

we pass this Department of Defense authorization without any other additions that have nothing to do with defending our brave men and women.

MATERIAL SUPPORT BILL

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

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, Saturday's New York Times ran an editorial headlined Punishing Refugees Twice, which describes a very real problem that deserves our attention. The PATRIOT Act and the REAL ID Act are important laws to keep out of the U.S. those who provide aid to terrorists. However, an excessively broad interpretation of the law has tied our hands when it comes to admitting harmless refugees into America. No distinction is made for people who have been coerced under duress to provide material support, including under threat of rape or death or at gunpoint.

In addition, the definitions make no exceptions for people or groups that our government supports or that support our government, such as those resisting ethnic cleansing by the dictatorship in Burma, or anti-Castro groups in Cuba, or the Montagnards.

H.R. 5918 would fix this problem by allowing us greater ability to distinguish between our friends and our enemies. The many terrorism-related bars on entry would all remain in place.

I urge consideration and support of this bill.

IRAQ MAKING OVERALL TERRORISM PROBLEM WORSE—TIME FOR NEW DIRECTION

(Ms. SOLIS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. SOLIS. Madam Speaker, for 6 months now, President Bush has known that the Iraq war is making our efforts to fight global terrorism more difficult, yet he refuses to change the course. A top secret National Intelligence Estimate concluding that the Iraq war has made the overall terrorism problem worse should have set alarms off in the Bush administration. The document shows that the President's stay-the-course strategy in Iraq is only undermining our prospects for winning the global war against terror.

The Bush administration knew that this was a possibility before it even went into Iraq. Another intelligence estimate that came out in January 2003 stated that the approaching war had the potential to increase support for political Islam worldwide and could increase support for some terrorist objectives. Yet the administration set aside these concerns and chose to attack instead.

Today, our Nation is suffering the consequences. As the intelligence re-

port states, radical Islam has metastasized. It's time for us to stop the growth of Islamic fanaticism by showing the world that we have no plans of occupying Iraq indefinitely.

RECAPPING REPUBLICAN SUCCESSES

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, as this legislative session draws to a close, it is appropriate to look back at House Republican successes and the accomplishments that have been achieved for the American people.

During the past few months, House Republicans have worked tirelessly to strengthen the economy, protect family values, address the energy crisis, secure our borders, and increase national security.

With the tax reconciliation bill, families are keeping \$31 billion of their own money, as clearly promoted by the Lexington County Chronicle. We approved a border security package to secure our borders and restrict the flow of illegal aliens into our country. Just yesterday, we passed the Military Commissions Act providing for the prosecution of suspected terrorists to help us secure victory in the global war on terrorism.

As we leave Washington and prepare to face the voters in November, we will be judged by our merits. I am proud House Republicans have a positive record of achievement on which to stand.

In conclusion, God bless our troops and we will never forget September 11.

ON THE VIETNAM DEMOCRACY MOVEMENT

(Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Vietnamese people who continue to work every day for a free and democratic Vietnam.

In April, 118 Vietnamese citizens signed the Manifesto on Democracy and Freedom for Vietnam. Making this public statement put these Vietnamese citizens and their families at great risk. The signers of the manifesto are part of a movement called the 8406 Democracy Movement, which refers to the date on which they signed the manifesto, the 8th of April of 2006.

On June 10, I personally spoke with the leaders of the 8406 Democracy Movement, Father Ly and Do Nam Hai, and it is clear to me from my conversations with them that the government of Vietnam continues to violate religious, property and labor rights as well as the right to a free and independent media. These violations are unacceptable.

I urge President Bush to convey the following message to the government of Vietnam during his travel there in November for the Asia-Pacific Economic Corporation Conference.

The U.S. supports the people of the 8406 Democracy Movement who are working toward a free and democratic Vietnam and strongly objects to any mistreatment of them.

THE GENTLEMAN FROM ILLINOIS

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

Mr. PENCE. As this session of Congress draws to a close, so draws to a close, also, the storied career of the Lion of the Right, Henry Hyde of Illinois. As the chairman of several major committees at the center of repeated national controversies, Henry Hyde, as Members on both sides of the aisle know, has been a paragon of dignity and civility and commitment to principle. I would add he has been a lion of the right to life and this Chamber will miss his roar.

I will offer legislation today to name the Rayburn International Relations Committee room after this storied legislator, and I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

When I think of Henry Hyde's career, I think of Ulysses by Alfred Lord Tennyson who wrote:

"Tho' much is taken, much abides; and tho' we are not now that strength which in old days moved heaven and earth, that which we are, we are; one equal temper of heroic hearts, made weak by time and fate but strong in will to strive, to seek, to find, and not to yield."

Let us honor this rare leader and may God bless the golden years of the gentleman from Illinois.

SENIORS ONCE AGAIN VICTIMS OF GOP'S COZY RELATIONSHIP WITH DRUG COMPANIES

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

Mr. CARDOZA. Madam Speaker, American seniors are facing their first full week of the donut hole. This gap in prescription drug coverage for thousands of seniors is the direct result of the Republicans' dedication to increasing drug company profits.

As a clear giveaway to the big pharmaceutical companies, the Republican prescription drug benefit does not require that the Federal Government use its huge purchasing power to bargain for lower cost drugs. On three occasions since 2003, House Republicans had the opportunity to support Democratic amendments to reduce drug prices through bulk purchasing. Passage of our amendments would have provided Congress with the money to fill the gap in coverage and eliminate the donut hole.

But, no. This would have eaten into drug company profits and threatened the friendship that exists between the Republicans and the drug companies.

Mr. Speaker, we can still correct this injustice visited upon our seniors before we recess. Today, we should give the Secretary of Health and Human Services the power to bargain those prices down and permanently close the donut hole.

America needs a new direction.

IN HONOR OF SMEAD MANUFACTURING ON THE OCCASION OF ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

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

Mr. KLINE. Madam Speaker, there has been much celebration this year in the little town of Hastings, Minnesota. I rise today to recognize a small business icon in the State, a document management company with a rich heritage of innovation and quality.

This year, Smead Manufacturing celebrates its 100th anniversary. A cornerstone of the Hastings community, Smead is the world's leading provider of filing and organizational products.

For 100 years, Smead has been committed to one purpose, keeping business organized. For the last 51 years, Smead has been a woman-owned company which now employs more than 2,700 workers in 15 plants. I have enjoyed the opportunity to visit the Hastings facility and meet many of the dedicated employees. On the occasion of this milestone achievement, I want to thank the men and women of Smead Manufacturing for their service to the community and the State of Minnesota. I commend the employees and leaders of this great institution and wish them much continued success.

TIME FOR A CHANGE

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

Mr. ENGEL. Madam Speaker, this Republican Congress has failed the American people. Nobody can deny that this is the most do-nothing Congress in our history. On every front, from Iraq to Social Security, Republicans have sided with the lobbyists' special interest agenda instead of working for the American people. Time and time again, they have said "no" to the needs and concerns of the American people.

"No" to increasing the minimum wage.

"No" to balancing the budget.

"No" to fully implementing the 9/11 Commission's recommendations.

"No" to filling the donut hole for millions of American seniors struggling with their drugs.

"No" to tough penalties on big oil companies that price gouge.

"No" to finding a new strategy for Iraq.

Republican inaction on issues of critical concern to the American people has led to rising drug costs, higher energy prices than a year ago, and billions of taxpayer money being wasted in Iraq on no-bid contracts for administration cronies like Halliburton.

The American people are fed up with a Congress that refuses to do its job. It's time for a change.

□ 1030

THE NEED FOR ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. KINGSTON. Madam Speaker, as my friend Mr. ENGEL from New York knows, gas prices are coming down. I am glad about it. A friend of mine, a son, actually filled up last weekend for \$1.89 a gallon.

But Mr. ENGEL and I know that the pressure upon the gas supply brought about by new drivers in India and China and all over the world means increased demand with a very limited supply of oil. We have got to wean ourselves off of Middle East oil and foreign oil as much as possible.

Mr. ENGEL and I have introduced H.R. 4409, which moves us toward alternative fuels. Ethanol, hydrogen, biomass, technologies that are already out there. We just need to invest more money and accelerate our commitment towards fuel independence.

Imagine driving through a rural area, cornfields on both sides of you, with assurance that that is your next tank of gas. Would that not be great?

This is something that we can work on as Democrats and Republicans. Mr. ENGEL and I have put the bill forward. We are glad to have a lot of Democrats and a lot of Republicans on it. I hope we can get it to the floor for a vote because I think it is extremely important.

THE WORLD IS LESS SAFE

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

Mr. COSTA. Madam Speaker, America is less safe today than before 9/11 attacks. That is according to the National Intelligence Estimate that was leaked out over the weekend. According to the report, the war in Iraq is actually fueling terror worldwide, undermining our efforts to fight terrorism, and making Americans less safe at home and abroad.

This is the second report that questioned our efforts in Iraq, by the GAO. The GAO report asked three specific questions that, unfortunately, this do-nothing Congress should be asking if we had not abdicated our role.

First, what are the key political, economic, and security conditions that must be achieved for U.S. forces to begin to withdraw? Americans want to know.

Two, why have security conditions continued to deteriorate in Iraq even though Iraq has reached political milestones and increased the number of trained and equipped security forces? The American people want to know.

And, three, if existing U.S. political, economic, and security measures are not reducing the violence in Iraq, what measures, if any, does the administration propose to end the violence? The American people want to know.

It is time that we make Americans safer and fully implement the 9/11 recommendations. It is time for a new direction.

FAILURES OF THE CONGRESS UNDER REPUBLICAN LEADERSHIP

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

Mr. COOPER. Madam Speaker, we are in the final hours of this Congress. How will historians judge our work? Very harshly.

There has probably not been a more incompetent or corrupt Congress in modern times than this one. Don't take my word for it. Look at the book called "The Broken Branch," by Norm Orenstein and Thomas Mann. It chronicles the failures of this institution under its recent Republican leadership.

Another objective measure is the lack of workdays in this body. Norm Orenstein pointed out only yesterday that we will have worked only 60 real days this entire year. Sixty days, 2 months of work, and yet we draw 12 months of pay.

Where are the hearings? Where are the debates? Where is the action on American priorities? Where is the immigration bill? Nowhere. Where is the defense bill? And we are in the middle of two wars. Crucial, vital pieces of legislation for America, and this leadership says it simply does not have the time.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF MOTIONS TO SUSPEND THE RULES

Mr. HASTINGS of Washington. Madam Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1045 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1045

Resolved, That it shall be in order at any time through the legislative day of September 29, 2006, for the Speaker to entertain motions that the House suspend the rules. The Speaker or his designee shall consult with the Minority Leader or her designee on the designation of any matter for consideration pursuant to this resolution.