Government has been relatively constant through our national history except for spikes in the growth of government immediately following national crises and emergencies such as the Civil War, the Great Depression, World War II, the Kennedy assassination and social unrest of the 1960s and now potentially 9–11.

He offers what he calls the ''crisis hypothesis'' of the growth of Federal Government, and it is a powerful one; and he maintains that under certain conditions national emergencies call forth extensions of governmental control over or outright replacement of the market economy. In a time of economic crisis, ''When critical extensions of government power are likely to occur there is little opportunity for meaningful vote on whether or not as a matter of principle the powers of the State should be extended.''

Even Herbert Hoover, attempting to stem the enormous tide of the call of growth of government during the Great Depression, said, ''Every collectivist revolution rides in on a Trojan horse of emergency. It was the tactic of Lenin, Hitler and Mussolini in the collectivist sweep over a dozen minor countries in Europe. It was the cry of men striving to get on horseback.''

It has also been practiced many times throughout our history, not for a second to refer to President Truman and the likes of that litany; but it was not long after the Truman administration took office, the United States found itself in a fight with Korea and the government greatly expanded.

On December 16, 1950, as just one of many examples, Mr. Speaker, President Truman proclaimed a national emergency, calling in familiar words to this day, on all citizens to make a united effort for the security and well-being of our beloved country, to place its needs foremost in thought and action to our farmers, our workers in industry. So the President established the Office of Defense Mobilization, the Defense Protection Agency, and government grew in permanent ways.

Even in his book, in its closing chapters, Robert Higgs perhaps even wrote in 1987 about our own times saying that, ''We know that other great crises will come in America, whether they will be occasioned by foreign wars, economic collapse or rampant terrorism. No one can predict with assurance that in one form or another great crises will surely come again as they have from time to time, and when they do, governments, almost certainly,'' Professor Higgs wrote, ''will gain new powers over economic and social affairs, unless,'' he offers, and I argue, ''the American people rediscover the worth of individual rights, limited government and a free society under the true rule of law.''

□ 1300

Mr. Speaker, let us recognize the times that we are in. Let us recognize that the gale force wind of big government is upon us, and as we reorganize a Department of Homeland Security, let us not make it an excuse to simply organize big government in a permanent way.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 1 p.m.), the House stood in recess until 2 p.m.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord God of Heaven and Earth, always attentive to our prayer and understanding of our human limitations, bless and guide the Members of the 107th Congress, that they may be Your agents of reconciliation in a world torn apart by war, cynicism and fear.

Enlighten them in mind and heart, that together they shine as a harbinger of hope, bringing creativity and new vision to the people.

Through their efforts to do what is right by living according to Your commands and following the dictates of conscience, rather than expediency, grant them keen insight into complicated issues. Bring about in them decisive wisdom that will not be frayed by tangential distractions or preconceived sound bites. For Your world, O Lord, is too vast, and Your people too precious to be compromised.

So we pray now and forever. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Texas (Mr. LAMPSON) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LAMPSON 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.

EVENTS CONCERNING THE AFGHANISTAN LOYA JIRGA

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

Mr. PITTS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Chairman Karzai, the interim administration, and the Afghan people for holding the Loya Jirga to select the new transitional government in Afghanistan.

Unfortunately, due to threats by certain Afghan factions and consequent actions by a small select group of U.N., U.S. and Northern Alliance officials, the Loya Jirga process has been marred. These officials forced the King to make a statement saying he would not run for any elected position in the government.

Sadly, preventing the people from choosing their own leader substantiates the concerns of the Afghan people that the U.S. and the international community have only their own interests at heart, not just that the Afghan people have peace, freedom, democracy, and fundamental human rights.

The Afghan people were looking forward to deciding their own future on their own. Yet before the Loya Jirga was even convened, they were denied the right to choose their own leader. Unfortunately, it appears that intimidation won again.

I am concerned that the Afghan people will not forget that the U.S., U.N., and Northern Alliance prevented the King, a highly respected leader, from holding a leadership position and helping bring peace, stability, and reconciliation to their nation.

Our State Department should have had more diplomacy.

LUDWIG KOONS KIDNAPPING

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

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I continue my story of Ludwig Koons, the young boy who is being held illegally by the Italian Government. Two weeks ago, the Minor's Tribunal in Rome denied the request of the prosecutor to remove Ludwig's mother, the kidnapper, parental authority. Not only is this outrageous, but the court made this decision without any psychological evaluation, testimony or other discovery whatsoever. The decision was made solely on the superficial interview of Ludwig before the judges, which lasted about 15 minutes.

This decision was made despite the finding that Ludwig was kept from having any contact with his father for over 6 months. Ludwig's mother, the woman who kidnapped him and is holding him against the will of United States courts, argued that Ludwig is afraid of his father, which is an absurd, preposterous allegation.

Jeff Koons's attorneys will be filing an appellate brief before the Rome Court of Appeals contesting this decision of the Minor's Tribunal as arbitrary and unfounded, which it absolutely is, and which this entire 8-year-long ordeal has been.