

as a means of reducing waste, fraud, and abuse in programs administered by the Secretary of Education. Congress has already authorized the Secretary of Education to match data with the IRS in the Higher Education Act of 1998, but, to date, the Internal Revenue Code has not been amended to allow this matching to take place. My staff has worked closely with the Treasury Department, the Office of Management and Budget, the Joint Committee on Taxation, and the Department of Education in developing this proposal.

This proposal is the right policy and, with all of our consultations, we believe that it is the correct technical solution. I am introducing it as we hopefully close out the first session of the 108th Congress in order that it can be reviewed over the next few months by all participants in the student loan community. I ask any stakeholders—students, parents, schools, lenders and loan processors—to review this legislation to be sure that there are no unintended consequences of the bill. I welcome constructive criticism of this bill and look forward to seeing it enacted next year.

H.R. 6—ENERGY POLICY ACT OF
2003

SPEECH OF

HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, November 18, 2003

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 6, the energy bill that America has waited so long for. Like the original House version of this legislation, I intend to support the conference report on the floor today, but not without some reservation.

Since being elected to Congress in 1978, I've carefully watched our federal spending and have advocated for a balanced budget. Under our current policies, America is facing a \$400 billion budget shortfall, and we will continue to run deficits for the foreseeable future. This energy bill conference report continues on that path of fiscal irresponsibility. The Joint Committee on Taxation stated this bill will cost up to \$23.5 billion dollars. I am very disappointed this conference report didn't include the offsets that the Senate version did.

However, I truly believe this legislation provides the proper framework to diversify America's fuel sources. As Ranking Member of the House Agriculture Committee, I'm glad there are greater incentives for increased production of ethanol. I'm glad to see production tax credits for wind, solar and biomass energy, as well as nuclear electricity generation. Diversification of our nation's energy sources will help us meet our goal of reducing our dependence on foreign sources of fuel.

More importantly, this energy bill provides the right tools for independent oil and gas producers to continue producing from our own fields, right here in this country. I've been fighting for these measures for years, and I'm glad Congress is finally going to implement them. The time is long overdue for Congress to recognize the importance for America to decrease our use of oil and gas from foreign countries and to capitalize on the resources beneath our own soil. And, contrary to what many groups will lead us to conclude, we can drill for oil and gas without doing damage to

our environment. Former U.S. Senator Lloyd Bentsen of Texas once said that when America imported more than half of its crude and petroleum products, it would have reached a point of peril. Friends and colleagues, we have reached that point.

Although I intend to support this legislation, I must express my extreme disappointment of the process in which this bill was considered. I have worked for years in Congress to promote equality and bipartisanship in this great institution. However, this bill was written behind closed doors with no input from the public. Unfortunately, my Democratic colleagues were not given the opportunity to offer significant amendments to the legislation. This conference report isn't perfect, and it could have been improved significantly if my colleagues were allowed to bring their ideas to the negotiating table and if we were allowed to offset the cost of this legislation.

FREEDOM FOR MANUEL VÁZQUEZ
PORTAL

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about Manuel Vázquez Portal, a prisoner of conscience in totalitarian Cuba.

Mr. Vázquez is a 52-year-old writer, poet and founder of the independent news agency Grupo de Trabajo Decoro. Originally, Mr. Vázquez was a high school teacher and a journalist for several state-owned media outlets. However, after years of observing the constant lies and incessant distortion mandated by Castro's totalitarian regime, Mr. Vázquez began working for an independent news agency in 1995. As an independent journalist, Mr. Vázquez relentlessly chronicled the atrocities committed by Castro's machinery of repression, even going so far as to have his articles published under the pseudonym Pablo Cedeño. Eventually, Mr. Vázquez founded the independent news agency Grupo de Trabajo Decoro in 1999.

In fact, because of his ability to find and write the truth as a journalist working under Castro's stifling repression, Mr. Vázquez will receive the 2003 International Press Freedom Award from the Committee to Protect Journalists on this coming Tuesday, November 25, 2003.

Mr. Speaker, when Mr. Vázquez's fellow recipients of the International Press Freedom Award accept this high honor, Mr. Vázquez will be languishing in the Cuban totalitarian gulag next to a toilet he describes as a "hole regurgitating its stench 24 hours a day." Mr. Vázquez was arrested in the reprehensible March crackdown on those many patriots who actively opposed Castro's tyranny. Subsequently, in a sham trial held in April, Mr. Vázquez was sentenced to 18 years in the Cuban gulag.

I remind my colleagues that, under Castro's totalitarian regime, any freedom of the press, any effort to display the atrocities of the regime under the spotlight of truth, is met with swift and violent repression. Mr. Vázquez described the punishing conditions of the Cuban gulag in a diary smuggled out of prison by his

wife. He said "the cell is a space of 1.5 meters wide and 3 meters long." Inside his cell, he describes an interior comprised of insects, an unstable cot, a filthy mattress and a disgusting toilet.

Mr. Speaker, a man who is about to receive the International Press Freedom Award is suffering at this very moment in those abominable conditions. Mr. Vázquez had the courage to depict the reality of Cuba under Castro's totalitarian dictatorship, and now he is locked in the gulag for the next 18 years.

My Colleagues, we can not stand by in silence while those who pursue truth languish in the gulags of repressive dictators. We must stand together and loudly demand freedom for Manuel Vázquez Portal.

PHARMACY EDUCATION AID ACT
OF 2003

HON. BARBARA CUBIN

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mrs. CUBIN. Mr. Speaker, pharmacists are a vital link in this nation's health care system. Across the nation, we are seeing a shortage of pharmacists and this shortage is taking hold in Wyoming as well.

Americans of all ages will continue to take advantage of the therapeutic benefits that come from prescription medications.

Without pharmacists to distribute those drugs and educate us about their effects, we would see the downfall of our health care system. We cannot allow that to happen, and must do what we can to ensure an adequate supply of pharmacists in Wyoming, and across the country.

In addition, as Congress prepares to pass a Medicare reform prescription drug bill, seniors will have greater access to medications at a lower cost and will need qualified pharmacists to help them understand and properly use their medications.

The Pharmacy Education Aid Act of 2003 authorizes two new student-loan programs for pharmacists. The first would repay the student loans of pharmacists who agree to practice for at least 2 years in areas with a critical shortage of pharmacists.

The second would repay the loans of students who agree to serve for a least 2 years as faculty members at accredited schools of pharmacy; one of which is at the University of Wyoming.

It makes sense that if we want an adequate supply of pharmacists in the workplace then we need to ensure adequate faculty to guide them through their education.

We are seeing more of a demand for pharmacists in Wyoming, whether it be in our local Walmart and Safeway stores, or in our hospitals.

Our faculty at UW's school of pharmacy is also stretched very thin, and I want to ensure that we continue to have excellent faculty there. After all, they are responsible for providing Wyoming with the best and brightest in the way of pharmacy graduates.

This legislation is designed to encourage students to enter the pharmacy profession, both in individual practice and as university educators. We all know how expensive it is to get an education these days, and pharmacy students can face loans of up to \$90,000.

This bill will not only help students in Wyoming with the financial burdens associated with education, but help Wyoming obtain the qualified pharmacists it needs.

SAY NO TO INVOLUNTARY
SERVITUDE

HON. RON PAUL

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, the ultimate cost of war is almost always the loss of liberty. True defensive wars and revolutionary wars against tyrants may preserve or establish a free society, as did our war against the British. But these wars are rare. Most wars are unnecessary, dangerous and cause senseless suffering with little being gained. Loss of liberty and life on both sides has been the result of most of the conflicts throughout the ages. The current war, in which we find ourselves, clearly qualifies as one of those unnecessary and dangerous wars. To get the people to support ill-conceived wars the nation's leaders employ grand schemes of deception.

Woodrow Wilson orchestrated our entry into World War I by first promising in the election of 1916 to keep us out of the European conflict, then a few months later pressured and maneuvered the Congress into declaring war against Germany. Whether it was the Spanish-American War before that or all the wars since, U.S. presidents have deceived the people to gain popular support for ill-conceived military ventures. Wilson wanted the war and immediately demanded conscription to fight it. He didn't have the guts to even name the program a military draft and instead in a speech before Congress calling for war advised the army should be "chosen upon the principle of universal liability to service." Most Americans at the time of the declaration didn't believe actual combat troops would be sent. What a dramatic change from this early perception when the people endorsed the war to the carnage that followed and the later disillusionment with Wilson and his grand scheme for world government under the League of Nations. The American people rejected this gross new entanglement reflecting a somewhat healthier age than the one in which we find ourselves today.

But when it comes to war, the principle of deception lives on and the plan for "universal liability to serve" once again is raising its ugly head. The dollar cost of the current war is already staggering yet plans are being made to drastically expand the human cost by forcing conscription on the young men (and maybe women) who have no ax to grind with the Iraqi people and want no part of this fight.

Hundreds of Americans have already been killed and thousands more wounded and crippled while thousands of others will suffer from new and deadly war-related illnesses not yet identified.

We were told we had to support this preemptive war against Iraq because Saddam Hussein had weapons of mass destruction and to confront the al Qaeda. It was said our national security depended on it. But all these dangers were found not to exist in Iraq. It was implied that those who did not support this Iraqi invasion were un-American and unpatriotic.

Since the original reasons for the war never existed, it is now claimed that we're there to make Iraq a western-style democracy and to spread western values. And besides, it's argued, that it's nice that Saddam Hussein has been removed from power. But does the mere existence of evil somewhere in the world justify preemptive war at the expense of the American people? Utopian dreams, fulfilled by autocratic means, hardly qualifies as being morally justifiable.

These after-the-fact excuses for invasion and occupation of a sovereign nation directs attention away from the charge that this war was encouraged by the military industrial complex, war profiteering, control of natural resources (oil) and a neo-con agenda of American hegemony with a desire to redraw the borders of the countries of Middle East.

The inevitable failure of such a seriously flawed foreign policy cannot be contemplated by those who have put so much energy into this occupation. The current quagmire prompts calls from many for escalation with more troops being sent to Iraq. Many of our reservists and National Guardsmen cannot wait to get out and have no plans to re-enlist. The odds of our policy of foreign intervention, which has been with us for many decades, are not likely to soon change. The dilemma of how to win an unwinnable war is the issue begging for an answer.

To get more troops, the draft will likely be re-instituted. The implicit prohibition of "involuntary servitude" by the 13th Amendment to the Constitution has already been ignored many times so few will challenge the constitutionality of the coming draft.

Unpopular wars invite conscription. Volunteers disappear, as well they should. A truly defensive just war prompts popular support.

A conscripted, unhappy soldier is better off on the long run than the slaves of old since the "enslavement" is only temporary. But on the short run, the draft may well turn out to be more deadly and degrading as one is forced to commit life and limb to a less than worthy cause—like teaching democracy to unwilling and angry Arabs. Slaves were safer in that their owners had an economic interest in protecting their lives. Life endangerment for a soldier is acceptable policy and that's why they are needed. Too often though, our men and women who are exposed to the hostilities of war and welcomed initially are easily forgotten after the fighting ends.

It is said we go about the world waging war to promote peace and yet the price paid is rarely weighed against the failed efforts to make the world a better place. But justifying conscription to promote the cause of liberty is one of the most bizarre notions ever conceived by man. Forced servitude with risk of death and serious injury as a price to live free makes no sense. By what right does anyone have to sacrifice the lives of others for some cause of questionable value? Even if well motivated it cannot justify using force on uninterested persons.

It's said that the 18-year-old owes it to his country. Hogwash. It could just as easily be argued that a 50-year-old chicken-hawk who promotes war and places the danger on the innocent young, owe a heck of a lot more to the country than the 18-year-old being denied his liberty for a cause that has no justification.

All drafts are unfair. All 18- and 19-year-olds are never needed. By its very nature, a draft

must be discriminatory. All drafts hit the most vulnerable as the elitists learn quickly how to avoid the risks of combat.

The dollar cost of war and the economic hardship is great in all wars and cannot be minimized. War is never economically beneficial except for those in position to profit from war expenditures. But the great tragedy of war is the careless disregard for civil liberties of our own people. Abuse of German and Japanese Americans in World War I and World War II is well known.

But the real sacrifice comes with conscription—forcing a small number of young vulnerable citizens to fight the wars that old men and women, who seek glory in military victory without themselves being exposed to danger, promote. These are wars with neither purpose nor moral justification and too often are not even declared by the Congress.

Without conscription, unpopular wars are much more difficult to fight. Once the draft was undermined in the 1960s and early 1970s, the Vietnam War came to an end.

But most importantly—liberty cannot be preserved by tyranny. A free society must always resort to volunteers. Tyrants think nothing of forcing men to fight and die in wrongheaded wars; a true fight for survival and defense of one's homeland I'm sure would elicit, the assistance of every able-bodied man and woman. This is not the case for wars of mischief far away from home in which we so often have found ourselves in the past century.

One of the worst votes that an elected official could ever cast would be to institute a military draft to fight an illegal war, if that individual himself maneuvered to avoid military service. But avoiding the draft on principle qualifies oneself to work hard to avoid all unnecessary war and oppose the draft for all others.

A government that's willing to enslave a portion of its people to fight an unjust war can never be trusted to protect the liberties of its own citizens. The end can never justify the means no matter what the Neo-cons say.

BEST WISHES TO THOMAS J.
AIKEN

HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, November 21, 2003

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, today I wish to express warm thanks, congratulations, and best wishes to Thomas J. Aiken, upon his retirement as the Central California Area Manager of the Bureau of Reclamation (Bureau). Tom has done an outstanding job in a difficult position, and he deserves the appreciation of both his colleagues and the general public.

Born and raised in Colorado Springs, Colorado, Tom earned a Bachelor of Science degree in Business Administration from Colorado State University in 1964. At the same time, he was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the Army. He served dutifully as a Unit Commander for the Military Advisory Corps in Vietnam.

Following his military service, Tom began his three-decade career with the Bureau. In 1974, he joined the Mid-Pacific Region as the Administrative Officer for the Auburn Dam Construction Office. After the Auburn Dam