

There is no other way to say it, Mr. Speaker, the United States is sitting idly by while this tyrant, Saddam Hussein, is thumbing his nose at us. As former U.N. Inspector Scott Ritter said before the House Committee on National Security, the reality is that Iraq is winning its bid to retaining its prohibited weapons.

□ 1030

Continuation of sanctions as a sole means of enforcing Security Council resolutions is a self-defeating, weak policy.

The Clinton administration has intervened to prevent surprise inspections in Iraq because it wishes to avoid a new conflict with Baghdad. I cannot stress enough how dangerous this policy is.

The question is, are the United Nations and the Clinton administration gambling with all of our lives? Unfortunately, it appears they are.

TO SAVE THE PARTY, DEMOCRATS MUST VOTE TO IMPEACH

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

Mr. BARR of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on the issue of impeachment, I submit to the House an article submitted to the Wall Street Journal by Jerome M. Zeifman, who is a lifelong Democrat and was chief counsel to the House Committee on the Judiciary at the time of the Nixon inquiry.

He writes, "As a lifelong Democrat and chief counsel of the House Judiciary Committee at the time of the Nixon impeachment inquiry, I believe I have a personal responsibility to speak out about the current impeachment crisis. And I believe my fellow Democrats on today's Judiciary Committee have a moral, ethical and constitutional responsibility to vote to impeach President Clinton. The positions taken by the President and his die-hard Democratic defenders in Congress and the media are indefensible.

"We are living in dangerous times. I believe the President has personally brought his office into scandal and disrepute.

"Having long championed traditional Democratic causes, I simply cannot accept Mr. Clinton's own shameless defense and his supporters' offensive attacks on Congress and its traditional rules. Like most traditional Democrats, like most Americans, I have grave reservations about Mr. Clinton's morality and ethics. In my view there is now more than substantial evidence to consider our President a felon who has committed impeachable offenses."

NO GOVERNMENT SHUTDOWN

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

Mr. THUNE. Mr. Speaker, Republicans in Congress have a message to

the President: do not shut the government down.

Republicans have been working with this administration since last spring, last spring, Mr. Speaker, to avoid a government shutdown this year. I think we would agree that it is not in the national interests to shut down the government. How tragic it would be if the President were to force a shutdown for political reasons.

Republicans are willing to reach a compromise with the White House on our remaining differences, just as we did last summer when we balanced the budget and cut taxes at the same time. Although there are still significant differences between the White House and Republicans in Congress on the remaining spending bills, these differences can be resolved without a government shutdown. In almost every case, the administration wants to spend more, Republicans want to spend less.

Let us find common ground and avoid a government shutdown.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3694, INTELLIGENCE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 1999

Mr. GOSS. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to the unanimous consent agreement of October 6, 1998, I call up the conference report on the bill (H.R. 3694) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 1999 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SESSIONS). Pursuant to the order of the House of Tuesday, October 6, 1998, the conference report is considered as having been read.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of October 5, 1998, at page H9522.)

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS) and the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GOSS).

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

I know that the gentleman from Washington (Mr. DICKS) is on his way to the Chamber at this time, and I am going to read from a prepared opening statement, which I know the gentleman will have access to, so I am going to proceed with my remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the conference report to accompany H.R. 3694, the Intelligence Reauthorization Act for Fiscal Year 1999.

This has been a busy summer from an intelligence and national security vantage point. Since House passage of H.R. 3694 in early May, we have witnessed nuclear tests in Pakistan and India; terrorist attacks on 2 of our embassies in Africa, and U.S. counterstrikes against terrorist-linked targets; a

worsening world financial crisis that has spread from Asia to Russia and threatens now parts of Latin America; the eviction of United Nations weapons inspectors from Iraq; a deepening crisis in Kosovo that could embroil NATO troops before the end of the year, if not the end of this speech; and numerous ballistic missile tests by hostile and potentially hostile countries.

In addition, 2 major studies of our intelligence capabilities and processes were conducted this summer. The Rumsfeld Commission study brought to light the increasing pace of ballistic missile proliferation and the shrinking warning times that we can expect given our current intelligence collection posture. The Jeremiah Report, conducted in the wake of India's nuclear tests, highlighted several gaps in our analytical and reporting processes. Both reports expressed concern that foreign governments are increasingly able to hide their activities from us due, apparently, to their familiarity with our intelligence methods and our capabilities.

The point of recapitulating these developments and reports is to highlight the continuing critical need for good intelligence in the post-Cold War world, in this era that we find ourselves today. This after-Cold War era is an era that has seen a significant downsizing of our armed forces.

What I have not spelled out is the successes the community has had as well. All those bad things that did not happen and do not happen because we do have good intelligence capability, even though we have downsized that as well, and we need to reverse that trend.

Good intelligence enables policymakers in the government to head off crises before they occur. It provides an advantage to our military planners in everything from procurement to deployment and saves the lives of citizens and soldiers, and saving the lives of citizens and soldiers is certainly something we are about.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that this conference report incorporates the lessons learned from this busy summer. It provides needed investments in modernization of signals intelligence; revitalization of human intelligence, or espionage, capabilities; strengthening all-source analysis; and enhancement of covert action capabilities. It also includes a significant increase in research and development funding to ensure that we can stay one step ahead of the pack and compensate for foreign denial and deception practices, which, as I said, have gotten ever better.

This conference report provides new protections for "whistle-blowers," intelligence community employees who report on potential problems within their agencies, even though it may involve classified information. I believe we have struck an appropriate balance between the need to preserve employees' rights and the unique retirement within the intelligence arena to safeguard classified information and, of