

an attempt to co-opt Democrats into helping the Republicans slowly dismantle Social Security. They have made the tax cuts as attractive as possible to Democrats in order to provide a mountain of sugar to disguise the taste of the poison. But the truth is that undermining Social Security will not help America's working families.

There can no longer be any doubt about the differences between the Republicans and the Democrats. Democrats want to protect the Social Security surplus. Republicans want a tax cut at the expense of America's seniors. Democrats want to ensure that for generations to come, Social Security will continue to be a constant in the lives of our elderly citizens.

Democrats have always supported responsible tax cuts paid for out of the budget. But to take money from the Social Security surplus is fiscally irresponsible and jeopardizes the future of the program. Those funds must be protected for today's retirees and for today's workers. We must save the surplus, strengthen the system, and secure the future for America's seniors. That's the Democratic way.

I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 4578.

INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 4566—IRAQ
LIBERATION ACT OF 1998

HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, September 29th, I introduced H.R. 4566, the "Iraq Liberation Act of 1998." As the title suggests, the purpose of this legislation is to finally and irrevocably commit the United States to the removal from power of the regime headed by Saddam Hussein.

For almost eight years now, since the end of Operation Desert Storm, we waited for Saddam Hussein's regime to live up to its international obligations; to dismantle its weapons of mass destruction under international inspections, to stop threatening Iraq's neighbors, and stop menacing Iraq's Kurdish and Shi'ite minorities.

After dozens of U.N. Security Council resolutions, and compromise after compromise, we have too little to show. Our patience was misinterpreted by Saddam Hussein as weakness. Regrettably, America's friends in the Middle East believe our policy lacked seriousness. The time has come to let Saddam know—to let the whole world know—that the United States will not tolerate this regime's continued grip on power.

We must abandon the fiction that there can be peace and security in the Persian Gulf region with Saddam Hussein's regime still in power. Simply put, Saddam must go. This is not a simple task. Even when the international community was unified and the United States was energized, solutions were few and far between.

Some suggest that our nation should go to war and rid the Persian Gulf of the threat posed by Saddam. We may yet be compelled to do so, but before we put American lives at risk in that far away land, we have a duty to explore the alternatives. One alternative is to assist freedom-loving Iraqis.

Consider the people of Iraq who have no say in their future. Because of Saddam Hus-

sein, they tolerated years of deprivation. At the hands of this man and his Republican Guards, tens of thousands of people were massacred. The people of Iraq are sick and tired of suffering; they have been willing to take up arms against Saddam Hussein, and they are willing to do so again.

The Iraq Liberation Act is not a complete recipe for Saddam's removal, but it contains some key ingredients. This bill calls on the President to designate a group or groups committed to a democratic Iraq. For the designated group or groups, it authorizes the President to provide up to \$97 million in military assistance, to be drawn down from the stocks of the Department of Defense. In addition, it authorizes the provision of \$2 million for opposition radio and television broadcasting inside Iraq.

These authorities, combined with other actions Congress already has taken, will contribute to a comprehensive policy of promoting democracy in Iraq. Earlier this year, the Congress appropriated \$10 million to support pro-democracy groups, assist their organization, found Radio Free Iraq under the aegis of Radio Free Europe, and build a war-crimes case against Saddam Hussein. A further \$10 million is contained in the Senate version of the Foreign Operations Appropriations bill that will soon go to conference.

The Iraq Liberation Act marks an important step forward in our fight against Saddam Hussein. We must not fool ourselves: The man is the problem. If this man remains in power, Iraq will remain a clear and present danger to the United States and our allies. We heard as much from the Chief U.N. weapons inspector, Scott Ritter, and we have heard as much from the Administration.

This bill will not tie the President's hands. It does not mandate the actual delivery of military assistance. The only requirement it contains is that the President designate a group or groups as eligible to receive the assistance we are authorizing. I would hope, however, that the President will use the authority we are offering him to begin to help the people of Iraq liberate themselves.

TRIBUTE TO THE LATE ERNEST
MORISHITA

HON. SAM FARR

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, October 1, 1998

Mr. FARR of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express our community's grief at the loss of Ernest Morishita who died September 6 of this year at the age of 57. Ernie was more than an effective and dedicated public servant, Ernie instilled a feeling of family to Monterey County administration.

Monterey County was extremely fortunate to hire Ernie Morishita away from Fresno County in 1983 to become our County Administrative Officer. Ernie managed the 24 departments and over 3,700 employees with a combination of skill and good humor. It was under his leadership that an economic development program was implemented, bringing stability to County coffers in the face of such onslaughts as the economic downturns of the early 1990's and the erosion of property tax income due to changes in State formulae.

Ernie had a way of streamlining bureaucratic processes and making them user-friendly. Planning and building inspection processes, cooperation between county libraries with city libraries and schools, health and medical departments and programs all benefitted from Ernie's intelligent oversight and fine leadership. Ernie could call upon his positive relationship with the agencies and the political structure of the county to negotiate agreements across agency boundaries. The City of Salinas was able to build playing fields and a golf course on County land, for instance. As the Emergency Services Director during five major, presidentially declared disasters, Ernie created a full-time emergency services office for greater inter-agency cooperation and effective emergency response.

Ernie's droll humor brought warmth and loyalty to county administration, and his pranks are legend. He was not beyond impersonating the county environmental health officer upon arrival at a restaurant to see how it affected service. To better monitor operations and maintain accessibility to all levels of operations, Ernie often walked through county facilities, conversing with custodians and clerks. He was a mentor and advisor who developed affection and camaraderie at every level. Supervisor Simon Salinas once said "He had the biggest heart of anyone in the county."

Our heartfelt condolences go to his family, his wife Kay, daughter Emily, and son Mark, as well as to his father Irving and brother Ken.

Ernie's legacies are beyond the stability and financial integrity he established within county operations. Ernie was a patriarch, and the county became a family through his wise guidance.

TRIBUTE TO LEE HAMILTON

SPEECH OF

HON. DOUG BEREUTER

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, September 28, 1998

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, this Member has served in the U.S. House of Representatives with our very distinguished colleague from Indiana [Mr. LEE HAMILTON] for twenty years and this Member has worked closely with LEE on the House International Affairs Committee for sixteen of those twenty years. As a result of that contact, this Member will tell this body that this Member believes he is the most outstanding Member now serving in the U.S. House of Representatives. Certainly, he is one of the three most distinguished legislators with whom this Member has served in that period of twenty years.

This Member also knows that this Member's high regard for LEE is shared by the very wide circle of people who have known and observed him, not only by those of us in the Congress, but also by people across the country and in the far corners of the earth. His sound and well-reasoned judgment, his unswerving integrity, his unfailing courtesy, his intellect, and his very wise and deep knowledge of matters foreign and domestic have built his exceptional reputation that reflects to favorably on the people of Indiana who have elected him to Congress an amazing seventeen times.

There have been very few if any Members in the U.S. House of Representatives—for