

staff. MANPRINT can be an essential ingredient in both initiatives. With respect to the military, it ensures that the weapons and equipment supporting a reduced force structure will perform as expected on the battlefield.

But the possible applications for MANPRINT go far beyond the military in our constantly evolving technological-based society. Our regulatory agencies like the Federal Aviation Agency, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Food and Drug Administration should push this concept to the forefront with the systems and equipment they regulate. Also it would seem our medical and educational systems could benefit from a technological development and management process which focuses on the end user. One may wonder what a difference it would make if these systems were made to operate primarily for the doctor and the patient or the teacher and the learner rather than fitting these individuals to the system as an afterthought. We have not been in such an enviable position to take advantage of a technological cultural change since Deming's total quality management. Let's not miss our opportunity this time around.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE CHARLES E. SCHUMER, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore [Mr. QUINN] laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable CHARLES E. SCHUMER, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, September 26, 1997.

Hon. NEWT GINGRICH,
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you pursuant to Rule L(50) of the rules of the House that I have been served with a subpoena duces tecum issued by the Supreme Court of the State of New York, County of Kings, in the case of *Ellen Frankel v. Jeffrey Frankel*, Index No. 10369/96.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that the subpoena relates to my official duties, and that compliance with the subpoena is consistent with the privileges and precedents of the House.

Sincerely,

CHARLES E. SCHUMER,
Member of Congress.

MOTION TO INSTRUCT CONFEREES ON H.R. 1757, FOREIGN RELATIONS AUTHORIZATION ACT, FISCAL YEARS 1998 AND 1999, AND EUROPEAN SECURITY ACT OF 1997

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the motion to instruct conferees on the bill H.R. 1757 offered by the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT].

The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. DOGGETT moves that the managers on the part of the House at the conference on the disagreeing votes of the two Houses on the bill, H.R. 1757, be instructed to reject section 1601 of the Senate amendment, which provides for payment of all private claims against the Iraqi Government before those of

U.S. veterans and the U.S. Government (i.e., U.S. taxpayers).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT] and the gentleman from Kentucky [Mr. WHITFIELD] each will control 30 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that we limit debate on this issue to 15 minutes per side.

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I object. It has been delayed long enough and we need the full 30 minutes as provided for in our rules.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Objection is heard.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas [Mr. DOGGETT].

Mr. DOGGETT. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 4 minutes and 10 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, the men and women of our Armed Forces gave America their best in the gulf war against Saddam Hussein, and now these brave veterans deserve nothing less than our best from this Congress.

Unfortunately, many of our Desert Shield and Desert Storm veterans will never be able to forget their experience, because they have the lingering effects of illness and disability: fatigue, muscle and joint pain, severe headaches, and other limitations as a result of their defense of our national interests. They call it Persian Gulf syndrome from being exposed to biological and chemical weapons.

About 3,000 of our Desert Storm and Desert Shield veterans have filed claims concerning the illnesses against frozen Iraqi Government assets. Following the invasion of Kuwait by Iraq in 1990, the United States Government froze \$1.3 billion of Iraqi assets in this country. This motion is to assure that our veterans are not forgotten with reference to those claims.

In 1991, the U.N. Security Council resolved that Iraq is liable, under international law, for the injury that it caused to foreign nationals as a result of its unlawful invasion of Kuwait. The claims of our veterans were clearly contemplated by this internationally approved resolution.

Accordingly, in 1994, when the Democrats were in control of this House, legislation was approved by an overwhelming majority under the leadership of the gentleman from Indiana [Mr. HAMILTON] that established an Iraqi claims fund and gave first preference, as we should, to the claims of our veterans. This House went on record as saying, we give our priority to those who sacrificed their life and limb for the future of our Nation. Unfortunately, the Senate did not act on this bill.

This year, 1997, the Senate has acted. The Senate version of the State Department or foreign authorization bill, which is now pending in conference committee, would place these same Desert Shield and Desert Storm veterans out in the storm without one red cent being recoverable from the frozen assets of Saddam Hussein.

This injustice is imposed on our veterans by subordinating their claims to the separate commercial claims that existed before the war ever took place and they made their sacrifices, claims that those who did business with Saddam Hussein like the seven largest tobacco companies, and undoubtedly among those enterprises that were doing business with Saddam Hussein were some of those who provided the very materials that were used in the war against our veterans. Who would like to go on record supporting a provision which turns out to benefit corporations at the expense of our soldiers? But that is exactly what the Senate provision would do. It puts our veterans in last place with no practical way to access the frozen assets of the Iraqis. Fortunately, the House has not yet acceded to this outrageous demand.

Additionally, I would note that this is not only a veterans' issue, it is a taxpayer issue. Why is it that the American taxpayer should be placed in last place behind the claims of the tobacco companies? But the same Helms amendment that does damage to veterans also subordinates the rights of the American taxpayer to reclaim money owed to the United States Government by the Iraqis.

This was first reported in a front-page story in USA Today entitled, "Helms Bill Favors Tobacco Firms Over Vets," referring to the authorization bill in conference, and recognizing that across the Hall in this Capitol building, it is apparently possible for one person and one person alone to deny a hearing to block individually the appointment of an Ambassador to Mexico. But please, Members of the House, do not allow one individual to block 3,000 vets from asserting their claims against the Iraqi Government.

Amazingly, I say to my colleagues, this morning's AP, this very morning, reports the author of the Helms amendment continuing, continuing this morning to defend his total bar to our veterans and American taxpayers against these Iraqi assets.

My motion would quite simply instruct our House conferees, who are meeting even today, to not accede to the demands of the tobacco companies and the other commercial claims and put those ahead of veterans. As the National Gulf War Resource Center has told this House, the Helms amendment, if passed, would amount to a grotesque injustice against gulf war veterans. Let us not have that injustice.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted that today we have the opportunity to talk about very serious issues facing the American veterans. All of us obviously support the American veterans. There is no question about that. In this House on July 16, we passed an appropriation bill, \$90.7 billion for the VA, and that was more than the Clinton administration had asked for.