

law that will wear civilian uniforms, that is willing to kill in order to continue the reign of fear of Saddam Hussein. But we are fighting with bravery and courage."

Mr. Speaker, I believe today that there are no Democrats, there are no Republicans in support of our troops; there are only Americans, praying for their quick victory and their speedy return home to their loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I thank them for their sacrifices in America's time of need.

#### REVIEWS IN ON FCC DECISION REGARDING RULES GOVERNING TELECOMMUNICATIONS INDUSTRY

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

Mr. TERRY. Mr. Speaker, the reviews are in on the February 20 FCC decision on the rules governing the Nation's telecommunications companies, and they are not good. Specifically, the reviews state that the requirements to make the RBOCs networks and systems available on an unbundled and subsidized basis are unsound.

For many Members of this Chamber, economists, and industry observers, the FCC's proceeding was an opportunity to provide clear rules and regulatory rationality to an industry sector that has tumbled in recent years with job losses and reduced capital investments, which has affected a manufacturer in my district.

Unfortunately, from these reviews on this decision, the FCC has failed miserably in their attempt to revitalize this necessary industry.

Has this industry not suffered enough? Two trillion dollars of market cap, half a million telecommunications jobs lost, and \$800 billion in debt have gone away. Hardware equipment and software manufacturers are stumbling.

The FCC has taken a mess and made it harder to clean up. Somebody has to fix this: Congress, the courts, maybe even a miracle itself from the FCC.

#### PRESIDENT SHOULD DEFER TAX CUTS

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

Mr. FORD. Mr. Speaker, I want to make one appeal to the President and my Republican colleagues, and Democrats as well. We are a few days away, if not a few weeks away, from debating a tax cut bill that all of us wish and desire, for all of those here and those watching, could receive at home. We have one problem, though.

We have committed some 300,000 and, if the papers are to be believed this morning, an additional 30,000 troops will be deployed overseas. The President has his hands full, as does the national security team, in defining our

goals clearly in Iraq. Yet their domestic team continues to try to advance an enormous tax cut, which all of us again want.

The problem we face is we have States that are struggling, we have a budget that is out of balance, we have a war that needs to be paid for, and we have all of our domestic needs.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the President in the most humble of ways: defer your tax cut, defer new spending. Let us do two things first: one, help the States; and, two, pay for this war. After that, all of the tax cuts and stimulus and spending programs that all of us may want, let us consider those things in that context.

I say to the President: defer your tax cuts, sir, and help our States.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Members are reminded to address the Chair and not the President.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 1104.

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

There was no objection.

#### CHILD ABDUCTION PREVENTION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TERRY). Pursuant to House Resolution 160 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 1104.

□ 1021

#### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 1104) to prevent child abduction, and for other purposes, with Mr. UPTON in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIRMAN. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered as having been read the first time.

Under the rule, the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 22½ minutes; and the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. GINGREY) and the gentleman from California (Mr. GEORGE MILLER) each will control 7½ minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. SENSENBRENNER).

Mr. SENSENBRENNER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, sexual predators target America's children every day in

large cities, small towns, and even in cyberspace. Sexual exploitation of children, a prime motive for kidnapping, is on the rise. When it comes to abduction, rape, and murder of children, the United States must have a zero tolerance policy.

H.R. 1104, the Child Abduction Prevention Act, is comprehensive legislation that directly and forcefully addresses these heinous crimes. The bill is virtually identical to H.R. 5422, which overwhelmingly passed the House last October by a vote of 390 to 24. Like so many other meritorious bills sent to the other body in the last Congress, this legislation was allowed to die by the Democrat leadership.

An abducted child is a parent's worst nightmare. We must ensure that law enforcement has every possible tool necessary to try to recover a missing child quickly and safely. H.R. 1104 not only gets the word out after a kidnapping, but it also takes strong steps to prevent them from occurring in the first place. The bill strengthens penalties against kidnapping and aids law enforcement agencies to effectively prevent, investigate, and prosecute crimes against children.

Prompt public alerts of an abducted child could be the difference between life and death for that innocent victim. Recognizing this, the bill codifies the AMBER Alert program currently in place in the Departments of Justice and Transportation and authorizes increased funding to help States deploy child abduction communications warning networks.

For those individuals that would harm a child, we must ensure that punishment is severe, and that sexual predators are not allowed to slip through the cracks of a system and harm other children.

To this end, this legislation provides a 20-year mandatory minimum sentence of imprisonment for nonfamilial abductions of a child under the age of 18, lifetime supervision for sex offenders, and mandatory life imprisonment for second-time offenders. Furthermore, H.R. 1104 removes any statute of limitations and opportunity for pretrial release for crimes of child abduction and sex offenses.

Those who abduct children are often serial offenders who have already been convicted of similar offenses. Sex offenders and child molesters are four times more likely than other violent criminals to recommit their crimes. This number demands attention, especially in light of the fact that a single child molester, on average, destroys the lives of over 100 children. In response, H.R. 1104 provides judges with the discretion to impose lifetime supervision upon such offenders.

The bill also fights against an industry supporting one of the fastest growing areas of international criminal activity. The sex tourism industry obtains its victims through kidnapping and trafficking of women and children. These women and children are then