the FEC reported before that committee that they cannot even get to 68 to 70 percent of the cases because of their inadequate funding.

I am amused by all of the dialog, the political rhetoric, the partisan rhetoric on both sides of the aisle about how we need to have these investigations by Congress, and the only nonpartisan group that is discharged with the responsibility to conduct investigations of congressional campaigns is the FEC. The FEC puts in a request for an appropriation for $1.7 million in order to get funded, and what does the Congress do?

The Committee on Rules, in the middle of the night, decides we are not going to take this up. This action is outrageous, and when the Republican majority is meeting to try to figure out, they are all meeting, how are we going to get this bill passed, what they ought to do is put the request for the FEC funding into the budget. It is significantly less money than we have appropriated for literally millions of dollars for politically charged investigation. Let us let the FEC do its job, and we ought to start with this supplemental appropriations bill.

Now is the time for Congress to put its money where its mouth is and provide the FEC funding to investigate congressional abuses.

Mr. Speaker, it was the ax last night, nothing less than a midnight massacre, on the obstruction of the process and the ability of the FEC to conduct investigations of the congressional campaigns that were held in 1996. It is an outrage.

I think the fact that this rule was defeated lends credence to the fact that we need to make sure that we fund the FEC if we are serious about conducting fair, nonpartisan investigations and giving the FEC fair enforcement power so that they can do their job. Let us make sure we include that funding.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on House Resolution 146.

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

There was no objection.

BLM BULLIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Nevada [Mr. GIBBONS] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today I want to discuss something so powerful and hurtful that it cripples the economy, puts a stranglehold on businesses and farms, destroys livelihoods and families, and yet seems unstoppable.

The monster that I am discussing is the power that was once granted to Congress in article I, section 1 of the U.S. Constitution, which reads: All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in Congress. Today, however, the executive branch of this very Government has taken control of this reserved privilege and holds it captive at the expense of American citizens.

To illustrate my point, I would like to discuss newly assumed police power Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt and the Bureau of Land Management allege to possess. The proposed law enforcement regulations are an attempt to vastly, and in most cases unconstitutionally, expand the BLM's law enforcement authority by increasing the number and types of actions which may result in the violations of law and substantially increase penalties for violation of such regulations.

Let me share with my colleagues, Mr. Speaker, exactly what powers the BLM is commandeering. A story: On July 24, 1994, a family from New Mexico was on a family outing in the Santa Cruz Lake area in the northern part of New Mexico. After fishing and picnicking for 2 hours, the family loaded up their car and were leaving the area when they were stopped by a BLM ranger. According to a complaint filed by the family's attorney, the BLM ranger approached the vehicle carrying a shotgun and ordered everyone out of the car using threats of bodily harm laced with profanity. The BLM ranger fired his shotgun at the car to show that he meant business.

This complaint continues to state that the three men got out of the car and asked why they were being stopped. They asked if it was for fishing without licenses, but they were never asked for their fishing licenses. When a man, woman, and the children tried to leave, the BLM ranger maced the driver and handcuffed him. The driver's mother tried to help her son but was knocked to the ground by the ranger who then stomped on her leg before handcuffing her.

After handcuffing the mother, the BLM ranger went back to the driver and sprayed him again in the face with mace. All this time the children were crying and the ranger yelled at them to shut up. According to the complaint, the BLM ranger said he was going to blow their, and I will delete the expletive, heads off.

It gets worse, Mr. Speaker. When one of the men picked up a child to comfort him, the BLM ranger put a shotgun to the child's head and ordered the man to put the child down. Two other BLM rangers allegedly arrived and began waving their weapons around as well. The BLM rangers refused to say why they had stopped the family in the first place.

The adults were incarcerated, and the BLM ranger did not notify the Attorney General, as they are required to do. Although records at the Santa Fe jail indicate six adults were arrested on charges of assault and hindering a Federal employee, a U.S. magistrate released all those jailed because the BLM did not produce a written complaint and no formal charges were made. To this day the family has no idea, Mr. Speaker, why they were arrested.

Remember these are Federal public land management employees who are committing these atrocious acts. It becomes very evident that these power hungry bureaucracies have designated themselves unconstitutional police powers without having proper authority or training. The agents are turning into bullies with little respect for public safety or property.

Mr. Speaker, no longer are Americans free. They are chained to the dictatorship of bureaucratic monsters. It is time for Congress to stand up for its constitutional rights and the protection of the American people. This is exactly what I and the Subcommittee on National Parks and Public Lands intend to do tomorrow when we bring the BLM and the Department of the Interior before our committee and the American people.

The regulatory authority now used by these Government agencies to create rule after rule and regulation after regulation has begun to put a stranglehold on the Western part of this country to the extent that it may never breathe again.

THE WIC PROGRAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Michigan [Ms. STABENOW] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. STABENOW. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend my colleagues who supported voting no on the rule that came before us that addressed the issue of funding for WIC. Unfortunately, the rule that was in front of us did not guarantee solid, long-term funding for WIC. I am very pleased that the rule was voted down and that we now have an opportunity to come back and do the right thing.

I also rise today, Mr. Speaker, to commend colleagues of mine in a bipartisan basis, the gentlewoman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] and the gentlewoman from New Jersey [Mrs. ROUKEMA], who have worked very hard in a bipartisan way to guarantee that women and children under the WIC Program have the nutritional services and the food that they need in order to be healthy and successful.

My colleague from the other side of the aisle from Florida spoke a few moments ago very eloquently about the need for the WIC Program. I would just add to that. In my years of working in county and State government, I have not felt more confident about any other program of government as I have about the WIC Program. It provides supplementation directly to pregnant women and women and young children up to 5 who are low income and in need of good nutritious food, vegetables, fruit, other nutritional supplementation, eggs, milk, and so on.