be a State trooper. If you have a trooper that damaged equipment, let us just say \$1 million, they are gone, period, dot. It is not anything to where you say, oh, well, Tom, I know it was rough and all, and you made a mistake. Guess what, it's just a quarter of a billion dollars, just the taxpayers' money. Don't worry about it. Forget about it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. They will get over it.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. They will get over it.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, we have to disabuse ourselves of that kind of attitude here in Washington D.C.

Let me tell you something. My constituents who can either be Republican, Democratic, Independent, or Green Party, would be highly disappointed, highly disappointed if we were in charge and this were going on. But we are not in charge. We are asking to be in charge of this Chamber.

What is happening right now, Mr. Speaker, and what is being printed in the press right now, Mr. Speaker, and what is being said in the Halls of Congress right now, Mr. Speaker, is unprecedented in the history of this Congress.

When we speak into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, Mr. RYAN, here on this 30-something, I sleep well. I sleep well because I know that, hopefully, historians will look at this time and say, you know something, the minority side was saying that we could do better, and that we can do better, and that we will do better. We have the history on our side to the majority side. On the Democratic side, we have the history of balancing the budget. Do you? No.

We have the history of investing in education and making sure that children have what they need to learn and teachers have what they need to teach.

On your side? No. We have the history of putting together things as it relates to a bipartisan agenda on innovation and education, Leave No Child Behind, working with the Republican side, passing that piece of legislation, being there at the bill signing. Then when it came down to funding that bipartisan piece of legislation, it was the Democrats standing there all alone while on the Republican side we had desert tumbleweeds flying through saying, well, you know, we just don't have the money to do that. Meanwhile, on the other side, we have got to give this tax break to the top bracket of Americans who are millionaires. As a matter of fact, not only do we want to give it to them, we want to make it permanent.

Mr. RYAN, we start talking about the commitment to making sure that we carry on our constitutional responsibilities. Mr. Speaker, I think it is very clear that we are prepared, and that we are ready. The President came here talking about innovation. He must have been walking down the hall and picked up a copy of the Democratic plan and said, oh, maybe we need to talk about this.

We have CEOs who are Independents and Republicans and are Democrats, who are now talking that they are supporting a Democratic initiative.

No, what they are supporting is an American initiative that we are committed to.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. An initiative endorsed by the CEO of Cisco Systems; the managing director of government affairs at Microsoft; and a laundry list,

American Corn Growers; CEO of AEA; I mean, come on, Information Technology Industry Council, vice president. This is not a Democratic-supported agenda. This was the Democrat's ideas, but this is supported by Democrats and Republicans because it is the right thing to do for the country.

□ 1530

Increase the research and development tax credit. Double the funding to the National Science Foundation. These are things that, these are smart business decisions. We are in the business of government. If you were in a business, you would not run yourself into debt and run annual deficits as far as the eye can see. You would not stop funding education or pull back or not make that kind of investment. You would not cut funding to research and development. That is your lifeline, that is how you keep yourself competitive, and that is all we want to do and try to give every kid an opportunity to get up in there.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, you showed this chart a little earlier, but you cannot show it enough.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I do not think you can.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. I just want to make sure, Mr. RYAN, that the American people understand what is happening in the present. We do not even have to go as far back as what happened 4 or 5 years ago or what happened 2 years ago. We just have to talk about what is happening right now.

Once again, this President could not do it by himself, Mr. Speaker, needed the partisan vote in this Chamber on the Republican side to accomplish \$1.05 trillion in borrowing from foreign nations. Knocking on the door of China, saying can you help us, because we are fiscally irresponsible.

That is what the debt ceiling letter comes from, Mr. Speaker. We did not write this letter. Democrats did not set this letter into motion. It was the Republican policies in this Republican House that set this policy into motion raising the debt ceiling, not paying as we go. This is not the responsibility of the minority on the Democratic side. It is the majority.

I want to make sure, because we need to break this thing down in 1, 2, 3, A, B, C, so that no one can go back home and tell their constituents, well, you know, you have got a point there, but I did not quite catch that, and I did not know that we have borrowed \$1.05 trillion more than 42 Presidents before this President, 42 other administrators before this President, \$1.05 trillion that other Presidents and administrations and Congresses have borrowed from foreign nations in 224 years.

Folks say, well, you all act like you are alarmed by this. We are alarmed, Mr. Speaker. The American people should be alarmed, Republicans and Democrats. It is almost like saying, Mr. Speaker, if you had your daughter or son that you gave a credit card to

and they went out and they just charged that credit card up, as a matter of fact, they charged it to the point that it is at the limit. Let us say they had a \$2,500 limit on it. What the Republican Congress is doing now, Mr. Speaker, is that they are going, even though they are maxed out, they are calling the credit card company that happens to be China, that happens to be Saudi Arabia, that happens to be other countries of interest, as it relates to the defense of this country, saying we have maxed out right now. We need your help to pay our bills.

And then at the same time, Mr. Speaker, as I continue to go to C here, through the ABCs, they are saying this on one side, but, on the other side, they are saying, hey, make the tax cuts permanent. Make them permanent for the most well-financed Americans, for the top tier of the individuals that are making 2 and \$3 million a year. On this side of the debate, Mr. Speaker, they are saying it is okay to give not only royalties but other benefits and tax breaks to the oil industry while they are making record profits. They are saying that it is okay.

But then here in the middle are the American people; and the American people are having to suck it up, Mr. RYAN. The American people who want to educate themselves, parents who want to see their children educated. If you have a prepaid college program, you better revisit that program, because it will not assist your child or your son or your daughter in paying for their college because we will just yank the carpet out from under young people. And the Republican majority did.

We voted against it. The Democrats voted against it. So if we are going to have a paradigm shift, and I am hoping that we put the pressure on the Republican majority, that we are here to play. We mean business. We are very serious about having the opportunity to give this country what it deserves, and that means representation, representation for them and not the special interests.

Mr. Speaker, I speak all of the time about I do not have a picture of the special interests in my office, saying I really dislike the special interests. I really dislike individuals that are paid lobbyists. I really dislike them. No, no. It is not them. It is the individuals that allow the raw needs of those special interests to make it into statutory language. It is those individuals that appropriate in those areas where it gets into the appropriations act and into the budget just the way they wrote it, without saying, you know, I know you have a concern, I know you have an issue and you have needs, but we have to make sure that the American people are represented in this budget. We have to make sure that the American people are represented in this bill. We have to make sure that the future of this country as it relates to innovation plays a major role in what we do here, and that is where we are lacking, Mr. Speaker.

So, you know, Mr. RYAN, as we go on, and many Members will return back to their districts and speak to individuals that live there. We challenge those Americans to challenge your Member of Congress. It is almost too late for us to wait until Election Day for you to speak the way you want to speak. But you have the opportunity. I tell you, give the Republican majority the benefit of the doubt that they are going to take a paradigm shift. But I am going to let you know right now, the evidence does not speak to a paradigm shift or a change in thinking or their ways.

So I say, Mr. RYAN, that, yes, we do have a couple of friends over here on this side of the aisle that believe what we believe. And it will be those individuals, those very few, Mr. Speaker, that will join in with a Democratic leadership if the American people see fit to have it so that will allow us to move in a bipartisan way. And it will not be like it is now, and it will not be business as usual, and it will not be, well, I don't care if you do not like it.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. We cannot afford business as usual.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We cannot afford business as usual.

So Mr. RYAN, I think it is important as we are in, you know, the closing minutes of our time here of sharing with, I know it is, you know, 15, 20 minutes it is closing for us because we like to share the information.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Fourth quarter.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. We are in the fourth quarter right now. We like to share the information, and we like to give it to folks the way it is. There is no icing on this, Mr. Speaker. Because there is no icing when a child is denied an opportunity to enroll in a free lunch.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. No gravy.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. There is no icing on the cake when it comes down to a family that is trying to figure out how they are going to pay a copayment or they need to keep running down to the drugstore to get children's Motrin or Tylenol. There is no icing on the reality of individuals having to wait at an HMO or at a clinic, that they are on a waiting list to be seen by a doctor. There is no icing on the reality of the American experience right now.

So I think it is important for children, if it is from, you know, from a double-wide to the west side, wherever they may live, who do not have the opportunity to broadband access so that they can be just as advanced as the next community or as the next family. That is what we are talking about. It is not a liberal agenda. It is a sound agenda to put this country back on the right track, and it is serious business, and anyone that feels that it is not serious business, we challenge them to say otherwise.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I agree with you 100 percent, Mr. MEEK; and I appreciate your passion. The \$9 billion, you talked about some of the irresponsible domestic fiscal problems, challenges that we

have here in the United States. They are unbelievable, the magnitude that they are at right now and the magnitude that our friends on the other side let it get so far out of hand. But not only here at home do they have problems governing and balancing budgets and trying to put our fiscal house in order here. \$9 billion lost in Iraq. Okay?

Third party validator. This is not TIM RYAN from Ohio. This is not KENDRICK MEEK from Florida. This is not NANCY PELOSI saying this. This is the Inspector General that said nearly \$9 billion of money spent on Iraq reconstruction is unaccounted for because of inefficiencies and bad management, according to a watchdog report published Sunday. And the IG says the same thing. Unable to account for the funds. \$8.8 billion was reported to have been spent on salaries, operating and capital expenditures and reconstruction projects between October of 2003 and 2004. The CPA, Coalition Provisional Authorities, have left auditors with no guarantee the money was properly used. Severe inefficiencies and poor management. What is going on over there? Haliburton is inflating their numbers to increase their profits at the expense of the United States taxpayer.

Back home with Katrina, we have—

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, it is okay. I am talking about, Mr. RYAN, for the majority. It is okay. No, it is fine.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. No, I understand what you are saying.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Oh, people make mistakes of wide application, you know.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. And you may like this one because this totally reaffirms what you just said. It affirms it, but then it even reaffirms it. At the House Budget Committee hearing this morning, the committee hearing was on discretionary spending.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Just this morning, Mr. RYAN.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Just this morning, today, Thursday. One of the things OMB and the White House are emphasizing this year is this great new agency rating system that they have put together with ratings from effective to ineffective. Okay? And they looked at FEMA and the administration's self-performance, so this is the fox watching the hen house here. Mitigation programs were rated moderately effective. Disaster recovery, adequate. Disaster response, adequate.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Is that like a C, Mr. RYAN? Is that like a C minus?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I do not know what it is.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. It is not a B or an A, am I correct?

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. If anybody in America that watched what was going on during Katrina thinks that FEMA's response was adequate, then we have a total communication problem here, and we maybe need to come up with a couple new words, because the perform-

ance there was not adequate. Brownie's performance was not adequate. The Secretary of Homeland Security's performance was not adequate. Appointing an attorney to an equestrian society is not adequate. That is inadequate, and this country deserves better.

Government, you cannot, and this is the problem, what I really disagree with our friends on the other side. I do not believe that government is the answer. We cannot create jobs, and I do not believe that. The private sector creates jobs. We create a good environment.

Our friends on the other side for the past 12 to 20 years have just been saying government is the problem. Well, you know what? Government was the problem there because you do not have any respect for what is going on. Who else is going to come in in a disaster, other than FEMA? That is our responsibility. Who else is going to help with broadband access all over the country? The government.

Now, we do not want the government in everything; and I, quite frankly, think the government is too involved in too much right now. But there are targeted areas where the government can be effective. One of those is emergency response, and we are getting inadequate performance from this administration.

Another one is when you go to war. Who is going to go to war? Two private businesses? McDonalds against Burger King in the great grudge match? No. Countries go to war. Governments go to war. And \$9 billion just unaccounted for, inadequate, ineffective, inefficient, waste of the taxpayers' money and, quite frankly, a disgrace, Mr. MEEK. And this is why I think that we need some wholesale changes.

One final point before I yield to my friend.

Part of the problem is, we have a one-party government here. Republicans control the House, Republicans control the Senate, Republicans control the White House. Somebody should be getting kicked around if you cannot find \$9 billion that was supposed to be spent on a war in Iraq and it is not and no one can find it. Where are the oversight hearings from our friends on the other side? We are in the minority. We do not have subpoena power.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. RYAN, there were hundreds of hearings for far less under the Clinton administration. Hundreds.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. You know what? If this was a sexual escapade there would be hearings all over the place. But this is about \$9 billion in taxpayers' dollars that is gone, and no hearings. No one is getting there.

In fact, here comes the report. I don't even know what I just did with it. Here comes the report, the article about the \$9 billion. Paul Bremer says and the Pentagon disputes the Inspector General's report. Not, we better find out what happened because we do not want it to happen again and we are the

guardians of the public tax dollars. We have got to make sure what happened never happens again.

□ 1545

That is not what we get from this outfit. We get: It was not us. It wasn't me. I don't know. What did you say? I cannot hear you. And these guys say, Inspector General, watchdog groups, \$9 billion unaccounted for. The Pentagon says, We disagree.

Well, then, where is it? Show it to us. We are not wiretapping you.

How do I know? How do I know? Because you told them? You are the same group that told me that the war was only going to cost the American taxpayer \$50 billion and now we are up to \$400 billion, and you said we would be greeted as liberators, and that never happened. And you said we would use the oil for reconstruction. That never happened, Mr. Speaker. Why should we believe anything that is coming out of this administration or the Republican Congress right now? It cannot be trusted.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Mr. Speaker, here is the bottom line: history does not speak straight talk to the American people about what is happening here under the Capitol dome. But I feel obligated to report it. I think it is important that in the last budget reconciliation bill that we had that passed this floor and the Senate that the Republican leadership did know 5 days before it came to the House for a vote, in the final conference report, that it was an inaccurate report and it was an identical bill between the House and the Senate.

It is so interesting that one of the issues, one of the areas where the language was wrong was regarding direct loan payments to parents of post-secondary students in one section. One of the other sections dealt with bankruptcy fees. We did not know it. The majority knew it and the White House knew it and they still signed it. And it is unconstitutional, but they are saying that that is okay.

I think, also, it is important to identify, Mr. RYAN, when we start talking about individuals being able to receive good information, I asked the Members, I challenged the Members to go on democraticleader.house.gov, pull up the statement that was put out on February 15, which was just yesterday, on Wednesday, talking about the partisan committee, Mr. Speaker, that was put together to look into Katrina, and basically you know what they are saying? No recommendations for changes or corrections, but they are saying what did we get out of the Department of Homeland Security? We did not get the answers that we deserve. What did we learn from the process that we are not prepared to take on a natural disaster?

All right. Let us talk about natural disaster versus terrorist attacks. A natural disaster is something that we see is coming in many cases, outside of an earthquake or what have you, but in

many cases we see it coming, nine times out of ten, whether it be a great rain, flood, what have you. What happens, as I am speaking here on the floor hypothetically, God forbid, if a terrorist attack takes place? How do we respond to it? We are not prepared, and we have to be prepared.

Mr. RYAN, I want to thank you for coming down and starting this hour. I look forward to working with you, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and others on the 30-something Working Group as we try to improve this government.

But I will tell you right now and I will share it with the Members and the American people that we must have a paradigm shift in this Chamber if you want the accountability that you deserve.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. I appreciate that.

Mr. Speaker, as we wind down here, just to sum this all up, I think we have addressed an issue tonight. We found a theme, Mr. MEEK, about incompetence. And it is not personal. Democrats at one point many, many years ago maybe did not do right by the American people, who knows. But I am saying this is not personal. But there is a real trend going on here with Katrina, with the war, and this administration and the Republican House and the Republican Senate's inability to execute the responsibilities of government.

We are running huge annual budget deficits to the tune of \$400 billion next year. They are going to raise the debt limit for the fifth or sixth time in the Bush administration to over \$8.2 trillion. The fiscal house is a mess. We are borrowing money from China, Japan, and OPEC countries. Inability and an incompetence when it comes to governing in the United States of America.

And then we talk about corruption, and there is personal corruption and then there is stuff that affects the people, Mr. MEEK, and what is happening here is with the Medicare prescription drug plan, for example.

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Corruption tax.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. There is a corruption tax that is being levied on the American people because you pay for the end result. The American people pay, Mr. Speaker, at the end of the day. When a Medicare negotiator, the head of the Medicare program, is negotiating the Medicare prescription drug program that costs \$700 billion and at the same time is negotiating his lobbying job that he is going to go to when he is done working for the Federal Government and the Medicare prescription drug plan is a mess. When the oil industry gets \$12 billion in corporate welfare and they have the highest profits they have ever had, setting records, and who pays at the end of the day? The American consumer. And we cannot get enough money to people who are trying to get heating oil and lower gas costs.

So from the budget to the execution of Katrina and the war, failing to balance the budget, borrowing money

from China and Japan, giving away corporate welfare to the oil industry and the health care industry at the cost to the American taxpayers, two of the most profitable industries in the world, and at the same time when members of this administration are not only negotiating that bill but are negotiating personal contracts for themselves, there is something wrong here and we need to fix it.

And the Democrats have a plan because if it were not for their behavior, we would be able to implement our Innovation Agenda that would go on and create millions of jobs in this country. We would incentivize research and development with our R&D tax credit that we have in here. We would be able to double the funding for the National Science Foundation for more research and development that the private sector could come in and benefit from. We could do all these things, but we need to ask the American people politely but forcefully we want a chance to govern this country because we have the ideas and commitment to make this happen.

Mr. Speaker, other Members of this House can get a hold of our information and our charts that we have used today at www.housedemocrats.gov/30something.

Mr. MEEK, do you have any closing remarks?

Mr. MEEK of Florida. No. Mr. RYAN, I just want to make sure that the Members know that they can get all the charts and information that we shared today off of that Web site starting tomorrow, sir. Thank you.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Wonderful.

IRAQ

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SODREL). 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, this Member appreciates the privilege to address you, Mr. Speaker, and to stand on the floor of the people's House, the United States House of Representatives, and convey some thoughts that I think need to be shared with you, Mr. Speaker, and hopefully picked up by the American people.

As I listen to the presentation and delivery that continually comes here on this floor night after night, Mr. Speaker, and as I analyze the tone and the attitude and the lament that flows continually from the other side of the aisle, I hear this constant strain, this constant strain of, and this is a quote, "It would be different if we were in charge, but we are not in charge," meaning the minority party.

But I am going to say this, that the members of the minority party have the same individual responsibilities as the members of the majority party. Each one of us is $\frac{1}{435}$ th of this task that we have here, $\frac{1}{435}$ th of the total voice of the American people, designed

by our Founding Fathers, written into our Constitution, drafted in such a way that we do redistricting in America and we do so every 10 years. We draw new lines. We make sure that each of us represents pretty close to the same number of people, approximately 600,000 people. And the voice when you hear me speak, Mr. Speaker, is the voice, hopefully, of the 600,000 people in western Iowa that I have the honor to represent. And I would like to think that when the voice of any of us steps down here and speaks, it is the voice of the collective opinions of their constituents within the districts of all the Members of this House of Representatives.

If one listened to this debate here on the floor night after night after night, one could easily, an uninformed person, come to the conclusion that if you are a member of the Democrat Party, if you are a member of the minority party, you are really powerless to do anything about this.

Take, for example, the case in point, the alleged \$9 billion that is wasted in construction in Iraq. And I would point out, Mr. Speaker, that I came to the floor the night before last, and I spent perhaps 55 minutes outlining the effort in the Middle East, the effort in Iraq, and particularly the construction projects that have been initiated there. I led a CODEL over to the Middle East and particularly into Iraq for the very purpose to identify, follow through, observe the projects that had been initiated, those that had been constructed, to go in and probe and ask questions and get a sense of where those dollars, that \$18.5 billion that was part of an overall appropriations bill, where they went, how they were spent, under what conditions, and what are the projects that have been initiated and the projects that have been completed.

I did not bring the poster over here tonight that has that chart on it, Mr. Speaker, but I do bring it in my memory. And as I discussed this with the United States Army, who had a responsibility for somewhere in the neighborhood of \$13 billion in those projects, they have initiated over 3,300 projects with those dollars. They have completed over 2,200 projects with those dollars, and there remains another 1,100 projects that are either in the process of construction right now, soon to be completed, or they will soon be initiated, and the last projects will be completed some time after the first of next year. They will be the last pieces of that fallen place.

And I heard the statement on the floor the night before last that all of that money was wasted. All of it. So if it is not even going to be qualified that one single dollar out of \$18.5 billion went to something good, I wonder how much value one would put on the rest of the statements that are made by that side of the aisle and by that "informative" team, and I put that in quotes, Mr. Speaker.

So I watched as they were nearing completion on the mother of all generators up by Kirkuk, a project that has 750,000 pounds of generator and turbine to drive that generator mounted there and is up and generating electricity for the people in that area.

We have heard the complaint that Iraq's oil production is not up to where it was at the beginning of the war, that there is less electricity available and less electricity production than there was before the war. Or before the liberation, I prefer to say, Mr. Speaker. And I can categorically inform you that that is simply not true. The oil royalties before liberation in March of 2003 that came into the Iraqi Government were \$5 billion a year. The royalties for the oil that was exported and collected, royalties for the last year were \$26 billion.

Now, one cannot conclude that oil production is down with five times the royalties being paid to the Iraqi people to help fund their overall budget. And, yes, we have put money in that and resources in that. We have put minimal dollars into oil development and production, and we have done so because we have said the United States is not in this for the oil.

We are in this for freedom for the Iraqi people. We are in this to erase the habitat that breeds terror, and there has been extraordinary success that has been accomplished there. But to own the oil or to invest United States taxpayer dollars into that oil infrastructure and then turn around and turn it back over to the Iraqis was never part of our plan. We did suggest that oil revenue in Iraq would go to pay for the reconstruction in Iraq. And after we had been there for 6 or 7 months, it was apparent that that kind of revenue just was not going to flow, that the infrastructure in Iraq was so dilapidated, that it had not been reconstructed, had not been modernized in at least 35 years.

So think, for example, of massive oil fields that have significant quantities of oil, oil so rich that it seeps to the top of the ground up by Kirkuk, but yet not drill a well. Or not drill wells in significant numbers. I should qualify that statement. To not build pipelines, to not build refineries, to not build a system to extract that oil, refine the oil, and distribute the oil to the rest of the world so that you can continue to increase your production while world consumption is going up, those are things that did not happen under Saddam Hussein's regime.

So the production that was there 35 years ago simply diminished gradually in increments as Saddam took those resources for his own uses and starved the Iraqi people. But the production of oil is up. The production and generation of electricity is up, Mr. Speaker. An average day of electricity before the liberation, and I will pick a month, early March, 2003, would produce over 2,000 megawatts of electricity.

□ 1600

Today, it is over 5,000 on peak days, and it falls off maybe 1,000 on your average days. But it is still significantly more production.

Now, the statement will be made on the other side of the aisle, if they are paying attention and if they are astute, they will say, but Baghdad has less electricity than they had before liberation.

Mr. Speaker, that also is true. And the reason for that is because Saddam focused his electrical resources into Baghdad. Baghdad had 10 to 12 hours of electricity every day under Saddam Hussein's regime. The rest of the country got very little at any time, an hour or two a day. Now it has been shifted so the distribution of that electricity roughly doubled the generation of electricity by setting up new generation plants, setting up new transmission systems and new distribution systems. And one of the things that is a constraint there now is not being able to wield that power anywhere in Iraq where it is needed, not having a central terminal where switches can be thrown and you can send electricity to Mosul or Kirkuk or Tikrit or into Baghdad, into sections and zones that need it. That is also going to be rectified within the next half a year or so so that the need for electricity can be targeted to the regions of Iraq where it is going to be the most valuable.

And the predictability that has been established there, it used to be unpredictable under Saddam for the outlying cities, more predictable in Baghdad because he took care of Baghdad. Today, it is predictable in most areas of Iraq. But the areas of Iraq outside of Baghdad have gone from one to two hours of electricity a day to 10, 11 and 12 hours of electricity a day, at predictable times, so people that are running a business or doing a little manufacturing or maybe there is someone doing their laundry, they can plan their lives around having a stream of electricity.

We don't know what that is like, to have to think about managing our lives so that when the electricity is on we turn on the washing machine, plug in the iron, turn on the air conditioner and go start the pump to pump water for our livestock or even our irrigation. We don't think about that. But that has been a fact of life in that part of the Middle East from the beginning of electricity.

So all of the country of Iraq is far better off in access to electricity and consistent supply, substantially better off, four to five times better off, with the exception of Baghdad.

Baghdad is about one-fourth of the population of all of Iraq, excuse me, I should say one-fifth of the population of all of Iraq, and their daily electrical supply is down from what it was. It is no longer 10 to 12 hours a day, it is 2 to 4 hours a day. And that needs to be ramped up, Mr. Speaker, and it will be. As soon as they are able to wield this

power in a more efficient fashion and get a couple more generating systems up on line, then Baghdad will be moved up into the level with the rest of the country and provide some stability for that city as well.

But it is important that Baghdad be brought into the level of electrical supply as the rest of the country. As Baghdad goes, so goes Iraq. With that kind of a population of about 5 million people, it is the core of the country. It a large metropolitan area, of course, Mr. Speaker.

But they made significant progress. Some of that money went to great good. Some of that money went to security. When you are going in to lay a sewer plant because there are children playing in raw sewerage in the streets of Sadr City and you have insurgents shooting at your construction workers, some of that money needed to go for security, and some of it did.

But if there is some money missing over there, and Paul Bremer says it is not, and if the Inspector General says it is, then I go back to the King law of physics, and that is everything has to be somewhere.

So if it is alleged that \$9 billion are missing, Mr. Speaker, then my challenge to the people that make that allegation would be, where is it? Did it disappear into thin air? Whose hands did it go into? Was there graft and corruption? If so, what? Be a little more definitive. Don't throw out just some wild allegations that here is some money that is missing and it is somebody else's responsibility to address this.

We all have the same responsibility, 1/435th of the responsibility, all of us responsible to the people of the United States of America. And to stand here and admonish night after night after night that if they were just in the majority somehow they would do their job, but they are in the minority so they don't have to do their job, that their job is to criticize people in the majority, well, that is a bitter pill to swallow for those of us who get out of bed here, go to work, work late and do the research, and our staff goes to work in our district and here on the Hill, and we have a network with people around this city, around this country and in our districts and in our States and, in fact, around the world.

I have watched my colleagues over here on this side of the aisle age in the few years I have been here. I can look at them today and see lines that weren't there 3 and 4 years ago. I see hair that is absolutely gray that had a trace of it 3 and 4 years ago. They are working hard for the people of this country. And things happen around the world, and anything you can find to criticize can't be laid at the feet, not everything, of the people on this side of the aisle that work hard for the people of the United States of America.

In fact, I don't agree with all the decisions that are made by the majority of this Congress, and who in the world

would? If you agreed with the decisions that were made by the majority of the United States Congress and you served in this place, or you are someone who hopefully aspires to come serve in this body someday, if you agree with the majority opinion, that means you are not thinking for yourself.

Of course, we are critical among ourselves. We are critical among ourselves as a Republican majority. We are critical on the other side of the minority's opinion. But in the end we have to stand on our own integrity, use our own intelligence, use our own research and be objective, open up our eyes and ears, read, listen, hear, think, analyze and resolve to do the right thing for the American people in a bipartisan fashion that brings us toward a conclusion and towards a successful conclusion. And that success is not defined as if the Democrats were just in the majority in the House and in the Senate and had the White House the world would be a different place. Yes, I am convinced it would be a very different place, Mr. Speaker. But that is not how you define success.

You have to lay out a plan and vision for the American people. You need to stick to that plan. It has to have vision. It has to have foresight. It has to have a short-term, midterm and long-term vision. It has to be something that the American people can subscribe to and believe in, something they can work for and work towards. In fact, Mr. Speaker, it needs to be something that the American people can sacrifice for so that they know that the delayed gratification can one day turn this country into a better country, tomorrow, next week, next month, next year, next decade, next generation, next century, and on and on into the future of this great Nation, the United States of America.

So I would submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is not that "it would be different if we were in charge." No, it won't be different. You will still hear complaints. What makes things different is if you lay out a vision.

So, in the brief time that is here on the floor of this Congress, Mr. Speaker, I don't propose to be able to lay out a complete and total vision for America. I would touch a few subject matters that were raised here and then move on to the subject I came down here to talk about.

One is the issue of foreign debt. I would agree, we are borrowing money from foreign countries in order to provide for the funding to run this government, and that is because we have deficit spending.

I am one that stands here and says I am for a balanced budget. I am for a balanced budget without taxing the people of America any more than we are today. In fact, the Bush tax cuts that were passed in 2002 and in 2003 were tax cuts that don't affect the bottom line of our deficit in a measurable fashion. But what they did do was stimulate the economy.

I would back us all up to the day, Mr. Speaker, that we had a recognizable, identifiable dot.com bubble. We saw great growth in this economy. It was speculative growth in the economy for the most part.

People said, well, we are in the information age. We have gone through the stone age, we have gone into the industrial age, and now we have transformed ourselves into the information age, and the information age is an era by which the ability to store and transfer knowledge in and of itself apparently had a lot of value.

Because whenever we would come up with a microchip that could store and transfer information more effectively and more software programs and more creativity that had to do with all of the intel industrial out there, the investors of the world looked at this and said, my gracious, I can't wait to jump on that, I can't wait to buy some shares of this intel company, because it is going to grow, and I am going to double and triple and quadruple my money, and I will be a rich person someday because we are in the information age. Surely, this company can store and transfer information faster and better than ever before. That has to have value.

So that created this dot.com bubble, because we forgot something. We forgot that the marketability of everything that we have has to come back down to something that has substance, that is sustainable, and that is this, and it has always been the case in the economy, you have to produce a good or a service that has a marketable value.

Now, what does information have for a marketable value? Well, companies will want to be able to purchase information and the ability to store and transfer and sort that information because it makes them more efficient in their decisionmaking process and in the delivery process of their products or service.

So if I am in manufacturing, I will have sales and I will have inventory coming in and I will be manufacturing things and my inventory will be going out. We will have our marketing and distribution. All of those things happen to be working.

Now ways that I can use the dot.com industry on that, this information age, is that if I can sort my inventory better, if I can order more efficiently and precisely, if I can get better bargains because I am doing an Internet negotiation auction as opposed to a purchasing agent sitting there on an old black dial telephone, yes, information has value then.

If it allows me to store just-in-time inventory so I can bring the trucks of my raw materials in just in time, so I cut down on my own inventory, that capital investment, turn it into a product and turn it out the door more efficiently, and if it helps my sales people get out there and market that product, and if I can get that product made with

computerized equipment so that it is done with better precision and more cost-effectiveness and better quality and get that on the truck and get it delivered to the customer in just-in-time delivery time, reliable, all of that information has value.

So we paid for those things because information had value. But we created our ability to store and transfer information way beyond our ability to utilize it within our economy. In fact, we created it to the point where information itself had a recreational value, and that recreational value became in some components of the Internet.

So here is the day today where a vast majority of the households in America have Internet access, including mine, wireless. I was one of the first ones wireless, one of the first ones with high-speed Internet in my office. Actually I was the first one in the telephone service company where my construction office is and my campaign office. That office was the very first customer for high-speed Internet services for that telephone company.

Out in the country where Marilyn and I live, it is another telephone service company, we were the very first customer there to have DSL high-speed Internet services in our house, because we also ran the business out of the house and we needed access to high speed. So I love technology. It has value.

But, in the end, when you pay for all of this information and this technology and even when you market it to people for recreational purposes, that means their disposable income, people say I have an extra 25 or 40 or 50 dollars a month that I want to put into this Internet. Even though I can get along without it, I really like the convenience of being able to send out the e-mails to my friends and be able to find the answer to any question I want to ask just simply by going up on the Internet, do a search, and here it is.

So we marketed that as well off of the information age. But we produced the ability to store and transfer information way beyond our ability to market it. That was the dot.com bubble. You knew I would come back to that, Mr. Speaker. That was the dot.com bubble.

So this bubble in our economy was the speculative bubble that was created because there was investment made in the information age that went beyond the amount of information that could be sustained by the economy. And, like any bubble, bubbles will burst, and that bubble did burst, and it burst about the same time, just before we had a transition from President, from President Clinton to President George W. Bush.

The bursting of the dot.com bubble, Mr. Speaker, and we forget that so often, and as we saw our economy take the downturn and plummet and try to adjust for the bursting of the dot.com bubble, we also saw two planes go into the Twin Towers on September 11, 2001,

right dead center into the financial center of America and the world. At the same time, a plane went into the ground in Pennsylvania and into the Pentagon.

We were all of a sudden from a nation that was scrambling to recover from a dot.com bubble, we were thrust into a worldwide war on terror, with our financial centers crashed down around us and left just a smoking hole in the ground at the Twin Towers. Our economy went down with that. It already was headed down, and as it ran down the hill, it was pushed off the cliff by September 11.

So what did we do here in this Congress? A number of things to react. And the decisions that were made were astonishing in their efficiency. I look back on that era and I commend the people in this Chamber and across in the United States Senate and the President, Mr. Speaker, because two big decisions were made and made fairly quickly.

One I will just briefly reference, the PATRIOT Act, the need to be able to protect us from an intelligence perspective from those who would wish to do us harm and protect the privacy rights of the American people at the same time.

I have sat through 12 hearings of the PATRIOT Act. We need to reauthorize that, Mr. Speaker. That piece of legislation is far better in its quality, and we have improved it some, more than anyone had a right to expect, considering the pressure that this Congress was under at the time to make those changes.

But the PATRIOT Act has sustained itself, and to this date, not a single critic, not in the United States House of Representatives, not in the government function, not in a hearing, even under specific requests of the witnesses that were there in the hearings, not a single critic has been able to name an individual who has had their privacy rights and constitutional rights usurped by the PATRIOT Act. Only hypotheticals, Mr. Speaker, and as we know, hypotheticals don't get you very far in this world.

□ 1615

So that was one thing, one action that was taken by this Congress that was an amazingly efficient action, and we are to this day 4 years beyond, and we have not suffered another attack on American property or people on this soil since that period of time.

So the PATRIOT Act was extraordinarily effective. The Bush tax cuts came right behind that, because we knew that with the bursting of the dot.com bubble, and the attacks of September 11 and the crashing down into a smoking hole with 3,000 American lives along with it, was our financial future.

Now, if we had listened to the naysayers on this side of the aisle at that period of time, we would have said, gee, we got to have a balanced budget here, so let us raise taxes. That

is how we will get ourselves out of the smoking hole of the Twin Towers. We would have raised taxes so we had enough money to do what? Arm this huge police force to go out and serve warrants and try to identify these al Qaeda people that wish us ill and go around the world and work with Interpol, and maybe we can bring them to justice in handcuffs.

Some of them said we are not really at war here, and some of them said, well, no, you need to understand them. Some of them said that one man's terrorist is another man's freedom fighter. Those words were spoken here, Mr. Speaker. And I think they were completely and utterly wrong.

I think the people who have pledged to do us ill mean it. I think they have proven it. And I think it is up to us not just to protect and defend ourselves in this country, but carry the battle to them; and we need to do that with a strong economy.

The Bush tax cuts provided that. And in spite of the criticism, in spite of the things that have been laid out in opposition that say that the deficit is because of the tax cuts, can you go back and calculate the loss of revenue because of the tax cuts and will you see there has been an increase in revenue that came from the growth in our economy. The number is over 14 percent over anticipated revenue over the last year, Mr. Speaker, and the deficit that was projected is significantly reduced, and that is because we have had tax cuts that stimulate business.

So I do not think I would want to have people in charge that do not believe in free enterprise or people that believe that you could tax your way into prosperity. These are the kinds of people that if you give them the goose that lays the golden egg, they wouldn't think you could feed the goose, but they do think you can cut the goose apart and take the eggs and then go on and live in happy prosperity with that basket of golden eggs the rest of your life.

That is the attitude that comes. At some point it goes backwards on you. We have to have a revenue stream. We need a low broad tax scale so that we can stimulate this economy.

With regard to the foreign debt, if we can balance this budget, we can eliminate the increase in foreign debt. If we can produce a surplus, we can pay down the national debt, which reduces the foreign debt. But we have debt to American domestic indebtedness, as well as foreign debt. Both of those concern me. The foreign debt concerns me more than the American domestic debt.

We also have, Mr. Speaker, a negative balance of trade. That number should come out fairly quickly, within the next 30 days. As I recall, it was about this time last year when the 2004 balance of trade number came to us, \$617.7 billion negative.

That meant that we purchased \$617.7 billion more from foreign countries

than we sold, than we exported to them. And some say, yeah, and it was all purchasing oil that was part of that, that was most of that deficit. But, Mr. Speaker, it was a significant portion. I do not deny that. It was over \$200 billion that we spent in purchasing oil from foreign countries that added to this \$617 billion in red ink trade deficit.

And I submit that we can fix that a number of ways. One of them is drill in ANWR, get that oil coming down here. That will be at least a million barrels a day. That will reduce our dependency on foreign oil.

We are bringing in liquefied natural gas that has got to be compressed in the Middle East and brought over here on a compressed tanker and brought into a terminal and converted back to gas again and delivered up here into the United States.

We sit on enough natural gas under the non-national parks, Federal lands in America, to heat every home in this country for the next 150 years. And we can drill natural gas wells, but we cannot get the distribution systems laid, we cannot get the roads built, because the environmentals are in the way.

They seem to think that we should not develop our natural resources, that this Earth is for every species except homosapiens, Mr. Speaker; and I submit that we are here to have dominion, to manage all of the species. But these resources are here for us.

We got that message clearly from God in Genesis, and I stand by that need for us to develop our natural resources. So we should drill on Federal lands for natural gas and oil. We should do it in an environmentally friendly fashion.

We should build a distribution system so we can heat our homes in America and run our factories and produce our fertilizer. Being from the Corn Belt, Mr. Speaker, I have to say that corn uses more nitrogen to produce it than any other crop. All crops use nitrogen. Corn just uses more than any other. And the production of nitrogen fertilizer uses natural gas.

It is essential in the production of nitrogen fertilizer. In fact, the very cost of that cost, out of every dollar of nitrogen fertilizer, 90 cents out of that dollar is the very cost of natural gas.

So if we can cut the cost of natural gas in half, we would nearly cut the cost of nitrogen fertilizer in half. But instead, we have watched fertilizer go from \$2 up to \$15 in America because we are not drilling on our federally owned lands. We cannot get access to get the gas out, if we can get in there to drill.

We are not drilling on the Outer Continental Shelf because there are environmentalist extremists in the way. These are people that argue, well, if you drill a natural gas well on the Outer Continental Shelf, it will pollute our beaches. So I simply say, please

submit to me a single case in all of history when a natural gas well polluted anything.

If you have a natural gas leak, what happens to it, especially offshore in the ocean? The gas bubbles up to the top of the ocean and dissipates. It does that whether you drill wells or whether you do not, because a significant amount of that natural gas just percolates up out of the ocean floor anyway.

So it would not be measurable if we had a natural gas leak, but the gas does not pollute anything; it just dissipates into the air. So before it all does that, we should go get that gas, tap into that gas, pipe it in here to the United States, and put it into these States that can use it for fertilizer.

And so those things, those things alone would go a long way, Mr. Speaker, towards reducing our dependency on foreign oil. Reducing our dependency on foreign oil helps our balance of trade. But these are components of the fix, Mr. Speaker, and I would say there is one more step we need to take, and then I will go back to how we repair this balance of trade and how we eliminate the foreign debt, how we eliminate the domestic debt of this country and get us on sound fiscal foundation.

One more component, before I go to that solution, Mr. Speaker, and that component is to produce a balanced budget. Produce a balanced budget so we do not have deficit spending, so we do not have to borrow. If we produce that balanced budget without raising taxes so that we diminish the production in this country, then we can have this robust economy that we have today.

And this robust economy that we have is an economy that has grown at a rate of more than 3 percent increase on its gross domestic product each quarter for the last 10 quarters at a minimum. It has reduced the unemployment rate to under 5 percent over that period of time. By anybody's measure, that is the longest, most healthy economic growth period since the early part of the Reagan years. So more than a generation has passed since we have seen this kind of growth.

And I would point out that during the Reagan years we had high inflation, the early part of the Reagan years. Before we got it under control, we had high inflation, we had high interest rates. So that kind of economic growth and that kind of lower unemployment ratings, there was not as good an environment as it is today, because we have got gradual growth, we have got controlled growth, we have got not too hot in our economy, we have got not too cold in our economy, Mr. Speaker, we have got just right.

It is cruising along here at a more than 3 percent growth, less than 5 percent unemployment. It is not as good as it can be. Unemployment can be better than this. By historical standards, it is a high standard. So I would say let us balance the budget without raising taxes. Let us get our spending down.

Let us tighten our belts, Mr. Speaker; let us get our house in order.

If you were running a company or running a business or taking care of your family budget, and you realized that on the portion of your budget that had discretion on the parts that you were going to spend, now we all have fixed costs, we have to make our house payment or rent, we have to keep the lights on, we have to keep the heat up some, maybe we have some other fixed costs there, we have to buy some groceries, and this cost of living, you can make a minimal budget on the amount that is a fixed cost.

That is the equivalent to the entitlements in this Federal budget, those things that are fixed today that are very difficult to change, those items in our budget such as Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and even to a lesser degree interest. They are all fixed costs. They are growing, entitlement costs. We have to have national defense, certainly, in this time. So if you would reduce those things down to eliminating the nondiscretionary spending, which is Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and you eliminate the Department of Defense, and by the way I would reduce Homeland Security's funding, they have raised that budget out of sight without the accountability that I would like to see.

But if we go to non-defense discretionary spending, those things that we do have control over, those things that if it were your family budget, your going-out-to-dinner money, your vacation money, your recreational-tickets-to-the-ball-game money, going-off-to-golf money, those kind of things that you would naturally tap into if your budget got tight, the discretionary spending portion.

If you looked at your budget and said, well, I have got it in mind for \$2,500 this year that I am going to spend to make my life a little richer, but I am spending too much, and one of the ways I can balance my budget is simply take that hundred percent of your \$2,500 for your recreational discretionary spending, reduce it down by 5 percent, down to 95 percent.

Now who would not do that if they were running a family budget, or if you are running a company, Mr. Speaker? Would you not do that? Would you not look at those items that you could control and simply say, I am not going to take this procedure of spending the red, I am going to tighten my belt? I am going to do without for a little while so I can get my budget back under control.

Well, what I have described is all we really need to do in this Congress, Mr. Speaker. We need only address the other spending, the non-defense discretionary spending portion, and we need to reduce it by 5 percent.

Now I do not think this is the best way to balance the budget; but it is a way, an understandable way to balance the budget. Reduce that by 5 percent and we have balanced this budget, and

in fact it balances the budget under current increases of the entitlement spending on out another 15 to 18 years, which becomes almost as far as we can to predict any economy, in fact beyond our ability to predict the economy.

So we can balance this budget. We do not have the will to balance the budget, so we borrow money because the people on this side of the aisle cannot get along without their programs. They are afraid somebody will throw them out of office if they say tighten your belt.

There are some people on this side of the aisle who feel the same way. They band together. It only takes about 10 or 12 people on this side of the aisle to see to it. Everybody on this side of the aisle will vote against the budget, I guarantee it.

There will be a budget come to the floor of this Congress within a month, and that budget will be debated on this floor. It will be one that is crafted to be as responsible as it can be. When it is done, I will make the prediction that not one Democrat votes for a responsible budget that comes here on this floor, not one, because it is a political vote and it is not an economic vote.

And so the belt is tightened over here. We try to send the right message. And then the criticism flows out of the other side. You cut my program. You squeezed this out. You starved children. You froze old folks. That is an old line. You hear it over and over again, Mr. Speaker.

I have not noticed that it works with the thinking people that have watched history flow. But we should balance this budget. I testified before the Budget Committee the day before yesterday, Mr. Speaker, and I requested that they produce a balanced budget. Whether they can produce the votes to pass it or not, I do not think they can get the votes to pass it, they need to put a target up on the wall so the American people know what it would take to balance the budget.

And I will be supportive of that in seeking to produce and develop a balanced budget. I cannot hide behind the Budget Committee and say, well, my friend, Mr. NUSSLE, did not produce a balanced budget. He is doing the best he can. He has got to get 218 votes, and it has been astonishing his ability to do so. He can take a 2.4 or \$2.7 trillion budget and spin it around his head and calculate it all out, break it apart in pieces and put it back together.

He can go out and get the votes that he needs to get that done. I am impressed with the work that he has done. But I still challenged them to produce a balanced budget so that we know what we have to do and that will help inspire the American people to come forward and say, let me tighten my belt. I am willing to tighten my belt if my neighbor tightens his. Cut my program here, if you like, just do not cut me out of proportion to the person over here. I will take my fair share of the load as long as you do not

put the unfair share on me and give that other person a pass.

But we cannot get there in this debate, because the demagoguery gets so heavy. And in fact last year we had reconciliation in the Ag Committee. We needed to reduce the spending over 5 years by about \$3.7 billion. We needed to find a way to do that. That is \$3.7 billion out of an annual expenditure of about 34 billion, by the way. So multiply that by five and you are up there in this 165 or \$170 billion range to find \$3.7 billion in savings there.

In the food stamp program alone there has been identified, even today, by Secretary Johanns' announcement a 5.88 percent error rate in handing out food stamps.

□ 1630

Now that error rate, I suppose it could be by that percentage that we missed that many people that should have had food stamps, but I do not think so, Mr. Speaker. I cannot imagine that there would be an error on that side that we did not reach out and help enough people. In fact, we are out there marketing those services to people in a fashion that I think we are going to find them instead of them finding us.

I would submit that nearly all of that 5.88 percent of error rating in the food stamp program is all on giving food stamps to people who did not qualify, and this does not constrain some of the qualifications. We could tighten those qualifications down, too.

For example, when people come into this country legally, we say you have to be here for 5 years before you can access benefits, welfare benefits from our Federal Government. We could raise that up by a couple of years without too much pressure, raise the standards. But 5.88 percent of inaccuracy translates into over \$2 billion a year in waste. And that \$2 billion a year over 5 years is easy math. \$10 billion dollars could be saved there.

But, you know, even though the numbers were bigger last year, I could not get one soul on that side of the aisle to support one dollar in cuts when we had the waste lying right in front of us, Mr. Speaker. And, in fact, there has been more waste there than they have even alleged took place in Iraq. But that does not disturb them because the waste is going into the households of some of their constituents and they have to answer to them. It is not the matter of the waste that concerns them. It is the opportunity to be critical.

So I actually came to this floor, Mr. Speaker, to talk about a different subject matter, but, as I listened, it changed the subject for me. So now I promised that I would come with a solution on how to repair this deficit in foreign trade and how to fix the foreign debt.

I would lay out real clearly, there is a policy out here, there is a bill, H.R. 25, the FAIR Tax. The FAIR Tax is a

piece of legislation that takes the tax off of production in America and puts it on consumption. It is a consumption tax. It is a national sales tax, and it truly is an aptly named bill, the FAIR Tax.

Now, the way we fix this foreign trade deficit with a fair tax is simply this, that whenever anyone goes to buy something off a shelf, a product, and pays retail price for that product, imputed into that cost is the Federal tax composition. For example, if you are a corporation and you are producing a widget, you are going to need to calculate into that your corporate income tax, any other Federal excise taxes that are part of that that you would have to incorporate in your share of the wage withholding in the employees. There are a number of other taxes into that. You build that tax all into the price.

Corporations do not pay taxes. Private companies, sole proprietorships, partnerships, LLCs, they do not pay taxes. Mr. Speaker, that may be a shock to a lot of the American people, but I will explain this. That is that, no, corporations do not pay taxes because they have to add those taxes into the price of the products that they produce, the goods and the services, and pass that along to the consumer. If they did not do that, they would go broke. How could a corporation have any capital to work with if they were going to pay that tax and not incorporate it into the price of what they sold? So they pass that price along, and it is built into the pricing mechanism of everything that they sell.

When that product reaches the retail level, it has in it when you take it off the shelf, a person, and that \$1-widget you lift off the shelf has 22 cents of imputed Federal tax built into that, 22 cents. So if we could pull the Federal tax out of those goods and services, the goods would go down by 22 cents, so your \$1 widget becomes an 88-cent widget.

But if it is a service and you take the tax out of that service, it is higher yet. Now your 1 dollar's worth of service that you pay your plumber, say your \$100 plumber bill becomes a \$75 plumber bill because 25 percent of that is imputed price, is built in there to pay the taxes, passed along to, no big surprise, Mr. Speaker, people.

People pay taxes. Corporations do not pay taxes. Businesses do not pay taxes. They collect them. And the reason they do is because government has found out that they are more efficient in collecting taxes than government can be. So we put that on the burden of the businesses to collect the taxes. They impute it into the prices of the goods and services they are producing. They tack it onto that price, and you, the consumer, go up to the shelf, pull that widget off of there for \$1, and it is really 78 cents.

Mr. Speaker, let me correct the earlier statement. I am doing my math on the run here. It is a 78 cent widget as

opposed to \$1 on the shelf because you get to take 22 cents out of that price.

Now, another truism, Ronald Reagan said, what you tax you get less of. And we know that. If you have to pay taxes, it is a disincentive. So if you were going to produce a product and we were going to tax you for it, you would look at that equation and say, why should I do that? I have to pay too much taxes on this.

How about if you are going to work an extra 10 hours a week and it comes in at time and a half and it puts you in another tax bracket and we come along and say, but Uncle Sam will get 50 cents out of every dollar that you earn. Now your \$30 an hour that you can make on overtime becomes \$15 an hour. Are you going to work or are you going to say, hey, boss, I would like a little time to go fishing, maybe a little golf and spend some time with the kids. I do not really need this overtime because I do not get to keep it. No, the tax is a disincentive to produce.

So when Reagan said, what you tax you get less of, Mr. Speaker, that is the equation that is there. And yet the Federal Government in its wisdom, I will say lack of wisdom, has the first lien on all productivity in America, every bit of productivity in America. Whether it is a good or whether it is a service, when Americans step up to the time clock and punch their time card in at eight o'clock on Monday morning, thunk, Uncle Sam holds his hand out like that and he gets the first of everyone's productivity. And Uncle Sam holds his hand there until you paid your taxes for that day. Then he puts it in his pocket and then you can go to work for the State and that gets put in the other pocket, your State, Uncle Sam, and the other various taxes that come along with this. And then at some point late in the afternoon you are working for you.

Or you can compute it the other way, and you can take a look at Tax Freedom Day. I do not know the exact date. It changes a little bit year to year. How many days do we work before we are working for ourselves? Tax freedom day falls in April or May. I am not sure of the precise date.

Uncle Sam has the first lien on your labor, he has the first lien on the earnings from your checkbook or passbook savings account, and he has the first lien on the delayed earnings of your 401(k) and also any mutual funds you have invested, all of the interest dividend earnings, the capital gains. You buy a piece of property and you turn around and sell that property, the margin will be taxed, and Uncle Sam will be there with his hand out. That productivity that comes from labor or capital is the productivity that Uncle Sam taxes. He taxes it all.

What I am proposing, Mr. Speaker, is that we step in here and we recognize that and we take the tax off of all productivity in America. Eliminate the IRS, the Internal Revenue Service, eliminate the IRS Code, wipe that

thing out all the way back to the early 1900s, 92, 93 or 94 years ago that that began, Mr. Speaker, and pass the elimination of the repeal of the 16th amendment so that we no longer have a constitutional authority to put an income tax on our people.

That sounds really interesting and exciting and thrilling, and it is, but we have to find a way to replace the revenue, and that is the hardest question. I have asked a lot of different questions myself on how to do that, but as I worked this policy out 25 or 27 or 28 years ago, Mr. Speaker, I came to the conclusion then that the only way we could fund the loss of revenue for eliminating the IRS would be to produce a consumption tax, a sales tax, like 45 States have today.

The system is there. It is there to collect the sales off all of that revenue. It is a very simple equation to say to the States, keep the system you have in place, change the rates so we can fund the Federal Government. We will pay you one-tenth of 1 percent commission for collecting the Federal tax through your State Department of Revenue. You send the check out here to the U.S. Treasury, and we will put that into the general fund here.

It is an easy tax to collect. And the other five States that have to generate a sales tax collection system, it has been done in 45 States. It has to be a lot easier than having these 100,000 plus IRS agents running all over here into our kitchens and our offices, prying into our business, making Monday morning quarterback judgmental decisions on the decisions of family and business that we have made and tried to do things in an honorable and ethical fashion and still be dinged for interest and penalty. When you cannot get two IRS agents themselves to agree on this convoluted tax policy that is so confusing that I can find no one on this planet, even the people on this side of the aisle would not argue that if we had a chance to do this over that we would construct anything that looks like what we have with the IRS Code today. It is a disaster.

The cost of collection is beyond the comprehension of people who have not drilled into this and put the pieces together and tried to add it up. But I will give you the total on when you compile the costs of collecting from the IRS.

Now there is some literature that is out there, and some of this has come from Harvard University's Department of Economics, some of it is coming from other economists, but it kind of works out this way, Mr. Speaker. By the time we pay the IRS and fund their infrastructure and build their buildings and maintain them, pay their travel and the overall expenses of the entire agency, that 100,000 plus that are out there every day, I am sure with a smile on their face, trying to increase the tax revenue, and I give them credit for being good servants, but I think they can do a little better in the private sector. They are smart people.

By the time we fund the IRS and by the time we pay for our tax preparers, our H&R Block people, if you will, Mr. Speaker, as a euphemism. By the time we pay ourselves say \$10 an hour to sit up half the night on April 14, then you add to that the disincentives we talked about on why people will not work that extra 15 hours of overtime because the tax liabilities are too great.

When you open up the economy, when you accept the increase in productivity that we will have if people are not punished in producing and investing and saving, that adds up to a number that in 1991 was over \$700 billion and today it is over \$1 trillion.

Think in terms of this. This economy, think of it as a huge cruise ship out there sailing across the ocean in smooth sailing and this is chugging along at maybe 10 knots. Because it is not going any faster than that, Mr. Speaker, because we are dragging this anchor. This anchor we are dragging is the IRS, the cost of compliance, the decisions that are made to not invest, the disincentives for producing because of the tax liability. You add that up to that trillion dollars a year and think of that sitting in a treasury chest hooked to our anchor chain, and we are chugging along in this economy at about 10 knots.

Now, we passed a FAIR tax, H.R. 25. We get to cut that anchor chain, that trillion dollars we are dragging across the bottom. It floats to the top. We throw it on board our cruise ship, and we get to invest that in our economy. Right away the 10 knots turns to 20 knots, and we are going along in 10 years in a doubled economy, at least doubled economy from the freedom that comes from taking that anchor that we are dragging and turning it into something that is productivity. It is really that simple to take that economic incentive of the trillion dollars and roll that back into our economy.

There is another perhaps \$11 trillion in stranded capital that is stranded overseas that cannot be repatriated into the United States because of the tax disincentive that is there; and that money would come back to the United States, too. The United States of America would become the destination nation of choice for that capital that is stranded out there in foreign countries. It is really naturally American capital, \$11 trillion. A trillion dollars a year that we are dragging around in our treasure chest anchor across the bottom of the ocean, the doubling of our economy that comes.

I would point out also, Mr. Speaker, that to get a handle on the magnitude of a trillion dollars injected into our economy every year that today is an anchor that turns into an asset, think in terms of, if you will, Mr. Speaker, 1992 Bill Clinton was elected President. He was elected President in part because he alleged and there were some statistics that supported his argument, I do not agree with it totally but there were, that our economy was in a downturn.

So when he took office and was sworn in on the other side of the Capitol building, Mr. Speaker, one of the first things he did was to ask for a \$30 billion economic incentive plan. So he went to the Congress and said, we need to borrow \$30 billion, 30 with a B, and we need to put it into make work projects, much like Americorps is today, and once we put this \$30 billion into the hands of these young people that will go out and go to work in our communities to make the world a better place here, that money will be spent. It will stimulate our economy. It will get us out of this economic doldrums that it was bad enough that it removed George Bush, Sr., from office.

That was some of the psychology of the voters of the American people at the time. President Clinton came to Congress and asked for \$30 billion. Congress debated and deliberated and they negotiated, and they reduced the \$30 billion, Mr. Speaker, down to finally \$17 billion. It would have been borrowed money. But, finally, they all looked at the \$17 billion dollars and said, it is not worth the trouble.

□ 1645

We are not going to go ahead and borrow \$17 billion, put it into make-work programs, try to get it into the hands of the people so the money could be spent to stimulate the economy, because it was not worth the trouble; but if it was even arguable that it was at \$17 billion and if it was a matter of consensus that it would have been at \$30 billion borrowed money, annual spending \$30 billion, think, Mr. Speaker, what \$1 trillion of wasted money, \$1 trillion of maintenance costs and overhead costs that go because of the IRS for tax collection.

Think what that \$1 trillion turned into the asset side of the ledger, into the productive sector of the economy could mean. That \$1 trillion would stimulate this economy massively; and inject in behind that \$11 trillion that sits overseas, and you can see, I think, with ease, Mr. Speaker, what would happen to the economy in this country.

We would double this economy in 10 years. We see the soundness of our dollar come back. We quit punishing people for savings and investment. Why are you putting money in your savings account with after-tax dollars? How can you get ahead doing that? Or when you make an investment and it is trapped here in a real estate investment, a capital investment, and you see an opportunity to make some money and roll it into something else and meanwhile give an opportunity to a young person to start a business or establish a residence and you sell that property, why do we punish you for that? Why do we give you incentive to hang on to that property until your inheritance right? Because you are afraid of being taxed?

This frees up the capital in America that would not be a punishment for transferring that capital into other

hands, that theoretically in every case will do something more productive than it is today. Otherwise they could not afford to bid on the value of that property. That is the theory.

So the things that we need to do in this economy that are good, Mr. Speaker, are the things such as we need to incent savings and the fair tax incents savings. We need to incent investment, and of course, savings is investment. We need to tell people to put your dollars into mutual funds and a company investment and capital investments and we will not punish you for that. We will let you make all the money you can make, and if you want to sell these shares and invest them over here, then do so.

You can make the very best decision that you like, and we are not going to be in here with Uncle Sam's hand in the way, grabbing something out of every single transaction, not having a first lien on all productivity in America, but incensing earnings, savings and investment, research and development, Mr. Speaker, capital investment, higher education. That is where this money is going to go. The future of this capital would go into those three things, Mr. Speaker.

So I would point out that there is a divide in the House of Representatives. There is a divide in our philosophy. There is a divide that I believe is rooted in this philosophy that of all of us here on this planet, if you could somehow shake us up, erase our institutional memories, start us as unbiased people again, and scatter us all over the globe, without having a network that is going to tell us how to think or indoctrinate us, some of the people would see their glass as half full, and they would begin filling that glass up in an industrious fashion, in a faithful Christian fashion many of them, and filling their glass up because that is the thing to do, go out and earn, save, invest, buy, sell, trade, make, gain.

When we do that, everybody prospers. Pull everyone up the ladder next to us and strive for a better future for ourselves and for the succeeding generation, for our babies that we have in our arms and for our children that are growing up and for our grandchildren. That is what this does for the next generations that are here and across this country, Mr. Speaker.

Half of the people, well, probably not half, a portion of the people see the glass as half full, and they would seek to fill it up, and they seek to help others fill their glass.

There is another percentage of the people, the ones that are on the floor with their lamentations night after night after night that say, but my glass is half empty; and you know, I have sat in here for a lifetime and that person over there that was filling their glass did not put a single thing in my glass the whole time. Never mind they did not lift a finger themselves to do a thing, but they see it as a glass half empty. They see it as the economy is a

zero sum game. They see it as a pie that is never going to be bigger, that only can be sliced up and however you distribute that pie, it will always be unfair in their mind's eye.

But we see this as a Nation of opportunity, individual rights and a Nation of opportunity, and we challenge people to be the best you can be, be as productive as you can be, and we struggle to put policies in place and encourage people to be as productive as they can be.

That is why I support H.R. 25, the fair tax, because it encourages everyone to do as good as they can, to produce as much as they can. It punishes no one for productivity. It takes the tax off of productivity, puts it on consumption, and thereby incents earnings, savings, investment, higher ed, research and development, capital investment. All of those things improve the productivity of the American worker, and those things increase the overall revenue and income of Americans.

We really have a choice. We can accept the standard of living of the rest of the world. We can watch them catch up with us. We are on this treadmill. We are on the front of the treadmill, and as they catch up with us, we can begin to accept their standard of living or we can go faster and we can go faster with technology, with education, with capital investment.

Those are the things that we need to do, Mr. Speaker; and so I would point out that before I came over here on the floor I did not know if I would use it, but I used some of this technology that I spoke of earlier and tapped in and did a little search for "the 10 'Cannots' of Abe Lincoln," and Abe Lincoln had this figured out and laid it out in 10 Cannots, and many things he has gotten credit for that he did not do. I have no idea if he actually did this or not, but I am going to give him credit because I think a lot of the man. I would point these points out, and I would like to drill them into the brains of everybody that votes for the future of America on this floor and across this country Mr. Speaker.

Abe Lincoln said 10 points. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift. The fair tax encourages thrift and savings. You cannot bring about prosperity by discouraging thrift, Abe Lincoln's statement. So we want to encourage thrift.

He said you cannot keep out of trouble by spending more than your income. You heard me say, Mr. Speaker, balanced budget. We want to come with a balanced budget, and we want to put a tax policy in place that encourages more productivity so that we can spread this tax out among more people and have a lower rate and more individual productivity. The sum total of the strength of a nation's economy is the total productivity of its people.

Item number three, you cannot establish security on borrowed money. Brings us all to a pause, Mr. Speaker,

because we are paying for Department of Defense spending on borrowed money. It is necessary that we have Department of Defense spending, but that is something that causes me to want to back up, take a look and determine that we can pay our way, pay as we go. That means tighten the belt; we are at war.

Item number four, you cannot help small men by tearing down big men. A little bit different verbiage in those days than there is today. In other words, you cannot help the poor by tearing down the weak. And I think he actually says that.

Item number five, you cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong. Use your strength, build on those, help others, ask them, come on up the ladder with me; but do not pull someone down that has climbed up a few rungs. I keep hearing it over and over again, let us pull those people down; the oil companies made too much money. Why did they? Because the environmentalists would not let us drill for more and the price went up. They invested at least in the energy future of America. They will quit doing that if we punish them. You cannot strengthen the weak by weakening the strong.

You cannot lift the wage earner by pulling down the wage payer. Another solid point that needs to be hammered home.

You cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich. It is important that we have people that have a level of prosperity. They build new houses. They move out of those houses and build a bigger and newer house. They sell that house to someone that can afford it and on and on and on until they get down a level of ways where you and I can afford. So you cannot help the poor man by destroying the rich.

You cannot further the brotherhood of man by inciting class hatred. Class hatred is incited every single night on the floor of the House of Representatives, Mr. Speaker. It does not help the brotherhood of man. It drives a wedge between the brotherhood of man.

You cannot build character and courage by taking away man's initiative and independence. One of the ways that that is done is to create independence, and I spoke about individual initiative and individual responsibility and individual rights, and I pray that we can protect and defend those rights for all Americans, rich or poor, weak or strong, whatever color, whatever sex they might be. We need to guarantee their individual rights and protect them and give them that opportunity.

The tenth one, you cannot help men permanently by doing for them what they could and should do for themselves. I remember that statement of Lincoln's.

So all of these principles of Abraham Lincoln's, the 10 Cannots, have been violated on the floor over here night after night after night. If we could get back to those principles, Mr. Speaker,

if we could get to this point where we understood that individual rights, individual responsibility, if we all could begin to climb that ladder, if we could see our glass as half full and begin to fill out, and as we did that, reached out and help our fellow man, if we could take the tax off all productivity in America, we could prepare this future for the young people, for the children, for those that are here tonight, Mr. Speaker, and with that, I thank you for your indulgence.

RECALL DESIGNEE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CONAWAY) laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE SPEAKER,
Washington, DC, February 16, 2006.

Hon. KAREN HAAS,
Clerk of the House,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CLERK: Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 1, and also for purposes of such concurrent resolutions of the current Congress as may contemplate my designation of Members to act in similar circumstances, I hereby designate Representative Boehner to act jointly with the Majority Leader of the Senate or his designee, in the event of my death or inability, to notify the Members of the House and the Senate, respectively, of any reassembly under any such concurrent resolution. In the event of the death or inability of that designee, the alternate Members of the House listed in a letter placed with the Clerk are designated, in turn, for the same purposes.

Sincerely,

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces that on February 16, 2006, the Speaker delivered to the Clerk a letter listing Members in the order in which each shall act as Speaker pro tempore under clause 8(b)(3) of rule I.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. SIMPSON (at the request of Mr. BOEHNER) for today on account of illness.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. EMANUEL, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. DELAURO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. KAPTUR, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. DEFAZIO, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. HERSETH, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. SCHIFF, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. WYNN, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. CUMMINGS, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. VAN HOLLEN, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. WATERS, for 5 minutes, today.
Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. GOHMERT) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. POE, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. GOHMERT, for 5 minutes, today.
Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

SENATE ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The SPEAKER announced his signature to an enrolled bill of the Senate of the following title:

S. 1989. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 57 Rolfe Square in Cranston, Rhode Island, shall be known and designated as the "Holly A. Charette Post Office".

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KING of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the order of the House of today, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Accordingly, pursuant to the previous order of the House of today, the House stands adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 345, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

Thereupon (at 4 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), pursuant to the previous order of the House of today, the House adjourned until 2 p.m. on Monday, February 20, 2006, unless it sooner has received a message from the Senate transmitting its adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 345, in which case the House shall stand adjourned pursuant to that concurrent resolution.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

6240. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule—Technical and Clarifying Amendments to Rules for Exempt Markets, Derivatives Transaction Execution Facilities and Designated Contract Markets, and Procedural Changes for Derivatives Clearing Organization Registration Applications (RIN: 3038-AC23) received February 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6241. A letter from the Executive Director, Commodity Futures Trading Commission,

transmitting the Commission's final rule—Foreign Futures and Options Transactions—February 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6242. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Black Stem Rust; Movement Restrictions and Addition of Rust-Resistant Varieties [Docket No. 04-003-2] received February 6, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6243. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Add Argentina to the List of Regions Considered Free of Exotic Newcastle Disease [Docket No. 04-083-3] received February 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6244. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Tuberculosis in Cattle and Bison; State and Zone Designations; Minnesota [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0004] received February 3, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6245. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Brucellosis in Cattle; State and Area Classifications; ID [Docket No. APHIS-2006-0001] received January 24, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6246. A letter from the Congressional Review Coordinator, APHIS, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Treatments for Fruits and Vegetables [Docket No. 03-077-2] received January 30, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6247. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Walnuts Grown in California; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV05-984-2 FR] received January 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6248. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Marketing Order Regulating the Handling of Spearmint Oil Produced in the Far West; Revision of the Salable Quantity and Allotment Percentage for Class 3 (Native) Spearmint Oil for the 2005-2006 Marketing Year [Docket No. FV05-985-IFR A] received January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6249. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Milk in the Upper Midwest Marketing Area; Order Amending the Order [Docket No. AO-361-A39; DA-04-03-A] received January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6250. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Hazelnuts Grown in Oregon and Washington; Establishment of Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2005-2006 Marketing Year [Docket No. FV06-982-1 IFR] received January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6251. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of

Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Tart Cherries Grown in the States of Michigan, et al.; Final Free and Restricted Percentages for the 2005-2006 Crop Year for Tart Cherries [Docket No. FV05-930-1 FR] received January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6252. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule—Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Tangelos Grown in Florida; Increased Assessment Rate [Docket No. FV06-905-1 IFR] received February 8, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6253. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Additives Permitted for Direct Addition to Food for Human Consumption; Synthetic Fatty Alcohols [Docket No. 1994F-0153] (formerly Docket No. 94F-0153) received January 4, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6254. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Labeling: Health Claims; Soluble Dietary Fiber From Certain Foods and Coronary Heart Disease [Docket No. 2004P-0512] received January 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6255. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, Food and Drug Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Food Labeling; Ingredient Labeling of Dietary Supplements That Contain Botanicals; Withdrawal [Docket No. 2003N-0346] received January 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Agriculture.

6256. A letter from the Director, Defense Research and Engineering, Department of Defense, transmitting Notification of intent to obligate funds for an additional project for inclusion in the Fiscal Year 2006 Foreign Comparative Testing (FCT) Program, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2350a(g); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6257. A letter from the Secretary of the Air Force, Department of Defense, transmitting notification that the Program Acquisition Unit Cost for the Global Hawk System Program exceeds the Acquisition Program Baseline values by more than 15 percent, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2433; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6258. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's certification that the survivability and lethality of the LHA(R) Flight O Amphibious Assault Ship would be unreasonably expensive and impracticable, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2366(c)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6259. A letter from the Under Secretary for Acquisition, Technology, and Logistics, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's certification that the survivability testing of the lead DD(X) Destroyer would be unreasonably expensive, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 2366(c)(1); to the Committee on Armed Services.

6260. A letter from the Comptroller, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's quarterly report as of December 31, 2005, entitled, "Acceptance of contributions for defense programs, projects and activities; Defense Cooperation Account"; to the Committee on Armed Services.

6261. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—

Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7905] received January 4, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6262. A letter from the General Counsel, FEMA, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule—Suspension of Community Eligibility [Docket No. FEMA-7897] received February 7, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6263. A letter from the Counsel for Legislation and Regulations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting the Department's final rule—Prohibition on Use of Community Development Block Grant Assistance for Job-Pirating Activities [Docket No. FR-4556-I-02; HUD-2005-0076] (RIN: 2506-AC04) received January 9, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6264. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Electronic Fund Transfers [Regulation E; Docket Nos. R-1210 and R-1234] received January 11, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6265. A letter from the Assistant to the Board, Federal Reserve Board, transmitting the Board's final rule—Electronic Fund Transfers [Regulation E; Docket No. R-1247] received January 11, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6266. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Fidelity Bond and Insurance Coverage for Federal Credit Union—received January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6267. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Post-Employment Restrictions for Certain NCUA Examiners—received January 11, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6268. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Requirements for Insurance (RIN: 3133-AD14) received January 11, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6269. A letter from the General Counsel, National Credit Union Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule—Audit Requirement for Credit Union Service Organizations—January 17, 2006, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

6270. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13348 of July 22, 2004, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

6271. A letter from the Deputy Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), notification concerning the Department of the Army's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Singapore (Transmittal No. 01-06); to the Committee on International Relations.

6272. A letter from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting pursuant to Section 62(a) of the Arms Export Control Act (AECA), notification concerning the Department of the Air Force's proposed lease of defense articles to the Government of Italy (Transmittal No. 05-06); to the Committee on International Relations.

6273. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for International Security Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's FY 2007 Cooperative Threat Reduction Annual Report; to the Committee on International Relations.

6274. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Memorandum of Justification regarding the determination under Title II of the Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2002, pursuant to Public Law 107-115; to the Committee on International Relations.

6275. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule—Inter-country Adoption—Preservation of Convention Records (RIN: 1400-AB69) received January 31, 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

6276. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting pursuant to section 36(c) and (d) of the Arms Export Control Act, certification of a proposed manufacturing license agreement for the export of defense articles and services to the Government of Russia (Transmittal No. DDTC 003-06); to the Committee on International Relations.

6277. A letter from the Chairman, U.S.-China Commission, transmitting the record of the Commission's September 15, 2005 hearing on "China's Military Modernization and the Cross-Strait Balance"; to the Committee on International Relations.

6278. A letter from the Chairman, Broadcasting Board of Governors, transmitting in accordance with Section 641 5(a) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Board's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6279. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting pursuant to Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, a report on the Department's competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6280. A letter from the Secretary, Mississippi River Commission, Department of the Army, Department of Defense, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act covering the calendar year 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6281. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Energy, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6282. A letter from the Acting Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Department's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6283. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting in accordance with Section 645 of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Agency's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2004; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6284. A letter from the Director of Administration, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting pursuant to Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, a report

on the Department's competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6285. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting in accordance with Section 645 of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, and Section 641 of Division H of Pub. L. 108-447, the Agency's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6286. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting in accordance with Section 647(b) of Division F of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, FY 2004, Pub. L. 108-199, the Agency's report on competitive sourcing efforts for FY 2005; to the Committee on Government Reform.

6287. A letter from the Director, U.S. Trade and Development Agency, transmitting the Agency's Annual Report for FY 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6288. A letter from the Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting a copy of the annual report in compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during the calendar year 2005, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 552b(j); to the Committee on Government Reform.

6289. A letter from the Public Printer, Government Printing Office, transmitting the Office's Annual Report for Fiscal Year 2005; to the Committee on House Administration.

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. SENSENBRENNER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 3505. A bill to provide regulatory relief and improve productivity for insured depository institutions, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 109-356, Pt. 2). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

Mr. BARTON of Texas: Committee on Energy and Commerce. H.R. 2355. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for cooperative governing of individual health insurance coverage offered in interstate commerce; with an amendment (Rept. 109-378). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself and Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida):

H.R. 4767. A bill to require the Food and Drug Administration to conduct consumer testing to determine the appropriateness of the current labeling requirements for indoor tanning devices and determine whether such requirements provide sufficient information to consumers regarding the risks that the use of such devices pose for the development of irreversible damage to the skin, including skin cancer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HART (for herself, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SHERWOOD, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. DENT, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. PLATTS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 4768. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 777 Corporation Street in Beaver, Pennsylvania, as the "Robert Linn Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. NORWOOD (for himself and Mr. STRICKLAND):

H.R. 4769. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act, and the Public Health Service Act to impose requirements respecting Internet pharmacies, to require manufacturers to implement chain-of-custody procedures, to restrict an exemption respecting the importation of controlled substances for personal use, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. PRYCE of Ohio (for herself and Mr. LEWIS of Georgia):

H.R. 4770. A bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the semicentennial of the enactment of the Civil Rights Act of 1964; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. KIRK (for himself, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. EMANUEL, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. CASE, Mr. EHLERS, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Mr. KLINE, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. GRJALVA, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, and Ms. BEAN):

H.R. 4771. A bill to amend the Nonindigenous Aquatic Nuisance Prevention and Control Act of 1990 to require application to all vessels equipped with ballast water tanks, including vessels that are not carrying ballast water, the requirement to carry out exchange of ballast water or alternative ballast water management methods prior to entry into any port within the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. GORDON, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. FLAKE, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. BOYD, Mr. FEENEY, and Mr. POMBO):

H.R. 4772. A bill to simplify and expedite access to the Federal courts for injured parties whose rights and privileges under the United States Constitution have been deprived by final actions of Federal agencies or other government officials or entities acting under color of State law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EMANUEL:

H.R. 4773. A bill to direct the Secretary of Education to make grants to States and local educational agencies to establish teacher mentoring programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. UPTON (for himself, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. LEACH, Mr. BASS, Mr. CAMP of Michigan, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. COBLE, Mr. GILCHREST, and Mr. KILDEE):

H.R. 4774. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act to require that, after the year 2012, all gasoline sold to consumers in the United States for motor vehicles contain not less than 10 percent renewable fuel and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. THORNBERRY:

H.R. 4775. A bill to extend all of the authorizations of appropriations and direct spending programs of the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 until after implementing legislation for the Doha Development Round of World Trade Organization negotiations is enacted into law, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. SODREL (for himself, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUYER, Mr.

HOSTETTLER, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. PENCE, Mr. MCHENRY, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. GOODE, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. FEENEY, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. AKIN, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SHADEGG, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. POE, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. HENSARLING, Ms. FOXX, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. COLE of Oklahoma, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mrs. SCHMIDT, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mr. PAUL):

H.R. 4776. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, with respect to the jurisdiction of Federal courts over certain cases and controversies involving the content of speech occurring during sessions of State legislative bodies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GOODLATTE (for himself, Mr.

BOUCHER, Mr. WOLF, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. PENCE, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. AKIN, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BACHUS, Mr. BAKER, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mr. BASS, Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. BONNER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BOUSTANY, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. BURTON of Indiana, Mr. BUYER, Mr. CANTOR, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. COBLE, Mr. CONAWAY, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CULBERSON, Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. DEAL of Georgia, Mr. DEFazio, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mrs. DRAKE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. EHLERS, Mrs. EMERSON, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. FORBES, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Ms. FOXX, Mr. GALLEGLY, Mr. GILCHREST, Mr. GILLMOR, Mr. GINGREY, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. GUTKNECHT, Ms. HART, Mr. HAYES, Mr. HEFLEY, Mr. HERGER, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. INGLIS of South Carolina, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. JENKINS, Mr. JINDAL, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, Mr. KELLER, Mrs. KELLY, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. KINGSTON, Mr. KUHL of New York, Mr. LEWIS of California, Mr. LINDER, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California, Mr. MCCRERY, Mr. MCKEON, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. MORAN of Kansas, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. POE, Mr. PUTNAM, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. REGULA, Mr. REHBERG, Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. SOBREL, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. TERRY, Mr. THOMAS, Mr. TIAHRT, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. WALSH, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. WESTMORELAND, Mr. WICKER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. BRADY of Texas, Mr. DELAY, and Mr. LAHOOD):

H.R. 4777. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to expand and modernize the prohibition against interstate gambling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ABERCROMBIE:

H.R. 4778. A bill to require the Secretary of the Army to conduct a survey and monitoring of off-shore sites in the vicinity of the Hawaiian Islands where chemical munitions were disposed of by the Armed Forces, to support research regarding the public and environmental health impacts of chemical munitions disposal in the ocean, and to require the preparation of a report on remediation plans for such disposal sites; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. BURGESS (for himself and Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas):

H.R. 4779. A bill to award a Congressional gold medal to Byron Nelson in recognition of his significant contributions, to the game of golf as a player, a teacher, and a commentator; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. WOLF, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. ROHRBACHER, and Mr. RYAN of Ohio):

H.R. 4780. A bill to promote freedom of expression on the Internet, to protect United States businesses from coercion to participate in repression by authoritarian foreign governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on International Relations, 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 Mrs. CAPITO (for herself and Mr. GILLMOR):

H.R. 4781. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Labor to make grants for the establishment of information technology centers in rural areas; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. CAPPS (for herself, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Mr. FARR, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. ESHOO, Mrs. DAVIS of California, Ms. SOLIS, Ms. WOOLSEY, Ms. HARMAN, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Ms. LEE, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. STARK, Mr. BECERRA, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. LANTOS, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HONDA, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. ZOE LOFGREN of California, Mr. FILNER, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. LINDA T. SANCHEZ of California, Mrs. TAUSCHER, Ms. WATSON, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. WATERS, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. BACA):

H.R. 4782. A bill to permanently prohibit oil and gas leasing off the coast of the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. DAVIS of Florida (for himself, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. BOYD, and Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida):

H.R. 4783. A bill to prohibit offshore drilling on the outer Continental Shelf off the State of Florida, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. DeFAZIO:

H.R. 4784. A bill to direct the Secretary of Interior to convey certain Bureau of Land Management Land to the City of Eugene, Oregon; to the Committee on Resources.

By Ms. DeLAURO:

H.R. 4785. A bill to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. DENT (for himself, Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania, Mr. FATTAH, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Ms. HART, Mr. PETERSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. GERLACH, Mr. WELDON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SHERWOOD, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. MURTHA, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MURPHY, and Mr. PLATTS):

H.R. 4786. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 535 Wood Street in Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, as the "H. Gordon Payrow Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. DOOLITTLE:

H.R. 4787. A bill to amend the Lobbying Disclosure Act of 1995 to require reporting of Federal funds received by clients of lobbyists; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FALEOMAVAEGA (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. CASE, Ms. BORDALLO, and Mr. FORTUÑO):

H.R. 4788. A bill to reauthorize the Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HASTINGS of Washington:

H.R. 4789. A bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to convey certain public land located wholly or partially within the boundaries of the Wells Hydroelectric Project of Public Utility District No. 1 of Douglas County, Washington, to the utility district; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. HERGER (for himself, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, and Mrs. MUSGRAVE):

H.R. 4790. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to expand expensing for small business; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. HERSETH (for herself, Mr. CASE, Mr. EVANS, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. FILNER, Mr. STRICKLAND, Ms. CARSON, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. CONYERS, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, and Mr. FARR):

H.R. 4791. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to increase the amount of assistance available to disabled veterans for specially adapted housing and to provide for annual increases in such amount; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LARSEN of Washington (for himself and Mr. MCDERMOTT):

H.R. 4792. A bill to fix the Medicare Part D prescription drug program by requiring the Secretary of Health and Human Services to negotiate fair prices for prescription drugs on behalf of Medicare beneficiaries, to further reduce drug costs to consumers by allowing the importation of prescription drugs under the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, to provide seniors with adequate time to consider their options under Medicare part D by extending the 2006 Medicare prescription drug enrollment period through December 31, 2006, without penalty, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, and the Judiciary, 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. LATOURETTE (for himself and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 4793. A bill to make available funds included in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 for the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Act of 1981 program for fiscal year 2006, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the

Committee on Education and the Workforce, 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. MCDERMOTT (for himself, Mr. EMANUEL, and Mr. LEVIN):

H.R. 4794. A bill to repeal a provision enacted to end Federal matching of State spending of child support incentive payments; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD:

H.R. 4795. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require accrediting agencies and associations to comply with due process throughout the accreditation process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. MORAN of Kansas (for himself, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mrs. EMERSON):

H.R. 4796. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to improve implementation of the Medicare prescription drug benefit; to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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. PAUL:

H.R. 4797. A bill to protect America's citizen soldiers; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. POMBO:

H.R. 4798. A bill to facilitate remediation of perchlorate contamination in water sources in the State of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on 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 Mr. SHAYS (for himself and Mr. MEEHAN):

H.R. 4799. A bill to establish the Office of Public Integrity as an independent office within the legislative branch of the Government, to reduce the duties of the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct of the House of Representatives and the Select Committee on Ethics of the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mr. PALLONE, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. TOWNS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WYNN, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, and Ms. DEGETTE):

H.R. 4800. A bill to amend the Toxic Substances Control Act to implement the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants, the Protocol on Persistent Organic Pollutants to the Convention on Long-Range Transboundary Air Pollution, and the Rotterdam Convention on the Prior Informed Consent Procedure for Certain Hazardous Chemicals and Pesticides in International Trade; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 4801. A bill to extend the deadlines for distributing certain funds secured by the Michigan Indian Land Claims Settlement Act and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. STUPAK:

H.R. 4802. A bill to reaffirm and clarify the Federal relationship of the Burt Lake Band

as a distinct federally recognized Indian Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. THOMAS (for himself, Mr. HERGER, and Mr. DANIEL E. LUNGREN of California):

H.R. 4803. A bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for an additional place of holding court in the eastern district of California, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TIBERI (for himself and Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts):

H.R. 4804. A bill to modernize the manufactured housing loan insurance program under title I of the National Housing Act; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BOEHNER:

H. Con. Res. 345. Concurrent resolution providing for an adjournment or recess of the two Houses; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. RAMSTAD (for himself and Mr. JEFFERSON):

H. Con. Res. 346. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress relating to a free trade agreement between the United States and Taiwan; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SIMMONS (for himself and Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts):

H. Con. Res. 347. Concurrent resolution honoring the National Association of State Veterans Homes and the 119 State veterans homes providing long-term care to veterans that are represented by that association for their contributions to the health care of veterans and the health-care system of the Nation; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. SLAUGHTER (for herself, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, and Ms. MATSUI):

H. Res. 686. A resolution amending the Rules of the House to restore transparency, accountability, and oversight, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules, and in addition to the Committee on Standards of Official Conduct, 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. BAIRD:

H. Res. 688. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to require that legislation and conference reports be available on the Internet for 72 hours before consideration by the House, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. SMITH of Texas (for himself, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. MCCAUL of Texas):

H. Res. 689. A resolution expressing the sense of the House with respect to the 10th anniversary of the beginning of the National Domestic Violence Hotline; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CONAWAY (for himself, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CANTOR, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CULBERSON, Mr. FLAKE, Ms. FOXX, Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey, Mr. GOHMERT, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HENSARLING, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JINDAL, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. MCHENRY, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. NEUGEBAUER, Mr. POE, Mr. PRICE of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SHADEGG, and Mr. SODREL):

H. Res. 690. A resolution amending the Rules of the House of Representatives to curtail the growth of Government programs; to the Committee on Rules.

By Mr. ENGEL (for himself, Mr. EVANS, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. WEINER, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms.

SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. WEXLER, and Mr. HOLT):

H. Res. 691. A resolution supporting the goals and ideals of Anti-Slavery Day; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. FALDOMAVAEGA (for himself and Mr. FLAKE):

H. Res. 692. A resolution commending the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands for the contributions and sacrifices they made to the United States nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands, solemnly acknowledging the first detonation of a hydrogen bomb by the United States on March 1, 1954, on the Bikini Atoll in the Marshall Islands, and remembering that 60 years ago the United States began its nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas (for herself, Mr. OWENS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Mr. KILDEE):

H. Res. 693. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives with respect to childhood stroke; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MICHAUD:

H. Res. 694. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that, following a year of record setting profits, major petroleum products companies should incorporate the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program into their corporate citizenship and responsibility programs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. SOLIS (for herself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mrs. MALONEY, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Ms. LEE, Mr. NADLER, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, Ms. WATERS, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. EVANS, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. FARR, Ms. PELOSI, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Res. 695. A resolution honoring the life and accomplishments of Betty Friedan; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. UDALL of Colorado (for himself and Mr. WAMP):

H. Res. 696. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that there should be established a National Physical Education and Sports Week and a National Physical Education and Sports Month; to the Committee on Government Reform.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 147: Mr. DENT and Mr. UPTON.
 H.R. 376: Mr. BOYD and Mr. MICHAUD.
 H.R. 390: Mr. CONYERS.
 H.R. 500: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky and Mr. HUNTER.
 H.R. 515: Mr. JEFFERSON, Mr. PASCRELL, and Mr. SALAZAR.
 H.R. 517: Mr. GIBBONS.
 H.R. 552: Mrs. SCHMIDT.
 H.R. 561: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan.
 H.R. 591: Mrs. LOWEY.
 H.R. 676: Mr. AL GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 752: Mr. PASTOR, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Ms. KAPTUR.
 H.R. 916: Mr. GALLEGLY and Mr. DOYLE.
 H.R. 952: Mr. SCHIFF.
 H.R. 963: Mr. SAXTON.

H.R. 994: Mr. CONYERS, Mr. CHOCOLA, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. BERMAN, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 1053: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 1200: Mr. GUTIERREZ.

H.R. 1259: Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire and Mr. HOSTETTLER.

H.R. 1282: Mr. BERMAN.

H.R. 1306: Mr. DEAL of Georgia.

H.R. 1310: Mr. UDALL of Colorado and Mr. BROWN of Ohio.

H.R. 1323: Mr. EMANUEL.

H.R. 1375: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 1426: Mr. GORDON and Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1471: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 1506: Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 1595: Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 1632: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 1655: Mr. McNULTY.

H.R. 1704: Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 1806: Mr. DINGELL and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 2014: Mr. LATOURETTE and Mr. WU.

H.R. 2101: Mr. BRADY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 2122: Ms. HOOLEY and Mr. WU.

H.R. 2390: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts and Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 2410: Mr. CLAY.

H.R. 2684: Mr. GONZALEZ.

H.R. 2872: Mr. GIBBONS and Mr. BLUMENAUER.

H.R. 2943: Mr. POE and Mr. WESTMORELAND.

H.R. 3096: Mr. STUPAK, Mr. CLAY, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3099: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. CASE, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 3127: Mrs. MCCARTHY.

H.R. 3142: Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Mr. KUCINICH.

H.R. 3145: Mr. BOEHLERT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. CHANDLER.

H.R. 3159: Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. SCHWARTZ of Pennsylvania, Mr. SHUSTER, Mr. SMITH of Texas, and Mr. MOORE of Kansas.

H.R. 3312: Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. BOSWELL, Mr. BOUCHER, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. HINCHEY, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.

H.R. 3334: Mr. CONYERS.

H.R. 3352: Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. HOOLEY, Ms. WATSON, Mrs. MCCARTHY, Mr. ROTHMAN, and Mr. BOEHLERT.

H.R. 3381: Mr. PASCRELL.

H.R. 3476: Mr. DOYLE and Mr. ISRAEL.

H.R. 3478: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. LATHAM, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, Mr. ORTIZ, and Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 3509: Ms. FOXX.

H.R. 3559: Mr. PASTOR, Ms. BALDWIN, and Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi.

H.R. 3628: Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. DELAURO, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. LAHOOD.

H.R. 3630: Mr. BACHUS.

H.R. 3644: Mr. GORDON.

H.R. 3875: Mr. MARCHANT, Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico, Mr. SENSENBRENNER, and Mr. HAYES.

H.R. 3962: Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi and Mr. SNYDER.

H.R. 4005: Mr. YOUNG of Florida.

H.R. 4042: Mr. BEAUPREZ.

H.R. 4059: Mr. CUMMINGS.

H.R. 4188: Mr. LANTOS and Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 4197: Mrs. MALONEY and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 4200: Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota.

H.R. 4229: Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, Mr. TIERNEY, and Mr. WEINER.

H.R. 4231: Mr. MICHAUD.

H.R. 4239: Ms. BALDWIN.

H.R. 4242: Mr. FRANKS of Arizona.

H.R. 4315: Mr. UDALL of Colorado.

H.R. 4460: Mr. PAYNE and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 4479: Mr. KILDEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota, and Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin.

H.R. 4526: Mr. MILLER of Florida.
 H.R. 4533: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.
 H.R. 4537: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 4542: Mr. GERLACH and Ms. SLAUGHTER.
 H.R. 4547: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina and Mrs. MYRICK.
 H.R. 4548: Mr. NUSSLE.
 H.R. 4551: Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. KUHL of New York.
 H.R. 4573: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky and Mr. GRAVES.
 H.R. 4622: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
 H.R. 4641: Mr. GOODE.
 H.R. 4657: Mr. BISHOP of New York and Mr. DAVIS of Tennessee.
 H.R. 4679: Mr. GOODE.
 H.R. 4681: Mr. JOHNSON of Illinois.
 H.R. 4685: Mr. GONZALEZ.
 H.R. 4699: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. FLAKE, and Mr. FORD.
 H.R. 4705: Mr. McNULTY.
 H.R. 4706: Mr. OWENS.
 H.R. 4708: Mr. GENE GREEN of Texas.
 H.R. 4709: Mr. CHABOT, Mr. CASE, Mr. ROTHMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. BOUCHER, and Mr. KUCINICH.
 H.R. 4715: Mr. McHUGH.
 H.R. 4729: Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. BOSWELL.
 H.R. 4730: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia.
 H.R. 4740: Mr. SCHWARZ of Michigan and Mr. KLINE.

H.R. 4746: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Mr. ENGLISH of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4748: Mr. BAKER.
 H.R. 4749: Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. KUCINICH, Mr. HINCHEY, and Ms. MCCOLLUM of Minnesota.
 H.R. 4755: Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 4761: Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. FORTUÑO, Mr. WICKER, Mr. GIBBONS, Mr. BONNER, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. FALCOMAVAEGA, Mr. JEFFERSON, and Mr. MCCREERY.
 H.J. Res. 71: Mr. KUHL of New York.
 H.J. Res. 78: Mr. PLATTS.
 H. Con. Res. 179: Mr. JEFFERSON.
 H. Con. Res. 277: Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia and Mr. KING of New York.
 H. Con. Res. 299: Mr. GORDON.
 H. Con. Res. 323: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and Mr. PAYNE.
 H. Con. Res. 341: Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Ms. WATSON, and Mr. WEXLER.
 H. Res. 81: Mr. NUSSLE.
 H. Res. 158: Mr. MEEHAN and Mr. UDALL of Colorado.
 H. Res. 295: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. CONYERS.
 H. Res. 323: Mr. RAHALL.
 H. Res. 521: Mr. CARDIN, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. ESHOO, Mr.

CARDOZA, Mr. WAXMAN, and Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida.
 H. Res. 578: Ms. BEAN and Mr. SHAYS.
 H. Res. 589: Mr. PEARCE.
 H. Res. 600: Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. GUTIERREZ.
 H. Res. 608: Mr. PEARCE.
 H. Res. 635: Mr. OLVER and Mr. TIERNEY.
 H. Res. 641: Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. AL GREEN of Texas, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Mr. WATT.
 H. Res. 643: Mr. BACA, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, and Mr. ABERCROMBIE.
 H. Res. 675: Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, and Mr. BERMAN.

DISCHARGE PETITIONS—
 ADDITIONS OR DELETIONS

The following Members added their names to the following discharge petitions:

Petition 6 by Mr. ABERCROMBIE on House Resolution 543: Sherrod Brown and Thomas H. Allen.

Petition 10 by Ms. HERSETH on House Resolution 585: Jerrold Nadler.