the 103d Congress, H.R. 5128, which received broad, bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation today seeks to answer some of these apprehensions. I would, however, point out how deeply concerned I am about the haste in which this legislation was brought to the House floor. While I recognize the importance of what we are to do today, I am very troubled that certain important issues were not fully considered in committee. In their rush to pass their so-called Contract With America, the Republican majority has run roughshod over the democratic, deliberative process which we have been sworn to uphold. My Democratic colleagues in the Government Operations Committee, which I proudly served on last Congress, can attest to the outlandish manner in which this bill was handled in markup. This calculated attempt by my friends on the other side of the aisle to stifle thoughtful debate cannot and will not be ignored.

It was my hope that we in the House would debate the unfunded mandates issue in the normal manner in which legislation of this importance is considered. This debate today, however, is a culmination of a Republican-dominated legislative process that makes a mockery of this noble institution. Despite the modified open rule under which this bill is being considered, it is my understanding that my good friend, Chairman CLINGER, is opposed to any amendments other than those that are clerical and technical in nature. This is in order to pass a bill quickly to the other body. This is most unfortunate; I was looking forward to supporting and passing amendments that would protect our health, labor, and safety laws; that would protect the Clean Air and Clean Water Acts; and that would ensure the protection and strength of our social contracts with the elderly and the needy in this country. This will not happen today if the Republican majority has their way.

These and other critical concerns will not be addressed in this legislation because the majority party wishes to ram this into law just to say to their supporters that they can get things done in Washington. Well, Mr. Speaker, while I advocate the general intent of this legislation, I cannot support the manner in which the Republican majority has brought this bill to the floor. Therefore, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stop our Republican friends from handcuffing our democratic institution, and I urge all my fellow Democrats to stop this Contract With America from undermining the democratic and deliberative principles that this institution has functioned under for the past 200 years.

BRINGING BACK THE DEDUCTION FOR LEGITIMATE BUSINESS EXPENSES

HON. BARBARA F. VUCANOVICH

OF NEVADA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mrs. VUCANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing legislation to restore the business meal tax deduction to 100 percent. In 1993, as part of the President's economic plan, Congress passed legislation reducing the tax deduction for business meals and entertainment from 80 percent to 50 percent. I didn't see the wisdom of that $16.3 billion tax increase then, and I don't see it now.

Anyone who has owned a business or been involved in management can testify to the legitimacy of using meals and entertainment as a marketing tool. Yet we single out this particular business expense, penalizing the restaurant industry, the tourism and entertainment trades and the foodservice industry, to name only a few. When this deduction was reduced from 100 to 80 percent in the Tax Reform Act of 1986, it greatly impacted these industries—industries which are crucial to Nevada. Now, because of the reduction from 80 to 50 percent, it is estimated that almost three-quarters of mid-sized companies in America have made policy changes resulting in reductions in meal and entertainment expenses.

I can tell you from conversations I've had back home that many of Nevada's businesses rely heavily on the business meal and entertainment deduction as a marketing tool to solicit clients. Moreover, restoring the deduction is essential to the tourism trade—which employs almost a third of the State's labor force—in my home State of Nevada. Restoring the business meal deduction will increase restaurant patronage and convention business and help fill hotels and motels not only in Nevada, but across the country. I'm sure it would have a similar effect across the Nation, and I urge my colleagues to support my efforts to restore the 100 percent deductibility of business meal and entertainment expenses.

A TRIBUTE TO HIS MAJESTY KING BHUMIBOL ADULYADEJ (KING RAMA IX) OF THAILAND

HON. DANA ROHRABACHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge King Rama IX of Thailand on the occasion of the Royal Golden Jubilee celebration which commences this month and continues through 1997. His Majesty will enter his 50th year of reign on June 9th.

His Majesty has been an extremely positive influence on his people and continues to be a constructive force in Southeast Asia and the world. His Majesty's influence can be discerned in his numerous projects, his lifelong interest in public health, his efforts to bring peaceful solutions in times of conflict, and his generosity in helping refugees in neighboring countries, especially the Karenni of Burma. His contributions have made King Bhumibol the prime source of inspiration, pride and joy among the Thai people.

TERRORIST EXCLUSION ACT, H.R. 650

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, January 24, 1995

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased today to reintroduce a bill I originally cosponsored and helped author in the 103d Congress under the leadership and efforts of our former colleague now in the other body, Ms. SNOWE. That bill, H.R. 2730, excluded from the United States any individual on the basis of mere membership in a terrorist organization, as such a group is defined by the Attorney General in consultation with the Secretary of State.

The bill I am reintroducing today, H.R. 650, is identical to H.R. 2730 from the last session of Congress. It will end the ridiculous situation we now have where we often have our State Department officials wringing their hands and spending countless hours trying to determine the nature of the visa applicant's membership and level of activity within a terrorist organization or group.

Similar provisions as were in H.R. 2730 passed the other body under the leadership of Senator HANK BROWN during the 103d Congress. However, unfortunately, they did not become law; nor did the House get an opportunity to act to close this glaring loophole in the immigration laws and the State Department's interpretation of those laws today.

Today we often see time-consuming State Department analysis made to determine whether to deny a visa to an individual who is a mere member of a terrorist group, but hasn't yet been convicted of an act of terrorism in an appropriate court of law and with some consular officer's view of appropriate due process.

Under our State Department's view of current law, mere membership alone doesn't automatically create a presumptive basis for denial of a visa, therefor the protracted analysis and soul searching I mentioned, often follows.

The bill I introduce today shifts the burden of proof and makes the denial of the visa presumptive based upon mere membership by the visa applicant in a terrorist organization alone, as defined by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State based upon available. data.

The visa applicant, not the State Department consular officer, must make the case for his or her right to travel to the United States.

The Secretary of State in a recent JFK School of Government speech said that the State Department was going to get tough on international terrorism and international criminals. In fact, as part of the administration's plan of action, the Secretary said "* * * we will toughen standards for obtaining visas for international criminals to gain entry to this country."

Surely, to the average American, those who are members of overseas terrorist groups, as such groups are determined by the Attorney General and the Secretary of State under by bill, would clearly fit the category of international criminals.

International criminals, whether yet formally convicted or not of terrorism, or who we may or may not know want to travel to the United States to engage in possible terrorist acts ought not get U.S. entry visas. It is as simple as that, and my bill will bring that about.

The public would demand our State Department exercise the visa issuance discretionary function and authority in the best interests of the United States, and denial should be in order in such membership cases, one would hope. The benefit of the doubt should go to the U.S. interests. However, let us not rely on hope or ambiguity; my bill gives the State Department clear authority, the ability, and the direction to deny visas in the case of mere