

and I applaud the significant contributions they have made and others and the individual public broadcasting stations.

The legislation brought before the House today would have effectively gutted this fine institution of critical funding necessary to accomplish the vision laid out by President Johnson. The base bill would have cut a staggering \$100 million, stripping the Corporation for Public Broadcasting of one-quarter of its funding.

Critics maintain that the CPB has strayed from its mandate of independence and impartiality. In fact, polls show a large majority of Americans think that the news and information programming is more trustworthy, more independent than that of network and cable programming. A majority of viewers also think PBS is a valuable educational and cultural resource. A poll commissioned by the board of directors confirmed that 48 percent of those surveyed believe that funding for public broadcasting should be increased, not decreased.

Mr. Speaker, I, too, am concerned about the independence of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting; and today, I reluctantly join with many of my colleagues in calling on the President to ask for the resignation of chairman of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting Kenneth Tomlinson. Mr. Tomlinson has actively sought to undermine, underfund, and ultimately dismantle the very organization he has been appointed to lead.

As the leader of CPB, Mr. Tomlinson should be advocating for the continued vitality of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting. Instead, he seems bent on politicizing its content, undermining the objectivity of its news analysis, and turning it into yet another partisan organ. Mr. Tomlinson has withheld publicly funded polls that show strong support for public broadcasting, and more recently, expressed his desire to nominate Patricia Harrison as the new president.

The nomination of Ms. Harrison, a former cochair of the Republican National Committee, further calls into question the impartiality of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and flies in the face of the mandate of President Johnson that the corporation was to be carefully guarded from government and party control. Mr. Tomlinson, regrettably, has not proved to be a good steward of the immense public trust placed in his charge.

Mr. Speaker, on that day in 1967, President Johnson had high hopes for the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and said, "Today we rededicate a part of the airwaves, which belong to all the people, and we dedicate them for the enlightenment of all the people."

Today, I am proud we have beaten back this assault on public broadcasting and taken an important step to renew our commitment to public broadcasting and restore the funding

and independence necessary to ensure that our children and their children will continue to enjoy quality, independent public broadcasting.

SUPPORTING CLEAR LAW ENFORCEMENT FOR IMMIGRATION

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, next week I will introduce legislation that received wide bipartisan support in the last Congress, the Clear Law Enforcement for Removal of Criminal Illegal Aliens Act, better known as CLEAR.

This bill seeks to address a major crisis in our country: the lack of enforcement of our immigration laws.

The CLEAR Act makes clear that State and local law enforcement can and should help Federal agencies enforce these laws.

We have no problem asking local law enforcement to help enforce Federal drug laws. We have no problem asking local agencies to help in Federal man-hunts for murderers and terrorists. We even have no problem with deputy and police enforcing Federal laws against cigarette sales to minors.

Yet when the issue of immigration enforcement arises, so do the squeals that immigration is a Federal responsibility and should not be pushed off on the States. They are right. It is a Federal responsibility. The problem is that the Federal Government is not taking their responsibility very seriously.

Mr. Speaker, the catastrophe of illegal immigration has already been pushed off on the States by the Federal Government flatly refusing to do its duty of enforcing the law. Our police and deputies spend billions combating illegal immigrant crime, including organized foreign gangs. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at the border.

Our local jails are full of criminal illegal aliens, costing the States billions per year. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at the border.

Our local hospital emergency rooms are full of indigent illegal aliens who drive up the cost of health care to a point that hardworking Americans can basically no longer afford it. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at the border.

Our local schools are filled with children of illegal immigrants who pay little or no local taxes, but drive up property taxes for hardworking American families to cover the skyrocketing costs of bilingual and special education. This could have been prevented by vigorous Federal enforcement at our borders.

Our police routinely find illegals, including those with criminal records. They call the Federal Government, which does nothing other than force our police to release these criminals back on to our streets. There are about 500,000 of them out there.

This has got to stop, and this is a fair bill, and it is intended to stop that.

Washington had its chance to enforce the law, and it has failed the Nation. Now it is time we stop putting obstacles in the way of our police, deputies, and State patrol helping to get this job done.

Under the CLEAR Act, local law enforcement is authorized to not only arrest illegal aliens but to transport them to the nearest Federal detention centers, including across State lines; and if DHS does not pick them up immediately, under CLEAR, the Federal Government pays the tab for that, as appropriate.

CLEAR authorizes new Federal resources to support local law enforcement, including immigration law training, 20 new Federal detention centers and more if they are needed.

The CLEAR Act makes illegal immigration a criminal offense, not just a civil offense. Repeat offenders will face serious jail time, not a free ride back to the border.

Mr. Speaker, next week this House will have a chance to start getting serious about fighting our national crisis of illegal immigration. I urge every Member in this House to join us as an original cosponsor.

SMART SECURITY AND THE NEED FOR AN IRAQ PLAN

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, it is time for Congress to take a good hard look at the role the United States is playing in Iraq and whether it is in our national interests to maintain a military presence there.

We need to acknowledge the fact that Iraq's insurgency is growing in strength, not diminishing. It is the very presence of our 150,000-or-so American troops in Iraq that unites the growing collection of insurgent forces.

Since our military presence encourages further fighting, this war will continue as long as the United States troops remain in Iraq, appearing to be occupiers of their country. That is why Congress must accept that we cannot possibly be successful through military means alone.

During consideration of the defense authorization bill on May 25 for fiscal year 2006, I offered an amendment urging the President to develop a plan for the withdrawal of troops from Iraq. Surprisingly, this is the first time the House formally debated the possibility of withdrawal from Iraq, and that was over a 2-year period. While my amendment was defeated, it is clear that Congress is starting to get serious about the need to end the war in Iraq. 128 Members, including five Republicans, voted for this important amendment, but there is much more work to be done.

The Iraq war has now raged on for more than 2 years, and we are no closer