

and then hands the city a bill, potentially to the tune of hundreds of millions of dollars, and at the same time, over the last decade, has continued to cut direct support to that very city. I mean, this just doesn't make sense.

The citizens of the city are not responsible for the fact that its infrastructure has been allowed to deteriorate. They are not responsible for the fact that at the Federal level and at the State level we have not supported redevelopment in these places. In fact, through transportation policy, housing policy, tax policy, land use policy at the Federal and State levels, we have actually, unfortunately, contributed to the hollowing out of these older cities, and now the citizens of this place have to pay the price.

The failure to reinvest in these older cities is not without victims; and right now, it is the people of the city of Flint that are the victims of a failure at the Federal, frankly, and at the State level. It is something that just cannot be tolerated.

So when we think about this question, when we think about this particular case of the city, my hometown of Flint, and the fact that these decisions have been made for them by people at the State capital, they are paying the price. And almost inexplicably, even though today in a complete reversal, an admission of failure by the State, the State has come in and said now they are going to help facilitate the reconnection temporarily to the Detroit water system until a permanent Lake Huron line can be established. Inexplicably, there they are actually asking the city government to empty out its remaining resources, financial resources, and put millions of dollars up to help contribute to pay for fixing a problem that the State government is actually responsible for making. The State broke the system, and now, yet again, it is the city residents who are being asked to contribute to pay for a problem that they did not create in the first place.

Sadly, while this may seem like an extreme case, it is a pretty consistent tale all across this country, but especially in the Northeast and Midwestern United States. But in the South and West as well, there are older cities that

have, in the past, contributed greatly to economic growth in this country and have been allowed—in some ways, encouraged—to wither, to be hollowed out, and we can't let this continue.

So here when we see before our very eyes 30, 40, 50 American cities—as I said, including my own hometown—continue to fall farther and farther behind, have their infrastructure continue to deteriorate, what do we spend our time talking about here in the United States Congress? Petty fights between Democrats and Republicans and, frankly, more recently, petty fights between Republicans and other Republicans.

We haven't even touched the idea of a big infrastructure bill that could help places not just like my hometown of Flint, but other places across the Midwest and across the country that could be much more productive if we simply had 21st century infrastructure, a water system that can deliver clean water to its residents.

There is no excuse. There is no excuse at the Federal level for us not providing the kind of help that would make a place like Flint a far more productive place with decent roads, good schools, and a water system that delivers clean water. I mean, that seems pretty fundamental, and it is. Without that, these older communities, these older cities have no chance of connecting to the new economy, no chance of contributing the way they are capable of to the next economy of this country. It is shameful that we haven't seen the urgency that I think is required in order to deal with this enormous problem.

There are victims of this failure. There are victims, individuals who have been really left behind because of the failure at the Federal and at the State level.

So, Mr. Speaker, I know I have taken a few moments. I don't need to take the full half hour that has been allotted to me because we will continue this discussion. We will continue this conversation.

I just want to make sure that the folks who are listening, the people in this body, people across the country understand that unless we take time, unless we make the effort in this body

to address the problems of these older cities, we will not have done our job. It is important that the American people know that this Congress is willing to stand up for them and stand up for America's cities.

Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. HUDSON (at the request of Mr. MCCARTHY) for today and October 9 on account of family reasons.

SENATE BILLS REFERRED

Bills of the Senate of the following titles were taken from the Speaker's table and, under the rule, referred as follows:

S. 32. An act to provide the Department of Justice with additional tools to target extraterritorial drug trafficking activity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary; in addition, to the Committee on Energy and Commerce for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

S. 2162. An act to establish a 10-year term for the service of the Librarian of Congress; to the Committee on House Administration.

BILL PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Karen L. Haas, Clerk of the House, reported that on October 7, 2015, she presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bill:

H.R. 2835. To actively recruit members of the Armed Forces who are separating from military service to serve as Customs and Border Protection Officers.

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 28 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, October 9, 2015, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2015, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO TIMOR-LESTE, INDONESIA, NEPAL, AND KOSOVO, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 11 AND AUG. 21, 2015

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. Vern Buchanan	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	383.26	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	383.26
Hon. David Price	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	383.26	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	383.26
Hon. Adrian Smith	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	383.26	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	383.26
Hon. Jim McDermott	8/14	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	191.63	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	191.63
Hon. Dina Titus	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	383.26	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	383.26
Hon. Susan Davis	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	383.26	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	383.26
Justin Wein	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	383.26	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	383.26
Sean Brady	8/13	8/15	Timor-Leste .....	.....	383.26	.....	(3)	.....	.....	.....	383.26