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No. 14

Senate

The Senate was not in session today. Its next meeting will be held on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, at 10:30 a.m.

House of Representatives

MONDAY, JANUARY 27, 2003

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON).

DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
January 27, 2003.

I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN ABNEY CULBERSON to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Daniel P. Coughlin, offered the following prayer:

Lord, our God, this week beckons us as would an opening of a great door, on the unfolding of the 108th Congress of the United States.

Let there be light. As we enter, may there be a new creation.

Lord, You know our capabilities as a Nation. You know our limitations better than we know ourselves. You see clearly the needs of our day and the steps that must be taken.

But do not blind us by Your own wonderful light, for we are already overwhelmed by problems, complaints, and threats of violence.

For the Members of this House, be a gentle light. Lead them forth day by day along the path of consistency and integrity. Then will the knots of contradiction be unraveled and together

Your people will walk with clarity of vision, determination of purpose and a new depth of human understanding.

Lord, be our light and our salvation, today and for endless years to come. Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Monahan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 121. An act to enhance the operation of the AMBER Alert communications network in order to facilitate the recovery of abducted children, to provide for enhanced notification on highways of alerts and information on such children, and for other purposes.

S. 141. An act to improve the calculation of the Federal subsidy rate with respect to certain small business loans, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that pursuant to provisions of Public Law 107-306, the Chair, on behalf of the Democratic Leader, after consultation with the Vice Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, announces the appointment of the following individuals to serve as members of the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community:

The Senator from Florida (Mr. GRAHAM).

Dr. Paul G. Kaminski of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to provisions of Public Law 107-306, the Chair, on behalf of the Majority Leader, after consultation with the Chairman of the Select Committee on Intelligence, announces the appointment of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KYL) to serve as a member of the National Commission for the Review of the Research and Development Programs of the United States Intelligence Community.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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H141

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 9, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 9, 2003 at 3:15 p.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.J. Res. 1.

Appointments:

Benjamin Franklin Tercentenary Commission.

Antitrust Modernization Commission.

Ticket to Work and Work Incentives Advisory Panel.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 10, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on January 10, 2003 at 9:40 a.m.

That the Senate passed without amendment H.R. 11.

That the Senate passed without amendment H. Con. Res. 8.

With best wishes, I am

Sincerely,

JEFF TRANDAHL,
Clerk of the House.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the Speaker signed the following enrolled joint resolution on Thursday, January 9, 2003:

H.J. Res. 1, making further continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

And Speaker pro tempore THORBERRY signed the following enrolled bill on Friday, January 10, 2003:

H.R. 11, to extend the National Flood Insurance Program.

RESIGNATION FROM THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation from the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 7, 2003.

Hon. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I have had the great privilege and honor to have been selected as

the representative of the people of the 19th District of Texas through ten elections. My service in the U.S. Congress has been the most rewarding professional experience of my life, and I thank every one of my constituents who were kind enough to put their trust and faith in my leadership.

However, there comes a time in everyone's life when the focus needs to be more on family than other things, and I am at that point in my life.

At close of business on May 31, 2003, I will resign my seat as the Representative of the 19th district of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives. I have written to the Governor of Texas to advise him of my decision so that he can set a date to schedule an election so the people of the 19th District can choose my successor.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, January 7, 2003.

Hon. RICK PERRY,
Governor of Texas, State Capitol,
Austin, TX.

DEAR RICK: I have had the great privilege and honor to have been selected as the representative of the people of the 19th District of Texas through ten elections. My service in the U.S. Congress has been the most rewarding professional experience of my life, and I want to thank every one of my constituents who were kind enough to put their trust and faith in my leadership.

However, there comes a time in everyone's life when the focus needs to be more on family than other things, and I am at that point in my life.

Please accept this letter as my resignation from the office of Representative of the 19th District of Texas in the U.S. House of Representatives to be effective close of business May 31, 2003. As I continue to serve the great people of the 19th district until such date, this written resignation should allow you sufficient opportunity to set a date to schedule an election so the people of the 19th District can choose my successor.

Sincerely,

LARRY COMBEST.

PROCLAMATION BY THE GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF TEXAS

Whereas, a vacancy for election purposes now exists in the membership of the United States House of Representatives from the 19th Congressional District of Texas, which consists of Andrews, Bailey, Cochran, Crane, Ector, Gaines, Hockley, Howard, part of Lamb, Loving, Lubbock, Lynn, Martin, Midland, Parmer, Terry, Ward, Winkler, and Yoakum Counties; and

Whereas, the United States Constitution, Art. I, §2, requires the executive authority of the state to issue writs of election to fill such vacancies, and 2 U.S.C. §8, requires that the date of such election be as prescribed by state law, and Texas Election Code §204.021, requires that such a vacancy be filled by special election; and

Whereas, Tex. Elec. Code §203.004, requires that, absent a finding of an emergency, the special election be held on the next eligible uniform election date occurring on or after the 36th day after the date the election is ordered, which would be May 3, 2003; and

Whereas, Tex. Elec. Code §3.003, requires the election to be ordered by proclamation of the Governor;

Now, therefore, I, Rick Perry, Governor of Texas, under the authority vested in me by the Constitution and Statutes of the State of Texas, do hereby order by this proclamation a special election to be held in District 19 on Saturday, May 3, 2003, for the purpose of

electing a U.S. Representative for Dist. 19 to serve out the unexpired term of the Hon. Larry Combest.

Candidates who wish to have their names placed on the special election ballot must file their applications with the Secretary of State no later than 5:00 p.m. on Wednesday, April 2, 2003.

Early voting by personal appearance shall begin on Wednesday, April 16, 2003, in accordance with Tex. Elec. Code §85.001(a).

COMMUNICATION FROM DEPUTY GENERAL COUNSEL OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from Kerry W. Kircher, Deputy General Counsel of the House of Representatives:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
OFFICE OF THE GENERAL COUNSEL,
Washington, DC, January 13, 2003.

Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to formally notify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that we have been served with a civil subpoena for documents, issued by the Superior Court of San Francisco County, California, and directed to Custodian of Records for U.S. House of Representatives Office of General Counsel.

This office has no documents responsive to the subpoena and has so advised the party that caused the subpoena to be issued.

Sincerely,

KERRY W. KIRCHER,
Deputy General Counsel.

IRAQ MUST DISARM

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, today, U.N. Chief Inspector Hans Blix issued his report outlining the continued defiance and noncompliance of Saddam Hussein.

After over 2 months and 350 inspections, Iraq continues to conceal pertinent information on its weapons of mass destruction. We know of thousands of liters of biological and chemical agents, such as anthrax and mustard gas, that are still unaccounted for.

It is clear that Iraq is in material breach of U.N. resolutions because it refuses to fully cooperate, and it refuses to accept complete disarmament as demanded by the entire international community.

Now is the time for the United Nations to stand strong, and now is the time to hold Iraq responsible to the international community. We do not have the luxury of time with such a dangerous despot as Saddam Hussein, a man who has used biological and chemical weapons on his own people.

We cannot allow Saddam Hussein to continue to have control over an arsenal that threatens all peace-loving nations. Iraq must be disarmed, or it must voluntarily disarm.

NATIONAL AMBER ALERT
NETWORK ACT

(Mr. LAMPSON asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, just a few minutes ago, we were notified that the Senate has passed the National AMBER Alert Network Act, and it will be introduced here in the House and will be taken up shortly.

As founder and chairman of the Congressional Caucus on Missing and Exploited Children, I am an original co-sponsor of that piece of legislation, and I am here to encourage my colleagues to join me in that commonsense bipartisan legislation.

The National AMBER Alert Network Act builds on the success of the AMBER Alert Plan, a voluntary, cooperative program between law enforcement agencies and local broadcasters to quickly send an emergency alert to the public when a child has been abducted. Thanks to the work of the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children and others, there are now 84 AMBER plans. Still, the vast majority of America's communities have not established an AMBER plan to protect their children.

This legislation provides State and local entities grants through the Departments of Justice and Transportation for highway signage, education and training programs, and equipment to facilitate AMBER Alert systems. The bill offers States the resources they need to establish a seamless network of AMBER plans.

Please join me in supporting the National AMBER Alert Network Act.

IT IS TIME TO STAND FOR PEACE

(Mr. KUCINICH asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, the U.N. process of inspections can work if the administration will let it; and yet we see, despite the efforts of the United Nations, the administration is preparing for war, preparing to send as many as 300,000 of our young men and women into battle. Stories of up to 800 missiles, poised for an attack on Baghdad, a city of over 3 million people. Reports of a new military strategy which plays off of this big missile attack which would attack water systems and electrical systems to totally destroy any infrastructure in Iraq, even news reports that the use of nuclear weapons is being considered.

Americans need to think about it. We have a country here which is dedicated to liberty and justice. But where is the justice if we are the first ones to use nuclear weapons? Where is the justice if we are going to attack a nation that has not attacked us? Where is the justice? It is time to stand for peace.

JOINT SESSION OF THE CONGRESS—STATE OF THE UNION MESSAGE

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, I offer a privileged concurrent resolution (H. Con. Res. 12) and ask for its immediate consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the concurrent resolution.

The Clerk read the concurrent resolution, as follows:

H. CON. RES. 12

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That the two Houses of Congress assemble in the Hall of the House of Representatives on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, at 9 p.m., for the purpose of receiving such communication as the President of the United States shall be pleased to make to them.

The concurrent resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 12 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 4 p.m. today.

□ 1605

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON) at 4 o'clock and 5 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on motions to suspend the rules on which a recorded vote or the yeas and nays are ordered or on which the vote is objected to under clause 6 of rule XX.

Any record votes on postponed questions will be taken after 6:30 p.m. today.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 26) honoring the contributions of Catholic schools, as amended.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 26

Whereas America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence, but provide students more than a superior scholastic education;

Whereas Catholic schools ensure a broad, values-added education emphasizing the life-long development of moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people;

Whereas the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2001-2002 academic year was 2,616,330, and the student-teacher ratio is 17 to 1;

Whereas Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students;

Whereas more than 26 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13 percent are Non-Catholics;

Whereas Catholic schools produce students strongly dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities by providing an intellectually stimulating environment rich in spiritual, character, and moral development; and

Whereas in the 1972 pastoral message concerning Catholic education, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops stated, "Education is one of the most important ways by which the Church fulfills its commitment to the dignity of the person and building of community. Community is central to education ministry, both as a necessary condition and an ardently desired goal. The educational efforts of the Church, therefore, must be directed to forming persons-in-community; for the education of the individual Christian is important not only to his solitary destiny, but also the destinies of the many communities in which he lives": Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week, an event co-sponsored by the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Conference of Catholic Bishops and established to recognize the vital contributions of America's thousands of Catholic elementary and secondary schools; and

(2) congratulates Catholic schools, students, parents, and teachers across the Nation for their ongoing contributions to education, and for the key role they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H. Res. 26.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Delaware?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to ask my colleagues to support H. Res. 26, which recognizes the contribution of America's Catholic elementary and secondary schools and congratulates these schools, students, teachers and parents for their dedication to education in our country.

I would like to thank the sponsor of the legislation, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER), and the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, for bringing this resolution to the floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to share some remarkable facts about Catholic

schools. They are widely acclaimed for their academic success. For example, the graduation rate of Catholic schools students is about 95 percent, while less than 5 percent of Catholic high school students drop out of school, and over 80 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college.

Catholic schools also teach a diverse group of students. Over 26 percent of students enrolled are minorities.

Catholic schools provide more than just an excellent scholastic education. They emphasize and promote the lifelong development of a student's moral, intellectual, physical, and social values. They produce students dedicated to their faith, values, families, and communities.

In Delaware, I am proud of the contributions of the 32 Catholic schools that operate there. There are too many to name, so I will insert a list of those schools in the RECORD.

Archmere Academy, Christ Our King School, Christ the Teacher Catholic School, Corpus Christi School, Holy Angels School, Holy Cross Elementary School, Holy Rosary School, Holy Spirit School, Immaculate Heart of Mary School, Our Lady of Fatima School, Our Lady of Grace Kindergarten, Padua Academy, Salesianum School, St. Ann's School, St. Anthony of Padua Grade School, St. Catherine of Siena School, St. Edmond's Academy, St. Elizabeth's Elementary School, St. Elizabeth's High School, St. Hedwig Elementary School, St. Helena School, St. John The Beloved School, St. Joseph's Academy, St. Mark's High School, St. Mary Magdalen School, St. Matthew's School, St. Paul's School, St. Peter School, St. Peter's Cathedral School, St. Thomas More Academy, St. Thomas The Apostle School, and Ursuline Academy.

Each one of these schools is following a long tradition of educating students to be the future leaders in our society. I offer them my gratitude for their dedication to this tradition.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this straightforward resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and I rise in support of this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, today's resolution recognizes the contributions of Catholic schools. Mr. Speaker, I attended Catholic schools myself. I received a high-quality education from these schools and have benefited greatly. Also, children all across America have benefited from a Catholic education. Certainly, we can all agree that Catholic schools are a strong and positive force in America's educational system.

Fortunately, the great, truly great, aspect of the American education system is its diversity. The goal of the American education system, both public and private, is to provide anyone in any city, in any State, with the opportunity to succeed.

The educational recipe for success in our country certainly includes Catholic schools, schools with other religious focuses and nonreligious private schools, along with our public schools. It is this

variety, this diversity, that truly makes American education powerful and makes American education successful in its mission.

Mr. Speaker, today we are recognizing the educational and societal contributions that Catholic schools make to our Nation. I believe we must recognize the importance and value that all pieces of our educational system have in the lives of our children.

Mr. Speaker, in closing I want to thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) for introducing this resolution.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Catholic schools for their continuing contributions to educating young Americans. Catholic schools impact not only the intellectual life of our Nation's youth but also their moral, physical and social lives and truly are a major component in instilling the proper values in the next generation.

This year, more than 2.5 million students in the U.S. will be enriched by their Catholic school education. America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and can boast a student-to-teacher ratio of 17 to one, but the impact of Catholic schools is far broader and more far reaching than even that.

More than 26 percent of 2.5 million school children enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities. More than 13 percent are non-Catholics, and again, it is tremendously important to the moral, the value-based life of our country.

My wife, Wendy, and I are both graduates of Catholic schools, and we realize perhaps because of that the special value Catholic schools provide to an education. That is why we chose to enroll our three daughters in Catholic schools and intend to do the same for our young son, Jack, when he is of age.

Because I believe so strongly in the value and contribution of Catholic schools, I joined with so many others here and introduce House Resolution 26, which supports the goals of Catholic Schools Week.

Again, I congratulate Catholic schools, parents and teachers for their tremendously important role in ensuring a brighter, stronger future for our Nation. I thank them for the hard work and dedication that is put into educating the youth of our country. I thank them, in particular, for instilling important, deep-seated values in the next generation of Americans.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in concurrence with House Resolution 26.

I think most of us realize the excellence of private schools, particularly the Catholic schools around the country that are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence and provide students more than a superior scholastic education because they are very interested in value-added education, emphasizing a lifelong dedication to moral, intellectual, physical, and social values in America's young people. Certainly in our society today, a strong sense of values and character is critical.

As has been mentioned previously, the total Catholic school student enrollment for the 2001-2002 academic year is over 2.6 million; and of course the student-teacher ratio is critical in any educational setting, and a ratio of 17 to 1 is truly admirable and does provide for a much better academic environment.

Catholic schools teach a diverse group of students. Roughly one-fourth of the students who enrolled in Catholic schools are minorities, and more than 13 percent are non-Catholics.

We feel that the Catholic schools of the United States provide a tremendous service to all people who are interested in education and would like to commend them, and I urge support of House Resolution 26.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER).

Mr. VITTER. Mr. Speaker, I wanted to spend just a few extra minutes thanking all of the many colleagues on both sides of the aisle in the House, Democrats and Republicans, for joining together in supporting this resolution and for honoring Catholic Schools Week. I think in so many ways Catholic schools are really vital to the education of our youth and vital to the intellectual and moral and values-based life of our country. I wanted to highlight just a couple of ways, though, I think Catholic schools are so healthy and so important.

Really, when we get right down to it, they are the main reasons Wendy and I have decided to send our kids to Catholic schools; and they go right to the heart of the contribution Catholic schools make to the life of our country.

One is something I touched on, and that is, Catholic schools offer a great value-based education. In my archdiocese in southeast Louisiana, the motto, the PR slogan, if you will, for the archdiocese school system is "Catholic schools, an education of value."

□ 1615

It is so true, and it is a play on words, of course, because it means at least two things: One is that it is a wonderful education; a wonderful non-public education. And of course non-public private school educations can often be extraordinarily prohibitively expensive. But in our archdiocese, and in virtually all across the country,

Catholic schools offer a really solid education at a reasonable price. So it certainly is an education of value in that sense.

Of course, even more importantly, and an even more compelling reason so many parents send their kids to Catholic schools, is that it is an education rooted in a sense of values. And it is not simply 1 period of religion a day, and it is not simply going to mass 1 day a week or 1 day every other week. It is the whole atmosphere which really embodies loving, Christian principles, and it is a wonderful, loving, nurturing environment for any child, Catholic or non-Catholic, to be brought up in and educated in.

So that sense of values really is so important and such a mainstay of the important contribution Catholic schools make to the life of our country. I think it is something we can all learn from, whether we are helping improve education in the public sector or in any other sector. I think it is something over the last 10 years in particular we have begun to appreciate much more deeply, and that is that educating our children is not merely an intellectual exercise. It has to be a value-laden exercise. And we should not apologize for that in whatever setting.

Of course, if we are in the public school setting, there are limits to how we pass on those values, and we cannot do them in a way which endorses one religion over another or religion over nonreligion. But surely there is still plenty of room within that constitutional framework to offer kids in every setting an education rooted in positive, important values.

The second aspect of Catholic schools that I think is so important and so beneficial, which really goes to the heart of Wendy and my decision to send our kids, is that it is a very diverse environment that our kids find themselves in, particularly compared to other private school settings. So often in nonpublic school settings, particularly schools which are prohibitively expensive, you end up having a very narrow part of the community represented in that school. Those schools are super schools, and they do an excellent job academically, and certainly kids there are great and bright and talented. But it is so healthy in so many ways for kids to be exposed to a more diverse cross-section of the whole community socioeconomically, and certainly Catholic schools offer that. The enrollment of minority and other students in Catholic schools is very, very significant, and Catholic schools play such a positive and instrumental role in reaching out to those minority and other families.

So those are two of the key reasons, I think, Catholic schools make such a contribution to the life of our country. And as I said, those are the same reasons why we made the personal decision to send our kids there.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the

gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Delaware for yielding me this time and congratulate he and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) for bringing this resolution to the floor today on behalf of the committee.

I rise in strong support of House Resolution 26, which recognizes and honors the contribution of Catholic schools in the United States. I commend the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. VITTER) for his leadership in sponsoring this legislation.

Catholic schools throughout our Nation have a well-earned and an internationally acclaimed tradition of academic excellence, and I am pleased to join all my colleagues today in recognizing them. We are honoring and congratulating Catholic schools, their students, parents and teachers for their ongoing contributions to education and the vital role that they play in promoting and ensuring a brighter, stronger future for this Nation.

This week is National Catholic Schools Week, and it is fitting that we focus on the important role that Catholic schools play in providing a well-rounded education for America's young people, one that gives special attention to the academic, moral and social development of our children.

The theme of this year's week is "Catholic Schools: Making a World of Difference." This theme is clear in what one Catholic student wrote in an essay to celebrate this week when he said, "Most importantly, a Catholic school is a community of individuals; teachers, parents, students, who actively participate in enriching young people's educational lives."

I am impressed with how all Catholic schools emphasize intellectual, spiritual, moral and social values and produce well-rounded citizens. Catholic schools teach both students academic knowledge and real-life lessons in service to mankind and respect for one's neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, I can personally attest to the outstanding contributions and dedication of Catholic schools, as I am a proud product of Catholic schools in Ohio, having attended Sts. Peter & Paul Elementary School in Reading, Ohio, and Archbishop Moeller High School in Cincinnati. From this strong foundation I then went on to graduate from Xavier University, which is also located in Cincinnati.

In the great State of Ohio, Catholic schools have made a positive impact on the lives of hundreds of thousands of students. For example, Fenwick High School in Middletown, Ohio, Chaminade-Julienne High School in Dayton, Ohio, and Badin High School in Hamilton, Ohio, are excellent examples of schools that have profoundly influenced the lives of their students and continue to make significant contributions to their communities.

The top priority in the last Congress for the Committee on Education and the Workforce was the No Child Left Behind Act, a landmark reauthorization of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, which provides services and benefits to both public and private schools. Across our country, many Catholic schools participate in these programs and activities under the act. The primary goal of No Child Left Behind is to improve academic achievement for all students and thereby close the achievement gap that exists between disadvantaged students and their peers. Unfortunately, these gaps have remained stubbornly wide over the last three decades.

However, our Nation's Catholic schools and the dedicated teachers who serve in them have kept the achievement gaps from growing even wider. Indeed, some data indicates that one in four Catholic school students are from underprivileged backgrounds. Coupled with the fact that approximately 95 percent of Catholic school students graduate, and 83 percent of these students go on to pursue a higher education, it is clear that Catholic schools are very successful in educating all students who enter their doors.

As Sol Stern wrote in a column entitled "The Invisible Miracle of Catholic Schools," in the City Journal, "Catholic schools are already transforming the lives of thousands of poor black and Hispanic children, many of whom are not Catholic. Catholic educators have remained committed to the ideal that minority children can share in, and master, our civilization's intellectual and spiritual heritage."

In addition, the number of students enrolled in Catholic schools who are not of the Catholic faith is over 13 percent. These students come from a wide variety of faiths and have chosen to attend a Catholic school. This is especially true for inner-city schools, where in some cases the majority of students enrolled are non-Catholic. Catholic schools and their educators have had tremendous success in reaching out to all students and their parents who are seeking the best possible education for their children.

So today, Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this resolution and congratulate Catholic schools for the job they are doing in helping to educate all our Nation's children.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I would like to express my strong support for H. Res. 26, a resolution recognizing the valuable contributions of Catholic Schools.

This week marks the 29th Anniversary of National Catholic Schools Week, a week dedicated to honor the achievements and successes of Catholic Schools throughout the U.S. More than 2.6 million children are enrolled in the 8,114 Catholic Schools in our country.

As Pope John Paul II said, ". . . the purpose of Catholic Education is to communicate Christ to you, so that your attitude toward others will be that of Christ." A Catholic education

challenges students through a combination of high standards, strong motivation, effective discipline, and an emphasis on personal responsibility. It is an education that goes beyond preparation for a secular life; it is an education that prepares students for a Christian life.

Placing a premium on both academic standards and moral responsibility has proven to be a successful formula for Catholic schools. Consider the following facts. Catholic school student test performance in the three grade levels of the National Assessment of Educational Progress exceeds public school test results by an average of 4.5 percent in math, 4.8 percent in science, and 12.5 percent in reading. Only 3 percent of Catholic school students drop out of school, compared to a 14 percent dropout rate in public schools. In addition, 83 percent of Catholic high school graduates go on to college, as compared to 52 percent of public high school graduates.

Children do not form their core moral values on the sole basis of what schools teach them. Learning a respect for life and respect for the rights of others does not just start at school. It starts at home. Accordingly, the Catholic school curriculum recognizes parents and family as primary educators and seeks to foster a shared vision among the two. As the father of four children who have attended Catholic schools, I know that Catholic schools strive to create a special bond between families and educators. Schools and families work hand-in-hand reinforcing family values, ethical behavior, social responsibility, and academic achievement.

There are more than 167,000 men and women who constitute our Catholic school faculty nationwide. Lay men and women represent 91 percent of the full-time equivalent teaching staff in Catholic elementary schools and 92 percent in middle schools. Parents know that the job of a good school teacher is not an easy one. The teachers and staff in our Catholic Schools are allies and supporters in helping parents instill solid moral lessons in our children. They deliver a curriculum that accentuates academic aptitude and moral responsibility. The Catholic school family—the teachers, administrators, librarians, and support staff—are all working every day to help parents rear and prepare America's next generation of leaders.

Mr. Speaker, learning in a religious setting is not for everyone and America's public school system is critical to providing educational opportunities for all. We must continue to vigorously support our public schools at both the Federal and local levels. At the same time, however, we should support those who seek the benefits of Catholic school and choose a religious setting as the best educational environment for their children. In effect, parents of Catholic school children pay twice—they pay their fair share of taxes necessary to support the public school system and they pay tuition at the school their children attend. I urge my colleagues to join me in addressing this inherent unfairness and work for the passage of a tuition tax credit program—some time this year—as the best way to help offset the double payment endured by those who send their children to Catholic schools.

In the interim, Mr. Speaker, as we work for passage of a tuition tax credit, all members can and should vote today for the passage of

H. Res. 26 which appropriately recognizes the valuable contributions of Catholic schools across the Nation.

Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the many accomplishments of Catholic schools. On January 26 the annual weeklong national recognition of Catholic schools began across the Nation. I am proud to have several of the nation's high achieving Catholic schools in my district in metropolitan Kansas City, Missouri. As a former educator I understand the importance of recognizing the achievements of education throughout our Nation, and I welcome this opportunity to applaud the Catholic school community nationwide.

For 165 years, the Catholic schools of the Kansas City Diocese have prepared thousands of competent young adults fully for lives as productive citizens. There are over 40 Catholic education centers in metropolitan Kansas City, and they are all known for their high academic standards and rigorous educational instruction. These centers currently serve 14,000 students in my district. Every day over 1,000 dedicated faculty offer the guidance and instruction that make these students some of the best the Nation has to offer. Not only do the metropolitan Kansas City Catholic schools promote excellence in the classroom, they also encourage community service. In the first semester of this school year, our 14,000 students offered 87,978 hours of service to their communities by working to combat hunger and to provide care for the elderly.

One of the brightest educational beacons in the Kansas City Diocese is St. Elizabeth School in Kansas City. They are recipients of the prestigious Blue Ribbon Award from the United States Department of Education. The award recognizes St. Elizabeth's for exceeding local, State, and national education goals. I participated in the announcement of this award and was overjoyed to see the level of excellence embodied throughout the school. They expressed their gratitude by giving me a remembrance of our day together: a Kelly green sweatshirt that I cherish, especially in St. Patrick's Day parades.

St. Teresa's Academy, another blue ribbon school of excellence in my community, is the oldest school and women's institution in Kansas City. The school was founded and is sponsored by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet who, since their founding in the 17th century in France, have been in the forefront of preparing young women for the future.

I had the pleasure of accompanying the Secretary of Education, Roderick Paige, to St. Francis Xavier School in Kansas City, St. Francis is one of the seven Central City Catholic Schools established by the Catholic Diocese of Kansas City-Saint Joseph to provide educational support to children of the urban core of Kansas City. It serves a diverse population of students, some of whom are Catholic, but all come to receive their outstanding educational instruction offered as a part of the St. Francis Xavier curriculum. There is also a commitment to serving the whole child. More than half of the students at St. Francis qualify for free or reduced lunch. The school also participates in partnership with community organizations, including the Rockhurst University School of Education for teacher and parent training; Rockhurst High School in establishing a "Middle School Acad-

emy" to align curriculum, share resources, and setting up a mentoring program; and Young Audiences, to enrich the curriculum through the arts by having visual and performing artists work with teachers. St. Francis is part of the President's Service alliance and all students are required to perform community service. St. Francis students get real life experiences as part of their curriculum through partnerships the teachers establish with the community. The students also have a connection to students in the global society fostering the development of cultural awareness.

I have also visited St. Thomas More School for a presentation by 6th Graders on the Federal minimum wage. This was part of a class project titled "That is Not Fair," a program which emphasizes social justice issues. I was accompanied by Brigid Flanigan, principal; Leanna Kilgore, Cindy Rapp, Barbara Mingori, and Paula Pawlewicz, 6 grade teachers; Ann Harbin, facilitator of the "That's Not Fair program; and Michael Poulin, social justice program coordinator. After listening to the presentation and hearing the students' hopes and aspirations of the future I challenged the students to reach high and achieve their goals. With the first rate education provided by St. Thomas More and throughout the Kansas City Diocese, there is no question that they will be prepared to do just that.

Mr. Speaker, these are but a few of the Catholic schools in metropolitan Kansas City which play an important role in gifting students with the abilities to excel academically, socially, and civically. And I ask all of my colleagues to join me in celebrating the legacy and the bright future of the Catholic schools in the 5th District of Missouri and of the Nation.

Mr. FERGUSON. I rise today in support of our Nation's Catholic schools and the record of excellence they hold in our children's education.

I believe our most profound responsibility is to ensure that every child has a first-class education, that no child is left behind and that all students share in the pride and promise of educational opportunity—Catholic education provides that opportunity.

As a former student at the University of Notre Dame and a former teacher at Mount Saint Michael's Academy in the Bronx, NY, I know the benefits Catholic schools and universities provide to students in America.

Our children deserve the best schools in the world; they deserve schools that will help them meet the challenges of tomorrow. That is why I'm pleased with the bipartisan support H. Res. 26, "Honoring our Catholic Schools," is receiving from my colleagues in the House today.

America's student dropout rate is increasing at an alarming pace. But our Nation's Catholic schools have given a diverse group of students the inspiration, environment and counsel they need to stay in school. A tribute to the strength and quality of a Catholic school education is the 95 percent graduation rate among Catholic high school seniors.

America's Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for providing small classrooms averaging 15 students, where each student can have the attention they need to achieve their future goals. America's Catholic schools also graduate a record 83 percent of students who go on to college.

I believe that while we call for higher standards in our Nation's schools, we must also

recognize those schools that are providing the education America's students need to succeed. I am pleased to join with my colleagues in honoring the contributions of Catholic schools. After all, our children are our country's most precious resource.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and recognize the annual celebration of "Catholic Schools Week." Each year, the National Catholic Educational Association and the United States Catholic Conference sponsors a week-long celebration recognizing the outstanding educational contributions of America's Catholic schools. Catholic schools locally and nationally will mark this festive occasion by hosting many community, parish and school events.

In Pennsylvania alone, Catholic elementary and secondary schools educate approximately 240,000 students yearly. These schools operate with complete devotion to each and every student, providing them with solid values and academic skills needed in becoming responsible citizens of Pennsylvania and the Nation. Catholic institutions tout a 95 percent graduation rate, and 83 percent of Catholic school graduates pursue higher degrees—a very impressive statistic.

Not only do Catholic schools boast these high standards and excellent achievements, but fervently instill in their students the idea and necessity for commitment to family and the community. Most, if not all, Catholic students willingly provide countless hours of volunteer service to the local parish as well as the entire community. This only proves that Catholic school students are strongly dedicated to their faith, values, family and community.

Not long ago, President Bush signed into law a comprehensive education reform package emphasizing accountability, local control and flexibility, expanded options for parents, and funding for effective programs. Given Catholic schools' record of success and standard of excellence, it is only fitting that these private institutions continue to serve as a model for public education reform in America.

Mr. Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I congratulate and express great appreciation to the Nation's Catholic schools on the occasion of "Catholic Schools Week." I especially salute the many Catholic school teachers, principals, and school administrators in the 18th Congressional District of Pennsylvania for their hard work and dedication which has benefited so many young people. My best to all the students in their continuing academic careers and future endeavors.

Mr. ISRAEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution to honor the contribution of Catholic schools.

Catholic schools play an important role in my district on Long Island and across the country in educating not only Catholics, but also many non-Catholic and minority students. Schools such as St. Anthony's Huntington, the Academy of St. Joseph in Brentwood, St. Dominic in Oyster Bay, St. John the Baptist in West Islip, and others throughout Long Island are models of educational excellence.

With limited budgets, but with unlimited devotion, the teachers and administrators provide a real public service—focusing on developing the heart, mind and spirit of their students. With a 95 percent graduation rate and 83 percent of students continuing on to higher education, their valuable service is more than evident.

I rise to support their role today and urge my colleagues to support this resolution commending the contribution of Catholic schools.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 26 honoring the contributions of Catholic schools. My 18th Congressional District in Houston has a number of outstanding Catholic schools that have contributed to the well being and education of thousands of students.

Catholic schools ensure a broad-based education for students in elementary grades. This education includes the emphasis on character, values, and moral development. More than 26 percent of school children enrolled in Catholic schools nationwide are minorities. In minority communities, Catholic schools serve a special purpose—they integrate students into a moral and spiritual doctrine that carries lifelong benefits.

This weekend, I attended a celebration in my district at the St. Philip Neri Catholic Church. The church has an exemplary school for students pre-kindergarten through the 5th grade. The school was founded more than 30 years ago.

I support the goals of Catholic Schools Week and congratulate the schools, students, parents, and teachers for their ongoing contributions to education. Catholic schools have played a key role in educating our students. Catholic schools have long been dedicated to teaching a diverse group of students, and I applaud their work. As we continue to seek methods to reform our nation's schools, Catholic schools serve as a model for discipline, for a broad-based education, and for values. Catholic schools are internationally acclaimed for their academic excellence. I strongly support H. Res. 26 and the accomplishments of Catholic schools everywhere.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, House Resolution 26, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS OF NEED FOR YOUTH MENTORS AND INCREASED INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUTH THROUGH MENTORING

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 25) supporting efforts to promote greater awareness of

the need for youth mentors and increased involvement with youth through mentoring.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 25

Whereas mentors serve as role models, advocates, friends, and advisors to young people in need;

Whereas numerous studies document that mentors help young people augment social skills, enhance emotional well-being, improve cognitive skills, and plan for the future;

Whereas, for some children, having a caring adult mentor to turn to for guidance and encouragement can make the crucial difference between success and failure in life;

Whereas, 17.6 million young people, nearly half the youth population, want or need mentors to help them reach their full potential;

Whereas there exists a large "mentoring gap" of unmet needs, with only 2.5 million youth in formal mentoring relationships, leaving 15 million young people still in need of mentors;

Whereas the celebration of National Mentoring Month will institutionalize the Nation's commitment to mentoring and raise awareness of mentoring in its various forms;

Whereas a month-long focus on mentoring will tap into the vast pool of potential mentors and motivate adults to take action to help a young person;

Whereas National Mentoring Month will encourage organizations of all kinds, including businesses, faith communities, government agencies, schools, and more, to engage their constituents in mentoring;

Whereas the celebration of National Mentoring Month would above all encourage more people to volunteer as mentors, to the benefit of the Nation's children; and

Whereas on January 2, 2003, President George W. Bush signed a proclamation naming January 2003 as National Mentoring Month and called upon the people of the United States to recognize the importance of being role models for youth, to look for mentoring opportunities in their communities, and to celebrate this month with appropriate ceremonies, activities, and programs: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) commends those who give their time and talents to support mentoring programs; and

(2) supports efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for youth mentors and increased involvement with youth through mentoring.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on House Resolution 25.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Nebraska?

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, not long ago I read the results of a study that was done on the Fullerton County Public Schools in

1940, and in this study the teachers in the Fullerton schools were asked what their main concerns were. The list read like this: Number one concern was talking in class; number two was chewing gum in school; number three was getting out of turn in line when you went from one class to another; and number four was not putting waste in the wastepaper baskets.

More recently someone went back to the Fullerton public schools and asked the same question; what was the main concern that the teachers had. The list had changed somewhat. The number one concern was drug and alcohol abuse; secondly was gangs; and then followed weapons, teenage pregnancy, teenage suicide, and violence.

I guess this study, as I saw it, Mr. Speaker, resonated with my own experience of 40 years working with young people, because when I first started working with young people in about 1960, the out-of-wedlock birth rate was roughly 5 percent; today it is 33 percent. We have 18 million fatherless young people in our country today. Most of them have not even seen their father or met them.

In 1960, a relatively small percent of our young people were living in homes without both biological parents. Today, almost half live in homes without both biological parents. Drug abuse and gangs remained relatively unheard of in 1960. Today, as everyone knows, they are a major problem in this country. We have become the most violent Nation in the world for teenage homicides and suicide.

So I guess the question begs itself, Mr. Speaker, as to where we are headed as a Nation. I think if we examine the data on a year-to-year basis, it is a little hard to tell where we are moving, but if we look at it in 40- to 50-year increments, 1940 versus 2003, we can see some alarming trends.

So the question is, Mr. Speaker, what do we do at this point? What can we do? We cannot legislate families staying together. We cannot legislate strong values. But one thing we can do, Mr. Speaker, is we can provide mentoring for young people. A mentoring relationship is a one-to-one relationship with a positive adult role model who, number one, cares unconditionally about a young person.

It is very powerful for a young person in a school when an adult, who is not a parent, not a grandparent, not a teacher, not a preacher, has no axe to grind, but simply cares enough about that young person to show up and spend time with that young person every week.

Secondly, a mentor is one who affirms. A tremendous number of our young people today are growing up without affirmation. Whether it be at home or at school with their peers, no one is saying, I really approve of you, I believe in you, I know you can do this, you can accomplish something. And essentially that is what a mentor does. They are someone who affirms

and sees something in a young person that that young person may not even know they have within themselves.

Thirdly, I think a mentor is one who provides a vision. So many young people today simply have no role model in their lives. They dropped out of school early, are working at a minimum paying job and have no great aspirations. Many times a mentor can see something in a young person that points in a direction that certainly is much more productive than that.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, mentoring works. Research studies indicate that mentoring reduces drug and alcohol abuse by a great deal, sometimes as much as 50 percent. It reduces teenage pregnancy, teenage violence, and gang membership. It improves peer and family relationships, self-confidence, school attendance, grades and graduation rates. It is estimated that currently 17 million children need a mentor in our society today, and less than 1 million have that experience.

The mentoring initiative is critical to our Nation's well-being. I think most of the great nations of the world that have fallen apart have disassembled from within. I think we need to address the problem what is going on with our young people, and mentoring does this. I hope that this body supports mentoring programs as we recognize National Mentoring Month.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

(Mrs. DAVIS of California asked and was given permission to revise and extend her remarks.)

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to join the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) in support of House Resolution 25, which recognizes the critical role of mentors in our children's lives.

On the day following our Nation's 37th Super Bowl, I can think of no better way to commemorate the very spirit of this bill than by sharing the inspirational story of Mr. Lincoln Kennedy, who plays right tackle for the Oakland Raiders. Lincoln grew up and attended Morris High School in my hometown of San Diego, California. And just as it is today, the student body at Morris was largely diverse and comprised of children from mostly working-class backgrounds. The school football field doubled as the team's practice field, and ongoing electrical problems allowed for day games only.

High school football coach John Schacklett spotted the 6 foot 6 inch freshman and immediately recognized his potential. He urged him to try out for the school's football team, and Lincoln agreed.

Although forced to play in tennis shoes because the school was unable to acquire the size 17½ cleats that he required, it did not take long for Lincoln

to develop under the constant guidance and encouragement of a coach who not only believed in him, but took the time to invest in him. And what a difference it made.

Lincoln returned to his hometown on January 26, 2003, to play in Super Bowl XXXVII. Reflecting back on the achievements of his life, Lincoln wondered what he would have done had Coach Schacklett not approached him that fateful day, recognized that he possessed something special, and pushed him to recognize it, too.

"I wonder how I ever would have gotten to college and gotten a college education or what type of job I would be doing right now," he said. Fortunately, as a result of the mentoring of Coach John Schacklett, Lincoln will never need to worry about the answer to that question.

The significance of this story should not be underestimated. Lincoln Kennedy represents the millions of youth in this country who stand to benefit immensely from the support of a positive role model. And Coach Schacklett represents the millions of mentors who also benefit from the rewarding and enriching experience of investing in a young person's life and later watching that person grow and succeed.

This case illustrates what we have known for years, and what my colleague just spoke about, that mentoring makes a difference. It provides children and young adults with a stronger sense of self-esteem and optimism for the future. It fuels their ambitions and pushes them to realize their own potential. It helps them to visualize a future other than what they might have aspired to.

We know that this learning experience is a two-way street. Mentoring often brings together people of various ethnic, religious, or socioeconomic backgrounds. It is easy to turn to those with whom we share obvious similarities. The mentoring relationship, however, often forces us outside of our own comfort zone, allowing us to view the world from different perspectives and appreciate one another's experiences and life circumstances.

In today's world, particularly, this level of understanding has never been more important; and we must do all that we can to foster these relationships.

Mr. Speaker, President Bush's declaration of January 2003 as National Mentoring Month marked a significant stride in this direction. With the passage of this resolution, I hope to reinforce the positive impact that mentoring can have on so many of our children's lives.

Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BOEHNER), the chairman of the Committee on Education and the Workforce, whose support for mentoring has been very much appreciated.

Mr. BOEHNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr.

OSBORNE) for bringing this resolution to the floor today and his willingness to manage this bill, and thank the gentleman for his commitment to mentoring. As someone who has mentored countless numbers of young men during his coaching career, he certainly comes to this with great passion and has brought great passion to this issue to the committee, and especially last year during the consideration of No Child Left Behind when the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) took the lead and pushed for mentoring programs within the Secondary and Elementary Education Act.

The gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS), also a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce and a staunch supporter of mentoring, played a role in ensuring that mentoring became an important part of No Child Left Behind.

We all know the importance of mentors to children, many of whom come from families where there may not be a father or there may not be a mother, and having these mentors to help mostly underprivileged children is a great advantage in terms of helping them understand that there is another world out there and their future may in fact be brighter.

As I have said before, I believe not only do children benefit from having mentors, but I think mentors may benefit even more than the children do by offering their services, making a commitment to their community, making a commitment to their local schools, and making a commitment to underserved children who need their help.

Mr. Speaker, because of all this, I believe that the resolution before us is certainly a good one and urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE), who is chairman of the Subcommittee on Education Reform and also a strong supporter of mentoring.

Mr. CASTLE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. DAVIS) for offering this resolution today.

I do not know if there are many advocates for mentoring better than the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) and all he has done in his lifetime for this, and I think we are fortunate to have him in support of this issue on the floor on a number of occasions.

I, too, rise in support of the resolution that recognizes the benefits of mentoring for America's young people, the many contributions of mentors, and the need for more mentors to get involved in the lives of our youth.

Many children throughout the United States face difficult circumstances in their lives. For instance, too many of our youth become teenaged parents or do not complete high school. These are just two examples of youth who might benefit from the support and guidance of a caring and responsible adult.

In fact, the positive effects of mentoring include increased school attendance, improved rates of secondary school graduation and college attendance, decreased involvement with drugs and alcohol, and decreased violent behavior.

In early January, the President declared January 2003 as National Mentoring Month and in doing so, recognized the vital contributions of dedicated mentors and encouraged more Americans to make a difference in the hearts and souls of our communities by volunteering their time to meet the needs of America's youth. As President Bush said, mentors "provide friendship and support to young people who are facing challenging situations, serve as positive role models, and help to instill important values, goals and skills."

Mentoring programs come in all shapes and sizes, and often schools, churches and community groups come together to form mentoring partnerships. There are thousands of mentoring programs across the country, yet there is still a shortage of mentors. It is estimated that mentors are not available to a large percentage of young people who need or want them. Too many children in our Nation are growing up without support and guidance in their lives.

We cannot afford inaction. A small commitment of time, energy or financial support can change the life of a child. I am pleased to promote the greater awareness of the need for youth mentors, and I urge an "aye" vote on this resolution.

Mrs. DAVIS of California. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to close by sharing some of the lessons I learned while serving as the executive director of the Aaron Price Fellows Program in my own community.

The first is that simply giving of yourself, be it your time, your advice, and even your interest, makes a difference. For a young person, the security and the confidence that comes from knowing that someone, someone outside of his or her own family believes in them and cares about them is immeasurable.

The second is that there is just no telling how far a young person who receives the sort of personal attention and one-on-one mentoring will go. I am proud to have two individuals on my staff who I personally mentored many years ago, and I cannot tell Members how meaningful it is for me to see how successful they have become today.

Finally, it is impossible to predict how involved or enthusiastic a mentor will become in a child's life. In my experience with the Fellows program, I have seen countless individuals become so invested in a young person's development that they surpassed any and all expectations of the job. I had the opportunity to demonstrate this myself as a mentor; and I can personally attest to the fact that the greater one's commitment, the richer the reward.

One of San Diego's outstanding leaders, who overcame a lifetime of adversity and built a successful life for himself despite the odds, once told me that the single most influential factor in his life was a childhood mentor. I believe that his story, and so many others, prove that mentoring can and does make a pivotal difference in a young person's life.

Mr. Speaker, I am delighted to join with my colleagues and thank the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) for bringing this resolution forward, and urge passage of House Resolution 25.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's support of this resolution, and I might just mention there was a Mentoring for Success amendment that was added to H.R. 1, which provided for mentoring grants and programs around the Nation. It was interesting to note that we had over 1,300 applications for less than 300 grants. Obviously, there is great interest in mentoring around the country. We know that those monies will be put to good use, that thousands of young people will benefit; and above all, I believe it is important that we remember that this provides a national clearinghouse where we can evaluate all kinds of mentoring, what works and what does not work, and provide a central clearinghouse that we think will be very important.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support the National Mentoring Month Resolution introduced by Congressman TOM OSBORNE. This resolution recognizes and supports the efforts of mentoring programs across our Nation. It embraces the notion that volunteer mentors can change the life of a troubled teen. This resolution celebrates the month of January as a month-long campaign focused on raising awareness of mentoring programs, their impact on our youth, and information on how to volunteer to become a mentor.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor to Congressman OSBORNE's resolution. Both Coach OSBORNE and I worked as mentors before coming to Congress and both felt a need to raise awareness of the cause once we were elected. Last year, we successfully passed the Mentoring for Success program, which provided money to start up new mentoring programs across the country. In addition, we founded the Congressional Mentoring Caucus, a bipartisan organization designed to disseminate information about the positive impact mentoring programs have on our Nation's children.

Mentoring programs offer many benefits to children, particularly as it relates to educating our children. These programs are proven to help prevent children from dropping out of high school. In the state of Florida, we had a big problem. Only 53 percent of our children were graduating from high school. So, in Central Florida, we decided to do something about it by creating the Orlando/Orange County Compact Program. The Compact Program is a mentoring program that matches up students at risk of dropping out of high school with

mentors from the business community. The mentors meet with the students one hour a week to work on homework and projects.

The results from this mentoring program have been dramatic. Over a period of 10 years, 98 percent of the children in the Compact Program have graduated from high school—the number one graduation rate in the United States.

I would also like to discuss the crime prevention benefits of mentoring programs. In Florida, 70 percent of the inmates in our jails and prisons are high school dropouts. It costs taxpayers \$25,000 a year for each federal prisoner, compared with only \$5,000 a year to educate a student in our public schools. Clearly, making the investment in mentoring programs now will save us literally hundreds of millions of dollars down the road in terms of reduced jail costs and reduced welfare costs.

In summary, mentoring programs make a meaningful difference in the lives of our young people; they improve education, prevent crimes, and will save us money. I urge all of my colleagues to support National Mentoring Month by participating in local programs in their home districts—together we can make a difference in the lives of our children!

Mr. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, as a co-chair of the Congressional Mentoring Caucus, I am pleased to join my colleagues today in supporting House Resolution 25. This important resolution commends those who contribute their time and talents to mentoring programs and supports efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for mentors. As we recognize National Mentoring Month, we should all celebrate the positive effects that mentors make in assuring brighter futures for young people.

Children who have mentors have a better chance of succeeding and are more likely to make positive choices. Young girls who have supportive mentors can grow up to be confident and powerful women by learning to make healthy decisions at an early age. The GirlVenture program in my home state of Minnesota has successfully connected more than 500 youth and 100 girls and their mothers with mentors who help them prepare for the workforce, become financially competent and make healthy life choices. GirlVenture also offers classes to help parents, educators and youth workers instill future-focused values in finances, relationships and leadership.

GirlVenture is just one example of the countless mentoring programs that are making a difference in the lives of young people. Unfortunately, there are far too many at-risk children who are on waiting lists, hoping to soon be matched with a caring mentor. According to the Mentoring Partnership of Minnesota, there are an estimated 75,000 young people who want and need an adult mentor in Minneapolis and St. Paul alone.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to honor mentors and encourage others to give their time and guidance to a child. And I wish to commend those mentors who are currently helping to shape the lives of young people through mentoring.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Speaker, as an original cosponsor of the resolution, this Member wishes to add his strong support for H. Res. 25, which supports efforts to encourage more individuals to become mentors. In addition to raising awareness, a key provision is to commend those who give their time and talents to support mentoring initiatives.

This Member would like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Ohio [Mr. BOEHNER], the Chairman of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce, and the distinguished gentleman from California [Mr. MILLER], the ranking member of the House Committee on Education and the Workforce for bringing this important resolution to the House Floor today; this issue is very timely as January 2003 is National Mentoring Month. This Member would also like to commend the distinguished gentleman from Nebraska [Mr. OSBORNE] for sponsoring H. Res. 25 and for his personal interest in establishing mentoring opportunities nationwide.

Many children throughout the United States face difficult situations—and when matched with a caring and responsible adult, positive results ensue. Research has shown that mentoring benefits young people in a positive manner by increasing school attendance, improving rates of secondary school graduation and college attendance, decreasing involvement with drugs and alcohol, and reducing violent behavior.

Mr. Speaker, in closing, this Member urges his colleagues to support H. Res. 25.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, in a time when our children face increased dangers from crime and other social ills, it is imperative that we seize upon every opportunity to ensure that their lives take a course that will deliver them safely to adulthood, properly equipped with the tools needed to thrive, grow and take over the responsibilities of leadership in our society.

We know that children learn and emulate what they are taught and have seen in their environment. Their realities are whatever society at large has presented—either through direct contact, or through the potentially boundless influence of television and the internet. We understand, however, that the best way to ensure that our children are imbued with the values, education and culture that a strong nation requires is to make sure that we take individual responsibility for the upbringing of every single child in our society.

Mentoring is an excellent way to reach beyond just our immediate families to embrace our extended family of young Americans. It is true that it takes a village to raise a child, and if each of us American villagers assumes the shared responsibility of looking after our most precious resources by mentoring them, we will go a long way toward making our society a better place.

Mentoring can take form in many ways—from serving as a tutor to a young person who needs academic help, to coaching young people in Little League and other sports events designed to instill confidence and leadership. Simply being a good example to a young person in our lives can leave an indelible positive mark that they will be likely to pass along to another youngster when they become of age.

January is National Mentoring Month, and we should encourage all Americans to serve as role models and mentors now and throughout their lives. The minimal sacrifice that it takes to expose a young person to what is good and to help shape their values system in a positive way can be best looked upon as priceless investment in our future. This is an investment that all Americans can afford to make, and one that none of us can afford to ignore.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CULBERSON). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 25.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds of those present have voted in the affirmative.

Mr. OSBORNE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 44 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m.

□ 1832

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 6 o'clock and 32 minutes p.m.

SWEARING IN OF MEMBER-ELECT

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Oregon (Ms. HOOLEY) kindly come to the well of the House and take the oath of office at this time.

Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon appeared at the bar of the House and took the oath of office, as follows:

Do you solemnly swear that you will support and defend the Constitution of the United States against all enemies, foreign and domestic; that you will bear true faith and allegiance to the same; that you take this obligation freely, without any mental reservation or purpose of evasion, and that you will well and faithfully discharge the duties of the office on which you are about to enter. So help you God.

The SPEAKER. Congratulations, you are now a Member of the 108th Congress.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

The SPEAKER. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will now put the question on motions to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

House Resolution 26, by the yeas and nays; and

House Resolution 25, by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

HONORING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS

The SPEAKER. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 26, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Delaware (Mr. CASTLE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 26, as amended, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 392, nays 0, not voting 42, as follows:

[Roll No. 13]
YEAS—392

Abercrombie	Cooper	Hall
Ackerman	Costello	Harman
Aderholt	Cox	Harris
Akin	Cramer	Hart
Alexander	Crane	Hastings (FL)
Allen	Crenshaw	Hastings (WA)
Andrews	Crowley	Hayes
Baca	Culberson	Hayworth
Bachus	Cummings	Hefley
Baird	Cunningham	Hensarling
Baker	Davis (AL)	Hill
Baldwin	Davis (CA)	Hinchee
Ballance	Davis (FL)	Hinojosa
Ballenger	Davis (IL)	Hobson
Barrett (SC)	Davis, Jo Ann	Hoefel
Bartlett (MD)	Davis, Tom	Hoekstra
Barton (TX)	Deal (GA)	Holden
Bass	DeFazio	Holt
Beauprez	DeLauro	Honda
Bell	DeLay	Hooley (OR)
Bereuter	DeMint	Hostettler
Berkley	Deutsch	Houghton
Berman	Diaz-Balart, L.	Hoyer
Berry	Diaz-Balart, M.	Hunter
Biggert	Dicks	Hyde
Bilirakis	Dingell	Inslee
Bishop (GA)	Doggett	Isakson
Bishop (NY)	Dooley (CA)	Israel
Bishop (UT)	Doolittle	Issa
Blackburn	Doyle	Istook
Blumenauer	Dreier	Jackson (IL)
Boehlert	Duncan	Jackson-Lee
Boehner	Dunn	(TX)
Bonilla	Edwards	Janklow
Bonner	Emanuel	Jefferson
Bono	Emerson	Jenkins
Boozman	Engel	John
Boucher	English	Johnson (CT)
Boyd	Eshoo	Johnson (IL)
Bradley (NH)	Etheridge	Johnson, Sam
Brady (PA)	Everett	Jones (OH)
Brady (TX)	Farr	Kanjorski
Brown (OH)	Fattah	Kaptur
Brown (SC)	Feeney	Keller
Brown-Waite,	Ferguson	Kelly
Ginny	Filner	Kennedy (MN)
Burgess	Flake	Kildee
Burns	Fletcher	Kilpatrick
Burr	Foley	Kind
Buyer	Forbes	King (IA)
Calvert	Ford	King (NY)
Camp	Fossella	Kingston
Cannon	Frank (MA)	Kirk
Cantor	Franks (AZ)	Klecza
Capito	Frelinghuysen	Kline
Capps	Frost	Knollenberg
Capuano	Garrett (NJ)	Kolbe
Cardin	Gerlach	Kucinich
Cardoza	Gibbons	LaHood
Carson (IN)	Gillmor	Lampson
Carson (OK)	Gingrey	Langevin
Carter	Gonzalez	Lantos
Case	Goode	Larsen (WA)
Castle	Goodlatte	Larson (CT)
Chabot	Gordon	Latham
Chocola	Goss	LaTourette
Clay	Granger	Leach
Clyburn	Green (TX)	Lee
Coble	Green (WI)	Levin
Cole	Greenwood	Lewis (GA)
Collins	Grijalva	Lewis (KY)
Conyers	Gutknecht	Linder

LoBiondo	Pascrell	Shimkus
Lofgren	Pastor	Shuster
Lowey	Paul	Simmons
Lucas (KY)	Pearce	Simpson
Lucas (OK)	Pelosi	Skelton
Lynch	Pence	Smith (MI)
Majette	Peterson (MN)	Smith (NJ)
Maloney	Peterson (PA)	Smith (TX)
Manzullo	Petri	Snyder
Markey	Pickering	Solis
Marshall	Pitts	Souder
Matheson	Platts	Spratt
Matsui	Pomeroy	Stark
McCarthy (MO)	Porter	Stearns
McCarthy (NY)	Portman	Stenholm
McCollum	Price (NC)	Strickland
McCotter	Pryce (OH)	Stupak
McCrery	Putnam	Sullivan
McDermott	Quinn	Tancred
McGovern	Radanovich	Tanner
McHugh	Rahall	Tauscher
McInnis	Ramstad	Tauzin
McIntyre	Rangel	Taylor (MS)
McKeon	Regula	Terry
McNulty	Rehberg	Thomas
Meehan	Renzi	Thompson (CA)
Meek (FL)	Reyes	Thompson (MS)
Menendez	Reynolds	Thornberry
Mica	Rodriguez	Tiahrt
Michaud	Rogers (AL)	Tiberi
Cox	Rogers (KY)	Tierney
McDonald	Rogers (MI)	Toomey
Miller (FL)	Rohrabacher	Towns
Miller (MI)	Ros-Lehtinen	Turner (OH)
Miller (NC)	Ross	Turner (TX)
Miller, Gary	Rothman	Udall (CO)
Miller, George	Roybal-Allard	Udall (NM)
Mollohan	Royce	Upton
Moore	Ruppersberger	Van Hollen
Moran (KS)	Rush	Visclosky
Moran (VA)	Ryan (OH)	Vitter
Murphy	Ryan (WI)	Walden (OR)
Murtha	Sabo	Walsh
Myrick	Sanchez, Linda	Wamp
Nadler	T.	Waters
Napolitano	Sanchez, Loretta	Watson
Neal (MA)	Sanders	Watt
Nethercutt	Sandlin	Weiner
Ney	Saxton	Weldon (PA)
Northup	Schakowsky	Weller
Norwood	Schiff	Wexler
Nunes	Schrock	Whitfield
Nussle	Scott (GA)	Wicker
Oberstar	Scott (VA)	Wilson (SC)
Obey	Serrano	Wolf
Ortiz	Sessions	Woolsey
Osborne	Shadegg	Wu
Ose	Shays	Wynn
Otter	Sherman	Young (AK)
Owens	Sherwood	Young (FL)

NOT VOTING—42

Becerra	Gilchrest	Pallone
Blunt	Graves	Payne
Boswell	Gutierrez	Pombo
Brown, Corrine	Herger	Ryun (KS)
Burton (IN)	Hulshof	Sensenbrenner
Combest	Johnson, E. B.	Shaw
Cubin	Jones (NC)	Slaughter
Davis (TN)	Kennedy (RI)	Smith (WA)
DeGette	Lewis (CA)	Sweeney
Delahunt	Lipinski	Taylor (NC)
Ehlers	Meeke (NY)	Velazquez
Evans	Musgrave	Waxman
Gallegly	Oliver	Weldon (FL)
Gephardt	Oxley	Wilson (NM)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1851

Mr. SHADEGG changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution, as amended, was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. EHLERS. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 13 I was not able to vote because my airplane flight was delayed one and one-half hours due to weather problems in the mid-west. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

Mrs. MUSGRAVE. Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 13 I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea.”

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for electronic voting on each additional motion to suspend the rules on which the Chair has postponed further proceedings.

SUPPORTING EFFORTS TO PROMOTE GREATER AWARENESS OF THE NEED FOR YOUTH MENTORS AND INCREASED INVOLVEMENT WITH YOUTH THROUGH MENTORING

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The pending business is the question of suspending the rules and agreeing to the resolution, H. Res. 25.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. OSBORNE) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 25, on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 393, nays 0, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 14]
YEAS—393

Abercrombie	Boyd	Crowley
Ackerman	Bradley (NH)	Culberson
Aderholt	Brady (PA)	Cummings
Akin	Brady (TX)	Cunningham
Alexander	Brown (OH)	Davis (AL)
Allen	Brown (SC)	Davis (CA)
Andrews	Brown-Waite,	Davis (FL)
Baca	Ginny	Davis (IL)
Bachus	Burgess	Davis (TN)
Baird	Burns	Davis, Jo Ann
Baker	Burr	Davis, Tom
Baldwin	Buyer	Deal (GA)
Ballance	Calvert	DeFazio
Ballenger	Camp	DeLauro
Barrett (SC)	Cannon	DeLay
Bartlett (MD)	Cantor	DeMint
Barton (TX)	Capito	Deutsch
Bass	Capps	Diaz-Balart, L.
Beauprez	Capuano	Diaz-Balart, M.
Bell	Cardin	Dicks
Bereuter	Cardoza	Dingell
Berkley	Carson (IN)	Doggett
Berman	Carson (OK)	Dooley (CA)
Berry	Case	Doolittle
Biggert	Castle	Doyle
Bilirakis	Chabot	Duncan
Bishop (GA)	Chocola	Dunn
Bishop (NY)	Clay	Edwards
Bishop (UT)	Clyburn	Ehlers
Blackburn	Coble	Emanuel
Blumenauer	Cole	Emerson
Boehlert	Collins	Engel
Boehner	Conyers	English
Bonilla	Cooper	Eshoo
Bonner	Costello	Etheridge
Bono	Crane	Evans
Boozman	Crenshaw	Everett
Boucher		Farr

Fattah
 Feeney
 Ferguson
 Filner
 Flake
 Fletcher
 Foley
 Forbes
 Ford
 Fossella
 Frank (MA)
 Franks (AZ)
 Frelinghuysen
 Frost
 Garrett (NJ)
 Gerlach
 Gibbons
 Gillmor
 Gingrey
 Gonzalez
 Goode
 Goodlatte
 Gordon
 Goss
 Granger
 Green (TX)
 Green (WI)
 Greenwood
 Grijalva
 Gutknecht
 Hall
 Harman
 Harris
 Hart
 Hastings (FL)
 Hastings (WA)
 Hayes
 Hayworth
 Hefley
 Hensarling
 Hill
 Hinchey
 Hinojosa
 Hobson
 Hoeffel
 Hoekstra
 Holden
 Holt
 Honda
 Hooley (OR)
 Hostettler
 Houghton
 Hoyer
 Hunter
 Hyde
 Inslee
 Isakson
 Israel
 Issa
 Istook
 Jackson (IL)
 Jackson-Lee
 (TX)
 Janklow
 Jefferson
 Jenkins
 John
 Johnson (CT)
 Johnson (IL)
 Johnson, Sam
 Jones (OH)
 Kanjorski
 Kaptur
 Keller
 Kelly
 Kennedy (MN)
 Kildee
 Kilpatrick
 Kind
 King (IA)
 King (NY)
 Kingston
 Kirk
 Kleczka
 Kline
 Knollenberg
 Kolbe
 Kucinich
 LaHood
 Lampson
 Langevin
 Lantos
 Larsen (WA)
 Larson (CT)
 Latham

LaTourette
 Leach
 Lee
 Levin
 Lewis (GA)
 Lewis (KY)
 Linder
 LoBiondo
 Lofgren
 Lowey
 Lucas (KY)
 Lucas (OK)
 Lynch
 Majette
 Maloney
 Manzullo
 Markey
 Marshall
 Matheson
 Matsui
 McCarthy (MO)
 McCarthy (NY)
 McCollum
 McCotter
 McCrery
 McDermott
 McGovern
 McHugh
 McInnis
 McIntyre
 McKeon
 McNulty
 Meehan
 Meek (FL)
 Menendez
 Mica
 Michaud
 Millender-
 McDonald
 Miller (FL)
 Miller (MI)
 Miller (NC)
 Miller, Gary
 Miller, George
 Mollohan
 Moore
 Moran (KS)
 Moran (VA)
 Murphy
 Murtha
 Musgrave
 Myrick
 Nadler
 Napolitano
 Neal (MA)
 Nethercutt
 Ney
 Northup
 Norwood
 Nunes
 Nussle
 Oberstar
 Obey
 Ortiz
 Osborne
 Ose
 Otter
 Owens
 Pascrell
 Pastor
 Paul
 Pearce
 Pelosi
 Pence
 Peterson (MN)
 Peterson (PA)
 Petri
 Pickering
 Pitts
 Platts
 Pomeroy
 Porter
 Portman
 Price (NC)
 Pryce (OH)
 Putnam
 Quinn
 Radanovich
 Rahall
 Ramstad
 Rangel
 Regula
 Rehberg
 Renzi
 Reyes

NOT VOTING—41

Becerra
 Blunt
 Boswell
 Brown, Corrine
 Burton (IN)
 Carter

Reynolds
 Rodriguez
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rogers (MI)
 Rohrabacher
 Ros-Lehtinen
 Ross
 Rothman
 Roybal-Allard
 Royce
 Ruppertsberger
 Rush
 Ryan (OH)
 Ryan (WI)
 Sabo
 Sanchez, Linda
 T.
 Sanchez, Loretta
 Sanders
 Sandlin
 Saxton
 Schakowsky
 Schiff
 Schrock
 Scott (GA)
 Scott (VA)
 Serrano
 Sessions
 Shadegg
 Shays
 Sherman
 Sherwood
 Shimkus
 Shuster
 Simmons
 Simpson
 Skelton
 Smith (MI)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smith (TX)
 Snyder
 Solis
 Souder
 Spratt
 Stark
 Stearns
 Stenholm
 Strickland
 Stupak
 Sullivan
 Tancredo
 Tanner
 Tauscher
 Tauzin
 Taylor (MS)
 Terry
 Thomas
 Thompson (CA)
 Thompson (MS)
 Thornberry
 Tiahrt
 Tiberi
 Tierney
 Toomey
 Towns
 Turner (OH)
 Turner (TX)
 Udall (CO)
 Udall (NM)
 Upton
 Van Hollen
 Visclosky
 Vitter
 Walden (OR)
 Walsh
 Wamp
 Waters
 Watson
 Watt
 Weiner
 Weldon (PA)
 Weller
 Wexler
 Whitfield
 Wicker
 Wilson (SC)
 Wolf
 Woolsey
 Wu
 Wynn
 Young (AK)
 Young (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT) (during the vote). Members are advised that there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

□ 1859

So (two-thirds having voted in favor thereof) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. OXLEY. Madam Speaker, I was absent from the House floor during today's rollcall votes on H. Res. 25, saluting National Mentoring Month, and H. Res. 26, supporting the goals of Catholic Schools Week. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on both resolutions.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, on January 27, 2003, I unfortunately missed two recorded votes on suspension bills, House Resolution 25, and House Resolution 26, due to a minor surgery.

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 13, honoring the contributions of Catholic schools (House Resolution 26), had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD.

Madam Speaker, on rollcall No. 14, supporting efforts to promote greater awareness of the need for youth mentors and increased involvement with youth through mentoring (House Resolution 25), had I been present, I would have voted "yea." I ask unanimous consent that my statement appear in the RECORD.

HOUR OF MEETING ON

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29, 2003

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns on Tuesday, January 28, 2003, it adjourn to meet at noon on Wednesday, January 29, 2003.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

HONORING THE TAMPA BAY
BUCCANEERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. FOLEY. Madam Speaker, I was not always sure I would be here congratulating a Florida football team for taking the Super Bowl, but it is hands-down the best feeling in the world, and I know Tampa Bay's Congressman, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DAVIS), who is here on the floor, will also be taking the floor to commend his hometown team, as well as Florida's Super Bowl champions.

As anyone who has every had a passing interest in the sport knows, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers won the Super Bowl yesterday against the Oakland Raiders. And I am only sorry that I will not be in Tampa when the celebration begins tomorrow, because if there is any town that deserves those celebrations, it is Tampa, Florida.

You see, the Tampa Bay Buccaneers joined the NFL in 1976 and began their history losing their first 26 games in a row. For that great feat they earned the nickname the Tampa Bay Yucs.

What they achieved last night more than made up for that slow, humble start. The Bucs trounced the Oakland Raiders to win the Super Bowl 48-21. Let me repeat that, 48-21. It was a wipe out. I do not even think there is any question we need a recount on that one.

Tampa's 39-year-old coach, John Gruden, has now become the youngest head coach in history to win a Super Bowl.

I want to congratulate the Tampa Bay players and their coaches on their victory. Congratulations also to the dedicated fans in the Tampa Bay area, who now have the bragging rights that no one will dispute.

From the outset last night, the omens were good for Tampa. Don Shula flipped the coin, and the Bucs won the toss. For those who play tennis, Shula was the coach of the last team from Florida to win the Super Bowl, the Miami Dolphins, and members of the undefeated Dolphins were recognized at the ceremony last night.

Maybe it is just coincidence, but the Tampa Bay area is home to one of our Nation's top defenses, the U.S. Special Operations Command, and "defense" was the word that took Tampa to the top last night. The Tampa Bay Bucs entered the Super Bowl with the number-one-ranked defense in the league, and it was this defense that clinched the game.

Football is a team sport, and the Tampa Bay Buccaneers demonstrated that beyond doubt, not just during the Super Bowl win, but throughout the whole season, where they went 12 and 4.

While I want to congratulate the entire organization for the fantastic job each and every one of them did to win the Super Bowl, I would also like to

mention a few players for their contribution off the field that speaks volumes for the caliber of everyone on the team.

When Derrick Brooks is not playing linebacker and winning the NFL's Defensive Player of the Year award, he is involved in the Boys & Girls Club throughout his area with the Brooks' Bunch program.

The Brooks' Bunch is a group of Boys & Girls Club members whom Brooks began working with after signing with Tampa Bay in 1995. Drawing from some of Tampa's most underprivileged neighborhoods, these kids have become a fixture in Brooks' life.

Aside from 24 tickets he purchases for every Bucs home game, Brooks also mentors and tutors his Bunch, taking them on educational trips to places like Ft. Lauderdale, Atlanta, the American West and even South Africa. Brooks constantly stresses the importance of education, and the kids have responded to his message.

Last spring, they successfully nominated Brooks for the Educational Visionary award from the Hillsborough Education Foundation in recognition of his work with the Brooks' Bunch, a nice edition to his 2000 NFL Walter Payton Man of the Year award.

Then there is John Lynch, Tampa Bay's safety and its 2002 nominee for the NFL Man of the Year. A five-time Pro-Bowler, Lynch established the John Lynch Foundation in 2000 to provide encouragement and positive alternatives for young people.

The foundation believes that good, solid values can be learned through education, sports and community involvement. Through his foundation, Lynch provides financial assistance for high school students to attend the college of their choice.

Finally, there is Tampa wide receiver Kennan McCardell, alias Santa Claus. This past Christmas Eve, McCardell took 10 children from the Hillsborough Department of Child Services foster care program for an early morning shopping spree at a local toy store. McCardell told the kids they each had \$500 to spend. McCardell's generosity rubbed off on the children, who spent some of their allowances on their family and friends.

Again, congratulations to the Tampa Bay Buccaneers on their championship; and thank you Derrick, John, and Kennan and members of the Tampa Bay organization for all your contributions to the Tampa Bay community. You have always been champions off the field, and now you have taken over the championship on the field too.

Be proud, because we are certainly proud of you, Tampa Bay Buccaneers.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. DAVIS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mr. DAVIS of Illinois addressed the House. His remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

FACING THE CHALLENGES OF A STALLED ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. WHITFIELD) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. WHITFIELD. Madam Speaker, as the 108th Congress begins, all of us recognize that we face many serious issues, both on the domestic front and on the international front. On the domestic front, obviously health care will be a key issue that we must work with, as well as others. But in order to do that, we must, first, focus on strengthening the economy of our country. Nothing is more important than that at this time.

Recently, I had the opportunity to read a speech given by Mr. Fred Smith, the chairman and chief executive officer of Federal Express. I would remind everyone that he started a company, and, with his associates, from scratch built a Fortune 500 company, operating today in 211 countries. It employs over 200,000 people and produced revenues in excess of \$21 billion last year.

In this speech, he sets out what he believes are necessary steps to be taken to jump-start a stalled economy. I just want to touch on a few of the things that he points out.

First of all, he refers on page 6 to how he agrees with the legendary economist of the early 19th century, Jean-Baptiste Say, who said essentially that supply creates demand. Simply put, the technological and process innovations by scores of inventors, engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs that have marked the history of the industrialized world lie at the heart of economic prosperity.

Then he goes on and talks about why that has not occurred in recent years, why we have not had that type of action, and he talks about how innovations and inventions do continue to pour out of the labs and the R&D centers, but he says that business is not investing because of increased risk. He says that the risk today is unprecedented in modern times. He goes through and he talks about the problems in our legal system, for example, and how on the asbestos claims alone it has cost industry over \$54 billion.

Then he talks about the necessary steps that must be taken to shorten tax depreciation regimes, reduce capital gains, and to remove the double taxation of dividends.

I want to place this speech in the RECORD because I think it is an important speech that sets out very clearly and succinctly steps that must be taken if we are going to strengthen our economy, expand our economy and to create more jobs.

JUMPSTARTING A STALLED ECONOMY
U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Washington, DC,
November 13, 2002

Thanks very much for the kind introduction and for inviting me to speak to the Board of the Chamber of Commerce.

I am a big fan of the Chamber and the outstanding work being done by Tom Donohue.

He and his team have made the Chamber once again a significant voice for business in the Washington political debates. We at FedEx very much appreciate Tom's leadership, energy, and commitment as well as the work of the Chamber on many issues of great importance to us.

I am concerned, as I'm sure most of you are, about the state of the U.S. economy. Following the dotcom and telcom meltdown, our economy has simply not gained enough traction to improve the American standard of living and to continue producing the capital stock necessary for the prosperity of future generations.

Sometimes I think I am the Forrest Gump of the American economic scene over the last 30 years. Like him, I've seen it all and many times have been in the middle of the fray, economically speaking.

I founded and ran a small company, and today am CEO of that same company, which has grown to be one of the world's largest—operating in 211 countries, employing over 200,000 people and producing \$21 billion in total revenues last fiscal year. I've also had the pleasure of serving on five other New York Stock Exchange boards. And I participate in several organizations that serve the needs of large businesses such as the Business Roundtable, the Business Council, and various transport industry associations. It is important to recall that the last 1960's also saw the bursting of a technological bubble that had put at risk the fundamental principles of venture capital investing.

After FedEx went public in the late 1970s, the welcome profits we produced for our venture capital investors helped reinvigorate that important sector of the financial markets. In early 80s, given the significant success of FedEx as a start-up and its importance to the venture capital industry, I, alone with the National Venture Capital Association and the American Electronics Association, worked hard to lower the capital gains tax by testifying before Congress on several occasions. And, in fact, Congress did lower the capital gains tax rate in 1983 from 28% to 20%. That same year, capital gains tax revenues increased by 45%. More important, tax revenues continued to grow every year thereafter through 1986. Then, in 1987, the capital gains tax rate was taken back up to 28%. Capital gains tax revenues fell in that year and three of the following four years.

Now many of my views about the American economy have also been influenced by some 30 years' involvement with various administrations and Congress. In this regard, FedEx was a leader in efforts to deregulate transpiration in the United States (and more recently on a global basis), and we are constantly involved with various governmental issues.

Due to this experience, I believe I have a reasonable understanding of the political processes that now greatly influence virtually all economic activity today. Because of this, I know that any business tax proposal must meet the test of the "politically possible" regarding near-term tax receipts.

On the business front, I have watched with great interest the cyclical changes in the economy and the give-and-take between the so-called "symbol economy" of Wall Street and the financial markets, and the "real economy" of hard assets and industrial corporate operations. Clearly, in the late 1990's, the symbol economy was the great driver of economic activity as opposed to the real economy. As a result, the fantastic valuations given various companies by the financial markets led all too often to excesses and in some cases criminal activities. The bursting of the bubble was an inevitable consequence.

But perhaps the most important lesson I have learned watching the economic froth over the years is that the modern economy is extremely complex. Since the beginning of the Industrial Age, great economists have argued that “chicken-or-egg” question—Is it supply that drives economic growth or is it demand?

For decades, Keynesians have debated the disciples of the so-called Austrian school. Its progeny, “the Chicago boys,” have had a remarkable influence over many economic decisions here and abroad. A recent cover of *The Economist* plotted business cycles since the beginning of the Industrial Revolution. Remarkably, it showed that the extremes of these historical highs and lows have steadily decreased over time. Clearly, the advent of the Federal Reserve System and its international counterparts, and the influence of the great monetarists like Milton Friedman have helped domesticate if not fully tame the economic beast. In addition, one would certainly have to mention the Kennedy tax cutters and the Reagan “supply-siders” in any pantheon of key economic architects of the late 20th century.

We have lived through “stagflation” in the 1970’s, the “greed is good” LBO mania of the 1980’s, and of course the incredible bubble of the late 1990’s—an event perhaps matched only by the 1920s stock market crash brought on by that decade’s “irrational exuberance” (to borrow a famous recent quote).

During this 30-year time period, there have been many societal and governmental changes that have helped improve economic performance. Of particular importance to FedEx was the series of deregulatory changes that freed up transportation and logistics industries. These began in 1977 with air cargo deregulation and concluded in 1994 with federal pre-emption of the last vestiges of state regulation.

As a direct result of these new laws, total logistics costs, meaning the interest expense of carrying inventory, warehousing costs, and transportation, have declined from a little over 16% of GDP in 1980 to about 10% today. This remarkable improvement in national productivity has made dramatic improvements in the national well-being.

Equally important, transport deregulation permitted significant business innovations such as the now legendary Wal-Mart just-in-time distribution system, the Dell made-to-order computer revolution, and FedEx itself.

Government has also helped economic growth by funding a significant amount of research and development that led to such innovations as the Internet, communications satellites, swept-wing jet aircraft, and many others. Private capital subsequently invested to exploit these government-funded innovations has spawned significant economic growth.

Finally, both Democratic and Republican administrations since World War II have been committed to opening global markets so that today over 25% of all U.S. economic activity is related to imports and exports. Increased trade has been an enormous overall boon to U.S. GDP, particularly since 1970, when trade was only 10% of the economy.

Having observed all these various economic phenomena over the years, and having studied the various macro-economic theories to the extent this poor brain can absorb them, I have come to agree with that legendary economist of the early 19th century, Jean-Baptiste Say. He said, essentially, that “supply creates demand.”

Simply put, the technological and process innovations by scores of inventors, engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs that have marked the history of the industrialized world lie at the heart of economic prosperity.

I believe economic theorists and politicians greatly underestimate the importance of the “animal spirits” as John Maynard Keynes called entrepreneurial endeavor.

Moreover, I also believe economists are often too concerned about the investment rates in historical or mature businesses which, as all economic theories agree, move constantly towards commoditization, absent innovation and change.

A good example of Say’s law is the RF key chain in my pocket. A decade ago I simply did not know that I needed this tiny device that allows me to lock and unlock my car from a distance. More recent versions allow me to remotely turn the lights on or off and even open the trunk.

This invention has been an incremental but important convenience for millions of people and has, on occasion, even saved lives. The idea sprang from the mind of an inventor, and some entrepreneur inside or outside of a corporation championed its production. The rest is history. This invention came from scientific innovation in fields seemingly unrelated to the traditional automobile—radio frequencies and miniature batteries. And the final product created its own demand, just as Say predicted some two centuries ago.

Naturally, all of us can think of scores of products or processes that have improved our well-being, enhanced productivity, and created economic activity and wealth. The Lipitor I take for my heart is a Godsend; Satellite weather imaging technology has improved all sorts of human activities; and The plethora of entertainment options today can satisfy virtually any taste in leisure activities.

Clearly, the fundamental driving forces of our economy are continued invention and innovation, exploited by capital investment. After all, the fundamental difference between well-paid FedEx drivers and pilots versus a third-world person moving commodities slowly over a dirt road is the investment in the airplane and the truck; in the ATC system and the highway; and in the education and training afforded our employees.

Today U.S. business is not investing at a level necessary to create adequate GDP growth, despite the fact that interest rates are lower than they have been in years. Innovations and inventions continue to pour out of the labs and R&D centers, as reflected by the increasing number of patent applications. What then is the problem? Why are we not investing more robustly? In my opinion, the issue can be summed up in two words—increased risk.

About 3,000 companies make 70% plus of all capital investments in our economy. The leaders of these companies today perceive a level of risk unprecedented in modern times. Our legal system has become a minefield for those who aspire to develop something new or unproven. All economic activity today is subject to after-the-fact scrutiny that may ascribe completely different motives and beliefs than were originally intended. The development of the class-action lawsuit, itself a process innovation, has clearly wobbled our of control. So has the ability of juries to assign appropriate damages and “punishments.”

Now, I have good friends who are plaintiff attorneys. They tell me outrageous awards and abuses of the legal process are the exception rather than the rule. But unfortunately (perhaps because of profile media coverage of the extreme cases) that is not the perception in boardrooms across America. And I am not speaking about the new regulations required by Sarbanes-Oxley or the New York Stock Exchange. I am confident these new requirements are of little concern to the vast ma-

majority of honestly run businesses in this country. A bit more bureaucracy will be created and more money spent on various control activities. But if this makes our public business activities more transparent and improves the confidence level of the investing public, they are welcome changes.

The litigation landscape in the United States, however, has now become a significant drag on economic activity and particularly the all-important activity of invention, innovation and investment required to produce economic wealth. For example, asbestos-related suits alone have cost businesses more than \$54 billion and now threaten companies representing 85% of the economy. (from 11–5–02 WSJ article by George Melloan) Our litigation system simply MUST be reformed if we are to regain appropriate levels of these core economic activities. And I applaud Tom Donohue, the Chamber of Commerce and the Bush administration for making the reform of the U.S. litigation system a top legislative priority.

In a related vein, the Congress must also solve the issue of terrorism insurance. The U.S. air transportation industry simply could not function today were it not for Congress having passed emergency legislation to provide terrorism insurance through the Department of Transportation. This temporary fix must be made permanent not just for transportation, but for all industries. We live in an age when shadowy enemies can strike innocent targets in a variety of devious ways. The commercial insurance marketplace simply cannot provide affordable and adequate coverage necessary to sustain an appropriate level of economic activity without Federal government’s willingness to be the “insurer of last resort” or to cap private liabilities for acts of war.

In addition to the fear of litigation and the lack of adequate insurance against terrorist attacks, businesses today face an equally unprecedented array of new risks due to rapidly changing markets, international competition, and accelerated technological change.

Let me give an example from the aviation industry.

Airlines that invested in domestic wide-body aircraft in the early 1970’s found that the market fundamentally changed in the 80s. Why? Because passengers preferred smaller aircraft flying more frequent flights. Thus, the original book depreciation estimates of 20–25 years for the wide bodies were wildly out of step with reality. The same thing has happened in industry after industry, as rapidly changing markets, new technologies, or new competitors with revolutionary business models have appeared.

The concept of depreciation was developed as an accounting discipline to reflect the expected useful life of a capital asset. Yet, over the years, tax depreciation schedules and book depreciation schedules have diverged, and they have each become a less accurate reflection of reality. In fact, most of the time, companies that make capital investments simply cannot accurately predict the economic life of the asset being acquired. With FedEx having invested over \$20 billion over the last 10 years, I am keenly aware of the role tax policies have on investment decisions.

In my opinion, the most important stimulus for increased capital investment would be simpler, shorter tax depreciation regimes applied to capital in this country. To this end, I suggest moving to a simple, three-category tax depreciation system as follows: First, a one-year depreciation schedule for all high-technology investments and low-value software purchases; Next, a three-year depreciation schedule (perhaps 40%, 30%, and 30%) for all equipment and major software purchases or developments; and Third, a five-

year tax depreciation schedule, 20% per year, for buildings.

I would also recommend that the book life of any asset be restricted to no longer than five times the tax life. For instances, an aircraft with a tax life of three years would be limited to a book life of 15 years. All too often, I have seen managements reluctant to invest in new, improved equipment because of the impact to the reported P&L of a premature write-off of already obsolete equipment.

I believe the second change that's needed to re-ignite our economy is to reward patient equity investment through a graduated reduction of capital gains taxes over the years the investment is held. Lowering the capital gains tax, preferably to zero over several years, would allow the resumption of the all important start-up and mezzanine financing of new businesses. Such a tax schedule would unlock shares of stock long-held by a company founder, a circumstance that applies to me, by the way. I am confident that the release of such stock would be a net plus to the Treasury and the markets. A new capital gains tax schedule of the current 20% for securities held for one year, then dropping 5% a year to zero after a five-year holding period, would be a real stimulus to our equity markets for companies of all sizes. Such a capital gains regime would dampen the speculative churning of securities that was a big factor in the late 1990s bubble.

Lastly, the phase-out of the double taxation of dividends would restore the balance between the "symbol" economy and the "real" economy. Companies that need to make investments would have the option of doing so with equity capital versus debt. Dividends, like interest, would be fully deductible at the corporate level. The same impulses that drove the excesses of the 1980's LBO mania occur now on a smaller scale in American boardrooms everyday. The decision to invest or not is often made and financed based on the deductibility of interest and the punitive taxation of dividends. Having dividends and equity treated the same as interest and debt respectively would offer business managers an alternative model for economic growth. Investors claims on cash flows would be a powerful discipline to invest in only the most productive and wealth-creating projects for society.

If you objectively review the various fads and cycles of the last 30 years, you will see that the unintended consequences of our business tax structure in terms of depreciation schedules, capital gains taxes, and dividends taxation are at the heart of many of our economic cycles and disappointments. While there are many excellent ideas as to how to reform the business tax system, the vast majority are politically infeasible. Valued-added taxes, and so forth all founder on the revenue stream requirements of the U.S. Treasury or the vested interests of powerful political lobbies.

The advantage of the three changes I have suggested is that they will increase federal tax revenues in short order. In the case of depreciation acceleration, I am confident that tax receipts would grow almost immediately due to the rapid increase in transactions and additional economic growth. With respect to a graduated capital gains tax, as I mentioned earlier, figures show that tax revenues rose in the years of, and following the 1983 introduction of the 20% capital gains rate, and fell again when the rate was taken back up to 28% in 1987. A similar phenomenon occurred after the rate was again reduced to 20% in 1997. In fact, according to the CBO, the actual tax revenue increases for the years 1997 through 1999 exceeded initial projected revenues gains by 40 to 50%. We can expect the same kind of impact from a graduated cap-

ital gains tax rate. I believe this is true in the case of the deductibility of dividends as well, although there are conflicting studies as to the timing of the overall benefit. In any case, the reform of dividend taxation could be phased in over several years to lessen the immediate reduction in federal taxes. The new ability of members of Congress to request a dynamic scoring of the effects of tax policy proposals should be able to demonstrate the positive effects of these tax reforms or reforms similar to them.

Most people today are surprised to learn that in fiscal '01, business income taxes only produced about \$170 billion or 8.5% of total federal revenues of slightly over \$2 trillion that year. The vast majority of U.S. tax revenues come from personal income taxes and FICA taxes. This split in revenues reflects the transition over many years to a wealthy, consumer-driven economy, nourished by substantial private investment. The relatively low percentage of federal revenue coming from the current corporate tax system means that such fundamental business tax reform as I've suggested is, in fact, possible. In other words, such a stimulus package for business investment has great upside and manageable downside risks in terms of increasing the near-term deficit.

In conclusion, we must reinvigorate business investment. This engine of future prosperity must now be re-tuned if we are to achieve adequate levels of economic growth and improved productivity to meet the income aspirations and needs of our citizenry. To these ends, the five reforms I've outlined should be the centerpiece of an immediate economic stimulus initiative by the President and Congress.

I'm confident our political leaders have the best interests of the future generations in mind. Being an optimist, I think we can muster the will to get this done. The alternative is so grave that I cannot contemplate our not doing so.

Thank you so very much for your kind attention.

FACING THE PROBLEM OF SHABBY TREATMENT OF AMERICA'S VETERANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STRICKLAND) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STRICKLAND. Madam Speaker, tomorrow evening the President of our country will enter this Chamber to deliver to the American people a message concerning the state of our Union. I am sure he will talk about the strength of our military, and he will praise the brave young men and women who even tonight stand ready to defend our country against all enemies.

One of the things I hope the President talks about tomorrow night, however, is the rather shabby treatment that this administration is directing toward our Nation's veterans, those who have fought the battles in years past, many of them now quite old and many quite sick.

□ 1915

Why do I call the treatment of our veterans today shabby? Could it be because for a veteran to receive an appointment at one of our health care clinics, it is not uncommon for them to have to wait 6 months just to see a doctor?

In yesterday's Columbus Dispatch newspaper, Jonathan Riskind wrote a column about veterans' health care, and he started that column with this sentence: "Warning," he wrote. "Warning: The following tale should send chills through the hundreds of thousands of American soldiers poised to go to war, and it should outrage the rest of us."

What was he talking about? He was talking about the state of veterans' health care in America today.

I would just like to point out, Madam Speaker, that approximately 1 year ago the Veterans Administration sent out a memo to all of its health care providers across this country. That memo represents a major policy change. That memo represents a gag order, because in that memo all of the health care providers are directed that they can no longer market VA services to veterans. It is almost unbelievable that at a time when we are poised on the brink of war that this administration would say to those who provide health care to our veterans, you cannot talk about the services these veterans are legally entitled to receive. You cannot go to community health fairs. You cannot go to veterans' services organizations and sign up veterans for services. You cannot make public service announcements about the services that veterans are legally entitled to receive. You cannot send out newsletters informing veterans what the Congress has provided for them.

It is a shameful policy. It is a policy which I think is illegal. I think it is contrary to law. Under the law, before an agency of this government can make such a policy change, they must come to this Congress and give us an opportunity to evaluate that policy and to approve or disapprove. But this policy was instituted without any consultation with those of us in this Congress, and I think it ought to be reversed.

Then, just literally a couple of weeks ago, the VA administration decided to create a new priority group within the veterans' groups. Priority 8, they call it. And then they hasten to say, veterans who are in priority 8 cannot sign up for the VA health care system.

Now, these are men and women who have served our Nation honorably. They have paid the price, given the time, and we are saying to them, because you may make \$26,000 or \$30,000 a year, you make too much money, and so you can no longer participate in the VA health care system. It is a shameful decision, and it is one that I hope the President speaks to tomorrow night. I hope he tells us that he is reversing these shameful policies, that he will no longer put a gag rule on our VA health care providers, that he will no longer deny the ability to enroll in the VA health care service to Priority 8 veterans.

Madam Speaker, I have spent the last several days visiting VFW halls, American Legion posts and other posts. The

veterans of this country are becoming aware of what is being done to them, and I urge this Congress to take action to reverse these policies.

REPORT ON RESOLUTION PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 13, MAKING FURTHER CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR THE FISCAL YEAR 2003

Mr. LINDER, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 108-3) on the resolution (H. Res. 29) providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 13) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

REMEMBERING WILLIE JAMES "BUDDY" CHISHOLM

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BIGGERT). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATSON) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATSON of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today in sadness to share the passing of a good friend and a model parent, Mr. Willie James Chisholm. He was better known to me and his other friends and family as "Buddy."

His passing will be strongly felt by all of us because he was such a dedicated and caring person. One of the many things I admired about him was his joy in being a father. He made it a priority in his life to spend quality time with his two children, William and Cheryl.

The time spent with children is priceless and something that is hard to do for most parents, given how busy our lives have become. But Buddy knew how important it was and made sure to be a strong role model for his children, grandchildren, and other young people he knew in his community.

Indeed, Buddy exhibited traits that are fast becoming relics of the past: a dedicated and fulfilling faith, commitment to his 27-year career at McDonnell Douglas as a brick mason, and a love for the outdoors, sports, and traveling.

The world is a better place with people like Buddy Chisholm in it. His presence will certainly be missed. His memory will live on spiritually in the lives of those he touched, as well as physically in the many brick-laying projects he was involved with that beautified the Los Angeles area.

I send my heartfelt condolences to the Chisholm family. My thoughts and prayers are with them.

ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Madam Speaker, the President has the wrong plan on the economy. We need to focus on job creation and not on elimination of the tax on dividends. The President's plan only helps the wealthy and not middle-class and low-income Americans.

Fifty-five percent of Americans believe that President Bush is not paying enough attention to the economy. The economy has lost 1.7 million jobs over the last two years and there are now 8.6 million Americans out of work. The plan unveiled by the President is simply more huge tax breaks for the few that will not stimulate growth and create jobs.

As millions of people are out of work and the economy continues in a weak and jobless recovery, we must have a strong and immediate economic program that gives workers and families money immediately.

The centerpiece of the President's plan—the complete elimination of all taxes on stock dividends—will primarily benefit the wealthy rather than putting money into the hands of working class families.

The Congressional Budget Office concluded last year that "tax cuts that are targeted toward lower-income households are likely to generate more stimulus dollar for dollar of revenue loss—that is, be more cost-effective and have more bang for the buck—than those concentrated among higher-income households."

Ending the dividends tax will not provide the economy with a short-term stimulus. The Bush plan calls for a 10-year, \$600 billion tax cut package. The President's plan simply favors the wealthy. The Democrats have offered a \$136 billion plan for families and businesses and tax cuts that would take effect this year.

Projections indicate that the President's plan would boost budget deficits even higher. A study by the Urban Institute and the Brookings Institution show that a typical taxpayer with taxable annual income of \$30,000 to \$40,000 would receive a tax cut of \$42 in 2003. For a family, this does not amount to much. However, those with taxable incomes of more than \$1 million would receive on average \$27,097.

The Democratic plan provides \$55 billion in tax relief for working families, including a one-time rebate of \$300 for individuals and \$600 for married couples. It also includes \$32 billion in business tax cuts; small businesses could write off up to \$50,000 in investments; and cash-strapped state governments would be provided with \$31 billion which could be used for homeland security, roads and bridges, Medicaid and aid to the unemployed.

Unemployment is at its highest levels in a decade. Nearly 6 percent of Americans are unemployed and daily we hear about corporations laying off tens of thousands of employees. Our trade deficit stands at 14 percent.

The President's economic stimulus package and a war against Iraq would push the federal budget deficit into record levels—as high as \$350 billion.

Tax cuts cost and we are already operating under deficits—and the President has not clearly outlined who will pay for these tax cuts to the wealthy.

IRAQ

I am pleased that the United States, in seeking United Nations support for a new Security Council Resolution regarding Iraq, chose the path of multilateralism in dealing with Iraq and the potential threat of any weapons of mass destruction that it may possess.

Through strong diplomacy, we have placed weapons inspectors back on the ground, armed with greater investigative power and new technology that enables them to be more effective at their difficult task.

To date, it appears that Iraqi officials are granting access to all sites visited including presidential palaces and other sensitive locations. Now that we have re-established a system that contains all of the components that we deemed necessary in the latest resolution, it is important that we give this program a change to succeed.

The policy of the government appears confused at this point—still determined to effect regime change even as we profess to be choosing the path of peace. This is troubling because the Congress still retains the obligation to declare war should it become necessary, and the UN Security Council has been vested with the authority to evaluate the level of Iraqi cooperation prior to authorizing the use of force.

All preparations seem to be for war, and not for peace. The military buildup in the region does not appear to be countered by an equally aggressive diplomatic agenda to solve the crisis.

When our military openly speaks of planning for a war to begin in mid to late February, our foreign policy appears to be directed solely by the weather conditions in Iraq instead of serious consideration of what war will do to the region as well as to the economic and military security of our own country.

This is tantamount to holding a finger up to the wind to decide which route to take. The lives of our brave members of the armed forces are far too precious to risk based on planning that makes the weather the primary consideration on whether or not to wage war.

And now in recent weeks there has been an increasingly tense war of words between the North Korean Defense Ministry and U.S. government officials.

By all accounts, North Korea poses a more immediate threat to its neighbors and the United States than does Iraq. North Korea undisputedly has a deadly nuclear arsenal and has unabashedly pledged to reactive its nuclear weapons program.

When confronted recently with the possibility of sanctions to force its compliance with its previous non-proliferation agreement, North Korea responded by stating that sanctions are war, and that in war it would be merciless.

Today's threats are not the same as they were only months ago. Today's new threats pose new challenges to our Nation—challenges that our Congress is duty-bound to meet.

Congress is obligated to examine the new challenges that face our country and the world and to make crucial decisions based upon all of the information available. Making a truly informed decision with respect to the threats we may face today demands that we reconsider the decision we made months ago when our world was a different place.

On January 7, 2003 I introduced legislation that would repeal the Use of Force Against Iraq Resolution that was signed into law last October. Public Law 107-243 was enacted into law on October 16, 2002 prior to the deployment of United Nations weapons inspectors in Iraq, and at a time when the current nuclear crisis in North Korea had not reached its present level of dangerous tension.

This legislation, H. Con. Res. 2, seeks to repeal Public Law 107-243 in order to ensure that Congress is afforded the opportunity to reexamine the threat posed by Iraq, which would include taking the time to review fully and accurately the findings of the international weapons inspectors prior to the engagement of military forces.

Passage of H. Con. Res. 2 would also provide Congress the time to consider any exit strategy that must be developed prior to deploying troops, as well as the serious domestic impact that possible war with Iraq would involve.

The domestic considerations include the impact on our already struggling economy and the high numbers of troops needed over an indefinite period of time. Such concerns raise the issue of our security at the most basic level when, for example, some municipalities are already losing nearly 10% of their police forces due to officers who have been activated with the reserves of the armed forces.

Iraq has allowed international weapons inspectors to re-enter the country in order to identify and destroy weapons of mass destruction and development capabilities. Weapons inspectors have also begun to interview Iraqi scientists who have been key to the development of the privy to the country's military.

Taking the time to deliberate more intelligently in no way diminishes the valor of our troops. To the contrary, because we love and support our young men and women who are willing to give their lives to defend their nation, they deserve our fullest efforts to keep them out of harm's way.

When President Bush addressed the UN last Fall, he warned that it risks irrelevancy if it did not stand up and take decisive action with regard to Iraq. Now that it has, we risk rendering it irrelevant when we appear ready to act on our own conclusions—conclusions that have yet to be supported by substantive evidence.

If the Administration has credible evidence of illegal weapons of mass destruction in Iraq, it should immediately share this information with the weapons inspectors so it can be substantiated once and for all. And here at home, the Administration should own up and tell the truth to the American people regarding the level of threat we are actually facing.

IRAQ HAS NOT DISARMED

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. HUNTER. Madam Speaker, 6,500 chemical bombs, which is roughly 1,000 tons of deadly chemical; 2,000 chemical rockets, 8,500 liters of biological agent or medium, and that is enough to produce some 5,000 liters of anthrax; these weapons are the weapons which Chief Weapons Inspector of the United Nations Hans Blix says the Iraqi Government has failed to produce for the inspecting teams. In other words, Iraq has not disarmed.

Now, we have heard in the last several months lots of statements from the administration, and we have heard statements from proponents of the

President's policy and from opponents of the President's policy. But these are the statements from the United Nations weapons inspector whose job was to go to Iraq, confront the Iraqi Government with their own statements, their own declarations and documents, some of which we had captured, others which they had produced during the 1990s, list the items line by line saying, here are weapons that you listed; where are they? And, in fact, Iraq has now failed to produce those weapons, meaning Iraq has failed to disarm.

This is an exercise in disarmament. That is where the country which is being inspected is supposed to make a declaration as to what weapons they have, just like South Africa did with its nuclear program, and then offer up the locations of those stockpiled weapons and that machinery that produces the weapons for destruction by this international body. In fact, Iraq has done what we predicted it would do, and that is that it has hidden these weapons, which it heretofore had proclaimed it had. We know they have them, we know they have them buried somewhere, and they are failing to produce them. That is, they are failing to disarm, and those are the words of the Chief Weapons Inspector.

Madam Speaker, let me just go to a couple of particulars once more. I am quoting Chief Weapons Inspector Hans Blix. He says, "The document indicates," and he received the document from the Iraqi Air Force as to how many bombs they had had at one time, chemical bombs, because we know they use chemical bombs on their own people and on their neighbors, and he said, "The document indicated that some 13,000 chemical bombs were dropped by the Iraqi Air Force between 1983 and 1998, while Iraq has declared that 19,500 bombs were consumed during this period. Thus, there is a discrepancy of some 6,500 bombs. The amount of chemical agent in these bombs would be in the order of about 1,000 tons. In the absence of evidence to the contrary, we must assume that these quantities are now unaccounted for."

So, Madam Speaker, we know what they had, we know what they have. Incidentally, Chief Inspector Hans Blix goes through each one of these circumstances where they have failed to come forward and produce the weapons or show evidence that they were destroyed. And in these cases that I have cited, there is no evidence that they have destroyed any of this stuff. We know it is still there, and we know it is there in most cases not by evidence that we received through a third party, but by the statements of Iraq itself at a previous time.

In turning to biological weapons, Mr. Blix said, and I quote, "I mentioned the issue of anthrax to the Council on previous occasions, and I come back to it as an important one. Iraq has declared that it produced 8,500 liters of this biological warfare agent which it states it unilaterally destroyed in the

summer of 1991." So Iraq claimed that they had gotten rid of this in secret, and he says, "I find no convincing evidence for its destruction."

He goes on. He says, "As I reported to the Council on the 19th of December last year, Iraq did not declare a significant quantity, some 650 kilos, of bacterial growth media which was acknowledged as reported in Iraq's submission to the panel in February 1999. As a part of its 7 December, 2002, declaration, Iraq resubmitted the Amorim Panel document, but the table showing this particular import of media," and this is the media from which you grow anthrax, extremely deadly anthrax, he said, "The table showing this report was not included. The absence of this table would appear to be deliberate, as the pages of the resubmitted document were renumbered." Meaning that Iraq pulled out this 650 kilos of anthrax media, simply tore that page out of the report, renumbered the report, and handed it to the weapons inspectors. That 650 kilos, incidentally, is enough growth media to produce about 5,000 liters of anthrax.

So we know now that Saddam Hussein has maintained and kept both biological weapons and chemical weapons, and he has failed to turn them over. He has failed to disarm.

Does he have a method to deliver these weapons? Yes, he does. They include the AS-2 and the AF-2 missiles, which are illegal missiles, because these missiles have been tested for ranges beyond 150 kilometers that Saddam Hussein is limited to.

□ 1930

He has also refurbished his missile infrastructure, that means his capability to develop and build missiles to carry these chemical and biological weapons to their targets. He has also acquired, very recently, some 300 rocket engines.

So the point is, Mr. Speaker, that when the smoke all clears, at least with respect to the work that has been done so far, I think what has happened is pretty predictable, because we on the Committee on Armed Services in the House had in open session an Iraqi engineer who appeared before us who was part of Saddam Hussein's weapons development program. He said to us that even in the 1990s when we had inspectors on the ground and those inspectors were being shown the insides of big empty buildings, a few miles away Saddam Hussein's program was going at full steam and the inspectors did not know anything about it.

So take this country, which is twice the size of the State of Idaho, and take this small contingent, roughly the size of a police force in a small American city, and spread them out over a piece of land twice the size of Idaho. And having given the other guys literally years to hide their weapons, it is no surprise that no weapons are found. In fact, if some of our inspectors walked into the middle of one of these big

empty buildings and actually found a large quantity of biological weapons sitting there in the front of one of those big empty buildings that the maid had somehow forgotten to clean up the night before, the Iraqi bureaucrat who was in charge of that particular deception process, and they have a whole agency devoted to deception, would be two things: he would be considered to be the dumbest bureaucrat in Iraq and, shortly thereafter, the deadest.

So the idea that somehow we are going to stumble upon a large number of weapons is not realistic. That is what we have been saying for a long time.

The message to us is very clear: Iraq has not disarmed. They have no intention of disarming. The documented proof of their weapons systems that they have maintained, when matched against what they have produced, shows that they still have enormous chemical and biological weapons on hand, along with the means to deliver them.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. HUNTER. I am happy to yield to my friend, the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would just say to the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER), I thank him for taking this time to bring this very important issue before the House and, indirectly, before the American people.

We just returned from a break. I had plenty of time, ample time, back home to talk with my constituents, and in fact traveled around the country a bit to talk with others from other people's districts. The report that the gentleman makes reference to that is the Hans Blix report I think speaks volumes to the questions that I was asked as I made my way around my district and around other people's districts.

The basic question was: How do we know, or how does the administration know and how will the Congress help to determine what our policy should be toward Iraq when the inspectors cannot find any weapons, any weapons of mass destruction? This report speaks volumes to this.

However, before this report even came out, there were very strong indications here in the Congress in the hearings that the Committee on Armed Services held, both closed hearings and open hearings, where members of the administration, representatives of the Department of Defense, and representatives from our intelligence apparatus or institutions would come before us and would say, here is what we know.

Without going into the specifics of what we heard in those closed sessions, this report that the gentleman from California (Chairman HUNTER) has gone to great lengths to describe, which we have heard about through the media all day, verifies much of the information that we learned during those sessions earlier this year, actually in the fall.

Also, I think it is very interesting to point out that yesterday the Secretary of State in a speech in Switzerland said something that I think is extremely important on this same question of how do we know if we cannot find the weapons. The Secretary of State said simply this: we have known for a long time that Saddam Hussein has weapons of mass destruction. After all, he used them in the war against Iran. After all, he used them against his own people, that is, chemical weapons, which the gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) referred to here just a short time ago.

Then the Secretary of State went on to say that the question is not and the job of the weapons inspectors is not to find the weapons; the job, as designated in Resolution 1441, is to seek the cooperation of the Iraqi Government in proving that they have destroyed their weapons. That is where the Iraqi Government has been lacking. The Iraqi Government has steadfastly denied having any weapons, but has failed to offer an iota of proof.

For example, if chemical weapons have been destroyed, why can we not talk to the people who destroyed them? If there are no biological weapons, if those biological substances have been destroyed, where were they destroyed? Show us. Let us talk to the people that destroyed them.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I would tell the gentleman, we have documents that were produced by Iraq during the 1990s where they gave us the names of some 3,500 key people in the development of their chemical and biological weapons. Do Members know what has happened to those people? They have disappeared.

We asked them during this round, according to Hans Blix, to produce those people. They only produced 400 of them. Of course, they do not let any of them talk without an Iraqi keeper or bureaucrat standing next to them. Also, they do not even produce the other 3,000 people. Those 3,000 people in Iraq who are associated with their chemical and biological weapons program have apparently disappeared from the face of the Earth. They tell us we may get another 80 to talk to at some point, but the 3,000 have disappeared.

Mr. SAXTON. This seems to me to be just what Colin Powell, the Secretary of State, was talking about when he said that the question really is when, on the one hand, the Iraqi Government says there are no biological or chemical or nuclear weapons, why then on the other hand will they not show us evidence to prove that? And the answer seems to me, in light of the Blix report, quite simple: these weapons really exist, and therefore they cannot prove that they do not.

So I think that the answer to the question that my constituents and people that I talked to in other parts of the country over the break, the answer to the question is quite evident. The

answer is that these weapons do exist, just as we have maintained for years, and in particular in the last month.

So both Secretary Powell and Hans Blix in different words came to the same conclusion. Hans Blix says on this subject, "In the absence of evidence to the contrary, we must assume that these weapons exist." We have assumed, based on evidence that was gathered by the Committee on Armed Services during the fall of this year, that they continue to exist.

Another question which I think is important, and I think this report bears on this question as well, my constituents and people around the country ask me: What do the French, the Germans, the Russians, and the Chinese know that we do not? They are part of the United Nations Security Council, as well. I say that the evidence that is pointed out in the Blix report should be taken very seriously and taken to heart by the French and the Germans and the Russians and Chinese, because they have as much at stake in this as we do.

This report, which speaks volumes, is an extremely important document. I think one of the statements in the report by Hans Blix, who has had an opportunity, obviously, to review the 12,000 pages which the Iraqi Government forwarded in terms of its supposed accuracy as an accurate report on the condition of their weapons of mass destruction program, Hans Blix says, we have seen this all before. It is essentially 12,000 pages copied from the transmissions that were given to previous teams of arms inspectors, so the Iraqis have offered us nothing new here. In fact, they have shown us once again that they are, as Hans Blix said publicly today, not prepared to endorse the concept of disarmament.

The Bush administration, the President himself, Secretary of Defense Rumsfeld, Vice President CHENEY, Secretary of State Powell, have all maintained in different ways for months that we have to do something to engage this problem. The Blix report from an independent United Nations-appointed inspection team has now verified the contentious situation that actually exists within the Iraqi Government today.

I am pleased and again I want to thank the gentleman from California for taking this time so that he and I together can share this information with our colleagues, and indirectly with the American people.

Mr. HUNTER. I thank my distinguished colleague, and I thank him for all the work that he has done and for the work that he is going to do as chairman of this new subcommittee on the Committee on Armed Services, which is going to oversee a great deal of this activity.

Let me just end by saying that we predicted that the tours that the U.N. weapons inspectors were given would not result in them walking into a big cavernous building and having a supply

of chemical or biological weapons sitting there on the floor of that particular facility waiting for them to scoop it up.

We predicted that the Iraqi Government, which has devoted entire agencies to hiding this stuff as effectively as they could, will have done just that, that is, to hide it in such a way that we would be more likely to be able to ask all of the drug dealers in Washington, D.C. to amass all of their illicit cocaine and marijuana and pile it in one big area where the authorities could come down and seize it on a given day.

The burden was on Iraq to disarm. That is the key. It is not a game where we have certain rules and if they are able to beat us, if they are able to hide this stuff well enough, we do not find it. We know they have it because the 6,500 chemical bombs, the 2,000 chemical rockets, the precursors for 5,000 liters of anthrax, are weapons which exist according to Iraqi documentation, not our documentation but their documentation that they had produced earlier; also, those 3,000 people who are associated with the programs, those 3,000 technical people who now have disappeared off the face of the Earth.

So they have it. They have it just as surely as Nazi Germany had a weapons program of massive proportions in the mid-1930s, even though they were giving reports to the Allies that the air force that we appeared to see in the skies was actually flying clubs that were organized for recreation; but we knew that they were in fact producing weapons. In this case, we know for a fact that Iraq is still heavily weaponized, with the ability to kill lots of its neighbors and lots of Americans and their allies.

So this report is, I think, more dramatic in what it says they have not produced than what it says they have produced. I think it is becoming clearer and clearer that the inspections are not going to produce a situation in which the inspectors walk into a giant facility and, lo and behold, there are piles of weapons sitting there on the floor produced by the most ineffective Iraqi bureaucrat in history. They will not disarm.

Mr. SAXTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman will continue to yield, I just would like to add that earlier today in a news report I saw or heard that the Secretary General of the United Nations, Kofi Annan, suggested that the inspectors need more time. Also, the Secretary of State today indicated that if there was going to be more time, it would not be much; but there is going to be more activity on the part of the inspectors.

I would say this: I suspect that the people who are listening to this are not in a position to answer these questions. But if Saddam Hussein or his foreign minister or somebody was listening, I would say to them that we know that they had thousands of artillery shells that were capable of carrying chemical substances that would kill people to

their targets. They say they have destroyed them.

□ 1945

If you have destroyed them, show us where they were destroyed, show us where the remnants of them are, and let us talk to the people who did it. Let us talk to the people who destroyed them. If you do not have chemical weapons, show us how you destroyed them. Show us the people, let us talk to the people that destroyed your chemical weapons. That is how we verify. If you do not have biological weapons, show us the disposition of what you had and let us talk to the scientists, let us talk to the personnel that destroyed it, because we know you had it, and we believe you still have it today. And if you are serious about making statements that you do not have it, that these weapons do not exist, then show us how they were destroyed.

And with regard to their nuclear weapons program, we know that the Iraqis imported aluminum tubular material that is designed and built specifically for the production of nuclear material. If those no longer exist, show us how you destroyed them and let us talk to the scientists and let us talk to the personnel who destroyed them. We have not seen any of these things, and we have not talked to any of these people, or the inspectors have not, I should say.

I heard today another statement that this process is not about finding weapons, it is about developing trust. It is about developing trust between the Iraqi Government and the rest of the governments of the world. This is how we develop trust, by verifying your statements so that we can trust. And so I hope that this process will move forward.

The gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) and I are sometimes asked by people why we favor going to war. We do not favor going to war. We favor dismantling the weapons of mass destruction that the Iraqis have, and we have supported the process of inspections. We have supported the process of investigation. We have supported the process of questioning. We have supported the process of asking questions as to where these materials are, whether they have been destroyed. And it is only as a last resort that we would ever advocate using military force. The gentleman from California (Mr. HUNTER) has a son in the Marine Corps. The last thing in the world the gentleman wants to do is to see our country in another military conflict.

Just last Friday I went to Paris Island where I proudly watched my nephew Curt graduate from basic training in the Marine Corps. The last thing I want to see is Curtis in Iraq or anyplace else fighting a war that can be averted by cooperation between people and cooperation between countries and the development of trust.

So once again I give the floor to the gentleman from California (Mr.

HUNTER). I hope that the Iraqis will in the next very short period of time cooperate with the United Nations and the leadership of various countries around the world.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I think it is clear one last time to point out that there are 6,500 chemical bombs that Iraq will not give up, it has not disarmed; a couple of thousand chemical rockets; and 8,500 liters of what is known as biological media for the production of anthrax that is capable of producing about 5,000 liters of anthrax. So they have not disarmed. And facts are stubborn things. Those are the facts.

Mr. Speaker, I would recognize the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. COLLINS), who has a major infantry base in his district, the great Fort Benning, where I have spent lot of time low crawling.

Mr. COLLINS. It is home for the infantry, chief of the infantry.

Mr. Speaker, I have listened with strong interest here with the comments of the gentlemen about the numbers that came through the report today, and the gentleman here with his comments, too, and I am glad both of you all are on the Committee on Armed Services. They have put forth very good points here and made very good points of what is going on.

This was a major conversation piece in my district. As I have pointed out, the President of the United States does not want to go to war. The purpose of all the deployment to the Middle East is to deal with this issue from strength, to send the message large, loud and clear to Saddam Hussein that the decision for war is his. The President has said that he will make the decision, Saddam will make the decision. The lack of coming forward with the information that they have previously given in verifying, as so well put by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SAXTON), is evidence he is making a decision.

His clock is ticking. Time is running out. He has to make a decision as to own up to the disarmament, how it has been done, who did it and verify, or we, as the United States, have no choice but to follow his decision, Saddam Hussein's decision.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I thank the two gentlemen for their comments and their remarks in support of the United States and our freedom.

Mr. HUNTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his very eloquent point. Saddam Hussein has not disarmed. We know what he has. He has not brought it forward, and we will continue to march down the next several weeks to see if he brings those weapons out for destruction.

SENIORS NEED MEDICARE NOT MAYBE CARE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) is

recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight like so many Americans in anticipation of what the President may say to this Congress tomorrow. These are difficult times for this country. We face extraordinary challenges abroad in grappling with the war on terrorism and also with the proposed invasion of Iraq, and we face daunting challenges here at home. Our economy is not doing well. There is no question that the jobs have been declining. We have fewer jobs in this country than we had 2 years ago. In many parts of this country people are suffering. Many States across this country are finding that their budgets are completely out of whack. They are struggling both with rising expenses, particularly with Medicaid, as the economy suffers and declining revenues, declining revenues from the Federal Government and also declining revenues at home in their own State funds.

So in this context this is an appropriate time to talk about what the President may say tomorrow night and also to give a sense of what we believe as Democrats are some of the issues that lie ahead.

I am going to begin tonight by discussing the topic of health care. There have been a number of articles in the press anticipating what the President may say about Medicare. In particular, those articles suggest that tomorrow night the President will unveil a Medicare reform proposal and that that proposal will basically seek to privatize more of Medicare; that is, it will seek to put more of the people in this country who are now getting traditional fee-for-service Medicare into the hands of insurance companies, and those insurance companies would take over the provision of health insurance from Medicare.

Now, one of the things that is very clear is that when Medicare gets turned over to insurance companies, as it has in so many States with what is called Medicare+Choice, that the world changes; and some of those changes, a number of those changes, are not to the advantage of seniors. Let me give you a few examples from the program called Medicare+Choice, which we have had in this country now since the 1997 act.

What has happened in those cases where insurance, private insurance companies have taken over Medicare and provided insurance is that every year the benefits can change. That is, every year the insurance company can decide, for example, that though we were providing prescription drug coverage before this year, we are going to have a lower cap, or we will have a higher copay, and the other part of that is every year the premiums can change.

In many places in this country when Medicare+Choice first began, prescription drugs were free. There was no added cost for prescription drugs; but over the years that is changed.

Now, the other third component that changes is that if a company is not making enough money, if an insurance company is not making enough money on Medicare+Choice, on a managed care plan for seniors, then what happens is the company can simply pull up and leave the particular area. In fact, in most counties in this country there is no opportunity for private insurance to cover people on Medicare, to be the primary coverage. There always are Medigap policies that many seniors take advantage of, but those policies provide very few benefits for their costs, so most seniors do not sign up for them.

So now the President is saying what seniors need in this country is more of this private insurance under Medicare. Well, let us think about that. If you have private insurance under Medicare, taking over Medicare for many seniors across this country, here is what happens: Any given year the premiums for that policy can change. The benefits for that policy can change. In short, maybe you get coverage one year, and maybe you do not. Maybe some States get covered, and maybe they do not. Maybe the premiums, almost certainly the premiums change every year. The bottom line is maybe yes, maybe no. Maybe you get coverage, maybe you do not. Maybe in some States, maybe not in others. Maybe in some years, maybe not in others.

The President is trying to turn Medicare into "maybe care" and seniors need to say, "Maybe not." In fact, definitely not. Because if the President is able to turn Medicare into "maybe care," then our seniors are faced with a kind of uncertainty, instability, unpredictability that they have do not have when they sign up, when they get ordinary Medicare.

But the President will propose that this is reform, this is something that would be good for all Americans. I suggest we need to take a different look at what he proposes.

There is also one other topic I want to address before turning it over to my distinguished friend from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), and that is the proposal that you can read about in the papers today, some of them, that the President is likely to propose in the near future that small businesses be able to join national association health plans.

Now, a lot of small business organizations are saying, this is a good deal, this is what we need to do. And who can blame them, because I do not know a small business in my home State of Maine that is not desperate about the rapidly rising cost of health insurance. In fact, in my home State of Maine, health insurance costs tend to go up about 30 to 50 percent for small businesses in each of the last 3 years, and we have to do something about it.

But the President, from what we hear, is likely to roll out a plan for association health plans. These plans would bypass State regulation, so a lot of the protections that are built into

your State laws to protect consumers against insurance companies that are always trying to skim off the healthy people and not take the people who are not as healthy, a lot of the State regulatory apparatus would be gone, and consumers would be left at risk.

But here is the important point: The important point is that there are now about 41 million people in this country who do not have health insurance, and the Congressional Budget Office has estimated under the President's proposed plan that maybe 4.6 million people would sign up for these association health plans, and as I said, who can blame them? But 4.3 million of those folks already have health insurance. In other words, here is another plan to be rolled out by the administration and by the Republicans in Congress, and it will cover about 300,000 of the 41 million Americans who do not have health insurance today, and they will call that progress, but it is not.

□ 2000

In short, we have to look at the health care proposals that we expect to be contained in the President's speech tomorrow night; and so far, from what we have heard, they are a bad deal for America's seniors and a bad deal for America's small businessmen.

I now yield to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER).

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my colleague helping shape the context for the important discussions that we will be having in the course of the week.

This is a very important time of the year. This is the time where the President of the United States has an opportunity to give his or her vision for our country. It is a unique opportunity. It is a time, particularly at the beginning of a new Congress, when we are coming together with fresh optimism and enthusiasm. People are just off the campaign trail. Hopefully, for a while, we can concentrate on the people's business.

There have been times when the President of the United States has come before this Chamber rallying the American people. I was one, Mr. Speaker, who was very impressed in the aftermath of September 11 with the challenge that was faced by our then new President, President Bush, how he came forward at a time of great tension and anxiety in this country, having been subjected to an unprecedented attack on our shore, and I thought that he rose to the occasion. I thought his message was direct, was forthright; and I noted in this Chamber that men and women in both parties came forward, making it clear that we were united in terms of dealing with our responsibility to the American people, working together.

I contrast what happened immediately in the aftermath of September 11 with what happened in last year's State of the Union and thinking about what has happened in the year since then.

We had an unfortunate notion dealing with the "axis of evil," where we had an unfortunate, some would say reckless, rhetorical flourish that has sort of lumped together three of the most vexing problems we have in the foreign policy arena with North Korea, Iraq and Iran; and unfortunately, in the course of the last year, we have seen increasing problems because of an inability on the part of the administration to distinguish and have a clear and thoughtful approach to all three of those problems.

We have had a situation dealing with the issue of international terror, which is and remains the greatest threat to American security; and frankly, I think all of us in our heart of hearts has to admit that, as a result of the last year, America is no safer as it relates to terrorism, and in fact, there are questions and ambiguity. We have this great amorphous security agency, and we really have not addressed vexing problems between a lack of coordination between the CIA and the FBI. Now we have got a third entity with more questions than answers.

There was not a call in the last State of the Union asking Americans to step forward. There was not a sense of shared sacrifice and urgency. In the course of the last year, we have been dealing, frankly, with sort of misdirected economic policies, and we will be talking about those this evening.

I see our colleague, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. MCDERMOTT), from the Committee on Ways and Means who I think has something to say about it. We have the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), who has some significant information to share about the impact as it has to deal with poor people. The gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) can deal with impacts on children.

We will be dealing with the economy here in the course of our discussion this evening, but I think it important to note that we have got the economy, we have not addressed it; and in fact, the proposals that have been slowly leaked out and trial balloons that have been floated on some of the President's speeches do not give me any cause for comfort as I look at the problem of a State like Oregon, which has the highest unemployment rate in the country.

Nothing that has been proposed to this point is going to do anything to put these people back to work. It is not going to deal with investments in infrastructure and cleaning up the environment that could make a huge difference tomorrow, and there is not anything that speaks to the concerns and the problems of the vast majority of working Americans. We are going to be getting into that later this evening.

Last but not least, I hope to return to a brief conversation about the environment. Certainly, we have seen dramatic events around the world that present the problems we have to global climate change in terms of the economic devastation and that assault on

human health in terms of what is happening to the environment; and sadly, sadly, this is an area that not only have we not had a series of positive initiatives that could make the world healthier, safer and more economically secure, but sadly, in the course of the last year, we have seen a series of below-the-radar assaults on the environment by this administration, which are going to have profound effects for years to come.

I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy in yielding to me, and I look forward to participating with him and our other colleagues in the course of the evening, painting the context for what the American public needs, deserves, anticipates, and contrasting that with what it appears the administration is going to do and certainly what it has done.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments. In fact, in just a moment after a couple more comments on my part, I would like to ask the gentleman to come down in the well and take my place and control the remaining time, but I did want to add a couple of things.

It is astonishing, when we think back about what happened in the 1990s, to see the agenda that the President will roll out tomorrow. What we learned from the 1990s was if we maintain our fiscal discipline, if the Federal Government works to get rid of deficits, to come roughly into balance, that is our best bet for the future. We have lost that interest. The President and the Republicans in this Congress have lost any interest in maintaining a balanced budget and getting rid of the deficits. In fact, there is an exactly opposite trend here.

We learned in the 1990s, we maintain the balance and we invest in people. We make sure we are contributing to their health care, that we are investing in job training, we are making sure people have the skills for the 21st century, common phrase. We do not hear it anymore because what is happening now is we are not investing. We have stopped increasing support for education. It is being flat funded like other domestic priorities, and it does not matter what the area is. In almost every area, we are basically cutting back on investing in people.

At the same time, we are going back to an era of huge, huge deficits, and why? Well, partly because we have had to make an investment in defense and in homeland security, but primarily because, in fact, we are having tax cut after tax cut after tax cut directed to the wealthiest people in the country. That is not what investing in people means. That is not strengthening our workforce. That is not going to strengthen our economy in the long run.

Basically, tax cuts for the wealthy in the long run simply widen the gap between the very wealthy and everyone else, do not allow us to invest in the future of the way we did during the 1990s

with the economic results that we saw in the 1990s and we can see what is happening.

The President will come here tomorrow night, and he will propose a \$674 billion tax cut, again weighted mostly to the wealthy; and I predict almost I think to a certainty that he will also say we have to make the tax cuts that were passed last year permanent, and I guarantee that he will not tell this body and he will not tell the people of this country that that in itself, making those tax cuts permanent, will cost an additional \$600 billion dollar loss of revenue.

We are going to be so deep in deficits for so long that our children and grandchildren will pay the price, and it is hard to understand the morality of borrowing from our kids, borrowing from our grandchildren, forcing them to pay interest on the national debt for decades and decades to come simply in order to satisfy a current desire for tax cuts.

I think it is wrong, and at this time I would like to yield to the gentleman from Oregon, and Mr. Speaker, ask leave that he control the remainder of the time.

THE ECONOMY

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOOZMAN). Under the Speaker's guidelines, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER) may control the time.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's courtesy. I do think the gentleman from Maine (Mr. ALLEN) has sketched an interesting conundrum.

I mentioned the concern I have over what happened in the last year, but he raises an interesting dimension if we reflect back at what happened with previous administrations and previous Congresses 10 years ago.

Ten years ago, men and women in both parties, both the Republican and a Democratic administration, made hard choices to control spending, to not cut taxes even though it is fun, but the first President Bush worked with Congress, put forward a balanced program of some modest tax increase, some fiscal discipline in cutting. It was followed later by both Republicans and Democrats with the Clinton administration, so we got a balanced budget. We were able to turn things around. The economy was booming. Today we are turning our back on that story.

At the same time, the first President Bush, when he was involved in the Middle East with Iraq, painfully, arduously, worked and put together an international coalition of almost 40 countries of allies and some unlikely supporters dealing with that activity; and today, we are looking at a situation where the United States is not anywhere near that position and, instead, is relying on some rather aggressive rhetoric rather than the hard work in the trenches that characterized what happened with the first President Bush and the first Gulf War.

Let me, if I could, I would like to begin by recognizing some of my colleagues that are here. I know the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WOOLSEY) has had a special interest dealing with the effects on young people and education. We appreciate her leadership and would welcome comments that she would care to give at this point.

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for including me in this, my friend from Oregon, and I would like to remind Americans that one way that we as Americans define ourselves as a Nation is through the Federal budget, and right now, we have to make decisions about our values and our priorities, and we have choices: on the one hand, an unjustified war with Iraq that could cost more than \$200 billion, and I am sure it will, on top of an additional \$670 billion tax cut that primarily benefits the wealthiest Americans, or an investment in our children, an investment in their future.

We have to make these decisions. We cannot do it all because there is not enough money to cover both agendas without plunging the United States and those very same children deep into debt.

As President Bush puts forward his plans in the State of the Union address tomorrow night, I urge him, I urge him to remember that our country's future depends on today's children. Of course, since September 11 we have had to re-evaluate some of our spending priorities, but without investing in our children, we risk ills far worse than those from terrorists.

That is why the wisest investment we can make in our Nation's security is strengthening our children's lives and those of their families, and we can do this. We can do this by preventing war, first off. We must provide for real international security that has alternatives to war as its cornerstone, and we can invest in renewable energies. This will not only make for a cleaner environment. It will also help us achieve independence from fossil fuels, particularly from foreign oil.

Fossil fuels must become a source of the past. We must invest in sources of energy that will provide for the prosperity of our children, the protection of their environment and the security of their future. We must change our national energy policy by supporting conservation and renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass and fuel cells.

We can invest in our future by increasing the child care option, and we must do that by ensuring that working families have access to quality child care.

□ 2015

Children must not be the first to suffer when budgets tighten. If children were our number one priority in this country, then programs to provide for their welfare would be the last programs to be slashed. Instead, we would

be clamoring to help working parents by expanding child care and after-school programs. We would be creating a world-class public education system.

We can provide quality education. We can make sure that teachers are adequately compensated for their important role in our children's lives, because we have a responsibility to do that. And we have a responsibility to fully fund programs for disadvantaged children. We can invest in our future by making health care universally available. The United States is the only industrialized country in this world in which all citizens do not have access to medical coverage. Until we have universal coverage, more than 40 million Americans, nearly 15 percent of the population, will go without. If we choose to make health care a priority, we will provide children, their parents, and America's seniors with universal coverage, including affordable prescription drugs.

While putting a universal health care plan together, we can do something immediately, and that is to increase the number of children in the Medicaid and State Children's Insurance Program, to expand SCHIPs also to include parents of eligible children and low-income pregnant families. We must also seek to provide a prescription drug benefit under Medicare. But these priorities and others that help fulfill our commitment to our families, our seniors, our veterans will only happen when we demand that they take precedence.

Excessive military spending in the past has not made us more secure. American political leaders must acknowledge the truth, that peace and security cannot be achieved through violence. We must never lose sight that real security is an educated, healthy society where everyone benefits from our Nation's abundant resources. And that is what I will remind President Bush as he outlines his agenda Tuesday night. The future of our Nation belongs to our children.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman again for including me in this Special Order.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman's tireless efforts on behalf of children in our society, and focusing our attention and making sure that people on this floor have this constantly brought to their attention. It is really deeply appreciated.

Ms. WOOLSEY. I thank the gentleman.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I would like to turn to my colleague, the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO), a gentleman who has been involved with some tough budget times as a local official and has been involved with a series of schemes here in Congress, and who has never been shy about sharing his opinions about what the appropriate approach should be from his perspective.

I appreciate the gentleman being here this evening, and I am pleased to yield to him now.

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Oregon for leading us in this Special Order tonight to discuss the real problems confronting our Nation, which will get, we all fear, short shrift tomorrow night.

The State of the Union is not sound. Millions of Americans and their families are not secure in their homes, not because of some huge new crime wave, not because of the threat of Saddam Hussein or any external threat to our Nation, but because of the deep recession into which our country is falling.

My State has the highest unemployment rate in the Union. We have been dueling with Washington State to be number one or number two for more than a year. There is chronic unemployment, but it is not isolated to our States, it is all across the Nation. We have the highest unemployment rate in more than a decade. We have the most chronic unemployment we have seen in a quarter of a century in terms of the length of time people are out of work before they can find gainful employment.

Tens of thousands of Americans have already extended their so-called extended Federal benefits, and the President has refused to give an additional extension, although there is a huge surplus of taxes that have been paid by businesses and workers sitting in the Unemployment Trust Fund. The President wants to hold onto it to spend for other things, like tax breaks for the wealthy.

Most folks may not have noticed, but the United States Government's Pension Benefit Guaranty Fund is broke. It spent its entire reserves in the last year, and there is a whole huge new wave of corporate bankruptcy coming, with people's pensions at risk, and there is no more money in that fund. But what does the President have to say about this? Well, precious little. He is going to spend the entire Social Security surplus this year on tax breaks and other functions that do not relate to Social Security.

Our States are going bankrupt. They are cutting services; slashing services. Now, the President, I think, will give some nod tomorrow night with his purported economic stimulus plan, but if we look at the plan, the centerpiece is taking away that horrible burden of taxes on dividends on a select group of stocks that pay dividends with the idea of doing away with double taxation. Well, many of the corporations that pay dividends do not pay any Federal income taxes. They have found the loopholes; they are incorporated in Bermuda. All those things the President supports and will not do anything about. So there is no double taxation issue.

Who does the money go to? For the average Oregonian, at \$32,000 a year, they will get \$40. Thank you, Mr. President. Now, the average millionaire will get \$45,000. Now, there are no credible economists who say that this has anything to do with an economic stimulus,

but this is the most expensive part of and the centerpiece of the President's so-called economic stimulus plan to try to put people back to work. Even Alan Greenspan, who is perpetually apologizing for these types of policies, says he really does not think it will do anything to put people back to work or stimulate the economy, and it would be just as good to not do it at all.

When the President was a candidate and we had a booming economy and a surplus, his answer as a candidate was tax cuts. Then when we had a slowing economy and a surplus, his answer was tax cuts. Now we have a devastated economy falling deeper and deeper into recession, and his answer is tax cuts, for a select few.

There are better alternatives. Some of those will be discussed here on the floor tonight. I have discussed those at other times, and I do not have time to go into it now, but there are better alternatives to really invest in this country and its people and put people back to work.

Finally, to the war. Osama bin Laden, who was going to be brought back dead or alive, is alive and is plotting further attacks on the United States. Afghanistan, which was going to be made into a country that would recover and not be made a safe haven for terrorists, has now begun to set up terrorist training camps again. The Axis of Evil, Korea, is building more nuclear weapons, they already have them, and more long-range missiles that can hit the United States. Iran is close to having nuclear weapons. And yet the President and his staff are focused on Saddam Hussein and the horrible threat he poses.

Actually, Rumsfeld, Cheney, Wolfowitz, and all those people came into office with President Bush II wanting to refight the first war. This has nothing to do with 9-11 or any purported ties to terrorists. This is old business, an old agenda by old men, none of whom has ever fought in a war or ever worn a uniform and fought in anger.

So I would hope that the President's State of the Union will not fulfill all of these dire predictions that I have mentioned, but I fear it will. Tax cuts for the wealthy and a war are a nostrum for what fails our Nation and the problems that are confronting us.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's passion and insights.

Another colleague from the Pacific Northwest, the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT), has served on the Committee on Ways and Means arm-wrestling with these proposals for a number of years and has particular expertise dealing with health care and the economic revitalization through tax policy.

If the gentleman would be interested in sharing a little of his insights with us in terms of what we can look forward to and what we should look forward to instead.

Mr. McDERMOTT. Well, I want to thank the gentleman from Oregon for yielding to me.

I wish that tomorrow night we were going to have a speech like John Kennedy gave in 1961, when he came and said, we are going to go to the moon. He gave the American people a goal. He gave them hope. He gave them a vision of what they could be as a country. Unfortunately, I am sitting here preparing myself to come tomorrow and not hear any of that.

I wish that the President were going to say tomorrow, when he stands up here behind me, that in 10 years the United States is going to be off their oil addiction; that they are going to break the oil addiction that is killing us. They are going to do the things necessary to get off an addiction. The United States is just like somebody who is on heroin or cocaine in terms of oil. We use oil in tremendous amounts, although we have scarcely any of it left in our own country. The President wants to drill everywhere in sight, but we still are not going to get enough oil from the United States. So we are forced to get our oil from Venezuela and from Nigeria and from the Middle East, and it is not necessary for this addiction to continue.

If the President of the United States would set a goal tomorrow night for us to move to oil independence in the world and begin to push solar and wind and hydrogen cells as a way of solving our transportation problems and the energy needs of this society, we could do it. San Francisco has already started to move. They got burned by Enron, so San Francisco said, this is never going to happen again to us, and they passed a \$100 million bond issue, and they are putting solar panels on every public building in San Francisco.

Now, if the President of the United States said that we are going to do it all over the country, we would absolutely change our relationship to the Middle East. This misbegotten proposal to go to war to get 20 percent of the world's oil reserves from Iraq would be irrelevant. They could do it in San Francisco, yet our President cannot say let us do it in the whole country.

California, every single day, has fall-out of the sky seven times the energy they use in California. All they have to do is catch it and turn it into electrical energy, and they can do what needs to be done. Now, that is true in many parts of the United States. Even in my State of Washington there are areas where this makes good sense.

Now, let us talk about hydrogen cells. People say we are talking about something that is way, way, way out there somewhere. Most people do not realize Honda and Toyota delivered to the Los Angeles mayor hydrogen cell cars within the last 2 months and said, we want you to use these over here and see how they work and what the problems are. The Japanese are, once again, miles ahead of us. They did it with little cars, then they did it with hybrids,

and now they are doing it with hydrogen cells. But our President says, no, we have to stick with that oil, and we have to put it in the gasoline engines, and we have to do the same old thing.

Now, as a psychiatrist, one of the things I learned was that people who do the same thing over and over again expecting a different result, that is really a sign of sickness. We have been doing this for 100 years. We have been putting gasoline in cars and sending up clouds of pollution, which is the second thing the President could be dealing with. If he gave us this goal of energy independence, he would stop the process of us polluting the air and destroying the ozone and global warming.

All you have to see is pictures of glaciers all over this country and north of this country that have been melted by the global warming. It is absolutely without question going on. Yet our President says, no, we cannot have anything to do with that Kyoto Accord, because that would mean we would have to stop using our oil. But I wish the President were coming tomorrow to say to us that we are going to get off that because we are going to do something about the energy and how we are killing the environment.

□ 2030

Mr. Speaker, I heard a story on NPR recently which disturbed me, having been a child psychiatrist for a number of years. Every child born in this century has a 100 percent chance of getting skin cancer if they are not protected because of the destruction of the ozone level; they are being subjected to rays of the sun that is going to make them develop skin cancer.

The President of the United States could do all of this if he could simply say we are not going to go to war to get 20 percent of the world's oil reserves; we are going to go in another direction. We are going to change the direction of this country. Unfortunately, the President of the United States is going to stand up on the podium and beat the war drum for an hour and tell us we must go after Saddam Hussein, and he has never made it clear what we are going for, but it is really about oil.

What makes me sad about what is going to happen tomorrow night is that the American people are going to listen to the speech and think that their only solution is to take Saddam Hussein out; and if we do that, we are going to be really safe. All of the security will be settled; we will be safe forever.

Mr. Speaker, does anybody really think that the American public is going to believe that? I do not. I wish the President would come tomorrow and talk about energy independence.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I think it is interesting to consider what would have happened if such a challenge had been made last year, energy independence, for instance, instead of spending up to \$230 billion on national missile defense. We have already put

an \$8 billion downpayment this year. We are starting work in Alaska which, ironically, is something that is not going to make this country safe from terrorist attacks. If people in North Korea actually have a nuclear device, we are as vulnerable to somebody bringing a motor boat into the Puget Sound, into San Francisco Bay, into New York Harbor.

Instead of moving forward with a challenge like the gentleman from Washington (Mr. McDERMOTT) talked about, instead this last year has been characterized by a systematic assault on the environment.

There was a classic cartoon by Gary Trudeau in "Doonesbury" in the Sunday paper which appeared around the country. The text of it that builds the momentum is "For instance, Mr. President, we've produced new rules to speed up logging in national forests, rolled back protections of 58 million acres from roads and developments, eased pollution controls for power plants and factories, rejected new fuel-efficiency standards, sped up permit-granting for power companies, lifted a ban on snowmobiles in parks, proposed 51,000 new natural gas wells, removed limits on coal producers for dumping mountain-top fill in streams, reduced EPA fines of polluters by 64 percent, opened up Padre Island to drilling, halted funding for several Superfund sites, replaced scientists who don't support our views, rejected the Kyoto Global Warming treaty, and much, much more!" Gary is not making this up. This is all part of the environmental legacy of this administration in the course of the last year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. OWENS), the only librarian in Congress and a member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce who has been dealing with questions of poverty, education, and how we get our communities rolling again.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Speaker, I make an appeal to the President that he lead us in the most profound and comprehensive way and give us hope in his State of the Union address.

At the beginning of this 108th Congress, it is important that we take note of a very important report recently released by the Federal Reserve. The study focuses on consumer finances, and is issued once every 3 years. Among the definitive items in this comprehensive statement is a report that the median net worth for our white population rose by 20 percent to \$120,900 while the median net worth for minorities fell over the last 3-year period by 4.5 percent to \$17,000. Consider the contrast of \$120,900 versus \$17,000. It is a portrait of two economies. It is a portrait of two societies. In the midst of a period of great prosperity, at least 2 of those years we were in a period of great prosperity, just before the economic slow down, minorities were existing with a standard of living close to that of the third world.

In the year 2003 this is the state of the Union for a population that can be no less than one-half of the total. I have not been able to review the report closely and find out what their definition of minority is, but I will do that. But I am certain if minority means all of the groupings that I know as minority, we are talking about more than half the population. I intend to review the report in more detail and see what this category of minority means.

While we casually speak of the expenditure of as much as \$200 billion for a possible war against Iraq, a large portion of our population is sinking deeper into poverty. A war against poverty should be our first priority because this economy, which is sinking into a recession, will cause more hardships if we do not address the war against poverty.

In the State of the Union we hope to hear that there is support for an increase in the minimum wage. We have been hearing about that for several years, and it is still locked into \$5.15. Even if we go to work every day 40 hours a week, Americans will not get out of poverty on that kind of minimum wage.

I hope the State of the Union will talk about job training and employment for mothers being pushed off welfare. It is premature to claim that we have solved the welfare problem by giving people jobs with dignity instead of a handout. There are no jobs with dignity that also pay decent wages out there, otherwise we would not have a 4.5 percent decline among poor people in terms of net worth.

For workers who have never been on welfare, we want to provide jobs and job training, and we need revenue sharing for cities and States because large numbers of municipal and State workers who have decent jobs now are in danger of being laid off and losing their jobs, and that is a further decline into poverty. We need funding for necessary capital projects like school construction which provide real jobs, good jobs, and keep our population working.

We hope and we pray that the vital standard of living issues that we are talking about here will be addressed in the State of the Union address. It is not the war against Iraq that should have priority; it is the war against poverty and the war to maintain a decent standard of living for all of our population that ought to be given a priority in the State of the Union address.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's comments and focusing on what we could be doing, what we should be doing, as opposed to what it appears that the President is focusing on, an economic stimulus package that will create less than 200,000 jobs, which is only 10 percent of the jobs we have already lost in the last year, that will provide the top 1 percent of the taxpayers with 40 percent of the benefits, and will increase the deficit by more than \$900 billion.

Mr. Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. RYAN), who is

an experienced legislator with an impressive victory which brought him to this Chamber, and a Member who has impressed not only his constituents in Ohio, but also Members here in Washington with the way the gentleman has hit the ground running.

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I am honored to be here and honored to be here with such a fine group of gentlemen who have spoken so eloquently on the issues that need to be addressed in this country.

Let me touch base on what the gentleman from Washington stated about having a goal and a vision. That is what we all look for when we listen to the State of the Union, and I hope tomorrow we have an opportunity to hear the President share his vision for some energy independence in this country.

Mr. Speaker, tonight I rise to represent the people of the 17th Congressional District in Ohio, the good folks back at home, who I think want solutions, not just rhetoric. Whether it is talking about prescription drugs and seniors really having a need, where they are moving in with their children, their grandchildren, they are making the choice between food and drugs in the 17th District in Ohio, but even industries in the 17th District of Ohio want a meaningful prescription drug plan. We can do this, and I believe we should do this.

The gentleman from New York touched upon education and the Leave No Child Behind Act was supposed to be the answer to all of our problems; but now it seems that the only thing that has been left behind is the money to actually fund the program. I think when we are talking about economic development and salvaging our economy, the best investment we can make is into education.

American workers all over the country, but especially in the 17th Congressional District are also suffering, whether it is unemployment benefits or whatnot, and the President has an economic stimulus package that really is not going to stimulate the economy. That again has been touched upon here tonight. A stimulus package, money invested into a stimulus package, should first stimulate; and second, the money should be spent in the first year.

The President's proposal spends only 15 percent of the money in the first year. That is not a stimulus package; that is a tax reform package. And I think we need to begin to determine if we want to stimulate the economy, the best thing we can do is if we are going to give tax cuts, give them to low- and middle-income people who are actually going to go out and spend the money. The wealthy people will save their money. And with all of the talk of war, we can give them all of the money back they want, they are not going to invest it in an environment where we keep talking about war.

Another investment which I think would stimulate the economy, which

economists have said time and time again, is investments in the infrastructure. For every billion dollars we invest in infrastructure, we create 42,000 jobs. That is a real economic stimulus, and I hope the President will talk a little bit about the Democrats' stimulus package that we have offered.

Finally, I would like to speak about homeland security and how it fits into a stimulus package. If we really want a secure homeland, we need to talk about providing police, providing fire protection, and hazardous material funding to those in the inner cities. Those people have a right as much as everyone else in this country to have a safe, secure homeland, and that is what some funding should be spent on.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that the President understands that our Nation really and truly can only be strong if the poorest and the most vulnerable and the workers of this country are strong. That is what we hope to hear tomorrow night.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman joining us and the gentleman's focus on the plight of prescription drug coverage for our senior citizens. It continues to be, I think, an outrage and a shame that poor American senior citizens pay the highest prescription drug prices in the world. It is in this context that we are moving forward dealing with the economy, with the weakest economic growth in 50 years, over 2 million private sector jobs eliminated since this administration started, 2 million more employees out of work, the median household income being down, and the inequality gaps growing, and States facing huge deficits and having to cut programs. Then we are given an economic program on the Federal level which will actually reduce State revenues for the majority of States and not meaningfully deal with the problems that our States are facing.

I am hopeful that this Congress at least will respond to the efforts of the Democratic minority here in the House to make sure that we fully fund our commitments to State and local governments, local governments being the first line of defense against terrorist acts here at home.

□ 2045

Promises to local governments have been left unfulfilled.

I am pleased to turn to the gentleman from California (Mr. HONDA), my colleague who has finished a distinguished career in the California State Assembly and who is now adding his voice here in our Nation's Capital dealing with the needs of the people of California and around the country.

Mr. HONDA. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman very much for yielding, and I appreciate the introduction and the work that he is doing today and this evening.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the state of our Union, and let us talk plainly on what is going on today.

Today 8.6 million Americans are looking for work, but unable to find it. In my district of Santa Clara County alone, over 80,000 Americans are unemployed. Since President Bush took office, 1.7 million jobs have been lost.

Today too many of our Nation's schools are crumbling and are crowded. The average public school in America is 42 years old. In California alone, 87 percent of schools report a need to upgrade their buildings and other repairs that they need.

Today 40 million Americans do not have health insurance; 7.2 million of them are children. While these numbers dropped in 1999 and the year 2000, they rose by 1.4 million in 2001.

Today serious crime is up 2.1 percent, the first increase in 10 years.

Today 1.3 million more Americans are below the poverty line, the first increase since 1993. Requests for emergency shelter have increased by 19 percent, the largest annual increase in the demand for homeless shelter since 1990.

Mr. Speaker, it is thus no surprise that 67 percent of Americans are worried about the economy. While the war against terrorism remains a major priority, it cannot replace our commitment to meeting our Nation's other domestic priorities.

Unfortunately, the Bush administration's economic stimulus plan does little to stimulate the economy now. Instead, it does too much to weaken our economic future, producing deficits of over \$1 trillion. The centerpiece of the President's plan, the elimination of taxes on dividend income, will do little to help working families and small business, which are the backbone of the American economy. In contrast, Democrats have put forward an effective, fast-acting stimulus plan that would create 1 million jobs this year.

Mr. Speaker, while the President continues to pitch his flawed economic plan and continues to downplay the state of our economy, Democrats will continue to focus on a swift economic recovery and fight to put education and health care ahead of unfair large, huge tax cuts.

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I appreciate his focusing on the program that has been advanced by the Democrats in the House of Representatives. It is an immediate economic stimulus plan that will create 1 million jobs this year. It would put money and purchasing power in the hands of consumers, provide relief to 3 million laid-off workers. The House Democratic plan proposes a \$300 tax rebate now for every working taxpayer, tax breaks to help small businesses and encourage business investment, and a 26-week extension of unemployment insurance. It would provide money to the States to deal with their fiscal crises, dealing with homeland security, transportation, and health care costs. All told, this Democratic plan which would put more on the table this year would cost far less than that of the President. We look

forward to being able to carry this debate forward in the aftermath of this important week here in Washington, D.C.

I appreciate the courtesy, Mr. Speaker, of being able to be here on the floor this evening.

LEAVE OF ABSENCE

By unanimous consent, leave of absence was granted to:

Mr. BECERRA (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of personal reasons.

Mr. BOSWELL (at the request of Ms. PELOSI) for today on account of official business.

Mrs. WILSON of New Mexico (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of family reasons.

Mr. SHAW (at the request of Mr. DELAY) for today and the balance of the week on account of personal reasons.

SPECIAL ORDERS GRANTED

By unanimous consent, permission to address the House, following the legislative program and any special orders heretofore entered, was granted to:

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. JOHN) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. STRICKLAND, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. WATSON, for 5 minutes, today.

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, for 5 minutes, today.

(The following Members (at the request of Mr. FOLEY) to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material:)

Mr. FOLEY, for 5 minutes, today.

Mr. WHITFIELD, for 5 minutes, today.

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. 121. An act to enhance the operation of the AMBER Alert communications network in order to facilitate the recovery of abducted children, to provide for enhanced notification on highways of alerts and information on such children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure 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. 141. An act to improve the calculation of the Federal subsidy rate with respect to certain small business loans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget in addition to the Committee on Small Business 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.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Mr. Trandahl, Clerk of the House, reported and found truly enrolled bills of the House of the following titles, which were thereupon signed by the Speaker:

H.J. Res. 1. Joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

H.R. 11. An act to extend the national flood insurance program.

BILLS PRESENTED TO THE PRESIDENT

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on January 9, 2003 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.J. Res. 1. Making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes.

Jeff Trandahl, Clerk of the House reports that on January 13, 2003 he presented to the President of the United States, for his approval, the following bills.

H.R. 11. To extend the national flood insurance program.

ADJOURNMENT

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

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 8 o'clock and 50 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, January 28, 2003, at 10 o'clock and 30 minutes a.m., for morning hour debates.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 8 of rule XII, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

156. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a report pursuant to section 3204 (f) of Public Law 106-246; to the Committee on Armed Services.

157. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General and classified annex for the period ending September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Armed Services.

158. A letter from the Director, Defense Procurement and Acquisition Policy, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's final rule — Defense Federal Acquisition Regulation Supplement; Foreign Military Sales Customer Involvement [DFARS Case 2002-D005] received November 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Armed Services.

159. A letter from the Deputy Congressional Liaison, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — International Banking Operations; International Lending Supervision [Regulation K; Docket No. R-1114] received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

160. A letter from the Deputy Congressional Liaison, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's final rule — Home Mortgage Disclo-

sure [Regulation C; Docket No. R-1140] received December 31, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

161. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Bureau of the Public Debt, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Government Securities Act Regulations: Large Position Rules (RIN: 1505-AA88) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

162. A letter from the Senior Paralegal (Regulations), Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Recordkeeping and Confirmation Requirements for Securities Transactions; Fiduciary Powers of Savings Associations [No. 2002-57] (RIN: 1550-AB49) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

163. A letter from the Senior Paralegal (Regulations), Office of Thrift Supervision, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Savings Associations — Transactions with Affiliates [No. 2002-64] (RIN: 1550-AB55) received December 23, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

164. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Securities and Exchange Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Exemption for Standardized Options from Provisions of the Securities Act of 1933 and from the Registration Requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 [Release Nos. 33-8171; 34-47082; File No. S7-29-02] (RIN: 3235-AI55) received December 31, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Financial Services.

165. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting Final Regulations — Title I — Improving Achievement of the Disadvantaged, pursuant to 20 U.S.C. 1232(f); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

166. A letter from the Acting Assistant General Counsel for Regulations, Office of the General Counsel, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final rule — Final Priority on Alternative Financing Program Technical Assistance (AFPTA) under Title III of the Assistive Technology Act of 1998 — received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

167. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Program Operations, PWBA, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment to Prohibited Transaction Exemption 97-11 (PTE 97-11) for the Receipt of Certain Investment Services by Individuals for Whose Benefit Individual Retirement Accounts or Retirement Plans for Self-Employed Individuals Have Been Established or Maintained [Application Number: D-10934] received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

168. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Uniform Compliance Date for Food Labeling Regulations [Docket No. 00N-1596] received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

169. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medical Devices; Classification for Medical Washer and Medical Washer-Disinfectors [Docket No. 01N-0339] received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

170. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, CDC, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Possession, Use, and Transfer of Select Agents and Toxins (RIN: 0920-AA08) received December 9, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

171. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards; Occupant Crash Protection [Docket No. NHTSA 02-14165; Notice 1] (RIN: 2127-AI85) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

172. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Decommissioning Trust Provisions (RIN: 3150-AG52) received December 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

173. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting a six month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Sierra Leone and Liberia that was declared in Executive Order 13194, of January 18, 2001 and expanded in scope in Executive Order 13213, of May 22, 2001, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); (H. Doc. No. 108—21); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

174. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting notification that the Sierra Leone and Liberia emergency is to continue in effect beyond January 18, 2003, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1622(d); (H. Doc. No. 108—22); to the Committee on International Relations and ordered to be printed.

175. A letter from the Lieutenant General, Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting the listing of all outstanding Letters of Offer to sell any major defense equipment for \$1 million or more; the listing of all Letters of Offer that were accepted, as of September 30, 2002, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2776(a); to the Committee on International Relations.

176. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting the bi-monthly report on progress toward a negotiated settlement of the Cyprus question covering the period October 1, 2002 through November 30, 2002, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(c); to the Committee on International Relations.

177. A letter from the Acting Chief Counsel (Foreign Assets Control), Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia & Montenegro) and Bosnian Serb-controlled areas of the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina Sanctions Regulations; Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (Serbia & Montenegro) Kosovo Sanctions Regulations — received December 23, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on International Relations.

178. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a "Report on Withdrawal of Russian Armed Forces and Military Equipment"; to the Committee on International Relations.

179. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a copy of Presidential Determination No. 2003-11 pursuant to Section 1306 of the National Defense Authorization Act for FY 2003, pursuant to Public Law 107—314, section 1306; to the Committee on International Relations.

180. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Commerce, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

181. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the semiannual report of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

182. A letter from the Administrator, Agency for International Development, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Inspector General for the period ending September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

183. A letter from the Chief Executive Officer, Corporation for National and Community Service, transmitting the semiannual report of the Office of the Inspector General for the period April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

184. A letter from the Acting Director of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Privacy Act Regulations — received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Government Reform.

185. A letter from the Chairman, National Science Board, transmitting the semiannual report on the activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, 2002 through September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

186. A letter from the Chair, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting the semiannual report on activities of the Office of Inspector General for the period April 1, through September 30, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. app. (Insp. Gen. Act) section 5(b); to the Committee on Government Reform.

187. A letter from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Fiscal Year 2002 Performance and Accountability Report; to the Committee on Government Reform.

188. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Election Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — FED Policy Statement: Interim Reporting Procedures [NOTICE 2002-24] received November 26, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on House Administration.

189. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife and Parks, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Migratory Bird Hunting; Approval of Tungsten-Iron-Nickel-Tin Shot as Nontoxic for Hunting Waterfowl and Coots, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

190. A letter from the Assistant Secretary of the Interior, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Conveyances, Disclaimers and Correction Documents [WO-350-1864-24 1A] (RIN: 1004-AD50) received January 6, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

191. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Arrangement with States, Territories, or Other Agencies for Relief of Distress and Social Welfare of Indians (RIN: 1076-AD98) received December 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

192. A letter from the Assistant Administrator, Office of Oceanic and Atmospheric Research, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — NOAA Climate and Global Change Program, Program Announcement [Docket No. 000616180-2245-06] (RIN: 0648-ZA91) received December 4, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

193. A letter from the Associate Assistant Administrator for Ocean Services and Coastal Zone Management, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — General Grant Administration Terms and Conditions of the Coastal Ocean Program for FY2003 [Docket No. 000817236-2242-01, I.D. No. 082702F] received December 11, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

194. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries Off West Coast States and in the Western Pacific; Coastal Pelagic Species Fisheries; Annual Specifications [Docket No. 021112272-2328-02; I.D. 110202D] (RIN: 0648-AP88) received January 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

195. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries [Docket No. 021017239-2322-02; I.D. 091902F] (RIN: 0648-AQ15) received January 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

196. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; Atlantic Mackerel, Squid, and Butterfish Fisheries; Closure of Directed Fishery for Loligo Squid [Docket No. 011005244-2011-02; I.D. 121902B] received January 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

197. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Commercial Shark Management Measures [Docket No. 021219321-2321-01; I.D. 120902A] (RIN: 0648-AQ39) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

198. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone off Alaska; Bycatch Rate Standards for the First Half of 2003 [I.D. 112902A] received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

199. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Northeastern United States; 2003 Fishing Quotas for Atlantic Surfclams, Ocean Quahogs, and Maine Mahogany Ocean Quahogs [Docket No. 021017238-2314-02; I.D. 092602I] (RIN: 0648-AQ31) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

200. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule —

Atlantic Highly Migratory Species (HMS) Fishing Vessels Permits; Charter Boat Operations [Docket No. 020325070-2296-03; I.D. 071299C] (RIN: 0648-AM91) received January 9, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

201. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species Fisheries; Atlantic Bluefin Tuna [I.D. 112202D] received January 9, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

202. A letter from the Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Atlantic Highly Migratory Species; Quotas and Fishing Areas; Trade Monitoring [Docket No. 011029263-2255-02; I.D. 010201A] (RIN: 0648-AO93) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

203. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — International Fisheries; Pacific Tuna Fisheries [Docket No. 021021241-2294-02; I.D. 083002E] (RIN: 0648-AP86) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

204. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Sustainable Fisheries, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Pacific Cod by Catcher Processor Vessels Using Hook-and-line Gear in the Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands [Docket No. 011218304-1304-01; I.D. 112202B] received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

205. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Administrator for Regulatory Programs, NMFS, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Fisheries of the Exclusive Economic Zone Off Alaska; Bering Sea and Aleutian Islands Area; Interim 2003 Harvest Specifications for Groundfish [Docket No. 021212307-2307-01; I.D. 110602C] received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Resources.

206. A letter from the Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, transmitting the report on the administration of the Foreign Agents Registration Act covering the six months ended June 30, 2002, pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 621; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

207. A letter from the Senior Attorney, Financial Management Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Centralized Offset of Federal Payments to Collect Nontax Debts Owed to the United States (RIN: 1510-AA65) received December 23, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

208. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, OIA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — HHS Exchange Visitor Program; Request for Waiver of the Two-Year Foreign Residence Requirement (RIN: 0991-AB21) received December 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

209. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inmate Discipline: Prohibited Acts: Change in Code Numbers for Agency Tracking Purposes Only [BOP-1083-I]

(RIN: 1120-AA78) received January 6, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

210. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Incoming Publications: Softcover Materials [BOP-1009-F] (RIN: 1120-AA15) received January 6, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

211. A letter from the Associate General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Incoming Publications: Nudity and Sexually Explicit Material or Information [BOP-1064-F] (RIN: 1120-AA59) received January 6, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

212. A letter from the Director, Regulations and Forms Services, INS, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Requirements for Biometric Border Crossing Identification Cards (BCCs) and Elimination of Non-Biometric BCCs on Mexican and Canadian Borders [INS No. 1931-98] (RIN: 1115-AF24) received November 25, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

213. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the redesignation as "foreign terrorist organizations" pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, and amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

214. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the designation as "foreign terrorist organizations" pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by the Antiterrorism and Effective Death Penalty Act of 1996, and amended by the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 and by the Uniting and Strengthening America by Providing Appropriate Tools Required to Intercept and Obstruct Terrorism Act of 2001; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

215. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Visas: Uncertified Foreign Health-Care Workers — received December 4, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

216. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Documentation of Immigrants — Visa Registration — received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

217. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of Compliance Times for Fuel Tank System Safety [Docket No. FAA-1999-6411; Amendment Nos. 21-82, 91-272, 121-285, 125-140, 129-35, Special Federal Aviation Regulation No. 88-1] (RIN: 2120-AG62) received January 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

218. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Considerations for the Flightdeck on Foreign Operated Transport Category Airplanes; Correction [Docket No. FAA -202-12504] received January 17, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

219. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, trans-

mitting the Department's final rule — Noise Certification Standards for Subsonic Jet Airplanes and Subsonic Transport Category Large Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2000-7587 Amdt No. 21-81, 36-54 & 91-275] (RIN: 2120-AH03) received January 17, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

220. A letter from the Staff Attorney, RSPA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Harmonization with the United Nations Recommendations, International Maritime Dangerous Goods Code, and International Civil Aviation Organization's Technical Instructions; Incorporation by Reference [RSPA Docket No. 02-13658 (HM-215E)] (RIN: 2137-AD41) received January 8, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

221. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — 1-g Stall Speed as the Basis for Compliance With Part 25 of the Federal Aviation Regulations [Docket No. 28404; Amendment Nos. 1-49, 25-108, 97-1333] (RIN: 2120-AD40) received January 8, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

222. A letter from the Under Secretary of Transportation for Security, TSA, Department of Transportation, transmitting a report containing a for complying with the requirements of section 44901(d) of title 49, U.S.C., as amended by section 425 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, pursuant to Public Law 107—296, section 425; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

223. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Safety and Security Zones: Drilling and Blasting Operations, HubLine Project, Captain of the Port Boston, Massachusetts [CGD01-02-131] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

224. A letter from the Attorney, Research and Special Programs Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Hazardous Materials: Temporary Reduction of Registration Fees [Docket No. RSPA-00-8439 (HM-208D)] (RIN: 2137-AD53) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

225. A letter from the Chief, Regulations and Administrative Law, USCG, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Zones; Port of San Diego, CA [COTP San Diego 02-026] (RIN: 2115-AA97) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

226. A letter from the Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Security Considerations for the Flightdeck on Foreign Operated Transport Category Airplanes [Docket No. FAA-2002-12504; Amendment No. 129-36] (RIN: 2120-AH70) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

227. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's report entitled "The Superfund Innovative Technology Evaluation Program, Annual Report to Congress FY 2000"; to the Committee on Science.

228. A letter from the Assistant Administrator for Procurement, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Imple-

mentation of Executive Order 13202, as amended by E.O. 13208, in the NASA Grant and Cooperative Agreement Handbook [Billing Code 7510-01] received January 6, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Science.

229. A letter from the Deputy General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Health Care for Certain Children of Vietnam Veterans—Covered Birth Defects and Spina Bifida (RIN: 2900-AK88) received January 8, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

230. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Law, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Extension of the Presumptive Period for Compensation for Gulf War Veteran's Undiagnosed Illnesses (RIN: 2900-AK98) received January 8, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

231. A letter from the Acting Director, Office of Regulatory Law, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's final rule — Vocational Training for Certain Children of Vietnam Veterans—Covered Birth Defects and Spina Bifida (RIN: 2900-AK90) received December 4, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

232. A letter from the American Legion, transmitting the financial statement and independent audit of The American Legion proceedings of the 84th annual National Convention of the American Legion, held in Charlotte, North Carolina from August 27, 28, and 29, 2002 and a report on the Organization's activities for the year preceding the Convention, pursuant to 36 U.S.C. 49; (H. Doc. No. 108—19); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs and ordered to be printed.

233. A letter from the President of The United States, transmitting notification of his intention to add Afghanistan to the list of least-developed beneficiary developing countries under the Generalized System of Preferences (GSP), pursuant to Public Law 104—188, section 1952(a)(110 Stat. 1917); (H. Doc. No. 108—20); to the Committee on Ways and Means and ordered to be printed.

234. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Division, ATF, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Capay Valley Viticultural Area (99R-449P) [T.D. ATF-486; Re: Notice No. 948] (RIN: 1512-AC71) received December 31, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

235. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Trade or Business Expenses (Rev. Rul. 2002-90) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

236. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Trade or Business Expenses (Rev. Rul. 2002-89) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

237. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Treatment of Certain Amounts Paid to Section 170(c) Organizations Under Employer Leave-Based Donation Programs (Notice 2003-1) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

238. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — General Rule for Taxable Year of Inclusion (Rev. Rul. 2003-3) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

239. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Tax on Insurance Companies other than Life Insurance Companies (Rev. Rul. 2002-91) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

240. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Rulings and determination letters (Rev. Proc. 2002-75) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

241. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Definitions Relating to Corporate Reorganizations (Rev. Rul. 2002-85) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

242. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Announcement of Amendments to Regulations under Section 367 of the Internal Revenue Code (Notice 2002-77) received December 13, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

243. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Robert L. Beck v. Commissioner [Docket No. 14577-98 and 14578-98] received December 11, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

244. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — *Currell v. United States* — received December 11, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

245. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Reduction in Certain Deductions of Mutual Life Insurance Companies (Rev. Rul. 2003-4) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

246. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Prohibited Allocations of Securities in an S Corporation (Rev. Rul. 2003-6) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

247. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Low-Income Taxpayer Clinics—Definition of Income Tax Return Preparer [TD 9026] (RIN: 1545-BA95) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

248. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Determination of Issue Price in the Case of Certain Debt Instruments Issued for Property (Rev. Rul. 2003-5) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

249. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Intercompany Transactions: Conforming Amendments to Section 446 [TD 9025] (RIN: 1545-BA05) received December 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

250. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Appeals Settlement Guidelines: Mining — Receding Face Deduction (UIL: 612.03-03) received December 16, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

251. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting

the Service's final rule — Third Party Contacts [TD 9028] (RIN: 1545-AX04) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

252. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — Levy Restrictions During Installment Agreements [TD 9027] (RIN: 1545-AX89) received December 20, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

253. A letter from the Chief, Regulations Unit, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's final rule — General Rule for Taxable Year of Inclusion (Rev. Rul. 2003-10) received January 08, 2003, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

254. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Medicare Program; Fee Schedule for Payment of Ambulance Services—Update for CY 2003 [CMS-1220-N] (RIN: 0938-AL97) received November 27, 2002, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

[The following report was filed on January 2, 2003]

Mr. BOEHLERT. Committee on Science. Summary of Activities of the Committee on Science for the 107th Congress (Rept. 107-809). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union.

[Submitted January 27, 2003]

Mr. LINDER. Committee on Rules. House Resolution 29. Resolution providing for consideration of the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 13) making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes (Rept. 108-3). Referred to the House Calendar.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CAMP (for himself, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, and Mr. ROGERS of Michigan):

H.R. 336. A bill to repeal the sunset of the Economic Growth and Tax Relief Reconciliation Act of 2001 with respect to the expansion of the adoption credit and adoption assistance programs; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. YOUNG of Alaska:

H.R. 337. A bill to extend certain hydroelectric licenses in the State of Alaska; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 338. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to require that agencies, in promulgating rules, take into consideration the impact of such rules on the privacy of individuals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. NEY, Mr. GRAVES, Mr. TIBERI, Mrs. BIGGERT, Mr. CRENSHAW, and Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota):

H.R. 339. A bill to prevent frivolous lawsuits against the manufacturers, distribu-

tors, or sellers of food or non-alcoholic beverage products that comply with applicable statutory and regulatory requirements; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia):

H.R. 340. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to allocate additional spectrum for unlicensed use by wireless broadband devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. JOHN (for himself and Mr. ALEXANDER):

H.R. 341. A bill to provide economic disaster assistance to producers of the 2002 crop of rice in the State of Louisiana; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JOHN (for himself, Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. DINGELL, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. SHIMKUS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. WYNN, Mr. WEINER, Mr. KING of New York, Mr. STRICKLAND, Mr. ALEXANDER, Mr. PICKERING, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. RUSH, Mr. BAKER, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. FOLEY):

H.R. 342. A bill to authorize grants through the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for mosquito control programs to prevent mosquito-borne diseases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. BALDWIN:

H.R. 343. A bill to amend title 11 of the United States Code to protect family farmers and family fishermen; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 344. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit the use of public funds for political party conventions; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland:

H.R. 345. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act and the Controlled Substances Import and Export Act with respect to penalties for powder cocaine and crack cocaine offenses; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and 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.

By Mr. BASS:

H.R. 346. A bill to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to increase civil penalties for violations involving certain proscribed acts or practices that exploit popular reaction to an emergency or major disaster declared by the President, and to authorize the Federal Trade Commission to seek civil penalties for such violations in actions brought under section 13 of that Act; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS (for himself, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. NADLER, and Ms. SOLIS):

H.R. 347. A bill to provide additional authority to the Office of Ombudsman of the Environmental Protection Agency; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 348. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide improved benefits for veterans who are former prisoners of war; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 349. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a tax credit to employers for the value of the service not performed during the period employees are performing service as members of the Ready

Reserve or the National Guard; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BILIRAKIS:

H.R. 350. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide to employers a tax credit for compensation paid during the period employees are performing service as members of the Ready Reserve or the National Guard; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:

H.R. 351. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide a maximum term of supervised release of life for sex offenders; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM (for himself, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. BAKER, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. JONES of North Carolina):

H.R. 352. A bill to amend the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 to provide enhanced penalties for crimes of violence against children under age 13; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 353. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to dispose of all public lands administered by the Bureau of Land Management that have been identified for disposal under the Federal land use planning process; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. DUNCAN:

H.R. 354. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow drug manufacturers a credit against income tax if they certify that the price of a drug in the United States market is not greater than its price in the Canadian or Mexican market; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. EVERETT (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 355. A bill to provide wage parity for certain Department of Defense prevailing rate employees in Alabama; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. EVERETT:

H.R. 356. A bill to nullify the effect of certain provisions of various Executive orders; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. EVERETT:

H.R. 357. A bill to prohibit civil liability actions from being brought or continued against manufacturers, distributors, dealers, or importers of firearms or ammunition for damages resulting from the misuse of their products by others; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EVERETT:

H.R. 358. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to enact into law eligibility requirements for burial in Arlington National Cemetery, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. FOLEY:

H.R. 359. A bill to amend title XVIII to revise the payment methodology under the Medicare Program for extra-depth shoes with inserts or custom molded shoes with inserts for individuals with diabetes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

By Mr. GOODE (for himself and Mr. BOUCHER):

H.R. 360. A bill to amend title 40, United States Code, to designate certain counties and a city as part of the Appalachian region; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GORDON (for himself, Mr. OSBORNE, Mr. DINGELL, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SIMMONS,

Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. HAYES, Mr. WAMP, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ENGEL, Mr. RAMSTAD, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MCCARTHY of Missouri, Mr. LEACH, Mr. SHIMKUS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. STEARNS, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. BURR, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. PICKERING, and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 361. A bill to designate certain conduct by sports agents relating to the signing of contracts with student athletes as unfair and deceptive acts or practices to be regulated by the Federal Trade Commission; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. HEFLEY:

H.R. 362. A bill to enhance the operation of the AMBER Alert communications network in order to facilitate the recovery of abducted children, to provide for enhanced notification on highways of alerts and information on such children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 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.

By Mr. HONDA (for himself, Ms. DUNN, and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 363. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to allocate additional spectrum for unlicensed use by wireless broadband devices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon:

H.R. 364. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require criminal background checks on drivers providing Medicaid medical assistance transportation services; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon (for herself, Mr. BACA, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. FILNER, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. UDALL of Colorado, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, and Mr. BERENSON):

H.R. 365. A bill to recruit and retain more qualified individuals to teach in Tribal Colleges or Universities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, 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.

By Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon:

H.R. 366. A bill to authorize former Federal employees who receive voluntary separation incentive payments under the Department of Agriculture program to accept subsequent employment with the Federal Government, without loss of their payments, when such employment is directly related to fighting forest fires; to the Committee on Government Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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.

By Mr. HYDE (for himself, Mr. LEACH, Mr. ACKERMAN, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. COX, Mr. FALCOMA, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. DELAHUNT, and Mr. KIRK):

H.R. 367. A bill to allow North Koreans to apply for refugee status or asylum; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. ISRAEL (for himself and Mr. ACKERMAN):

H.R. 368. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for equitable

reimbursement rates under the Medicare Program to MedicareChoice organizations; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and 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.

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 369. A bill to waive time limitations specified by law in order to allow the Medal of Honor to be awarded to Gary Lee McKiddy, of Miamisburg, Ohio, for acts of valor while a helicopter crew chief and door gunner with the 1st Cavalry Division during the Vietnam War; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Ms. LEE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FROST, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. SERRANO, and Mrs. CAPPS):

H.R. 370. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for expanding, intensifying, and coordinating activities with respect to research on autoimmune diseases in women; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LYNCH (for himself, Mr. QUINN, Mr. FROST, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, and Ms. KAPTUR):

H.R. 371. A bill to establish the National Center on Liver Disease Research, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LYNCH:

H.R. 372. A bill to provide for a pilot program to be conducted by the Department of Veterans Affairs to assess the benefits of providing for pharmacies of the Department of Veterans Affairs to fill prescriptions for drugs and medicines written by private physicians; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. MALONEY (for herself, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. HINCHAY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. McNULTY, Ms. LEE, Mr. COOPER, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN):

H.R. 373. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a program of research regarding the risks posed by the presence of dioxin, synthetic fibers, and other additives in feminine hygiene products, and to establish a program for the collection and analysis of data on toxic shock syndrome; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MALONEY:

H.R. 374. A bill to amend the Hate Crime Statistics Act to require the Attorney General to acquire data about crimes that manifest evidence of prejudice based on gender; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia (for herself, Mr. FORBES, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. KENNEDY of Rhode Island, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. SAXTON, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. GOODE, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. MCGOVERN):

H.R. 375. A bill to declare, under the authority of Congress under Article I, section 8 of the Constitution to "provide and maintain a Navy", a national policy for the naval force structure required in order to "provide for the common defense" of the United States throughout the 21st century; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 376. A bill to provide emergency livestock assistance and emergency crop loss assistance to agricultural producers who suffered 2001 or 2002 crop year losses; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 377. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to extend the replacement period from 2 to 5 years for livestock sold on account of drought, flood, or other weather-related conditions; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. MUSGRAVE:

H.R. 378. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to repeal the 1993 income tax increase on Social Security benefits, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RADANOVICH (for himself, Mr. NUNES, and Mr. DOOLEY of California):

H.R. 379. A bill to facilitate a Forest Service land exchange that will eliminate a private in-holding in the Sierra National Forest in the State of California and provide for the permanent enjoyment by the Boy Scouts of America of a parcel of National Forest System land currently used under a special use permit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. RADANOVICH:

H.R. 380. A bill to provide full funding for the payment in lieu of taxes program for the next five fiscal years, to protect local jurisdictions against the loss of property tax revenues when private lands are acquired by a Federal land management agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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.

By Mr. REGULA (for himself, Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. HOBSON, Mr. SAM JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KOLBE, and Mr. ROHRBACHER):

H.R. 381. A bill to provide for the retrocession of the District of Columbia to the State of Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Government Reform, 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.

By Mr. ROGERS of Michigan (for himself, Mrs. MILLER of Michigan, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. CAMP, Mr. EHLERS, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. MCCOTTER, Mr. SMITH of Michigan, and Mr. UPTON):

H.R. 382. A bill to authorize States to prohibit or impose certain limitations on the receipt of foreign municipal solid waste, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ROYCE:

H.R. 383. A bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act with respect to the limitations on member business loans; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 384. A bill to require Congress to specify the source of authority under the United States Constitution for the enactment of laws, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 385. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a credit against income tax for contributions to charitable organizations which provide scholarships for children to attend elementary and secondary schools; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 386. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for the issuance of tax-exempt bonds by Indian tribal governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 387. A bill to authorize the Regional Foresters to exempt tree-thinning projects, which are necessary to prevent the occurrence of wildfire likely to cause extreme harm to the forest ecosystem, from laws that give rise to legal causes of action that delay or prevent such projects; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committee on Resources, 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.

By Mr. SHADEGG:

H.R. 388. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax credits for Indian investment and employment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SHIMKUS (for himself, Mrs. CAPPS, Mr. DEUTSCH, Mr. KIRK, Mr. RUSH, and Mr. PICKERING):

H.R. 389. A bill to authorize the use of certain grant funds to establish an information clearinghouse that provides information to increase public access to defibrillation in schools; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. WATERS (for herself, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LANTOS, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. CUMMINGS, and Ms. LEE):

H.R. 390. A bill to authorize emergency supplemental assistance to combat the growing humanitarian crisis in sub-Saharan Africa; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. GOODLATTE, Mr. PAUL, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, Mr. DOOLITTLE, Mr. CUNNINGHAM, Mr. RYUN of Kansas, Mr. ISTOOK, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. BONO, Mr. GOODE, Mr. BALLENGER, Mr. NORWOOD, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. LINDER, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. DEMINT, Mr. HALL, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. KING of Iowa, Mr. BEAUPREZ, Mr. SHADEGG, Mr. TIAHRT, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. SCHROCK, Mr. ISSA, Mr. FRANKS of Arizona, Mr. WAMP, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. COX, Mr. WICKER, and Mr. PENCE):

H.R. 391. A bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. YOUNG of Florida:

H.J. Res. 13. A joint resolution making further continuing appropriations for the fiscal year 2003, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. HEFLEY:

H.J. Res. 14. A joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States to provide that Federal judges be reconfirmed by the Senate every 10 years; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GIBBONS:

H. Con. Res. 12. Concurrent resolution providing for a joint session of Congress to receive a message from the President on the state the Union; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. FORD:

H. Con. Res. 13. Concurrent resolution recognizing the importance of blues music, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. RUSH:

H. Con. Res. 14. Concurrent resolution expressing the sense of the Congress that a

commemorative postage stamp should be issued in honor of Harold Washington, the 42d mayor of Chicago; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. WILSON of South Carolina (for himself, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. DAVIS of Florida, Mr. WEINER, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. MCNULTY, Mrs. MYRICK, Mr. TOOMEY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. KIRK, Mr. INSLEE, Mr. HOEFFEL, Mr. FROST, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. ROYCE, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Ms. LORETTA SANCHEZ of California, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. BERKLEY, Mr. HOLT, Ms. NORTON, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Mr. RANGEL, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY):

H. Con. Res. 15. Concurrent resolution commending India on its celebration of Republic Day; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. LANTOS (for himself and Mr. HYDE):

H. Res. 28. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that the United States should declare its support for the independence of Kosovo; to the Committee on International Relations.

By Mr. CUNNINGHAM:

H. Res. 30. A resolution concerning the San Diego long-range sportfishing fleet and rights to fish the waters near the Revillagigedo Islands of Mexico; to the Committee on Resources.

By Mr. DAVIS of Florida (for himself, Mr. YOUNG of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Ms. HARRIS, and Mr. PUTNAM):

H. Res. 31. A resolution congratulating the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for winning Super Bowl XXXVII; to the Committee on Government Reform.

By Mr. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. REYES, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. FILNER, Mr. RUSH, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. NORTON, Mr. HASTINGS of Florida, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, Mr. JEFFERSON, Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, Mr. MEEKS of New York, Ms. LEE, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. FROST, Ms. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. MCDERMOTT, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. FATTAH, Ms. WATSON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Mr. MEEK of Florida, Mr. WYNN, Mr. GEPHARDT, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. DAVIS of Alabama, Mr. RANGEL, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. LAMPSON, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, and Mr. OWENS):

H. Res. 32. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the ongoing need to provide every qualified American with equal access to opportunity in education, business, and employment and the indispensability of Affirmative action programs in securing such equal access; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, 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.

PRIVATE BILLS AND
RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, private bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BACHUS:

H.R. 392. A bill for the relief of Natasha Oligovna Russo and Anya Oligovna; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PASTOR:

H.R. 393. A bill for the relief of Alejandra Arias Garcia; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions as follows:

H.R. 21: Mr. BOUCHER.

H.R. 36: Mr. REYES and Mr. FILNER.

H.R. 44: Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida; Mr. PENCE, Mr. WELDON of Florida, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. KOLBE, Mr. AKIN, Mr. BARTLETT of Maryland, Mrs. MYRICK, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. CANNON, and Mr. MCCOTTER.

H.R. 47: Mr. STARK, Mr. ANDREWS, and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 67: Mr. RENZI and Mr. PAUL.

H.R. 111: Mr. BROWN of South Carolina, Mr. TAYLOR of North Carolina, Mr. WALSH, Mr. RADANOVICH, Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. CANNON, Mr. WOLF, Mr. REHBERG, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TANNER, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mrs. LOWEY, Mr. CRANE, Mr. COSTELLO, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. KLECZKA, Mrs. MCCARTHY of New York, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. BISHOP of New York, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. STENHOLM, and Mr. HONDA.

H.R. 115: Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. MCINNIS, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 130: Mr. ABERCROMBIE, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LEACH, Mr. SERRANO, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 140: Mr. SPRATT.

H.R. 141: Mr. GOODE, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. EVERETT, Mr. BOYD, and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 152: Mr. SERRANO, Mr. RODRIGUEZ, and Mr. RANGEL.

H.R. 160: Mr. SKELTON, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mrs. MUSGRAVE, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.

H.R. 167: Mr. COSTELLO.

H.R. 172: Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. CAPUANO, Mr. NEAL of Massachusetts, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, and Mr. OLVER.

H.R. 182: Ms. LEE, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. CARDOZA, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms.

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 192: Mr. MCHUGH, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. MORAN of Virginia, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. FILNER, Mr. MOORE, and Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 193: Mr. LINDER.

H.R. 195: Mr. RENZI.

H.R. 196: Mr. TOWNS, Mr. PITTS, Mr. HOUGHTON, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 203: Mr. REYNOLDS, Mr. QUINN, Ms. SLAUGHTER, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. KING of New York.

H.R. 207: Mr. JANKLOW, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. GORDON, and Mrs. CHRISTENSEN.

H.R. 217: Mr. FILNER, Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BOYD, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. HINCHEY, Ms.

EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. KANJORSKI, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LOBIONDO, Ms. LOFGREN, Mrs. MALONEY, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MCINTYRE, Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PASTOR, Mr. PAUL, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. REYES, Mr. ROGERS of Michigan, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SOUDER, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. TIBERI, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WOLF, Mr. WYNN, Mr. MATHESON, Mr. TURNER of Texas, and Ms. WATSON.

H.R. 218: Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. MCINNIS, Mr. WALDEN of Oregon, Mr. OTTER, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. MILLER of Florida, Mr. FOSSELLA, Mr. KELLER, Mr. RENZI, Mr. COSTELLO, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. UPTON, Mr. BARTON of Texas, Mr. LUCAS of Kentucky, Mr. MEEHAN, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. CANNON, and Mr. BLUNT.

H.R. 237: Mrs. JO ANN DAVIS of Virginia, Mr. JONES of North Carolina, and Mr. DAVIS of Illinois.

H.R. 240: Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. SHAW, and Mr. CAPUANO.

H.R. 257: Mr. MARSHALL and Mr. NORWOOD.

H.R. 259: Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts, Mr. TOWNS, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, Mr. MEEKS of New York, and Ms. WOOLSEY.

H.R. 260: Mr. ANDREWS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. SERRANO, Ms. DELAURO, Ms. CARSON of Indiana, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. LANTOS, and Mrs. LOWEY.

H.R. 280: Mr. RYAN of Ohio.

H.R. 284: Mr. RAMSTAD, Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. NEY, Mr. MCINTYRE, Ms. WOOLSEY, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. PETERSON of Minnesota, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. WAXMAN, Mrs. BONO, Mr. ETHERIDGE, Mr. DOYLE, and Mr. HOEFFEL.

H.R. 286: Ms. ESHOO.

H.R. 300: Mr. SMITH of Texas, Mr. HOSTETTLER, Mr. BAKER, Mr. PITTS, Mr. BLUNT, and Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 302: Mr. REYES, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, Mr. PALLONE, Ms. MILLENDER-

MCDONALD, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FILNER, Mr. GOODE, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. SOLIS, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Mr. EVANS, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California, and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 303: Mr. McNULTY, Mr. DELAHUNT, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. HOLDEN, Mr. STUPAK, Mr. POMBO, Mr. DOYLE, Mr. SERRANO, Mr. TURNER of Texas, Mr. CARSON of Oklahoma, Mr. GORDON, Ms. HARRIS, Mr. TANCREDO, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. WEXLER, Mr. FROST, Mr. PAUL, Mr. GREEN of Wisconsin, Mr. DEFAZIO, Mr. TAYLOR of Mississippi, Mr. RYAN of Wisconsin, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. ANDREWS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. SNYDER, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. TANNER, Mr. ETHERIDGE, and Mr. BURR.

H.R. 310: Mr. HASTINGS of Washington, Mr. SKELTON, Mrs. MYRICK, and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 314: Mr. JONES of Ohio and Mr. NEY.

H.R. 318: Mr. LEACH and Mr. WHITFIELD.

H.R. 323: Mr. LIPINSKI, Mr. FROST, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. CONYERS, Ms. LEE, Ms. KAPTUR, Mrs. JONES of Ohio, Ms. KILPATRICK, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MATSUI, Mr. BROWN of Ohio, Ms. CORRINE BROWN of Florida, and Mr. GEORGE MILLER of California.

H.R. 330: Mr. SHIMKUS.

H.J. Res. 4: Mr. PLATTS, Mr. CROWLEY, Mr. HOLDEN, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. SIMMONS, Mr. KNOLLENBERG, Mr. McNULTY, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. FRELINGHUYSEN, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. STENHOLM.

H. Con. Res. 4: Mr. TANCREDO.

H. Con. Res. 6: Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. PLATTS, Mr. KILDEE, and Mr. WAMP.

H. Res. 21: Ms. HOOLEY of Oregon, Mr. BERMAN, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Mr. LEWIS of Georgia, Mr. GUTIERREZ, Mr. WAXMAN, Mr. GARY G. MILLER of California, and Mr. WEXLER.

H. Res. 25: Mr. UDALL of New Mexico, Mr. BOEHNER, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. BORDALLO, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. HINOJOSA, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Ms. MILLENDER-MCDONALD, Ms. NORTON, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. STENHOLM, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. PLATTS, and Mrs. BIGBERT.

H. Res. 26: Mr. TAUZIN, Mr. POMEROY, Mr. FOLEY, Mr. HAYWORTH, Mr. BAKER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. ENGLISH, Mr. BACHUS, Mrs. CHRISTENSEN, Mr. KLECZKA, Mrs. NORTHUP, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. NUSSLE, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. RENZI, Mr. KING of New York, Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida, Mr. COX, Ms. KAPTUR, Mr. OTTER, Mr. HOEKSTRA, Mr. MCCOTTER, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BACA, Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida, Mr. PASCARELL, Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. KENNEDY of Minnesota, Mr. LANTOS, Mr. BARRETT of South Carolina, Mr. STUPAK, and Mr. GUTKNECHT.