

through Wall Street. Republicans will tell you to be afraid unless we mortgage our future in the 22nd century by giving the rich tax breaks now.

Republicans have had their chance and used it to overwhelm the American people with monstrous debt so the rich can have more riches. The Republicans had their chance and used it to divert America away from the real problems of this country.

Americans are calling this Security September. Just remember to be afraid, afraid of what else the Republicans will do if they remain in power after November 8. Don't forget, there is an election coming.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 503, TO AMEND THE HORSE PROTECTION ACT

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 109-642) on the resolution (H. Res. 981) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 503) to amend the Horse Protection Act to prohibit the shipping, transporting, moving, delivering, receiving, possessing, purchasing, selling, or donation of horses and other equines to be slaughtered for human consumption, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

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

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

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

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

PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN NEW ORLEANS AFTER KATRINA

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to speak out of order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentlewoman from California is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, a year ago last week, Americans saw one of the most devastating natural disasters in our country's recent history. Hurricane Katrina ravaged the gulf coast and overwhelmed the levees of New Orleans, resulting in near total submersion of that city. A year later, the flood waters have receded, yet the devastation sadly remains.

One area where this devastation is most readily apparent is in the city's public schools, many of which were destroyed beyond repair in the storms. However, the system which has arisen

in the wake of Katrina is fragmented and poorly organized. More than half of New Orleans' schools remain closed a year after the storm. Of those that are open, some are run by the city, others are run by the State, and others are run by private companies. As a result, area schools may have different application procedures, admission rules, and starting dates. That is no way to educate children.

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Further complicating this problem is the fact that more students are returning than were ever previously expected, putting an additional strain on a system already stretched to the breaking point. Parents have expressed frustration at the difficulty of navigating this system, and many have been unable to enroll their children in school, despite their best efforts.

These barriers to education are intolerable, Mr. Speaker, anywhere in America. However, it is particularly egregious that we have allowed such barriers to exist for a population that is already so challenged. We must do better, especially for an area with a high minority population, high poverty levels and historically poor academic outcomes.

The consequences of the failure to improve the education system in New Orleans are all too real. Without drastic improvement, we will surely see higher dropout rates and substandard education for those who manage to remain in school.

Furthermore, the effects of this neglect will not rest solely with the young and vulnerable. A poorly educated population promises a bleak future for the entire City of New Orleans and for this country, one characterized by poverty, crime and broken families.

We cannot leave the victims of Hurricane Katrina to fend for themselves twice. President Bush has promised to stand with the victims of Hurricane Katrina until the job is done, yet the persistent problems with New Orleans schools are a disheartening sign that the job is far from done.

In Congress, we have approved four emergency spending bills that together provide more than \$110 billion in Federal aid for rebuilding these areas. However, less than half of this money has actually been spent by Federal agencies, with hardly any accountability. Much needs to be done to help New Orleans recover from the disastrous effects of Hurricane Katrina. However, we must prioritize children in our efforts to rebuild this city, making them first priority.

Therefore, I call on the Bush administration, as well as relevant State and local agencies, to promise the children of New Orleans that they will have access to safe, high quality schools this year. As part of this, the administration must exercise the oversight and follow-through necessary to ensure that Federal funds are appropriately spent and schools are built.

Our children can wait no longer. While Hurricane Katrina resulted in much destruction along the Gulf Coast,

it has also given us an unprecedented opportunity to completely remake underperforming schools. We must do that for the children of America. We must do that for New Orleans children. I demand that this administration and other relevant persons not let this opportunity slip through their fingers.

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

BRING OUR TROOPS HOME

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Christian Williams of Winter Haven, Florida; Staff Sergeant Tracy Melvin of Seattle, Washington; Lance Corporal Jeremy Long of Sun Valley, Nevada, only 18 years old; Private First Class Colin Wolfe, also an 18 year old, of Manassas, Virginia; and Staff Sergeant Michael Deason of Farmington, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, these are just five of the Americans who have been killed in action in Iraq since this Chamber last convened. You see, Congress gets to close up shop for a month, the entire month of August, even if we haven't completed the Nation's business. But no such luxury for the 138,000 men and women who are stationed in Iraq. Their dangerous work goes on and on. No adjournment, no recess, no end to their mission in sight.

In fact, many who were scheduled to come home were told in August, no, they had to stay in Iraq. And why? Because their commander-in-chief says that people who want our troops to come home don't understand the world in which we live.

I submit, Mr. Speaker, that it is the President himself whose understanding of our world could use some real work.

Does he understand that his clumsy belligerence has contributed to more intense feelings of jihad and anti-American radicalism in the Muslim world?

Does he understand that the invasion and occupation of Iraq has created many more terrorists than it could possibly defeat?

Does he understand that his policy lit the match that engulfed Iraq in sectarian violence and civil war?

Does he understand that at least 40,000 and perhaps as many as 100,000 innocent Iraqi civilians have died for what he calls their liberation?

Does he understand that military force is one of the least effective ways of exercising American power?