

EDUCATING AMERICA ABOUT THE
WARTIME SUPPLEMENTAL AP-
PROPRIATIONS BILL

THE SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CHOCOLA). Under a previous order of the House, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to first of all thank my colleague on the opposite side of the aisle for his generosity in granting me the opportunity to address the House prior to the hour that he has reserved for himself. I would also like to thank all of the Members of the Congressional Black Caucus for being here this evening to help highlight the problems with our budget.

I think that the case has been made. I think that the Members who came to the floor this evening were able to point out all of the devastating cuts in the President's budget that are going to wreak havoc on America. I think they have been able to make a very, very clear picture about what is happening in education, what is happening in housing, what is happening in health care. So I do not need to revisit all of that, but I would like to take time to talk about an action that I tried to take just earlier this evening.

Earlier this evening I went to what is known as our Committee on Rules. I went to the Committee on Rules because this is the committee that will decide whether or not we can amend the supplemental appropriations legislation that the President has asked us to pass in this House. The President has asked for supplemental appropriations legislation because the president needs to have more money to fund the war in Iraq. We understand, whether one agrees with the war or not, that once we deploy our soldiers it costs an awful lot of money. They have to be fed, their clothing, all of the supplies and the equipment, and I think every Member of this House is prepared to support our soldiers and the funding that is needed.

But, Mr. Speaker, as we examine the supplemental appropriations, one can readily see that there is something else going on in that appropriations bill. It is not simply a bill that is designed to support our soldiers and that war in Iraq. What it appears is we are literally paying some people off. We are rewarding some folks, maybe because they voted with us in the U.N., maybe because we want them to vote with us; certainly, Turkey is in the bill for \$1 billion. But in addition to Turkey, what I discovered in the bill was money for Afghanistan, for Israel, for Jordan, for Bahrain, for Oman and Pakistan, Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Djibouti, the Philippines, Colombia, and on and on and on.

Now, I went to that committee because I decided that if they can fund all of these countries for whatever reasons, billions of dollars, and, in addi-

tion to that, Mr. Speaker, in this bill we will find a very generous allocation for educational needs for not only Afghanistan, but also for Iraq where we are talking about rehabilitating schools and providing building and rehabilitating buildings, and building new schools. We are also talking about providing health care. As a matter of fact, it is the universal health care system that we wish for in America that we will be providing to Iraq. I am not jealous of the fact that we have torn up the countries and we need to in fact do something about funding them.

So I went and I asked that we appropriate \$5 billion for our rural and poor communities that need health care clinics and transportation systems to get people to the hospital, and that we fund urban communities so we can get rid of buildings that are burned out and that are boarded up and that have been standing for 35 and 40 years on land that we can have people investing in for growing these communities, if we could but clear them and package it so that we can do some economic development. Of course it is not going to be made in order.

But, in addition to a president's budget that is cutting and slashing domestic programs, now we have a supplemental appropriation that is asking for more money for all of these countries, I guess because they voted for us in the U.N.

Mr. Speaker, it is not right, and the people are going to want to know why we are doing this. We come to this floor tonight to do some educating.

IMMIGRATION REFORM

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. TANCREDO) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. TANCREDO. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about the issue of immigration and immigration reform and a specific aspect of that particular problem that we face here in the United States. I have, over the course of the last couple of weeks anyway, tried to enter into a dialogue here; perhaps it is more of a monologue, I suppose, at this time of night and in this particular setting, and the discussion that I have tried to focus on is one that I believe is of paramount, or should be at least, of paramount importance to the Members of this body. It is true that I am concerned about that particular issue and I intend to spend at least most of the evening tonight discussing this particular point, and I should say more particularly, more specifically, the issue of the drug importation into this country which is allowed by the porous nature of our border and the various hazards that that poses, because there are a wide range of problems that confront us because our borders are porous.

We are going to explore these one at a time; we are going to take them in

sections, I guess, if you will, and we are going to talk about, as I did last week, we are going to talk about the issue of national security and how that is affected by porous borders. We are going to talk this evening about the importation of illegal narcotics into the United States and how that threatens the country and how that phenomenon is made more, I guess prevalent, and it is, of course, much easier to import illegal narcotics into the United States because our borders are porous, and we are going to focus on that. And then we are going to talk about maybe in the next week or so, environmental degradation that comes as a result of millions of people crossing this border illegally and what they do to the land as they trespass upon it.

But let me just for a moment or two reflect upon some of the things that have been said in the prior hour by members of the Black Caucus.

Time and again we heard reference to the "cuts" that were part of the budget we passed, the Republicans introduced and passed in the House. And I am certainly not going to spend a lot of time talking about each of the issues, each of the different kinds of budget issues that were identified here, but I am going to talk for just a moment about one aspect of this, and that is, I think 13 or 14 times I heard the phrase "cuts in funding for veterans." I am going to only focus on that to show my colleagues the difficulty of debating this kind of an issue and actually getting the facts out to the general public.

Now, if anybody did in fact hear the last hour, Mr. Speaker, they would think certainly that there has been a cut in funding to veterans, and actually proposed, that is to say, by the Republican budget. A cut not just to veterans, but to a whole host of groups, the elderly, children, schools, you name it. So let me just focus on this one point, just on veterans, in order to put this thing in some sort of perspective for anyone who was actually listening to that discussion.

Cuts in the budget to veterans. Cuts. Now, I am not sure exactly how Webster defines the word "cut," but it has to do, I am sure, with a reduction from one level to another. I am just going to assume that. So if someone stands up in front of us and says there has been a cut proposed in the Republican budget for veterans, one assumes that the money that is being proposed to be spent for veterans benefits next year, 2004, is less than what is or what has been spent or will be spent in the 2003 fiscal year.

So that we again can actually understand what is going on here, let me tell my colleagues what the figures are. These are undeniable, undebatable; they are in black and white; they are produced for the public consumption by the printing office when it prepares these budgets. So anyone can determine whether or not I am being truthful here when I tell my colleagues that the budget for veterans for the fiscal