

understanding whether that is a positive or a negative? Frankly, that is a good question, because in fact it has been clearly shown that sampling is an accepted method of creating the census. Politics again, allegations that sampling benefits one group over the other, Democrats versus Republicans, and yet the real question is providing the dollars for those who are in need in the Dakotas and Minnesota, California, and 29 other States.

What else is in here? Questions under the Department of Justice, issues dealing with the environment. One would wonder why that was in there, and other matters that are extraneous to the actual needs of these citizens.

I would simply say that time is now overdue for clearly responding to the President's veto. He is serious. But more important, he cares about those, and we care about those who are in need of money to pursue the cleanup, the rebuilding, the rebuilding of lives and families. All we have to do is simply respond to the President's request, simple request coming 3 months ago: Pass a clean emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Stop taking away the ounce of prevention program, a program that helps communities work together to eliminate crime. Stop taking away money from the peacekeepers, the men and women in Bosnia who have given their lives for this country. Stop interfering with the environment by trying to undercut an environmental process with the Department of the Interior. Stop interfering with the Department of Defense with the dual-use technologies. All of these issues are in an emergency supplemental bill when all we want is the money for these people to rebuild their communities.

I would simply say it is time now to stop the politics and act quickly, swiftly, certainly more so than we have done over these last 3 months. Bring back a clean emergency supplemental appropriations bill. Let us deal with the people forthrightly in those areas that are in need, and then, if we must, have legislative discussions and hearings relevant to these other aspects of this bill, but let us stop the battle of the bulge, cut the fat and get down to the bottom line, serve the people who are in need and pass the emergency supplemental appropriations bill.

DISASTERS ARE NOT PARTISAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Arkansas [Mr. SNYDER] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SNYDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank you and the staff who are putting in long hours here once again. We appreciate you very much.

Mr. Speaker, on March 1, we had a 260-mile squawk of tornadoes come through Arkansas. By the weatherman's count, there were approximately 24 different tornadoes that came out of the same storm front and caused tre-

mendous damage through that 260 miles. There were over 20 deaths; the majority of them were in my district. For those that did not die and did not lose family members, their life too was severely affected by the storm, and as many of us do who are elected officials in those type of events, we go out there and try and learn and walk with our constituents through their tragedies.

I do not need to go into great detail about those stories. I have talked with policemen who found bodies, I have talked with family members who found family members. I cannot describe house after house after house of damage.

Any of us who have seen those kinds of storms, we know that those storms are not partisan issues. We know that those victims were not only Democrats or only Republicans or only Independents or only black or only white; we know that they were Americans undergoing great tragedy.

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I do not see this issue of the supplemental appropriations being a partisan one. I know that Republicans and Democrats together care about the tornado victims in Arkansas, they care about the flood victims in the northern United States.

The issue is not about who cares the most. We all care about what happens to our fellow Americans. The issue is really to me a more mundane one: How do we do the people's business; how do we do this Chamber, how do we freshmen, just completing our first term, just a few months into our first term, how do we do the people's business?

Frankly, my constituents back home are confused by how we are doing the people's business when it comes to this storm. They see in the paper the words "supplemental appropriations"; and I am a freshman, I hear that phrase, and it sounds like some new type of nutritional drink for athletes: supplemental appropriations.

Then I explain to them that is emergency, emergency money for troops overseas, emergency money for storm victims. Then they want to know, why is there such controversy over emergency dollars that we all agree on? And I do not have a good answer. As a new Member, I am still learning.

Let me tell the Members one of my observations here in the last few months. To me it seems there is a difference between compromise and common ground. We elected officials, we always talk about politics being the art of compromise. Let me suggest, Mr. Speaker, that perhaps in emergencies we ought not to be looking for the compromise. Compromises can take weeks and months to achieve. Perhaps we should be looking for the common ground: Find those things that we all agree on, whether we are Democrat or Republican, whether we are in Congress or in the executive branch and are the President. Find those things we all agree on and let us pass those cleanly without this extraneous material.

Mr. Speaker, I ask support tonight that we pass a clean appropriations bill, take out things on which we are having fights, take out those things that have nothing to do with emergencies, such as how to conduct the census. It does not make sense to the people of Arkansas that we are dealing with a very controversial issue, how do we do the census, when we are trying to provide emergency dollars for our troops in Bosnia, when we are trying to provide emergency dollars for storm victims throughout this country.

Tomorrow I hope we will vote on a clean supplemental appropriations bill. I hope we will vote for one without extraneous material. I hope we will conduct the people's business and find the common ground that the people of Arkansas and the people of this country want.

PASS A CLEAN SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS BILL

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, earlier this year our country faced the disaster of floods and tornadoes that ravaged homes and businesses all across our Nation. In my district in California, the Russian River flooded our communities not once but twice this year. The damage was devastating. It devastated homes, businesses, agricultural lands, and the environment. It played havoc on the tourism industry at the Russian River.

However, Mr. Speaker, in the Congress today we have a disaster of our own. This time the disaster has been caused by the flood of partisan game-playing and a tornado of political maneuvering by the majority party.

It has been over 2 months since the President requested emergency aid for flood victims. But my colleagues on the other side of the aisle continue to hold disaster relief funds hostage. They have loaded down this supplemental appropriations bill with pet political projects and extraneous provisions and stopped this bill dead in the water.

Mr. Speaker, the consequences of this delay are enormous. Disaster victims across America cannot reconstruct their businesses, their homes, their lives. They cannot clear their fields for new crops. They cannot get on with the job of rebuilding their lives and their environments.

Speaking of victims and their lives, and about what this game is doing to them, the mothers and babies who rely on WIC, the women, infants, and children program, cannot wait any longer. They have to know whether they are going to be thrown off of that program. Without the \$76 million in supplemental funds in this bill, more moms and children will be denied critical nutritional assistance, and fewer infants and children will get the nutritional

food they need to grow into healthy adults.

Mr. Speaker, it is truly outrageous that the majority party is playing political football with the lives of flood and tornado victims and pregnant women and their babies.

Mr. Speaker, while the rains have stopped and the Sun is shining in California today, the partisan games of the majority continue to cast a dark cloud over our recovery. Let us get on with it. Let us pass a clean supplemental appropriations bill that does what it was intended to do: provide emergency funds, not further some political agenda. Let us not tell these rained-out families that the Sun will come out next week or next month. Let us pass a clean supplemental and let us do it now.

EVEREADY AND THE ENERGIZER BUNNY JOIN THE NAFTA DRUMBEAT OF JOBS AND WAGES LOST TO MEXICO

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio [Ms. KAPTUR] is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, everybody knows the Energizer Bunny. He has been around since the 1980's, and appeared in more than 40 commercials with his sunglasses and that little drum. Everybody knows his message: The bunny just keeps going and going and going.

Well, last week Eveready Battery Co., maker of the Energizer battery and the largest manufacturer of dry cell batteries in the world, announced that it would be closing its factory in the town of Fremont, OH, and moving all of those jobs to, you guessed it, Mexico; 250 more citizens of our country earning between \$10 and \$15 an hour whose jobs are now on the chopping block, outsourced again to a low-wage nation that has no responsibility on environmental considerations. This gives new meaning to the Eveready slogan, it just keeps going and going and going, because those workers in Fremont, OH, now understand what that Energizer bunny is drumming all about.

This particular company is part of a larger trend since NAFTA: a quicker pace of companies moving from our country, moving good jobs that used to pay good wages with benefits in this Nation to low-wage environments, keeping pressure here at home for jobs that are more temporary in nature, more part-time, with no health benefits, and with retirement benefits threatened every step of the way.

Throughout our country companies are moving production and jobs to places like Mexico at a faster pace. In fact, when we add up these Eveready lost jobs, the numbers of people that have already been certified as having been terminated as a result of NAFTA now number over 140,000 around our country, including in States like my own, in Ohio.

We have seen textile and apparel plants leaving the American Southeast. We have seen electronics companies leave Massachusetts and Indiana. We have seen the destruction of the tomato industry in Florida. We have seen the potential for tens of thousands of jobs in the automotive industry to evaporate as companies locate plants in the border areas of Mexico. We have seen the potato industry in Maine laid low because of imports from Canada, and the wheat growers and cattle growers in the Plains States under assault.

The downward pressure on wages and benefits continues around this Nation. NAFTA is making its effects felt in communities throughout our Nation, and no region is exempt. You can run, but you cannot hide from the effects of NAFTA.

Today the Associated Press reports that the community that has been most hard hit by NAFTA is, you would never have guessed it, El Paso, TX. That is right, El Paso, TX, right there on the border, the same El Paso, TX that proponents of NAFTA predicted would be one of the greatest beneficiaries of the trade agreement. El Paso was once a stronghold of the garment industry, but the community has now lost over 5,600 jobs since NAFTA.

Coming in second is Washington, North Carolina, which has lost 3,400 jobs because of NAFTA. If anything, these statistics understate the dimensions of the losses, because not all workers who lose their jobs are reported to the Government of the United States at the Department of Labor.

By the way, it is the U.S. taxpayers that end up paying the costs of unemployed workers that are displaced due to this trade agreement when production is moved outside the United States. Most American citizens do not understand that. They think if people are put out of work, somehow the companies end up paying the costs of the workers' replacement in another field. That obviously does not happen.

Is that not a fine how do you do? Not only do the companies leave and they take the jobs elsewhere, but then it is the people of the United States through their tax dollars that have to subsidize the movement of these workers to hopefully some other job or some type of training.

We do know in all of the studies that have been done that when people leave one job and move to another, they rarely are employed at the same wage level, they rarely get the same benefits, and in fact, since NAFTA's passage, most of these people have seen their standard of living erode in an economy that is supposed to be just doing wonderfully.

I will submit for the RECORD the article that was in the Associated Press this morning, that El Paso leads the Nation in lost jobs, and an article from the News Messenger in Fremont, OH: "NAFTA Cited in Eveready Loss," as further evidence that the agreement is not working.

The articles referred to are as follows:

[From the News-Messenger, June 6, 1997]
NAFTA CITED IN EVEREADY LOSS—TOLEDO AREA U.S. REP. BLAMES FREMONT PLANT CLOSING ON FREE TRADE PACT

(By Lynda Rea)

Eveready Battery Co.'s decision to close its Fremont factory is the latest tragedy resulting from the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA), Toledo's U.S. Congresswoman says.

"Every single job we lose is a tragedy for the people who are terminated and the community in which they reside," the 9th District's Marcy Kaptur said.

"Eveready advertises they 'keep going.' Well, I guess they are going. This is 250 workers—that is a huge, huge loss for us."

Eveready announced earlier this week it would close the newly-renamed Energizer factory in 12 to 14 months and move a portion of its production to Mexico, eliminating 250 local jobs.

Asked whether NAFTA played a role in the decision, Eveready officials emphasized that the reason instead is declining consumer demand for carbon zinc batteries, which do not last as long as alkaline batteries.

Domestic production of carbon zinc batteries, which are made in Fremont, has dropped to 30 percent of what it was in 1986, Eveready spokeswoman Jill Winte said.

"NAFTA has not been a factor in the decision-making process," Winte said. "The carbon zinc battery is just a declining segment of the market."

Kaptur says companies are heading south of the border—taking 140,000 American jobs with them since NAFTA started—because of fewer environmental regulations and because they can pay laborers "pennies."

"They all use the excuse they have to compete globally, except all the companies who are doing this are all multi-nationals and they seek the lowest standards."

Comparing Mexican wages to Americans' wages and, more importantly, to corporate profits, "makes me sick," Kaptur said.

Employees at Fremont's Eveready earned \$12 to \$18 an hour, with the average worker earning around \$13, Eveready spokesman Keith Schopp said.

Various sources place the typical Mexican wage between 80 cents and \$1.50 an hour, which Kaptur called "hunger wages."

Fremont's closing will create a "small number of incremental jobs" in Mexico, but it is too early to determine the number, Winte said.

"There is no question that the average wage in the U.S. is higher than the average wage in Mexico or outside countries, but that was one of many factors the company considered," Schopp said.

"The main reasons are the U.S. market is moving away from carbon zinc batteries and we need to consolidate production for the Western Hemisphere."

Eveready already has moved production from Brazil, Argentina, Colombia and Ecuador into the existing Eveready plant near Mexico City, which employs 900 people, Schopp said.

U.S. Rep. Paul Gillmor, R-Old Fort, said he found it "disturbing" that local production was going to Mexico, but added he does not blame NAFTA.

Americans were complaining about jobs going to Mexico long before NAFTA began reducing tariffs and other trade barriers, he said.

NAFTA has eliminated a 20 percent duty on American products shipped to Mexico and a 10 percent duty on Mexican products shipped to the U.S., Gillmor said.