TRANSPORTATION EQUITY ACT: A LEGACY FOR USERS—Continued

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will say, though, I am usually in favor of what occurs by State action, but what this amendment does, it allows the State of New Jersey to limit large trucks and twin-trailer combinations trucks to the interstate system, in fact, the New Jersey Turnpike and the Atlantic City Expressway, except when making local deliveries. It is amazing when you need your donors you allow a twin-trailer truck to arrive at the door but nobody else.

In 1999, the New Jersey DOT actually allowed New Jersey to ban, that is DOT of New Jersey, large trucks from certain roads. However, that was challenged in court by the trucking industry; and if I am correct, just recently, last week of this year, the U.S. District Court from New Jersey ruled that the New Jersey truck highway access regulatory system discriminated against interstate commerce and violated the commerce clause of the U.S. Constitution.

This amendment would reverse that decision; and, again, I would suggest that New Jersey use all the recourse through the law. Because to take now a case that has been won by one side of the argument in the court and now us, as a Congress, to reverse that——

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, the purpose of the amendment, in fact, is to maintain current law and current policy, to make sure that this new law, should it take effect, would not change anything.

New Jersey will continue and has declared its intention of arguing this in court; and we, the State of New Jersey, expect to win in court. We just do not want to change the policy with this new legislation. So this was not to sidestep the courts but, rather, to keep the law the same.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will continue to yield, this would not preclude the truckers from continuing their suit or the State.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Reclaiming my time, they can continue their suit, but they are not the ones now that have to pursue the suit. They are the ones that won the case, and they can drive their trucks on interstate commerce because of the clause in the interstate commerce clause under the Constitution. What the gentleman is asking us to do in the Congress is to undo what the court has ruled.

I am not a lawyer. Thank God for that. We have got enough of those around here. But I am a little concerned that what we are doing here is really not fair to the persons that filed the suit is now being precluded from going forth. If my colleague wants to do that, have the court or New Jersey file an injunction against the court’s decision. Do not ask us to undo what a court has ruled.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, if the gentleman will continue to yield, this would not preclude the truckers from continuing their suit or the State.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, how much time remains on both sides?

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG) has 1½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT) has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR).
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, this language is not well-drafted. I must say to the gentleman. He has a very good purpose but very unclear and un- sure language; and as I read the language approved under unanimous consent, it makes the authority even broader.

It says trucks that are specifically allowed by Federal law to travel on the national network now can be dis-approved by New Jersey. We cannot have one rule for local trucks and a different rule for through trucks.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of the time, and I will address those points.

The amendment simply allows the States to have the authority that the Department of Transportation determined 5 years ago that they had under that existing transportation law. We just want to make sure that in the legislation we are considering today we do not change that. If it is determined that the violation of the Constitution, certainly they will be the governing decision, but if it is not determined, we do not want anything in this law to preclude those States' rights.

With that, I ask support for my amendment.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. HOLT).

The amendment, as modified, was rejected.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in House report 108-456.

Mr. HOLT. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 12 offered by Ms. WATERS:

SEC. 1819. LIMITATION ON PROJECTS AT LOS ANGELES INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT.

No funds may be provided for surface transportation projects that are planned or required to implement Alternative D of the Master Plan for Los Angeles International Airport or any other proposal to build a remote passenger check-in facility at LAX.

Mr. Chairman, this proposed project is made in response to the fly-to-play contracting schemes. The FBI and the DA are now investigating all of the alleged corruption.

Los Angeles International Airport, which is located in my congressional district, is already the third largest airport in the United States, with a capacity to serve 78 million air passengers every year. Alternative D is the latest of several proposals to make LAX even bigger, not safer.

Alternative D is a $9 billion scheme that would demolish homes, disrupt the communities of Manchester Square, Inglewood, Hawthorne, El Segundo and other communities near LAX in order to construct a remote passenger check-in facility at Manchester Square blocks away from the airport terminals.

There is a broad coalition that have already agreed that we need a regional response, that this area is landlocked, and it does not make good sense to try to expand LAX this way. The regional response to growth would be a good response. This is an ill-conceived project.

The highly respected Rand Corporation evaluated this project, and they concluded that it does not make good sense.

If we permit the funding of any projects that enable the implementation of Alternative D, the results will be a tremendous inconvenience for passengers, huge increases in traffic congestion, and massive disruptions of local communities surrounding LAX.

My amendment would ensure that no funds are provided for surface transportation projects that are planned or required to implement this destructive and unnecessary expansion project.

I urge my colleagues to support this amendment.

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

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR) who wishes to speak on the amendment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the Chair for yielding me the time, and I reluctantly oppose the amendment of the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS). I do not believe that this amendment is the point that is part of the debate, certainly not at this time, and, reluctantly, I oppose the gentlewoman's well-intentioned
amendment and well-expressed amendment.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I reserve my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

It is unfortunate that there seems to be some agreement between my friends on the opposite side of the aisle and my own caucus in opposing my project. It is very important to my district and all of the areas in the surrounding communities that has formed a coalition, and I simply a request to say let us not use any of this money for any selfish projects.

This has nothing to do with the building of the facility itself; and, unfortunately, since there has been an agreement, I know that it will be voted down, but I am not at all happy about it.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). The gentleman's time has expired.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from California (Ms. WATERS).

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 13 printed in House Report 108-486.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MR. LOBIONDO

Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 13 offered by Mr. LOBIONDO:

At the end of the matter proposed to be added by section 2003(b)(6) of the bill, strike the closing quotation marks and the final period and insert the following:

"(6) for promoting the enforcement of vehicle registration for the purpose of impounding a vehicle operated by a person who is arrested for operating the vehicle while under the influence of alcohol.""
the gentleman and the gentleman from Oregon for their presentations. As I
told the gentleman from New Jersey, I did support the concept of this amend-
ment.
I also agree with my ranking member
that, as we go through it, we will do it
the right way and do it correctly so we
can actually solve a serious problem.
His story is a very telling story.
So with that, I guess we will have a
voice vote; is that correct?
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, re-
claiming my time, yes, we are; and I
thank the chairman and the gentleman
from New Jersey for a very thoughtful
constructive matter that now has been
resolved in, I think, a very positive
way.
Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance
of my time.
Mr. LOBIONDO. Mr. Chairman, I
yield myself such time as I may con-
sume for a few closing remarks.
I would also like to thank the gentle-
man from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the
chairman of the committee. And to
the ranking member, the gentleman
from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), I
thank you, we have had extensive
discussions over this issue.
I want to also thank the gentleman
from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER), who
came to me when he first heard of my
story, and he told me about situations
that he had experienced and the work
he has done on this. And I think he is
absolutely correct, we have to find a
common ground in these areas where
we can avoid these senseless tragedies
for families like that of Ensign Elliott.
This is a commonsense measure that
can move us forward.
Mr. Chairman, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I
yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The
question is on the amendment offered
by the gentleman from New Jersey
(Mr. LOBIONDO).
The amendment was agreed to.
The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is
now in order to consider amendment
No. 14 printed in House Report 108-
456.
AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MR. WU
Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I offer an
amendment.
The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The
Clerk will designate the amendment.
The text of the amendment is as fol-
lows:
Amendment No. 14 offered by Mr. WU:
In the matter proposed to be inserted as
section 5309(e) of title 49, United States Code,
by section 303(d) of the bill insert the fol-
lowing:
Subsection (d) does not apply to projects
for which the Secretary has received an
application for final design.
The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is there
objection to the modification offered
by the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. WU)?
There was no objection.
The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant
to House Resolution 593, the gen-
tleman from Oregon (Mr. WU) and a
Member opposed will each control 5
minutes.
The Chair recognizes the gentleman
from Oregon (Mr. WU).
Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself
such time as I may consume.
Mr. Chairman, there are projects
that have undergone all aspects of FTA
New Starts review and have, in fact,
reached recommended ratings in the
FTA 2005 New Starts Report, and they
are simply awaiting approval to enter
final design. These projects have been
through financial review, environ-
mental review, and agreement to
approach; and have fulfilled all of the pre-
requisites for entering into final des-
design.
However, under our subject legisla-
tion, only projects with a full funding
or commitment agreement before
enactment of this bill are exempt from
the provisions for major projects
and small starts. This is a serious prob-
lem for smaller projects like a com-
muter rail project in my congressional
district, which are in final design or in
the process of having final design ap-
proved. I might add this also affects a
rail project in the San Diego metro-
politan area.
These projects will essentially have
to start all over again under the small
starts program. Furthermore, such
projects will have to await the promul-
gation of small starts rules before pro-
ceeding. This process will result in a
year-long delay for projects that are
near the end of an already lengthy Fed-
eral approval process.
In the case of the commuter rail
project in my congressional district,
this long delay will seriously endanger
State funding and agreed-to rail agree-
ment.
Mr. Chairman, my amendment will
exempt projects for which the Sec-
retary of Transportation has received
an application for final design from the
small starts provisions of the bill. This
fair and balanced amendment will
allow recommended or letter of credit
projects which have applied for final design to
move forward on their original time line and
avoid unnecessary delay.
This is expressly limited to subsec-
tion (d), small start projects only.
My amendment will only affect two
reconciled small transit and small starts
projects in the entire country, but it
will save unnecessary administrative
delay and also improve the commuting
lives of millions of citizens in Oregon
and in the San Diego metropolitan
area.
Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of
the amendment.
Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance
of my time.
Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chair-
man, I rise in opposition to the amend-
ment.
Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such
time as I may consume.
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, will
the gentleman yield?
Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the
gentleman from Minnesota.
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I
thank the gentleman for yielding. The
language of the amendment of the gen-
tleman from Oregon as originally
drawn was way beyond the scope of
what he intended, and we greatly ap-
preciate the cooperation of the major-
ity in giving the gentleman the oppor-
tunity to have unanimous consent to
correct the language to reflect exactly
what he wants to do, to limit this amend-
ment to small starts, which it does;
and I think that relieves the con-
cerns on both sides of the aisle.
Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my
time, we are going to support the amend-
ment as intended. However, there is a slight, as I think
the gentleman from Minnesota men-
tioned, drafting error, the section that
applies to both the current new starts
to the new small starts process. We
will take the amendment at this time
with the gentleman's understanding
we want to correct the language in con-
ference so that the exemption applies
only to the new small starts process.
Does the gentleman understand that?
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, will
the gentleman yield?
Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the
gentleman from Minnesota.
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I be-
lieve under the unanimous consent
agreement, the gentleman has already
made that correction in the language
pending.
Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Reclaiming
my time once again, Mr. Chairman, if
he has done that, I apologize. I was
talking to my staff and they did not
advise me of that. If that has already
been done, we do not have to worry
about that.
Mr. OBERSTAR. If the gentleman
will continue to yield, I would just add
that the principle remains.
Mr. WU. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself
such time as I may consume to assure
the chairman and ranking member
that as originally drafted it applied to
both subsection (d) and (e), major
starts and small starts. As redrafted in
the modified language, this amend-
ment applies only to subsection (d),
the small starts provision.
So I want to assure the chairman and
ranking member that it does only apply
to small starts, what would other-
wise be small starts.
Mr. Chairman, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.
Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment. The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 15 offered by Mr. LATOURETTE:

In section 3023(g), redesignate paragraphs (1) through (3), respectively, and insert before paragraph (4) the following:

(3) IN GENERAL.—Section 5323(j) is amended by striking paragraphs (1), (2), and (3) and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—Funds made available to carry out this chapter may only be used if—

(A) the steel or iron used shall be of United States origin;

(B) in the case of a system acquisition, the amendment requires that 60 percent of the cost of the components and subcomponents, in the aggregate, of all manufactured products shall be of United States origin; and

(ii) labor costs related to on-site construction shall not be included in calculating the costs under clause (ii);

(iii) labor costs related to installation and testing shall not be included in calculating the costs under clause (i);

(B) in the case of a system acquisition—

(i) more than 60 percent of the cost of the components and subcomponents, in the aggregate, of all manufactured products shall be of United States origin; and

(ii) labor costs related to installation and testing shall be included in calculating the costs under clause (ii); and

(C) in the case of a manufactured product—

(i) more than 60 percent of the components and subcomponents shall be of United States origin;

(ii) final assembly shall occur in the United States; and

(iii) labor costs related to final assembly shall not be included in calculating the costs under clause (i).

(2) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary shall issue regulations to carry out this section."

In section 3023(g) (as so redesignated), strike "is amended" and all that follows through "following:" and insert "is amended by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

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The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LATOURETTE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I am proud to offer this amendment with the gentleman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK). I offered a similar amendment in committee, and the chairman and the ranking member have been kind enough to work with us to incorporate this amendment into the manager's amendment today.

Mr. Chairman, as Members know, we have a manufacturing crisis in this country. We have lost an estimated 3 million manufacturing jobs. While many of us may hold different views on how that came about, I think we can all agree that the Federal Government should be part of the solution to this crisis.

The problem here is that there is too much confusion currently as to what a manufactured good is. The gentleman from Washington (Mr. BAIRD) had a sense of Congress on the floor a little earlier that addressed this issue. Today, Mr. BT. of A. total costs that a manufactured good must be made with components assembled in the United States. Subcomponents, however, do not have to be American made. This has caused a good deal of confusion.

This amendment makes it clear that the gentleman from Michigan and I are offering will correct the problem. The amendment is a modified version of H.R. 3622, the Protecting American Manufacturing Jobs Act, which was introduced by the gentlewoman from Michigan. We were able to work this out with input from the Federal Transit Administration so they can implement it.

Under this amendment, we clarify that 60 percent of the components and subcomponents in a manufactured product must be American made. For construction projects and system acquisition, the amendment requires that 60 percent of the total cost of components and subcomponents in manufactured products must be American made.

We also required that final assembly of any manufactured product that are not able to compete in the global marketplace. Our goal should be to ensure that we are not able to go to the lowest bidder, the taxpayer.

This amendment is a modified version of the amendment in committee, and the ranking member has caused a good deal of confusion.

The amendment would require that more than 60 percent of the components and subcomponents of manufactured products used for construction projects be of United States origin. Of course, this means that, instead of going to the lowest bidder, the taxpayer gets their bang for the buck, it could raise costs conceivably as much as 15 percent on a project with its components. That means that there is less money to build more roads with, to buy additional rail cars, to build infrastructure that we need and it means fewer people can become employed because we may be paying more money just to buy domestically. This would constitute a radical and in my judgment harmful expansion of the current law.

There is already in my judgment a very wrongheaded 50 percent ceiling on non-U.S. components. I have serious concerns about raising it another 10 percent. I think we ought to be going in the other direction, and I think that this amendment makes bad policy even worse.

We need to beware the law of unintended consequences. Domestic source restrictions such as this one may in fact well intends to only serve to increase the cost of our critical transportation projects by reducing competition available for Federal contracts and raising the cost to the taxpayers. These restrictions are often self-defeating as they lead to reprisals from overseas trading partners. We often lose much more business than we gain.

Restrictions such as those proposed here could possibly provide some immediate short-term benefits to some American companies, but in the long run, in my judgment, they hurt the overall economy. We cannot maintain our global leadership in manufacturing by artificially propping up industries that are not able to compete in the global marketplace.

Mr. Chairman, we are here today touting the job creation potential of this reauthorization bill, so I have to ask this question: Have we considered the counterproductive, anticompetitive consequences of restrictionist amendments like this one? How many jobs could be created with the dollars firms will have to spend to comply with these government-unique restrictions? Should we be promoting an environment where we have access to open world markets so that we can get the best deal on the best goods available, regardless of their location? The American taxpayer deserves nothing less. This again allows us to spend more money from this transportation bill on domestic or non-U.S. components, which means we can employ more people than these restrictions would otherwise give us.

I cannot overstate the potential harm that such economically isolationist restrictions, harm to our critical transportation infrastructure, because by paying more we end up being able to do less; harm to our Nation's
place in the global economy; and harm to our job creation agenda.

We have to remember a couple of things.

First of all, the details of the certification contained in this bill in my judgment means that if there is not availability of U.S. parts then we are going to need waivers. Waivers are going to have to be obtained. In these waivers, of course, it takes more time, which delays transportation projects.

Secondly, it could have the unintended consequences of allowing by these waivers more foreign products in the U.S. than you may get otherwise in some instances.

Thirdly, and most important, this can invite retaliation from foreign countries who, as we restrict the ability of their goods to get into markets, they retaliate against us. What does this mean? It could be retaliation against agricultural products, information technology, even other manufactured products. It is anti-competitive, and it is anti-jobs, in my opinion, as it is currently constructed. I rise in opposition.

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

MODIFICATION TO AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MR. LATOURETTE

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to modify the amendment with the text which I have placed at the desk. The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will report the modification. The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. LATOURETTE (during the reading). Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the modification be considered as read and printed in the RECORD.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, reserving the right to object, could I just ask what the purpose of the modification is?

Mr. LATOURETTE. If the gentleman will yield, the committee, both minority and majority, have asked me to use this amendment as a vehicle to make technical corrections in the bill.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. This makes a bad amendment better.

Mr. Chairman, I withdraw my reservation of objection.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Ohio?

There was no objection. The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Without objection, the modification is agreed to.

There was no objection.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. KILPATRICK), who, as I indicated in my other remarks, is the sponsor of the original legislation and the coauthor of this amendment.

Ms. KILPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, let me thank the gentleman from Ohio for his leadership in continuing the provision to buy America. We are in a downward trend in our country. Many manufacturing jobs have been lost. This Congress has always supported Buy America in earlier years and in times past. We hope they will come together today to support our amendment.

It is important that we make sure, and a previous speaker said that we may not get the best price. We believe that American workers will have the best price, will have the best manufactured goods and that in this $275 billion bill, much of it should be spent with American manufacturers.

I was just visited by a group of bus manufacturers in my office just last week. They were complaining about how much business they are losing and how many jobs they are losing. I think it is imperative that we adopt the LaTourette-Kilpatrick amendment.

Buy America keeps Americans working, keeps families together and additionally offers revenues for cities across America. I would hope that we would support the LaTourette-Kilpatrick amendment.

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Let me just say on this amendment, this may expand the Buy America for steel, but it shrinks Buy America in other areas, other manufactured areas, perhaps agriculture, perhaps information technology, because of this kind of action that basically invites retaliation from foreign countries.

America is the largest market in the world’s consumers. If we want to succeed from a manufacturing standpoint and economically around the world, we need to expand those markets. This goes in the opposite way. We ought to be reducing the Buy America requirements, reducing the certification process that does nothing but invite waivers which delays transportation projects; and we ought to put our transportation dollars into getting as much road money, as much money to buy our cars, to lay track and move America as we can. This raises the cost of doing that with this legislation. It is for that reason that I oppose this and urge opposition to this amendment.

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

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, it is my pleasure to yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), the distinguished ranking member of the committee.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding time and thank the gentleman and the gentlewoman for bringing this amendment forward.

In the 1960s, as the Chair of the Subcommittee on Investigations and Oversight, I held extensive hearings on the status of manufacturing in light rail, passenger vehicles and locomotives which we demonstrated the loss of tens of thousands of jobs in America to underbid products coming in from overseas. We shipped overseas tens of thousands of jobs in the light rail, passenger rail and bus sector of our economy.

Now it is coming back. Now we are recapitalizing those jobs. We now are putting in the next 6 years $50.5 billion into transit systems in America. We ought to have those jobs in America as well and reclaim the technology and the jobs that go with them for America. That is what this amendment will do.

Mr. LATOURETTE. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

I want to make this observation. The Federal Government in the procurement process has placed more emphasis in this Congress than the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. TOM DAVIS), the chairman of the Committee on Government Reform. The hearings that he has conducted have literally saved the country and the taxpayers billions of dollars.

This issue, however, while I appreciate every argument that he has made, it is time, not by being protectionist but it is time in the manufacturing sector that we take care of our own in the United States. It is not unreasonable to require that 60 percent, we are not asking for 100 percent, but 60 percent of these goods and projects be manufactured in the United States and there not be some shell game where they simply have to be assembled in the United States. You could have a machine with 150 parts and today’s requirement is they could all be made overseas as long as we had a shop that assembled them here in this country. It is wrong, and I ask for support of the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.
The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LA TOURETTE). The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 16 printed in House Report 108-456.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MR. CROWLEY. Mr. CROWLEY. I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 16 offered by Mr. CROWLEY: At the end of title III, add the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 4045. AIRPORT BUS REPLACEMENT AND FLEET EXPANSION PILOT PROGRAMS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Secretary shall establish a pilot program for awarding grants to public agencies on the basis of eligible entities for facilitating the use of natural gas buses at public airports through airport bus replacement and fleet expansion programs under this section.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—Not later than 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and publish in the Federal Register grant requirements on eligibility for assistance, and on management, transfer, and ultimate disposition of buses, including certification requirements to ensure compliance with this section.

(c) SOLICITATION.—Not later than 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall solicit proposals for grants under this section.

(d) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—A grant shall be awarded under this section only to a public agency responsible for bus service at a public airport.

(e) TYPES OF GRANTS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—Grants under this section may be for the purposes described in paragraph (2), paragraph (3), or both.

(2) REPLACEMENT BUS GRANTS.—A grant under this section may be used for the acquisition of replacement buses pursuant to subsection (f).

(3) FLEET EXPANSION BUS GRANTS.—A grant under this section may be used for the acquisition of new buses to expand a fleet of airport buses at any single airport.

(f) REPLACEMENT BUS GRANTS.—(1) REPLACEMENT.—For each bus acquired under a replacement bus grant, the older model year bus shall be retired from active service and crushed as provided in paragraph (2).

(2) REPLACEMENT BUS GRANTS.—(A) REPLACEMENT.—Buses acquired under a replacement bus grant shall be acquired in the following order:

(i) First, new buses will replace buses manufactured before model year 1997, and the older buses replaced shall be crushed.

(ii) If all buses manufactured before model year 1977 owned or operated by the grant recipient have been replaced, additional new buses will replace diesel-powered buses manufactured before model year 1991, which shall either be crushed or

(i) be exchanged by the grant recipient for buses manufactured before model year 1977 from another bus fleet, with that bus then being crushed; or

(ii) exchanged by the grant recipient for buses manufactured before model year 1977, and crushed as provided in paragraph (2).

(3) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The term ‘airport bus’ means a bus operated by a public agency to provide transportation between the facilities of a public airport.

(4) C ONDITIONS OF GRANT.—The Secretary shall provide recipients with funds provided under the grant shall be operated as part of the airport bus fleet for which the grant was made for a minimum of 5 years.

(5) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—The term ‘public agency’ means a bus operated by a public agency.

(g) CONDITIONS OF GRANT.—A grant provided under this section shall include the following conditions:

(1) All buses acquired with funds provided under the grant shall be operated under a grant made available under this section for a fiscal year.

(2) Funds provided under the grant may only be used—

(A) to pay the cost, except as provided in paragraph (3), of new natural gas airport buses, including State taxes and contract fees; and

(B) to provide—

(i) up to 10 percent of the price of the natural gas buses acquired for necessary natural gas infrastructure if the infrastructure will only be available to the grant recipient; and

(ii) up to 15 percent of the price of the natural gas buses acquired for necessary natural gas infrastructure if the infrastructure will be available to the grant recipient and to other bus operators.

(3) The grant recipient shall be required to provide—

(A) in the case of a replacement bus acquired as described in subsection (f)(1) to replace a bus manufactured before model year 1997, 10 percent of the total cost of the bus, but not more than $10,000;

(B) in the case of a replacement bus acquired as described in subsection (f)(2)(B)(ii) to replace a diesel-powered bus manufactured before model year 1991 for exchange for a bus manufactured before model year 1997, 10 percent of the total cost of the bus, but not more than $10,000; and

(C) in the case of a replacement bus acquired as described in subsection (f)(2)(B)(ii) to replace a diesel-powered bus manufactured before model year 1991, 25 percent of the total cost of the bus, but not more than $25,000.

(h) BUSES.—Funding under a grant made under this section may be used to acquire only new airport buses:

(1) with a gross vehicle weight of greater than 14,000 pounds;

(2) that are powered by a heavy duty engine;

(3) that emit not more than—

(A) for buses manufactured in model years 2001 and 2002, 2.5 grams per brake horsepower-hour of particulate matter; and

(B) for buses manufactured in model years 2003 through 2006, 1.8 grams per brake horsepower-hour of nonmethane hydrocarbons and oxides of nitrogen and .01 grams per brake horsepower-hour of particulate matter; and

(4) that are powered substantially by electricity, including electricity supplied by a fuel cell, or by liquefied natural gas, compressed natural gas, liquefied petroleum gas, hydrogen, propane, or methanol or ethanol at no less than 85 percent by volume.

(i) DEPLOYMENT AND DISTRIBUTION.—The Secretary shall seek to the maximum extent practicable to achieve nationwide deployment of natural gas airport buses through paragraphs under this section, and shall ensure a broad geographic distribution of grant awards, with a goal of no State receiving more than 10 percent of the grant funding made available under this section for a fiscal year.

(j) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the following definitions apply:

(1) AIRPORT BUS.—The term ‘airport bus’ means a bus operated by a public agency to provide transportation between the facilities of a public airport.

(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITIES.—The term ‘eligible entities’ means the owners and operators of public airports in the United States with the most passenger boardings in the prior calendar year.

(3) PUBLIC AIRPORT.—The term ‘public airport’ means an airport designated as a public airport as provided under section 4702 of title 49, United States Code.

(k) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary for carry out this section—

(1) $40,000,000 for fiscal year 2004;

(2) $50,000,000 for fiscal year 2005;

(3) $60,000,000 for fiscal year 2006;

(4) $70,000,000 for fiscal year 2007; and

(5) $80,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2008 and 2009.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. CROWLEY).

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

Let me state first my admiration for both the chair and the ranking member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the work that they have put into this bill before us today. I do not pretend to know all the difficulties that they have been through in trying to craft this legislation, not being a member of the committee, but having done a good bit of eavesdropping through the papers that have come to understand that this has not been an easy process for them. I do extend to them my congratulations on coming this far.

Mr. Chairman, I do have an amendment at the desk that I believe will enhance this bill and make it a better bill. So many of us who represent airports know the economic benefits airports bring to our communities, but we also, unfortunately, know the environmental damage that our airports cause to the surrounding communities. While everyone thinks it is the airplanes themselves which bring elevated levels of pollution and ill health effects to surrounding communities, studies have shown that the more pressing concern is the emissions of shuttle buses, private cars and taxis, tarmac equipment and other vehicles which elevate local pollution levels, causing complaints and health concerns for many of our constituents.

A study in 2002 showed the emission reduction performance of natural gas transit buses versus conventional diesel counterparts, that the natural gas buses had a 53 percent lower oxides of nitrogen, 85 percent lower total particulate matter, and 88 percent lower carbon monoxide emissions. In fact, right here in Washington, D.C., officials developed a plan in 2001 to convert much of the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority bus fleet from diesel to clean natural gas.

My amendment will create a pilot program that facilitates the use of natural gas buses at our Nation’s top 25 airports.
busiest airports, New York’s three air-
ports, Chicago O’Hare, Los Angeles, At-
tlanta, Miami and others that handle
millions of passengers, employees and
visitors a day.

My amendment would entail buses not
taking passengers connecting to termi-

nals or buses taking passengers from the airport to the
city bus system, and would allow for the use of
bus lines connecting public airports and
trains.

My amendment makes sure that the
priority is given to those public air-
ports running the oldest buses. We have
to get these old polluting buses out of
service and ensure we can start to
reduce air pollution. As most of us
know, natural gas buses are not some-
thing new. This amendment will help
clean up the air around America’s busi-
est airports by improving health and
quality of life at the same time.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment is sup-
ported by the Natural Gas Vehicle Coali-
tion, and I encourage all my col-
leagues to support this amendment.

I yield myself such time as I may
consume.

Although it is well merited, the Fed-
eral Public Transportation program
does not provide programs for airport-
based services. In addition, we un-
derstand this amendment, according to
our figures, adds $300 million to the
cost of the bill, and that concerns me
a great deal.

And, lastly, may I suggest respect-
fully, as important as natural gas is,
we have some real problems getting
natural gas to the United States, and
we had better start looking at that
problem very quickly; and under the
energy bill we can do that. We have not
passed the energy bill, but it is cru-
ically important for this Nation to
have a new supply of natural gas.

Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman
yield?

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. I yield to the
gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I
thank the chairman for yielding.
I too support the spirit of the gentle-
man’s amendment, but not the lan-
guage and not the approach and cer-
tainly not the additional cost with
offsets. I do want to point out that
under FAA’s Airport Improvement Pro-
gram and with the use of passenger fa-
cility charges, airports can accomplish
this purpose. In fact, provided that the
tax in the FAA reauthorization bill.

We have addressed this matter already in the appropriate con-
text in the FAA reauthorization bill. So there is a way of accomplishing it.

Under Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement, funds are ap-
tioned to the States to improve their
air quality in nonattainment areas. The pilot program, unfortunately, does
not address nonattainment areas with-
in States. So just as we opposed taking
FAA money off airports, we are in the
position of taking CMAQ money and
putting it into airports. So the purpose of the gentleman is at cross
purposes with public policy already in place, and
reluctantly we must oppose the amend-
ment. But we will work with the gen-
tleman and find a way that we can
accomplish this purpose.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chair-
man, I yield back the balance of my
time.

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Chairman, I
yield myself such time as I may con-
sume.

I appreciate the comments of both
gentlemen whom I respect very much
on those issues. I would say that it is
not an attempt on my part to take
from Peter to pay Paul or vice versa. I
was really trying to find a solution to
the problem of congested airports and
the pollution that they emit to sur-
rrounding communities. And I look for-
tward to working with the gentleman
from Minnesota (Mr. OBERSTAR), rank-
ing member, in the future to further
address this issue.

Mr. Chairman, I yield back the bal-
ance of my time.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The
question is on the amendment offered
by the gentleman from New York.

The amendment was rejected.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. It is
now in order to consider amendment
No. 17 printed in House Report No. 108-
456.

Amendment No. 17 offered by Mr. BACHUS.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I
offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The
Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as fol-
loows:

Amendment No. 17 offered by Mr. BACHUS:
After section 4131, insert the following (and
redeesignate the subsequent section of sub-
title A of title IV, and conform the table of
contents, accordingly):

SEC. 4132. HOURS OF SERVICE RULES FOR OP-
ERATORS PROVIDING TRANSPOR-
TATION TO MOVIE PRODUCTION
SITES.

Notwithstanding sections 31136 and 31502 of
title 49, United States Code, and any other
provision of law, no person shall, in any daily hours of service for an operator of a commercial
motor vehicle providing transportation of
property or passengers to or from a thea-
treal or television motion picture production
site located within a 100 air mile radius of the
work reporting location of such operator
shall be those in effect under the regulations in
effect under such sections on April 27,
2003.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursu-
ant to House Resolution 593, the gen-
tleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS)
and a Member opposed each will con-

5 minutes.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursu-
and the U.S. motion pic-
ture industry makes movies
that are seen around the world. But,
unfortunately, foreign countries are of-
f ering tax incentives to attract that
production overseas, and I think most
of us have seen movies lately that were
not good, but filmed in Canada or Mexi-
co.

This amendment would help stop
that, and it simply will allow the mo-
tion picture industry, the TV industry,
to operate under the current Hours of
Service regulations. Not only the mo-
tion picture industry and the TV indus-
try which asked me to bring this
amendment, but the Teamsters Union
have endorsed this amendment. It will
simply allow those drivers who drive
to the location for an hour or 2
hours, then have 9 hours of rest and then
have 2 hours in the evening to
continue those hours of service. They
have an excellent and exemplary safety
record.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I rise
in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The
gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. OBER-
STAR) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I
yield myself 2 minutes.

Mr. Chairman, I rise not only in op-
position to this amendment, but to the
many assaults upon the Federal Motor
Carrier Safety Administration’s hours of
service rule announced just recently.

But this one in particular, the FMCSA
revised the hours of service pursuant to
legislation that we enacted that moved
out of our committee, through this
body, through conference, signed into
law. It has taken years for them to get
this rulemaking after many hours of
discussion, debate, publishing in the
Federal Register; and now people
who are unhappy with the outcome are
coming to the Congress to overturn a
rulemaking. They have another proce-
dure to do that. We should not by law
go in and just be a congressional
wrecking crew for safety.

Major change in the rules was to
lengthen the required rest time after a
long day on duty from 8 hours to 10
hours. An 8-hour rest is not enough.
The commercial drivers get home from
their job, maybe get a shower, have
breakfast, lunch, then have 2 hours. We
should not do that. We should simply allow those drivers who drive
to the location for an hour or 2
hours, then have 9 hours of rest and then
have 2 hours in the evening to
continue those hours of service. They
have an excellent and exemplary safety
record.
family, have dinner or lunch or whatever his shift allows, and then get that 7 to 8 hours of sleep. I have heard this said many times, including the President of the Motion Picture Association say they start at seven o'clock and may not return until eight or nine o'clock at night, and they are not doing anything all this time. I say those who only stand and wait also serve.

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

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mrs. TAUSCHER).

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, I rise in strong support of the Bachus-Tauscher amendment to clarify the hours of service rule for drivers in the motion picture and television industry.

This industry is vital to California and the Nation, and these new rules inadvertently impact their business model and encourage offshore production. The Teamsters strongly support this amendment because it will save jobs for their members who contribute so much to our economy. I have tremendous respect for the ranking member of the committee and chairman of the committee, but the facts are that the rulemaking is about long-haul drivers, drivers who are driving away from the rule-making in recent hours of service regulations, which are not the situation here. This industry and the Teamsters have an unblemished record. They have a tremendous safety record. They are not driving for long hours. They are actually driving for less than 100 miles, waiting until the production is done, and then driving back.

We are all for safety, but we also want to keep jobs in this country. This is vital to California. I urge my colleagues to support the Bachus-Tauscher amendment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), who is one of 38 Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure members who have signed a letter in support of this amendment.

Mr. COBLE. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

Mr. Chairman, this is a good amendment. Outside of industry centers such as New York and California, North Carolina, my State, leads the country in attracting film and television production to our State. This hours of service amendment would allow the motion picture industry to operate under the old hours of service rules under which they have an excellent safety record, but this will also afford them to keep production costs down.

It is imperative, Mr. Chairman, that my State and other States be able to compete for this business. Too much of it is lost to Canada and other countries. As my friend from Alabama just said and gentlewoman from California mentioned, it is a good amendment. The Teamsters support this amendment. I support this amendment. I urge my colleagues to do likewise.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FOLEY) in support of this amendment.

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Chairman, I appreciate what the ranking member and the chairman are trying to do relative to truck safety, but this is a very unique issue. As chairman of the House Entertainment Task Force, we have been working consistently to try to keep jobs in America. We are talking about jobs not only about movie stars, but for the grips, the caterers, the production folks. This is a totally different issue.

The truck arrives on the set of a production in the morning, having driven maybe 50, 75 miles, and remains on the set for the remainder of the day before it moves back to its location. This is not long-haul shipping.

Mr. Chairman, we have had enough runaway productions leaving to Canada and other locales. This is one more impediment to keeping film production in the United States. It is a jobs opportunity provision. The gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS), the gentlewoman from California (Ms. TAUSCHER), and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. COBLE), I appreciate their sentiments on this. So, please, as we get ready to vote for this amendment, this is not contrary nor trying to be argumentative with our great chairman and ranking member on safety. We all join in the safety of our streets and highways. But we have to be very careful and make this unique distinction to protect jobs.

Mr. BACHUS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Chairman, I would like to include in the record a letter from the Teamsters in support of this amendment, and these are the very drivers that are driving these trucks. And as the gentleman from Florida said, these drivers drive and our amendment limits them to 100 miles. They drive out in the morning. They drive back at night, and that is their responsibility, and they do have 9 hours of rest. This does not include overnight. They go with the film crews. They go with the actresses. They go with the actors. They go with the camera people. And they are all out from sunup to sundown. And the Teamsters, if the Members look at the letter that I am introducing, they will tell them that they are afraid they will either lose their job because they will lose their clients out of country or they will turn these jobs into 2- or 3-hour part-time jobs and hire two crews. And instead of having a good-paying job, they will have no job.

On behalf of the Studio Transportation Drivers, Local 399, I wish to express our support for a proposal to permit commercial drivers to continue to comply with current HOS regulations concerning daily, on-duty time when operating to and from a motion picture or television production site located within a 100 air-mile radius of their work reporting location.

Existing HOS duty-time regulations are better suited to the unique schedules of studio transportation drivers than the new regulations that will take effect January 4, 2004. Drivers assigned to productions drive only a few hours each day; these are short haul assignments. These drivers have had an excellent safety record, and their schedules meet the current HOS limitation. To comply with the new regulations, the industry will not be able to use the same drivers for an entire production day. Thus, each driver will receive significantly less compensation than under the current system. Given our excellent safety record, and that new HOS regulations largely were designed to address the fatigue of long-haul drivers, the new hours of service regulations require our drivers to increase operating costs without a corresponding safety benefit.

I hope that you will support retaining current hours of service regulations for studio transportation drivers.

Sincerely,

LEO T. REED,
Secretary-Treasurer/Principal Officer.

Hon. JOHN W. OLVER, Chairman, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and Independent Agencies, Washington, D.C.

GENTLEMEN: I understand that your committee is considering amendments that would provide relief to certain industries from aspects of the new hours of service (HOS) regulations published by the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration. On behalf of the Studio Transportation Drivers of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters, Local 399, I wish to express our support for a proposal to permit commercial drivers to continue to comply with current HOS regulations concerning daily, on-duty time when operating to and from a motion picture or television production site located within a 100 air-mile radius of their work reporting location.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. LIPINSKI).

Mr. LIPINSKI. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time.

There are at least three other, and perhaps four other, industries in this country that have come to me asking for an exemption from this hours of service rule, and we have looked at it very closely, and we feel very strongly that these exemptions should not be granted.

I am a long-time supporter of the Teamsters. I do not think there is an issue that has come before this House that I have not been on their side, but there are circumstances that we have to protect people from themselves. Consequently, I have to strongly oppose this amendment.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 1 minute.

I thank the gentleman for his statement.

If I may have the attention of the gentleman from Alabama, he has twice
Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, under the language provided in this amendment, a driver could start work at 8 o’clock in the morning, work until midnight with 2 hours off during the day, and be expected back at work at 8 o’clock the following morning. I do not think it is right to put drivers on the road with so little rest, so much fatigue and so great potential for fatalities.

Now, the industry argues, well, we have not had any fatalities. But I have been involved in this fatigue issue in aviation, railroading, maritime and over-the-road truck driving for 25 years, and I know that the next fatality is just around the corner from the next weakening of safety regulations.

It is inappropriate to make the change in the way in which it is proposed here. This is not the right venue, it is not the right approach, it will endanger worker safety, and we ought to oppose this amendment.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Bachus amendment. I understand the effects that the new hours of service rule is having on the trucking industry and I also understand the unique operation of the motion picture drivers.

There are a number of groups who are seeking a modification to the hours of service rule and its for a simple reason—one size doesn’t fit all.

The modifications sought by individual groups are understandable and I do support the members’ efforts. Mr. BACHUS, I also want to mention that I am also a strong supporter of taking a broader approach to assist all drivers, including short-haul operators in dealing with the new rule.

Options such as providing another 16-hour day to the short-haul drivers and providing all drivers with a defined two-hour rest period are viable options. I plan to continue working on this issue because there are several matters that deserve consideration.

Again, I support the Bereuter amendment and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington). All time has expired.

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS).

The question was taken, and the Chairman pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it. Mr. OBERSTAR, Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote, and pending that, I make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. BACHUS) will be postponed.

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

It is now in order to consider Amendment No. 18 printed in House Report number 108-456.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MR. BEREUTER

Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment. The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 18 offered by Mr. BEREUTER:

At the end of title IV, add the following (and conform the table of contents accordingly):

SEC. 4133. OPERATORS OF VEHICLES TRANSPORTING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND FARM SUPPLIES.

(a) AGRICULTURAL EXEMPTION.—Sec. 345(a)(1) of the National Highway System Designation Act of 1995 (49 U.S.C. 31136 note; 109 Stat. 613) is amended to read as follows:

(1) TRANSPORTING AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES AND FARM SUPPLIES.—Regulations prescribed by the Secretary under sections 31136 and 31502 of title 49, United States Code, regarding maximum driving and on-duty time for drivers used by motor carriers shall not apply to drivers transporting agricultural commodities or farm supplies for agricultural purposes in a State if such transportation is limited to an area within a 100 air mile radius from the source of the commodities or the distribution point for the farm supplies.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—Section 345(e) of such Act (49 U.S.C. 31136 note; 109 Stat. 614) is amended by adding at the end the following:

(7) AGRICULTURAL COMMODITY.—The term ‘agricultural commodity’ means products and harvest all must be done

It is a matter of great importance to the transporters of agriculture commodities and supplies as well as consumers. However, this amendment narrows the definition of commodities and farm supplies, and I think it is appropriate.

The business of farming is driven largely by the weather and the significant demands of spring planting and fall harvest, and farmer’s yields and the qualities of their crops depend, to a major extent, on timing. Planting, fertilizing, application of crop protection products and harvest all must be done at the right time, fitted in and around the ups and downs of weather.

During the 1995 National Highway System Designation Act, this Member’s initiative led to regulations creating a more restricted definition of agriculture commodities and farm supplies. It is for this reason that I offer the amendment today. The legislation is supported by 40 cosponsors on a bipartisan basis. The chairman and the ranking members of the committee have received letters from about 35 organizations supporting the amendment.

I ask for its approval.

Mr. BEREUTER, Mr. Chairman, will the gentleman yield?

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent that the amendment be modified in the form at the desk.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will report the modification.
of current law and is not an expansion thereof.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, that is correct.

Mr. OBERSTAR. With that understanding, we can accept the amendment on this side.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, reclaiming my time, I thank the gentleman very much.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as he may consume to the cosponsor of the legislation, the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Mr. STENHOLM).

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Chairman, I thank my friend from Nebraska for yielding me time. I also thank the ranking member for his acceptance of this amendment and also the chairman of the committee.

Mr. Chairman, this is a very important amendment for agriculture, the agriculture exemption for truck drivers. Without this exemption, drivers employed by agriculture retailers and farmers during the busy planting and growing season would have to comply with the same stringent rules that apply to long-haul drivers.

U.S. agriculture depends heavily on this limited relief. We have a great opportunity with this amendment to develop a uniform set of regulations that haulers of agriculture commodities will use.

Mr. BEREUTER. Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the distinguished chairman of the committee.

Mr. YOUNG of Alaska. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me time and especially thank the gentleman for his perseverance and the work he has done, as well as the ranking member for accepting the amendment to the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I think what I have said before is it is a way to have a little logic in this body. I do compliment the gentleman for bringing this amendment to the floor.

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

Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for his support and appreciate the assistance of the staff on both sides of the aisle as we moved in this direction.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. Chairman, I rise in support of the Bereuter amendment. I understand the efforts that the new hours of service rule is having on the trucking industry and I also understand the unique operation of the drivers of agriculture commodities.

There are a number of groups who are seeking a modification to the hours of service rule and it is for a simple reason—one size doesn’t fit all.

The modifications sought by individual groups are understandable and I do support the agriculture modification. However, I also want to mention that I am also a strong supporter of taking a broader approach to assist all drivers, including short-haul operators, in dealing with the new rule.

Options such as providing another 16-hour day to the short-haul drivers and providing all drivers with a defined 2-hour rest period are viable options. I plan to continue working on this issue because there are several matters that deserve consideration.

Again, I support the Bereuter amendment and I thank the gentleman for yielding.

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

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment, as modified, offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. BEREUTER).

The amendment, as modified, was agreed to.
The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) during the vote. Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

Msrs. STRICKLAND, HASTINGS of Florida, SPRATT, HOYER, ACKERMAN, and Ms. KILPATRICK, Mrs. BROWN-WAITE of Florida, and Mrs. J. O. ANN DAVIS of Virginia changed their vote from “aye” to “no.”

Msrs. SIMPSON, ROHRABACHER, HAYWORTH, COLLINS, and EVERETT changed their vote from “no” to “aye.” So the amendment was rejected.

The vote was announced as above recorded.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. HASTINGS of Washington) during the vote. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVLIII, the remaining votes of this series will be conducted as 5-minute votes.

Msrs. JACKSON-LEE of Texas, and Mrs. JACKSON-LEE of Texas offered by the gentlewoman from Texas pending business is the demand for a recorded vote on the amendment.

The recording vote on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. CHOCOLA) to which further proceedings were postponed on which the noes prevailed by voice vote. The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Ms. MAJETTE of Maryland) during the vote. Members are advised there are 2 minutes remaining in this vote.

Msrs. DOGGETT, SHADEGG, OTTER, and FRSTOCH changed their vote from “no” to “aye.” So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
Ms. DeGETTE changed her vote from "aye" to "no." Messrs. SMITH of Texas, OTTER, MCMINNIS and FORBES changed their vote from "no" to "aye."

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

**ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE CHAIRMAN PRO TEMPORE**

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

**RECORDED VOTE**

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. A recorded vote has been demanded. A recorded vote was ordered.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—aye 365, noes 62, not voting 6, as follows.
Mr. GEPHART. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Science have until Wednesday, April 14, 2004, at 5 p.m. to file legislative reports on H.R. 3970 and H.R. 4030.

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Science have until Wednesday, April 14, 2004, at 5 p.m. to file legislative reports on the following measures: H.R. 3970, Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2004; and H.R. 4030, Congressional Medal for Outstanding Contributions in Math and Science Education Act of 2004.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 898

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.

Mr. RENZI. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.

The reason people in New Hampshire support this amendment, Mr. Chairman, is that our trucks are riding on roads where there is no weight limit up to 99,000 pounds, presenting significant public safety issues, going by schools and other places where we need to get these trucks on our highways where they are safer and where they are designed to be operated.

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

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The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I remove as a cosponsor of H.R. 898.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) and a Member opposed each control 5 minutes.
DOT says that 80,000-pound six-axle trucks pay only 90 percent of their infrastructure damage through fuel taxes. Six-axle trucks operating 100,000 pounds pay only 40 percent of their costs.

These trucks have a huge adverse impact on our highways and bridges, especially our bridge infrastructure. I will return to that subject later.

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

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume to respond that perhaps my esteemed colleague is not aware of the fact that New Hampshire requested this exact type of study to be done in the last transportation authorization on Route 95, which is the north-south route that goes all through New England. When a study was done by the Maine Department of Transportation, while it has not been published, all indicators are that there have been no safety impacts and negligible costs to the infrastructure from raising the weight limits from 80,000 pounds gross vehicle weight to 99,000 pounds, exactly what we are asking for Route 93 and Route 89.

So, Mr. Chairman, the money has already been appropriated in the last transportation appropriations bill. There is no impact on the budget. We will not permanently raise the weight limit in the absence of this study. We are asking for the authorization to go ahead with the weight limit increase while the study is being performed.

And as I said, all of the public safety officials in my State are supportive of this weight limit increase. Because currently, right now, we have large trucks avoiding the weight limitation station and driving through two of the most populous communities in the State, where there are schools and where there are many kids on bicycles. We need to get these trucks on the highway.

As I said, the study that was done on Route 16 will show negligible safety or infrastructure effect.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. BRADLEY. It is a matter referred to a study, but he is referring only to preliminary results. The study results are not final. The study results are not final.

Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern).

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman for yielding me this time, and with all due respect to my colleague from New Hampshire, I rise in opposition to this amendment.

This amendment is about opening the interstates in New Hampshire to bigger trucks, not only in New Hampshire but in other parts of the country as well.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume, and in closing I would ask the consideration of the body for this request.

This applies only to the State of New Hampshire. All of the public safety officials in my State are supportive of this change. It is designed to protect the lives of people in the communities where there are, as I have mentioned before, schools, traffic, downtown crossings.

I would ask the consideration of the Congress for this sensible change. There is no impact on the budget, as the money for this study was appropriated in the last transportation authorization bill.

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

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield 30 seconds to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. McGovern).

Mr. McGovern. Mr. Chairman, I would say to my colleague from New Hampshire that the difference between Massachusetts and New Hampshire is that the trucks that he is referring to operate on toll roads, and the taxpayers of Massachusetts are paying for the damage that is done by these heavier trucks on these roads, not the taxpayers across the country. That is a major difference.

I oppose this amendment for all the reasons that I stated, and I would simply remind my colleagues that this bill that we have before us today is underfunded. It does not meet all of what DOT says we need to have to be able to maintain the status quo in terms of maintaining our transportation infrastructure.

This, in my opinion, opens the door to bigger trucks, not only in New Hampshire but in other parts of the country as well.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, Route 93 in New Hampshire is indeed a toll road, and we are asking for the same consideration that Massachusetts currently enjoys, which is 99,000 gross vehicle weight limit. And what is good for Massachusetts clearly should be good for New Hampshire.

Mr. CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Time of the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) has expired.

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.
It simply comes down to this: heavier trucks are more dangerous. They are more costly to the Nation's highways. As truck weights increase, fatal accident rates go up, according to the University of Michigan's transportation research. Heavier tractor-trailers raise the center of gravity of the vehicle and its load, increasing rollovers. Heavier vehicles mean increasing speed differentials with other traffic. Increasing truck weights result in greater brake mainline problems. Brake failure out of adjustment, trucks take longer to stop. It is just that simple.

I have studied this issue for many years. Heavier trucks are worse on the roadway, worse still on bridges, and are involved in a highly disproportionate greater number of accidents. Vote "no" on the amendment.

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

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY).

The question was taken; and the Chairman pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BRADLEY of New Hampshire. Mr. Chairman, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Hampshire (Mr. BRADLEY) will be postponed.

It is now in order to consider amendment No. 21 printed in House Report 108-456.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MR. KIRK

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, I offer an amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Amendment No. 21 offered by Mr. KIRK:

Insert the following at the appropriate place:

SEC. -- STATE AUTHORITY.

Section 20153 of title 49, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(k) STATE AUTHORITY.--

"(1) In general.—Upon application of the Governor of a State, a State may assume responsibility for determining the circumstances under which to require the sounding of a locomotive horn when a train enters upon public highway.

"(2) Review.—The Secretary shall review any program established by a State pursuant to paragraph (1) every 5 years, and if the Secretary determines that the State program inadequately protects rail, vehicular, and pedestrian safety, the Secretary shall, after providing the State with 24 months notice of such determination, implement regulations issued by the Secretary under this section in lieu of such State program.

"The CHAIRMAN pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 593, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK).

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

Mr. Chairman, in 1994, Congress passed an unfunded mandate on most local communities in America that maintain quiet zones in their communities. When the regulations were first drafted, they would require trains entering the City of Chicago to blow their horn trains horns on entering the city until arriving into the station. This upset the Mayor of Chicago. It upset the Mayor of Chicago.

One university study showed that the original train whistle regulation would trigger so much noise pollution in our communities that it caused property losses to rise by $3 million in Chicago land alone. A redraft of this regulation offered some help, but at first glance the cost of implementing this regulation for Chicago communities rose from $4 million to at least twice that.

My amendment would not change Federal safety standards, but it would allow a State to implement this regulation.

Half of all quiet zones are in Illinois. This is an important issue to my constituents, to the Speaker's and to Ranking Minority Member LIPINSKI's.

Mr. Chairman, I had intended to offer this amendment today that would give governors the option of enforcing train quiet zone standards at this level. However, I will ask unanimous consent to withdraw my amendment but would ask that the Liaison Committee to engage me in a colloquy on this.

Mr. PETRI. If the gentleman will yield, I would be very happy to do so.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, many of our communities have quiet zones to protect their environment from needlessly polluted by trains. The Federal Government is poised to put forward a regulation that eliminates our local community quiet zones unless new, expensive, and very complicated rules are met. Mr. Chairman, I hope we can work together to address this issue in conference so that local communities are not overburdened with unfunded Federal mandates and cumbersome Federal regulations.

Mr. PETRI. That is something that we are eager to work with the gentleman on. This is important not only in Illinois, it is important in Wisconsin, in Minnesota, and in a number of other States.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LIPINSKI. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I want to say I compliment my colleagues from Illinois for putting this amendment forward. It certainly is an issue that has been uppermost in my mind and in Speaker HASTERT's mind for a long period of time.

In speaking to him about this particular amendment, we came to the conclusion that it would be more prudent and wiser to work this out as we move into the conference. I am sure, based upon many conversations I have had, that we will be able to work this out satisfactorily. I simply want to get this amendment on the record.

I thank the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. PETRI) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. KIRK) for the colloquy that they just had.

Mr. KIRK. Mr. Chairman, I renew my unanimous-consent request to withdraw the amendment.

The CHAIRMAN pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Without objection, the amendment is withdrawn.

There was no objection.

Mr. PETRI. Mr. Chairman, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PETRI) having assumed the chair, Mr. SIMPSON, Chairman pro tempore of the Committee of the Whole, and Mr. KIRK, Chairman of the Committee of the Whole on the State of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 3550) to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

COMMUNICATION FROM LAW REVISION COUNSEL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from John R. Miller, Law Revision Counsel, House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,


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

Dear Mr. Speaker: Last October, I completed 28 years of service with the Office of Law Revision Counsel, House of Representatives. During that time, I have had the pleasure of serving as Assistant Counsel, Deputy Counsel, and for the past seven years Law Revision Counsel. After almost 33 years of service to the Federal Government, it has been very difficult to make this decision and select a particular date, but with your approval, I will retire as Law Revision Counsel, effective May 3, 2004.

Over the past seven years, the Office has become self-reliant and greatly improved the processes for preparing the Code. The United States Code is the Code. The new procedures and computer programs that have been developed and implemented in the past few years will enable the Office to improve while maintaining the accuracy of the Code, and eventually will increase the timeliness in which the Code becomes available. While challenges remain, the Office in our rapidly changing environment, I am confident that the knowledge, experience, and
professionalism of the staff will enable the
Office to continue its successes and progress.
Over this period, the Office also has pre-
pared and submitted to the Committee on the
Judiciary bill to enact two titles of the Code into positive law. In addition, a bill to
enact a third title should be submitted to the
Committee shortly. Also, nearing com-
pletion is the effort to complete the enactment of
Title 46, Shipping.
None of this could have been accomplished
without the support and expertise of the
dedicated staff of the Office. I am deeply
grateful for their assistance and wish them
every success. Finally, I gratefully acknowl-
edge the assistance and support that I, and
the Office, have received from the Honory
House Officers and Offices, especially the
Speaker, the Chairman of the Committee on the
Judiciary, the Parliamentarian, and the
fine staffs of those Offices and the Com-
mittee.
Respectfully yours,
JOHN R. MILLER,
Law Revision Counsel.

APPOINTMENT OF LAW REVISION
COUNSEL, HOUSE OF REP-
RESENTATIVES

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SIMPSON). Pursuant to 2 U.S. C. 285c,
and the order of the House of December 8, 2003, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of Mr. Peter Lefere as Law Revision Counsel for the House of Representatives, effective May 4, 2004.

COMMUNICATION FROM STAFF
MEMBER OF HON. TOM LATHAM,
MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid be-
fore the House the following communica-
tion from JAMES D. CARSTENSEN,
Communications Director for the Hon-
rable TOM LATHAM, Member of Con-
gress:
Hon. J. DENNIS HASTERT,
Speaker, House of Representatives, Washington,
DC.

Dear Mr. Speaker: This is to formally no-
tify you, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I have been served with a criminal trial subpoena for testimony issued by the District of Columbia Superior Court.

After consulting with the Office of General
Counsel, I have determined that compliance
with the subpoena is consistent with the
privileges and rights of the House.

Sincerely,
JAMES D. CARSTENSEN,
Communications Director.

QUESTIONS TO ADMINISTRATION
IN WAKE OF LATEST IRAQI
ATROCITIES

(Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas asked
and was given permission to address
the House for 1 minute and to revise
and extend her remarks.)

Ms. JACKSON-LEE of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe any of us who believe in a civilized world and the re-
spect for human life, respect for the
rule of law, and just an outright com-
mitment, appreciation and connection
to our fellow Americans could imagine the heinousness of the act yesterday in
Iraq that took the lives of five of our
soldiers and four civilians. We now
have lost more young men and women
in the United States military in post-
war Iraq than we did during the dec-
laration or the call for war by this admin-
istration.

My company goes out to those fami-
lies who mourn, those who mourn for
their loved ones that died before yes-
terday and, of course, the heinous act
of yesterday.

It is time now for the Bush adminis-
tration to tell the American people the
truth. How long and what efforts will
they take to stop this reckless violence
against both our troops and as well ci-
vilians, to begin to put together a col-
laborative effort, Mr. Speaker, so that
this kind of violence is stopped and
that our work is unanimous with our
allies and that we can truly provide for
democracy in Iraq.

MAKING IN ORDER AT ANY TIME
CONSIDERATION OF CON-
FERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 3108,
PENSION FUNDING EQUITY ACT
OF 2004

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask
unanimous consent that it be in order at
any time to consider a conference report
accompanying the bill (H.R. 3108) to
amend the Employee Retirement In-
come Security Act of 1974 and the In-
ternal Revenue Code of 1986 to tempo-
arily replace the 30-year Treasury rate
with a rate based on long-term cor-
porate bonds for certain pension plan
funding requirements, and for other
purposes, that the conference report be
considered as read, and that all points
of order against the conference report
and against its consideration be
waived.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there
objection to the request of the gent-
leman from Tennessee?

There was no objection.

SPECIAL ORDERS

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

OHIO COMPANIES CLOSE DOORS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under
a previous order of the House, the gen-
tleman from Ohio (Mr. Brown) is rec-
ognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker,
Secretary John Snow, the President’s
second top economic adviser, was in
Ohio this week trying to defend the admin-
istration's economic and budget poli-
cies. Secretary Snow said outsourcing is a good thing. Outsourcing creates more efficiencies in the economy.

I wish that Secretary Snow, when trying to justify the President's eco-
omic policies, had been with me in
Akron, Ohio, a couple of weeks ago. I spoke to a group of business owners,
small manufacturers, the Akron
machine shop, group of machine shop
owners and operators. They are concerned that Ohio has lost one out of six manu-
facturing jobs, probably permanently.
They have certainly lost 236,000 jobs overall. That is about 1,500 jobs a week since President Bush took office. That is about 205 jobs every day since President Bush took the oath of office on Jan. 20, 2001.

I was talking to these machine shop
operators, one gentleman pre-

senting me with a pile of brochures about twice this size. Actually, I do not have all of them with me. These are going-out-of-business sale notices, auc-
tion notices from companies all over the
country, small manufacturing com-
panies. He receives a stack of about
that many every month, he said, at his
place of business, companies going out
of business, selling their equipment.

Let me just share a few of these. A
company in Cleveland, Ohio, selling all
its assets; a company in Cuyahoga Falls, Ohio, absolute auction; company in Waterville, Ohio, near Toledo, live one site, selling everything; company in Springfield, Ohio, going out of busi-
ness; company in Mansfield, Ohio,
where I grew up, that is going out of
business, selling its real estate and all
its production capacity; a company in
Sydney, Ohio, major equipment manu-
factory, public auction in
Dayton, Ohio, facility closing; com-
pany in Cleveland, Ohio, assets no
longer required in the continuing oper-
ations of this tube mill facility; a com-
pany in Akron, Ohio, in my district
going out of business; another company in Cincinnati, Ohio, I believe, public
auction, going out, precision machin-
ing facility; a company in Toledo,
Ohio, going out of business, don't miss
this sale, everything sold; a company in Youngstown, Ohio, going out of busi-
ness; a company in Ohio, going out of business; a company in
Medina, Ohio, facility closed, all must
go; Marion, Ohio, complete shop close-
out auction; Tipp City, Ohio, machine
 tool auction, selling everything; Cleve-
land, Ohio.

That is just the Ohio companies here
that are going out of business.

I bring this up partly because the ad-
ministration does not get it. They keep
talking about the economy is almen-
back. We are not seeing jobs created,
and we are not seeing jobs created be-
cause the administration's answer to
this kind of bad news is more tax cuts
for the most privileged people in our
country. That is the crux of the issue.
Maybe some of those tax cuts will trick
down and maybe provide some jobs and
more trade agreements that hemorrhage
jobs, that ship jobs overseas.

This administration needs to do two
or three things immediately. We need
to extend unemployment benefits. Fifty
thousand Ohioans in the next couple
of months will have had their
unemployment benefits expire. These
are people that want to have jobs, that are looking for work. It is 50,000 workers. It is 50,000 families that lose their benefits in communities all over my State, all over this country.

The second thing the administration needs to do is allow for farm adjustment assistance. They have opposed that, even though all those jobs that have gone to Mexico and China and all over the world, those workers need help.

And, third, the administration needs to pass the Crane-Rangel bill, bipartisan legislation that will give tax breaks to those corporations that hire people in the United States.

The President, on the other hand, wants to give more tax cuts to the wealthiest individuals and more tax cuts to the largest corporations and rewarding those companies that are outsourcing, that are sending their jobs overseas. We need to reward those companies and give incentives to those companies that are hiring American workers and build back our manufacturing base. My State has lost one out of six manufacturing jobs in the last 3 years. My State has lost 205 jobs every single day of the Bush administration. These pleas continue to fall on deaf ears. The President tries the same tired solutions. They have not worked for 3 years. It is time we changed course.

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

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

There was no objection.

TRADE DEFICIT AND GAS PRICES

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

Mr. DUNCAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to speak about two separate issues but both related to the economic well-being, the pocketbooks of the American people.

First, the trade deficit. The Washington Post reported on February 16 that our trade deficit reached a record $489 billion in 2003. The story said that "while the trade deficit has reached the highest levels ever, primarily for two reasons: one, we are being robbed by foreign oil producers; and, two, extreme environmentalists oppose any oil production in the U.S. The Arctic National Wildlife Refuge is a 19.8 million-acre site, 35 times the size of the Great Smoky Mountains. Yet some left-wing extremists oppose drilling on some 2,000 acres in the Arctic Refuge, about 1/100 of 1 percent of the refuge, in a part that is a frozen tundra with no trees or bushes for any many miles. We have not opened a new oil refinery since 1975, and something like 36 have been forced to close since 1980 due to too many rules and regulations. If we do not, Mr. Speaker, we will become even more vulnerable to foreign nations and damage both our economy and our national security.

These environmental extremists almost always come from very wealthy or upper-income families, and perhaps the only reason how such they are hurting the poor and the lower-income and the working people of this country, but we need to produce more U.S. oil to bring down these gas prices.

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

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

There was no objection.

EXCHANGE OF SPECIAL ORDER TIME

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take the Special Order time of the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. DEFAZIO).

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

Mr. McDERMOTT. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in tribute to August Wilson, the leading playwright of his generation and an icon of contemporary American theatre.

For more than 20 years, August Wilson's sometimes searing, but always generative dramas have flung theatregoers into the lives and circumstances of black Americans. Performed throughout the country, these works have amused and disquieted us. They have deepened our understanding of our history and our society.

In recognition of the unforgettable portraits he has created, Mr. Wilson has received repeatedly virtually every award bestowed by the literary community, including two Pulitzer Prizes, and five Tony Awards. He is a fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Letters and a member of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.

August Wilson has been a resident of Seattle since 1990. So it is quite appropriate that the Seattle's Rainier Club, one of the oldest entities in the city, has named him its laureate for 2004-2005. This occasion offers all of us a most welcome opportunity to salute Mr. Wilson for his transforming contributions to American theatre.

He joins the other laureates of Seattle, Jonathan Raban, Ernestine Anderson, the jazz artist; Dave Horsey, the Pulitzer Prize winning cartoonist. He has been a real tribute to our city
and deserves the acknowledgment of the whole city. And we look forward to many more evenings in the theatre with August Wilson, gazing at America through his eyes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Ms. ROS-LEHTINEN addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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.)

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

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

ORDER OF BUSINESS

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to take my Special Order at this time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Special Order is dispensed with.

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

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

JOBS AND THE ECONOMY

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

Mr. CUMMINGS. Mr. Speaker, just recently the economic report of the President, which was sent to Congress under the President’s signature, predicted that the economy would create some 2.6 million jobs this year. Yet, Mr. Speaker, the President has yet to create a single net job since his inauguration.

Meanwhile, we have lost almost 9 million people in this country that are hopelessly out of work. Many of these intelligent, educated, and able-bodied Americans have given up on looking for work because our national unemployment situation is so grim. As a result, they are unable to provide the basic necessities for their families. Instead, they are watching President Bush on television traveling the country, touting his economic record that again has yet to create a single net job.

Mr. Speaker, we have got to get the employment situation in this Nation back on track. The phrase “jobless recovery” is of no consolation to the nearly 9 million Americans who are unemployed and the millions who are underemployed in our country.

Mr. Speaker, zero represents the amount of money nearly 9 million people are bringing home bi-weekly instead of a paycheck. Zero represents a degree to which the tax cuts being promoted in the bill on the other side of the aisle have worked to achieve their goal. Zero also represents the amount of compassion American voters should give this administration in November since these numbers will hit employees without new leadership in Washington.

Today, Congress had an opportunity to enact legislation that is guaranteed to create jobs. The Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure Democrats proposed $37.8 billion of Federal highway/transit infrastructure investment. These funds would have created nearly 18 million jobs and about $236 billion of economic activity. However, our recommendations were disregarded because the President threatened to veto the bill.

Mr. Speaker, I want to make it crystal clear to the American people that the President of the United States has threatened to veto a bill that has proven to create jobs; yet he is in favor of unlimited amounts of tax cuts that have debatable job creation effects. Mr. Speaker, it has been found that transportation construction contractors hire employees within 3 weeks of obtaining a project contract. Yet nearly 3 years after passage of the President’s first package of tax cuts, the economy has yet to create a single net job. Not one.

Mr. Speaker, the unemployment numbers from March will be released tomorrow. For the good of the American people, I sincerely hope that these numbers reflect a positive change in the Nation’s employment situation. But it will not be because of anything this administration has done. It will be in spite of the obstacles to job creation that this administration continues to advocate.

Lastly, I continue to hear the President and the Republicans blame all of their economic woes on September 11, corporate scandals, and the drumbeat of the Iraq War. Let me remind my friends that every President and every administration has had to overcome challenges. How about World War II, the Cuban Missile Crisis, the Vietnam War, the Watergate scandal, the Iran hostage situation, the Cold War, and the first Persian Gulf War? I could continue on, but my point is that every President has faced these types of challenges and still managed to create jobs, except one, since the Great Depression, and that is George W. Bush and this Republican House and Senate.

Mr. Speaker, we either need to change policies or change the leadership of this country. In the words of Tracy Chapman, “Either we change or we live and die this way.” I say we must, we must change.

THE STATE OF ARMENIAN/ AZERBAIJAN RELATIONS

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise this evening to address the decline in the state of affairs between Armenia and Azerbaijan brought about by Azeri President Ilham Aliyev and the members of his ministry. Including Namik Abbasov, Ministry of National Security, through their encouragement of anti-Armenian propaganda that perpetuates anti-Armenian sentiments in the region.

Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago, I was disheartened to learn of the brutal murder of an Armenian soldier by an Azeri soldier. Both were attending a NATO Partnership for Peace English-language course in Hungary. But I am doubly concerned by additional information that has recently been reported that the Azeri government is actually providing financial awards to individuals and organizations with the “best” propaganda works towards Armenians.

Recent accounts report that the Azerbaijan Ministry of National Security, a successor to the Soviet-era KGB, has awarded monetary prizes up to $2,000 for the “best” propaganda works targeting Armenians. The Azeri Ministry, for instance, presented a prize in the books category to the Azerbaijani National Academy of Sciences’ Human Rights Institute for an “encyclopedia” entitled “Crimes Against Humanity Perpetrated by Armenian Terrorists and Bandit Formations,” and the minister himself was honored for funding the publication of this book. The MNS also granted a top monetary prize to two anti-Armenian propaganda films.

I mention this because I believe it is a blatant effort by the Azeri government to undermine years of efforts undertaken to encourage a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict by me and other Members of this body as well as the Minsk group and the former U.S. administration.

Three years ago, I was encouraged by developments in the Nagorno Karabakh peace process with the announcement of the Key West Agreement, reached in April 2001 by President Kocharian and former Azeri President Aliyev. I was hopeful that this agreement would lead to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and a stabilization of peace in the region. However, it was clear that any implementation of the Key West Agreement would have to wait until after the various legislative and presidential elections in the region including Armenia, Nagorno Karabakh, and Azerbaijan and when they were complete.
However, shortly after the last of these elections when President Ilham Aliyev was elected president of Azerbaijan, the Azeri government rejected all of the advancements made by the Minsk group, the former Azeri president and President Kocharian, and flatly rejected the Key West Agreement.

Furthermore, President Ilham Aliyev has noted that any negotiations on resolving the Nagorno Karabakh conflict would need to start from scratch and any advancements towards peace made in the past were invalid.

So today instead of witnessing the implementation of the Key West Agreement or even a revival of negotiations of a peaceful solution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, we are witnessing a regression towards the type of behavior on behalf of the Azerbaijani government that encourages the violence we saw in the early to mid-1990s. I am discouraged by President Aliyev’s blatant disregard for the autonomy of Nagorno Karabakh and his country’s effort to undermine any chance at a peaceful resolution to this conflict.

In fact, President Aliyev has recently said that he is not in any hurry to reach a peaceful resolution to the conflict and recently cancelled a meeting between Armenian Foreign Minister Vartan Oskanian and the Azeri Foreign Minister planned by French, Russian, and U.S. mediators that was scheduled for this past Monday; and his excuse was that the agenda was not precise.

I am also discouraged by the current Bush administration in its failure to actively address a peaceful resolution to the Nagorno Karabakh conflict. During a recent meeting between Deputy Secretary of State Richard Armitage and Armenian President Kocharian and Foreign Minister Oskanian, Armitage noted that “our Turkish friends have had their hands full recently,” as an excuse that there would be little advancement towards opening the border between Armenia and Turkey or a move towards better relations between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Finally, Mr. Speaker, I would like to note that Armenia has been tremendously cooperative with the U.S. in its efforts in the war against terror and supportive of the stabilization of both Afghanistan and Iraq. However, rather than press President Aliyev toward considering peaceful resolutions of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict, the Bush administration perpetrates the conflict by failing to maintain military assistance parity between Armenia and Azerbaijan in its fiscal year 2005 budget request to Congress. In fact, the Bush administration proposed double the military assistance to Azerbaijan that it did to Armenia.

Today I would call on Azerbaijan President Ilham Aliyev to stop promoting propaganda against the Armenian people and make every effort to consider the peaceful resolution of the Nagorno Karabakh conflict and begin an open dialogue with Armenian President Kocharian. I also call on President Bush and the administration to maintain parity in the region and recognize that pitting these nations against each other will move us further away from long sought-after peace that is much needed in this region.

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

Mr. NUSSEL. Mr. Speaker, in accordance with section 411 of H. Con. Res. 95, I hereby submit for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD adjustments to the section 302(a) allocation to the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for fiscal year 2004 and for the period of fiscal years 2004 through 2008. Section 411 authorizes the chairman of the Committee on the Budget to adjust the appropriate budget aggregates and to increase the 302(a) allocation of new budget authority to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for fiscal year 2004 and for the period of fiscal years 2004 through 2008 to the extent such excess is offsets by a reduction in mandatory outlays for the Highway Trust Fund or an increase in receipts appropriated to such fund for the applicable fiscal year caused by such legislation or any previously enacted legislation.

As modified by the rule, H.R. 3550 makes additional receipts available to the Highway Trust Fund. Accordingly, I am increasing the 302(a) allocation to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure by the above amount.

With the adjustment, this bill is within the level assumed in the two periods applicable to the House; fiscal year 2004 and for the total of fiscal years 2004 through 2008 as required under section 302(f) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974.

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

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

The TIME FOR CREATION OF JOBS IS NOW

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. Mr. Speaker, my wish for the Rwandan people is the implementing of democracy, the protection of lives, respect for human life, and as well the opportunity for economic prosperity, educational opportunity for the children, and as well for them to take their rightful place in the world family.

Mr. Speaker, I rose today to comment on an issue that is extremely prevalent in my district, and that is the loss of 3 million jobs in the United States over the last 2 years and the failure of this administration to be able to create one single job that has had a lasting impact.

Now, that sounds rather extreme, because the government is going to report shortly its job creation in the last month and certainly they did so in the month preceding. But as they create jobs in certain areas and certain disciplines, job loss remains strong in the manufacturing industry; and there has been no effort, no, if you will, direct effort at building a long-standing opportunity for job creation by this administration. There has been no policy announced. There has been a complete, if you will, ignoring of the large numbers of industries that are leaving our shores and going overseas.

We recognize that as the world grows smaller, we will be interrelated, and trade is an important aspect of that.

|------|----------|-------------------------|------|-------|-----------------|--------|----------------|---------------------| two periods |     |      |      |      |      |      |      |         |
| 2004 | 32,584   | 36,953                  | 4,372|       | Disc.           | 0      | 32,584         | 36,953              | 9,236       | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 185,396  |
| 2005 | 36,953   | 45,101                  | 8,148| 8,148 | Disc.           | 0      | 36,953         | 45,101              | 9,236       | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 203,242  |
| 2006 | 45,101   | 46,360                  | 2,259| 8,148 | Disc.           | 0      | 45,101         | 46,360              | 9,236       | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 203,242  |
| 2007 | 46,360   | 47,867                  | 5,507| 8,148 | Disc.           | 0      | 46,360         | 47,867              | 9,236       | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 203,242  |
| 2008 | 47,867   | 49,094                  | 1,227| 8,148 | Disc.           | 0      | 47,867         | 49,094              | 9,236       | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 203,242  |
| 2009 | 49,094   | 224,452                 | 175,358| 8,148 | Disc.           | 0      | 49,094         | 224,452             | 9,236       | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 203,242  |
| 2004–2008 | 185,396 | 203,242                 | 175,846| 8,148 | Disc.           | 0      | 185,396        | 203,242             | 9,236       | 0   | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 0    | 203,242  |

*Excludes impact of temporary measures, which are subsumed by the bill.*
and we do not discount that. But, Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more devastating than a family that has lost their source of income. First maybe the father or the spouse, and then the mother or the wife, or then an individual single parent who has lost their job.

I can assure you that no amount of patriotic statements will quash the pain of not being able to make ends meet, of providing for one's family. And those families who are on minimal income have been hurt even more, because as they have sought to lift themselves out of poverty, they have experienced the results of welfare reform, and they have taken the jobs at the Burger Kings and McDonald'ses, how interesting it is now to compete with individual large cuts to the richest of our industry. They certainly cannot work where we cannot work where there is no work.

The House and I and I and I can assure you that you have a serious problem. You have good and bad news in the minds of this administration: it is imperative that the President give a national, a national, call to job creation, and stop the reckless giving of dollars and invest in this economy, to reallocate resources that women have lost their jobs who can find no other work than to work at Burger King, McDonald's and other fast-food establishments, which we have the greatest respect for, because those are jobs. But, frankly, when you have those at the lesser income level competing, then you know that you have a serious problem.

You have your own serious problem when officials of the Bush administration continue to emphasize that the putting together of the hamburger is manufacturing and are completely insensitive to the fact that is putting more and more jobs to leave the shores of the United States of America.

So, Mr. Speaker, my thrust in this event is that we put to the fore of the minds of this administration it is imperative that the President give a national, a national, call to job creation, and stop the reckless giving of dollars and invest in this economy, to provide more job training, to provide more bridges for those who are transitioning from jobs because plants were closed, such as the plant I saw in South Carolina when traveling in that area, and the plants throughout Texas that I have seen and throughout the rest of the United States. We need a real job effort toward jobs on behalf of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, it is important to note that Americans want to work, but they cannot work where there is no work. They certainly cannot work where we do not have a policy that is definitively done on behalf of job creation.

Right now we have on the floor of the House a massive job creation bill, as well as a bill to help our crumbling infrastructure. One of the issues that we have noted in homeland security, as a member of the Select Committee on Homeland Security, is we have a crumbling infrastructure.

Again, I ask the President not to veto this bill, which will help the crumbling infrastructure of this Nation and transportation needs, but also will create jobs for millions and millions of Americans.

Mr. Speaker, the time for creation of jobs is now. The President must respond to this question and to this need.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from New Mexico (Mrs. Wilson) is recognized for 5 minutes.

(Mrs. Wilson of New Mexico addressed the House. Her remarks will appear hereafter in the Extensions of Remarks.)

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

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

CELEBRATING NATIONAL WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

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

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, as we gather to celebrate National Women's History Month, I rise to recognize not only the contributions of all women, but most importantly, the work of my constituents that made this month possible.

Sonoma County, in my district, is the birthplace of the National Women's History Project, the nonprofit education organization that is responsible for establishing Women's History Month.

In 1978, the Education Task Force of the Sonoma County Commission on the Status of Women initiated a Women's History Week under my tutelage. I was the Chair, actually, of the commission at that time. Later, in 1997 with the help of museums, libraries, educators across the country, the National Women's History Project petitioned Congress to expand the celebration to the entire month of March, a resolution recognizing Women's History Month was quickly passed with strong bipartisan support in both the House and the Senate.

Since that time, Women's History Month has provided a perfect opportunity to discuss and honor the contributions that women have made throughout the history of our Nation, both here in our capital and in our classrooms.

There are so many remarkable accomplishments that deserve mention, from the fight for suffrage and reproductive freedom, to efforts to give women and girls equal access to education and employment opportunities. We have come so far in so very many ways; and, yet, Mr. Speaker, we seem to be losing ground on so much of the precious progress we have made.

Since we last celebrated National Women's History Month, the President has signed a bill criminalizing a safe and accepted medical procedure for the first time ever. Legislators have now inserted themselves into the difficult medical decisions that should be left to a woman, her family, and her doctor.

To add insult to injury, the Justice Department is seeking permission, to rifle through women's personal medical records in the State Department's attempt to uphold this intrusive law.

These violations of privacy are without precedent and are simply, simply unwarrantable. Women have worked too hard. They have fought too long to be told that they are not allowed to undergo a medical procedure recommended by their doctor, and that the Justice Department and their lawyers have the right to examine women's medical records.

It is not enough to devote a month every year to celebrating the progress that women have made in the battles that we have won. If we do not stand up after these recent impositions and insist on our right to make decisions about our own bodies, what will we? How many more restrictions must be placed on us before we insist that this must stop?

Well, on April 25 of this year, this month, actually, hundreds of thousands of women, men and children will come to Washington, D.C. to do just that. It will be a national gathering of women to protest this new assault on women's rights. It will be a truly historic gathering and joining women from all over the world to show the United States of America.

I look forward to being part of this truly historic gathering and joining with my colleagues, constituents, and people from all over the world to show the United States of America that we care about women's lives in America.

When we gather this time next year to recognize National Women's History Month, we will be able to list the 2004 developments as another notable accomplishment; and even more importantly, I hope we will be able to say that we have stopped the tide of anti-choice restrictions, to say that our private medical records will remain private, and to say that we have the right to undergo medical procedures recommended by our doctors.

In honor of National Women's History Month, we must not only remember the accomplishments of the women who have come before us; we must also commit to the protection of that progress on behalf of the women who will come after us.
The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker’s announced policy of Jan
uary 7, 2003, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) is
recognized for 60 minutes as the designated floor leader.
Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, as March slips away, a number of women in the
House did not want to let the year go by without commemorating Women’s History Month. We recognize this is April’s Women’s History Month. This is the April fourteenth. Women are a very serious concern of the women who will come forward this evening.

We note first the progress women around the world, our sisters in soli-
darity, are making; and then we compare that progress to the progress of American women who serve in the legislatures of their countries.

According to the data used internationally, women are considered to be at an acceptable threshold when they are about 30 percent of their legisla-
tures. There are only 14 countries that qualify. The United States of America is not one of them. We are pleased at the increase in women, especially in the legislature of the Senate; but we are not where we should be, particularly given the ideals that our country proffesses.

Interestingly, women made their greatest strides in Rwanda last year, and today this is an April fourteenth. Women are a very serious concern of genocide in the 20th century, is no longer acceptable.

Mr. Speaker, just a couple nights ago it was 100 years since the Senate, well below the 30 percent threshold that the world acknowledges as a decent percentage. We are still struggling. We are still determined to find our rightful place in this body and in our country.

We certainly do not suffer, as many of our sisters do around the world. For example, in Kuwait, one of our allies, women cannot even stand for election to any office.

Mr. Speaker, I was a Member of the House when the so-called “Year of the Woman” was informally proclaimed. That was the year when the confirmation of Justice Clarence Thomas brought women forward, given the controversy surrounding his nomination, that a man accused of sexual harassment was nevertheless put on the bench. It sent a whole bunch of women to the House and to the Senate, more than before and more than since. Some of us, Mr. Speaker, I must say, we’re not quite sure whether he was quite the man he was presented to be.

As I look at the 2004 budget, it seems as if the President went on a search-and-destroy mission, focused heavily on the programs that affect women most. I looked, because I saw many programs that might tell us something about where an elected official stands on a given subject. I looked at signature issues for women, issues that are par-
ticularly identified with women and their children, although I am sure my good friends and colleagues in this body who are men would be quick to step forward and say that these issues mean just as much to them. It is sim-
ply that women have been at the front of the line advocating the issues that I am speaking about at the moment.

Let us take the child care and develop-
ment block grant: frozen for the third year in a row. Children are not frozen. The numbers continue to come forward. They grow older. They need services. So that the straight line for reducing juvenile crime is to give kids something to do after school. Well, the President’s budget provides half of the promised funding for after-school programs.

What about Head Start? Here is a program that is surely not one of the favorites of the President, even though children and education are a signature issue for him. He has begun the gutting of the Head Start program by eliminating the health and nutritional aspects that is itself a signature of the program. We bring low-income children the services they need in preschool by the time they go to school, so that they are ready to learn.

There will also be no educational services in Head Start. Just a moment. I thought this was the education President. I thought the whole point is to begin education and the most rigorous education that a child can take according to age as soon as possible, so that we meet this goal that by grade 4 every child can read. How are we going to do that if we do not begin educational services in Head Start, particularly for low-income children who, of course, are and continue to be the furthest behind?

Speaking about behind, if the Presi-
dent had put just a little more money in Head Start, he might have given the best and biggest boost to his own Leave No Child Behind bill. Only 60 percent of the children who are eligible for Head Start are covered by Head Start. Put those children in and we will begin to see some difference for low-income children in school, and No Child Left Behind can begin to take some of the credit for it, because it will pick them up, ready to learn.

Speaking of No Child Left Behind, Mr. Speaker, once again the President has simply declined to fund the bill. This has been a huge disappointment for Democrats, because this bill was passed in a bipartisan fashion on the premise that it would bring a signature issue that would have the prerequisite funding and, therefore, a chance to succeed. That issue is taking children who are not learning in school and somehow
making it possible for them to learn; and not only that, Mr. Speaker, but indicating that they were not going to graduate unless they learned. Well, on the basis of that promise, this became a bipartisan bill. It overcame many doubts of the day.

Now the promise of funding has dropped out of the President's budget. It has caused consternation in the House and in the Senate. But if we think that all it has caused, we need only go into our own States and hear the mothers cry about No Child Left Behind, its broken promises and the difficulties that States are having in meeting its goals, precisely because the promise of funding has not been kept.

Moving right along, Mr. Speaker, to Even Start. Now here we have not only a woman's program but a family values Congress program. Because, essentially, what the program does is to put adult literacy and childhood education and vital parental education all in the same package and say, if you put them all together, then we will get what children need to learn. They will have parents who know how to read and who have an appreciation for learning. That is the adult literacy part. They will have childhood education, which is focusing on the child itself. And, of course, the parental education is absolutely essential, because once you know how to parent, you recognize the value of teaching, and the rest is likely to take care of itself.

Well, this program, Mr. Speaker, is eliminated, cut, not cut, but eliminated in the President's budget. I do not see how we can go home and leave that zero on our record, even though the President has left it on his.

Maternal and child health block grant, if ever there is funding that gets the motherhood award of agreement of everyone, it is that grant; frozen.

Some of the freezes are just plain cruel. Why would we want to cut off hearing screening for newborns? This program was started because we learned that if you catch a newborn with hard of hearing very early, the chances of correcting it soar. Hearing screening for newborns wiped out. Can you hear us, Mr. President? This is not a program to eliminate. It is not very costly. It is very vital.

Perhaps the greatest forgotten issue of the Bush administration is health care for the uninsured. Twenty million of them are women without health insurance. What does the President have to give to them? A $1,000 tax credit for individual coverage only. I hope you have a job so the tax credit can help you out. But even this $1,000 tax credit will cover only 5 percent of the uninsured.

Women, of course, we are told in this House, particularly by our Republican good friends, are the fastest growing small business owners. Indeed, there are about half of the small business people now, they have grown so fast. Why, then, would the President want to say, well done, women. Let us cut $79 million from the Small Business Administration, the chief agency you turn to for help, assistance, and funding.

We want the President to know that there are many of us in this Congress who are supportive of women who are seeking to educate their children. We want to be in control. And when the government erodes that control, we are
not comfortable.” Those are the words of the Honorable Barbara Jordan who does not fear holding the Constitution to its most important interpretations and that is that of freedom and that of the ability to be protected by a Constitution that respects the will of the people.

And so my tribute is to Barbara Jordan who lived amongst us, served the United States Congress, one of the first to be elected from the Deep South, and, of course, the first African American since Reconstruction to serve in the Texas Senate.

Sissy Farenthold who ran for Governor in Texas more than 2 decades ago, who was a pioneering spirit and one who did not in any way diminish her fight for justice and equality.

Ninfa Laurenzo, a prominent Hispanic businesswoman who founded Ninfa’s Restaurant that still bears her name, a civic leader, a philanthropist, and someone who understood the importance of women’s involvement in business.

Ruby Morly. How can I speak about a community activist, 70-plus years old, I know she would not mind me saying. Whenever there is a need for a senior citizen in our community, Ruby Morly is there.

Dorothy Hubbard who works in my office, senior citizen, but takes no, if you will, denial of a senior citizen’s right to Medicare and Social Security. I call her Jackson, my mom, who spent most of her life as a medical professional, a nurse in hospitals, who understands the importance of health care for women.

Valerie Bennett, a businesswoman and my aunt, someone who impacted my life.

Sybil Gouden, my aunt, another academic background who likewise continued to help children, young people seek education in higher education and impacting many lives.

Representative Senforonia Thompson, the senior member in the State legislature in Texas who has been a champion for human rights and who helped to push into law the hate crimes legislation which is a model for this Nation. Representative Ruth McClendon who, out of San Antonio, is a fighter for justice. And we thank her for fighting against the redistricting undermining that was going on in the Texas legislature.

Commissioner Sylvia Garcia, the first woman to be elected to the Harris County Commissioner’s Court, certainly one who believes in women’s rights who has been an excellent representative of the empowerment of women.

Carol Mims Galloway, council member, who has championed the rebuilding of neighborhoods.

Council Member Ada Edwards, who has sought continuously to engage young people in the political process.

Lorugene Young. What can you say about a community activist who fights not only with her words but with her actions? And she provides clothing and toys for children from Easter to Christmas to Thanksgiving. She has never taken this attitude that the holiday is for me. She has been out there in the front lines for children.

Ruby Carver, a World War II fighter, someone who was an enlisted woman in the women’s division in World War II. We honored her just a week ago. I am very proud of Ruby Carver, 84 years young, very proud that she stood as a symbol of women’s involvement in World War II.

Mayor pro tem Carol Alvarado, who is now serving us as the mayor pro tem in the city of Houston and someone who is not afraid of empowering Hispanics and African Americans and women and fighting also to improve the rights of working people. And we are proud of her leadership.

Dr. Edith Irby Jones, a pioneering physician, graduated from the University of Arkansas as the first African American woman to graduate. Has been in practice for 50 years and has never turned a patient away.

Dr. Natalie Carrol Daily, likewise a past president of the National Medical Association and a doctor who has fought for doctors and the support of Medicare and joined me at my Medicare hearing just a couple of weeks ago.

Dr. Wanda Mott, not only a physician but also a scientist, someone who knows and is at the cutting edge of medical procedures for women and has been one of the major doctors of the Texas Women’s Hospital.

Then we cannot close without acknowledging the many, many women that get up every day to go to work and certainly those who have made our job, our education opportunities their number one priority, that is, the teachers of America, the teachers of Houston, and the teachers of Texas and the teachers represented by many of the teaching organizations. We thank them so very much.

Then as I close to be able to thank simply the workers, women who work every day in all the fields. Women who sometimes hit the glass ceiling, women who are in corporate management who have every amount of ability to be CEOs and yet have not arrived there; women who are in academia and have every reason to be tenured and yet have not arrived; women who are in the crafts and have every ability to be the foremen, supervisors, but yet have not arrived; women in the United States military who are pulling for so that their dignity can be respected and that the sexual abuse that we have heard in this past week can be corrected so that all of the military can be accepted for their talent and be respected for their talent, as we do the fine men that are serving us. And hopefully as the days go on, that they too will continue to rise in leadership positions.

And all of the women that have sought political office and still intend to seek political office, might I encourage them for the special insight that they bring to leadership in government, the sensitivity, and the ability to bring peace over war and life over death.

Then finally to the international peace activists and heads of state that happen to be women. Might we encourage you, even though this month is particularly related to the history of women in America, might we encourage you to join us in this international effort of the empowerment of women so that we can join and link arms fighting for peace. Whether it is the Palestinian-Israeli conflict, whether it is in Iraq or Afghanistan, or whether it is in the conflicts of Africa, South America or Caribbean, we ask the women of the world to stand up and to be counted and join us and link arms to make this place a better place.

I thank the Congresswoman for taking the time to yield to us this evening and taking the time to present to our colleagues the importance of women in the history not only of America, but of the world.

I am here tonight, joined by my colleagues in the Congressional Women’s Caucus, to ask if women are indeed in control of their lives if they cannot make their own decisions regarding their bodies.

Right now we have an Administration that actively seeks to undermine a woman’s right to choose. They falsely claim to be doing this in the interest of women and children, citing both the mother and child’s well being as justifications for their actions. This same Administration has frozen the Title X family-planning program in each budget for the last three years. They have also cut domestic-violence prevention programs and frozen important programs for women and children, including the Maternal and Child Health Block Grant, Head Start, and child-nutrition services.

By contrast, they have proposed more than doubling funding for unproven, dangerous “abstinence-only” programs that censor health information from young people—and instead of supporting programs that help women who face violence, they have resorted instead to exploiting the issue for an anti-abortion political base. Just this afternoon, President Bush signed the so-called “Unborn Victims of Violence Act.” This legislation would, for the first time in federal law, recognize an embryo or fetus as a separate “person” with rights separate from, and equal to, a pregnant woman.

Raising awareness must be a high priority. America must begin to take this threat very seriously. On April 25, I will be joined by a million people who believe that our bodies deserve our choices, and that we must be in control of our lives, not the government. Marching in front of the Capitol, we will make our voices heard that our right to choose is at its most precarious point since over 31 years ago, when Roe versus Wade was decided. Our message will be clear: we will not tolerate the persistent government attacks on women’s health and reproductive rights.

I am pleased that for the first time in its 95 year history, the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) board of directors unanimously endorsed a pro
choice march. The Black Women’s Health Imperative has also signed on. These organizations are part of a growing majority that believe contraceptive education and abortion rights for black and minority women must be a priority. Unintended pregnancy rates for African American women is almost twice as high as that of the rate of Caucasian women, maternal mortality is 4 times higher for African American women than Caucasians. One out of four African American women had less involvement than they would like in decisions affecting their health care, with only 73% of African American women receiving first trimester prenatal care.

By making abortion illegal, we are going to harm those who turn to back alleys and home remedies to fix their situation, a scenario faced disproportionately by minorities and the underprivileged. We cannot make abortion inaccessible, illegal, or shameful. We must stand up for women’s rights and let them make informed choices. I hope you will join me on April 25th to speak out against these injustices.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON-LEE) coming down to offer her comments on this important issue at this time, and I appreciate the quality of those comments. I am very pleased to have been joined by the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY) for whom these issues affecting women and children have been of priority and importance since she came to Congress.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the opportunity to come here to speak about women’s History Month and thank the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia for providing all of us with this opportunity this evening. They do not call it “history” for nothing. In general, the history of our Nation and our world has been about this story, about men’s story. And it is not surprising, as men have written history’s books and have been considered the leaders that books are written about.

And this is not meant in any way as an anti-male statement, just a fact that most of history is about the leadership of men in our world.

I wanted to just share tonight a study that was done very recently by the Center for the American Woman and Politics. The study is the socialization process that ends with women not feeling as qualified to run for office. They said that in some ways the most responsible for someone making the decision to run for office was being asked to run for office, someone making the suggestion. And they divided those making the suggestion into formal,actor, and informal actors. So, in other words, if someone is asked by a formal actor, that being an elected official, a party official or a political activist. to run for office, they are likely to think of themselves as candidates or potential candidates.

So I wanted to share the outcome of this wonderful study. It is the Center for the American Woman and Politics. They are at Rutgers University. They are part of the Eagleton Institute, and over the years they have provided us with very useful information in moving forward to include more women in our political universe.

So thank my colleague from the District of Columbia for focusing on this important issue and for allowing me to participate tonight.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, may I thank the gentlewoman from Illinois for bringing forward to the House of this intriguing study and for giving us I think some ammunition about what our responsibility is.

Women, in fact, need to be asked. It seems to me there is some asking that we all need to do; and you consider that women are increasingly better qualified, by education, to hold office because they get more education. You wonder what more do they need.

I guess it is important information for us all to have, and it is challenging information, and I think the gentlewoman for staying this evening to come forward.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, a previous speaker spoke of the March for Women’s Lives that is coming forward on April 25 next month. That march is being sponsored by nonpartisan organizations, tax-exempt organizations. So they come forward not under any political banner, but they do carry a banner. They carry the banner of American women, and they fear for the right of choice that women won only in the last few decades. They fear about the Supreme Court and whether it will hold fast or whether it will overturn its own precedents quickly.

Today, Mr. Speaker, the case on the partial birth abortion ban is being argued in three separate jurisdictions at the very same time. Here we have the determination of some in the Congress and some in the country to simply go back to where we were before Roe versus Wade, and it looks like they will not stop, no matter what the Supreme Court tells them.

The Supreme Court set the question in Stenberg versus Carhart, and when the Supreme Court speaks, we should usually respect the Supreme Court. The Supreme Court, under the Constitution of the United States, the final arbiter of constitutional right. That is the difference between us and many other countries, because the Constitution says you must respect certain rights even if the majority does not agree, but of course, when it comes to choice, the majority does agree.

Of course, late-term abortions are controversial, and this bill would not be controversial if we simply did not step over the State may regulate the third trimester, but that is not what is at issue in Stenberg versus Carhart.
This law is worded, it would seem, deliberately to trap the second trimester as well, the trimester where, of course, women are freer than they would be in the final weeks. Under the wording of this law, it is as clear as day that it is beginning in the 13th week. Methods of abortion that are the most commonly used could not be used without risking prosecution.

The fatal flaw in the bill, of course, is that there is no health exception. So no matter how grave the risk to the health of the woman, a woman would not be allowed to have an abortion, as it turns out, under this bill, beginning with the 13th week, as it is worded and certainly not written.

I think that the American people are depending on a Supreme Court that will, in fact, respect the constitutional rights the Court itself has indicated are there for women. I want to quote to the Supreme Court, indeed, what they said in the Stenberg decision to indicate why I really do not fear that the law that has just been passed, and indeed I think was signed today by the President, I do not fear that that law will not be overturned by this Court. So we could get a different Court, and that is something that every woman in America, when she goes to the polls in November, should bear in mind.

This Court has said the following, and I am quoting: "Using this law some present prosecutors and future attorneys general may choose to pursue physicians who use the most commonly used method for performing a second trimester abortion. All those who perform abortion procedures using that method must fear prosecution, conviction and imprisonment. The result is an undue burden upon a woman’s right to make an abortion decision. We must quickly find the statute unconstitutional."

The court has spoken. Trying to overturn the Supreme Court does not work, let us say. Let us hope that whatever the Court says this time is, in fact, respected.

**EQUAL PAY FOR WOMEN**

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am a former chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, so I cannot let this hour go by without saying a word about perhaps the right that most women depend upon today and recognize today and that is the right to equal pay.

The Congress has not looked at the Equal Pay Act since it was passed 40 years ago in 1963, more than 40 years ago now, and yet we are in a different world, with women with different aspirations and jobs totally different from what they were at that time.

To that effect, many women and men in this body are trying to update the Equal Pay Act with a Paycheck Fairness Act. The Paycheck Fairness Act is not a socialistic piece of legislation. It would add national origin and race to the Equal Pay Act. The Equal Pay Act bars unequal pay on the basis of sex alone.

It would seem that by now everybody would agree that it is time to make sure that the typical protections involving the groups that are most likely to experience discrimination would find their way into the Equal Pay Act. The Paycheck Fairness Act would keep a person from being punished or being fired for discussing her salary or his salary in the workplace with others. This is a favorite ruse of many employers. They do not want colleagues of one another to know what they make. They do not want women to know. If a woman might say, I do not know why this man is being paid more than I am.

A woman should be protected. If she goes to a man who is doing a job like hers or unlike hers and says, could I ask you what is your wage, what is your salary, there is no such protection now, and a woman could be fired for discussing or inquiring of the wage of another colleague.

Along with Representative TOM HARKIN, I have introduced the Fair Pay Act. Just as the Paycheck Fairness Act updates the Equal Pay Act, our bill would update the equal employment opportunity, Title VII of the 1964 Civil Rights Act, so that jobs that have the same skill, responsibility would have to be paid the same.

Today, there are women doing work of equal value to the work of men who are being paid grossly differential salaries. For example, a nurse and a woman both graduate from nursing school at the same time. He becomes a probation officer. She becomes a social worker. Guess who makes the most money? It would be very difficult to make the case that the social worker makes more money. Very seriously, the occupations that concern me most are occupations that the society perhaps most depends upon: people to teach our children, nurses who in a very real sense are more vital than doctors today because of the breadth and depth of the health care tasks they perform, social workers because there are so many parts of what the society needs that have now integrated their skills.

We are in very deep trouble when people abandon these professions. We can recruit all we want to. We can preach all we want to. The way to get men and women into these professions is to pay these professions what they are worth.

Under our bill, a person could sue if, in fact, in the same workplace somebody in a comparable job was not paid for reasons of sex the same as that person. We have to prove it. The burden would be on you. This would not change our economic system in any way.

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It fits right into the way in which title 7 requires that you prove discrimination, and here you would have to prove that the difference in wage is based on discrimination. Because the difference in wage can be based on any number of factors, and the burden would be on the women.

In case you think this is a far-out idea, let it be known that 20 States have already done wage studies and adjusted the wages of women State workers based on those wage studies that showed that the wages of women were out of whack because they were women. In these States all over the United States, not following any particular pattern, north, south, east, and west, the wages have been raised for women who were teachers, nurses, clerical workers, and librarians simply based on looking at the skill, effort, and responsibility of the jobs they perform.

The evidence that women are continuing to be paid less is rampant in our society. The favorite I would cite is Wal-Mart, because it is the largest corporation and the most expanding corporation in our country and women since 1990 make 13 percent less than men. Is that why the prices are so low? Are they saving on what we spend on the backs of their own women workers? That is worth finding out.
Mr. Speaker, finally, I want to say a word about poor women, because there is so little discussion about women who do not work and want to work. I am very concerned about the TANF bill. About the most important thing that happened to a woman who becomes pregnant by her husband is that she gets up and understands that there is somebody she is responsible for besides herself. It is an extraordinary awakening that occurs and maturity for such a woman. And I have seen what women are willing to do after the birth of such a child that they were not willing to do before, and one of those things is to go to school.

I cannot for the life of me understand why the TANF bill that we passed would not allow a woman to work part-time and go to college part-time if she had the gumption and the energy to do so. I do not know what we expect. Should she go off TANF and work at a minimum-wage job, or one close to minimum wage for the rest of her natural life? How does she help the children?

The whole point of this bill was to bring greater responsibility and to encourage people to take that responsibility. We are not going to pay for them. About the best way to take greater responsibility for yourself is to educate yourself and make sure you can support yourself decently, not just support yourself. What have we done? We have increased the work-hour requirements to 40 hours per week and then limited what counts as work. It is penny-wise, pound-foolish, and cruel.

And, Mr. Speaker, one thing we are not going to let this House forget is that the Republicans in this House killed the child care credit for poor women and poor families; that those families that earn between $10,000 and $26,000 a year, including military families, cannot get that child credit. That issue is not going away. We are going to carpe diem it to the American people. We are not going to let this House forget it until we have made good for those who most need the child care credit.

Mr. Speaker, I want to close simply by paying tribute once again to Dr. Dorothy Height and thanking the Congress of the United States for conferring on Dr. Height the Congressional Medal of Honor. Dr. Height was for many years a resident of the State of New York. It is my great fortune that a few years ago she moved to the District of Columbia and has become my constituent.

This is an American who richly deserved the honor she got last week. She has spent her whole life doing what many leaders have found difficult to do, fighting for a particular group while bringing people together. It is easy enough to fight for your own group. To a black woman, nothing is easier than for me to get up and talk about Blackness and what they need and what they want and what they need and what they have been their history.

As the president emeritus of the National Council of Negro Women, that of course is what Dr. Height has done for most of her life. She is now 92 years old. Why America was justified in awarding her the Congressional Medal of Honor is she has managed to fight with great strength for African American women who are preparing the message of inclusion and brotherhood and sisterhood of all people at the same time. They are not contrary messages, but there are few who have been able to bring them forward and make them believable to those they reach. And I am one person who as a young woman when feminism emerged that Dr. Height was one of those feminists who made black people understand that as white women came forward and demanded their equal rights, that their own movement for full equality was a movement that called forth universal principles; that black women had much in common with white women; and that this was not a cause for the two to be in dispute, but rather be in coalition.

The world does not have enough leaders like Dorothy Height. That is why we extol them when we find them: the Mandrels of this world, the Martin Luther King Jr. of this world, and, yes, and the Dorothy Heights of this world.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that we have been granted this time so that American women understand that March would not go by, for those who expected women to come forward in this House and commemorate Women's History Month, that that month would not go by entirely without us remembering that this House, this Congress must never forget its women; that we must never forget the women of the world. And one way in which we indicate that women are always on our minds is to choose a month where we talk about them.

We have been talking about women throughout this House. We have been talking about their issues. It was time to talk about women on the floor of the House of Representatives this very evening.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order this evening.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. O'St). Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia?

There was no objection.

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, in March, we celebrated Women's History Month. We re-remembered those who have contributed to our progress, we recognized those who are changing our communities today, and we re-dedicated ourselves to improving the lives of women.

Women want what men want: a fair opportunity to succeed, a safe and prosperous America, good paying jobs, better access to health care, and the best possible education for our children. Women want a secure retirement, the freedom to make the most of our lives and to make our own choices, and the chance to shape the future of our Nation.

Yet in terms of policies to assist women, we are lagging behind. Half of those currently living in poverty are single mothers. More than one million are homeless. Women are still paid only 80 cents to a man's dollar. And the Republican controlled Congress and the Bush administration continue to wage an assault on our reproductive rights, believing they can make better choices than women and their doctors.

To open doors of opportunity for women, I am proud to support policies in Congress that promote equality such as the FAIRNESS Act, which protects workers from discrimination on the basis of race, age, disability, or gender. I have long been a strong supporter of legislation to demand equal pay for equal work. My colleagues and I support legislation to increase the minimum wage to help single mothers and working poor women provide adequately for themselves and their families.

In every field, we must and will be equal partners in determining the future. Women represent more than half the population and are among the most knowledgeable and important thinkers in every field of policy, from science to education to health care to national security.

Women in government have made great gains but still face continued challenges. When I was first elected to Congress in 1987, there were only 16 women in the entire House of Representatives and only 2 in the Senate. Today, there are 62 women in the House and 13 in the Senate.

However, of the nearly 12,000 Members who have served in Congress throughout history, only 209—less than 2 percent—have been women. From 1916, when Jeannette Rankin of Montana became the first woman elected to Congress, until I was elected Democratic Whip in 2001, no woman had ever served in the top Congressional leadership.

In March, it was my privilege as House Democratic Leader to honor three magnificent women: journalist Mary McGrory, the late Congresswoman Mary T. Norton and civil rights leader Dr. Dorothy Height.

On March 2, I hosted a reception for Mary McGrory, the pioneering reporter for the Washington Star and Washington Post who has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighted so many readers and inspired so many women. For more than 50 years, she has delighte...
of the House Labor Committee. She was instrumental in raising the minimum wage from 40 cents to 75 cents per hour.

In a marvelous ceremony in the Rotunda of the Capitol on March 24, Dr. Dorothy Height received the Congressional Gold Medal, the most prestigious award bestowed by the U.S. Congress. The struggle for equity in America in the 20th century—for civil rights, for women's rights, for voting rights, for human rights—is the story of Dr. Height's life. At age 92, she remains a beacon to her own generation and generations to follow. Countless young people have been inspired by her idealism, strengthened by her courage, and guided by her faith. She has empowered these young people to make a difference by her own passion for justice.

It is a great honor to be the first woman to lead a party in the House of Representatives. When I was first elected to that position, we made history. Now we are making progress. As we celebrate the achievements of women throughout history and work toward progress of our own, we are inspired by the words of Eleanor Roosevelt: "It's up to the women!"

Eleanor Roosevelt:

...of our own, we are inspired by the words of our predecessors — unequal pay, educational disadvantages, unmet health care needs, and civil rights struggles. I am certain, however, that through the work of courageous leaders in our community, our accomplishments and contributions as women of color will continue to grow well into the future. Together, women will continue to make the difference.

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

NARCOTICS IN THE UNITED STATES

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

Mr. SOUDER. First, Mr. Speaker, let me thank the Speaker for his kind words. I am the gentleman from California (Mr. Ose), for his leadership in Congress on the issue that I am going to address tonight, which is our narcotics problem in the United States. He has been a valuable member of this subcommittee from the time he got here, an aggressive member. We have held several hearings in California with him.

Mr. SOUDER. And I want to personally thank him and tell him how much he will be missed, since he has chosen to leave Congress, because we really need people of his expertise and his commitment. Thank you very much.

Mr. Speaker: On the record, a number of issues on narcotics I am going to talk about tonight. We have had a busy number of days here in Washington on this subject, and I want to start first with Colombia, where we have the largest investment in the narcotics effort. Just not that many days ago, President Uribe, the President of Colombia, was here. He met with leaders on both sides of the aisle. He met with the Speaker's Drug Task Force, which I co-chair; and we had the opportunity to learn what was one of our great success stories.

In the area of narcotics, it is not possible to totally defeat the drug problem in America because every day new people are exposed. We are dealing with fundamental human weaknesses. But we can either make progress or we can go back. We were making progress for nearly 10, 11 straight years when Ronald Reagan implemented a policy of "just say no," articulated so ably by the First Lady.

We, in fact, made tremendous progress. It was not just a slogan, just say no, but that was the message communicated to young people and people across the country. There was an aggressive effort to cut the sources of supply, interdiction, law enforcement, along with efforts in communities around the country to just say no and then help those who fell into drug abuse.

As we backed off of that in the early to mid-1990s, and sent a different message of "I didn't inhale," and cut back interdiction efforts, cut the drug czar's office from 120 employees down to about 30 employees, we saw such a surge in drug use in the United States and narcotics in the United States that it would take a 50 percent reduction from the 1993-94 levels, at the peak of the kind of drug revival in America to get back to where we were in the 1990-91 years.

In the latter years of the Clinton administration, and since President Bush has taken office, we have had a steady reduction in drug use in junior high, sophomore year in high school, senior year in high school, and we are making steady progress. We have also had dramatic changes in the country of Colombia.

Let me briefly refer to this map of Colombia. Colombia is a large country, and much of it is democratic South America. We often talk about its civil war, but it is a civil war with thugs. It is not a civil war in the sense of a traditional type of civil war. These are people who are violently trying to overthrow their government. Any poll will show any numbers in the group, and a number smaller than our prison population in all but a few States even, let alone our country. They are people who have been captured, and they provide protection and the increasingly taking over the production of cocaine.

Ninety percent of our cocaine comes from Colombia; the heroin, and most of our heroin in America comes from Colombia, and they manage a lot of the networks for the marijuana distribution as well. But that was not always the way in Colombia. Colombia has been destabilized because of our use of narcotics in the United States and in Europe.

Colombia is a beautiful nation for tourism, with Cartagena and many cities along the coast. This is the Amazon basin here, feeding into the Amazon River. You have, in the darker green, the areas of rain forest in that basin. These are the start of the Andes Mountains, beautiful high mountains. Up along the border with Venezuela we see Lake Maracaibo, the big piece of water coming in, and Venezuela there is itself one of the richest oil areas in the world, which is also true down in Colombia.

We spent, with American tax dollars, millions to try to protect that pipeline. Colombia was our eighth largest supplier of oil. More than Kuwait. But it was stopped as narcoterrorists came in and started breaking the pipelines to try to deny the government of Colombia the ability to function. The oldest democracy.

Anybody who has seen the fiction movie "Clear and Present Danger" has at least a fiction version of the violence that took place there, and an understanding of when the Cali and Medellin cartels were dominating the country. What that was was basically corrupted the government, killed lots of the judges, killed 30,000 policemen, which is the equivalent of an incredible number in the United States. But they had oil. They were a rich oil country.

This area in here, and in some of the other multiple other zones, is of course the richest coffee area in the world. You hear about Colombian coffee. If you have emeralds, they come from Colombia, gold, diamonds, are, and fake gold. They have gold there. Most of our flowers that we buy in the United States come from there. If you fly into the beautiful city of Bogota, in the lower parts of the Andes, you will see just acres and acres and acres of places growing flowers. More than Kuwait, the Supermarkets, the major chains bring that in. I have heard a figure as high as 70, 80 percent of the flowers sold in America come from Colombia.

Colombia is not a stable, solid economic country. That is not even mentioning textiles and other industries there. It is the oldest democracy that has been wrecked by us and by others. Now, as
these cartels have had an impact, it has destabilized their political system.

What we have done is ramped up what we call the Andean Initiative to not only cover Colombia but Peru, Bolivia and Ecuador with some help over to Brazil on the far side and some to Venezuela on the top and some to Panama on the sides, but we have mostly got it concentrated in Colombia.

What we have seen as Congress appropriated additional dollars, our peak was probably $800 million a year, of which about 60 percent was for eradication efforts, 40 percent was to help rebuild their infrastructure, police forces, law enforcement, alternative development and other things like that, that coca eradication in this past year, after several years of this aggressive pressure and with the brave president of Colombia, President Uribe, when I say brave, what I mean is this: His father was assassinated by the drug dealers in Colombia. He has had multiple threats on his life. When I say brave, what I mean is this:

His father was assassinated by the drug dealers in Colombia. He has had multiple threats on his life. When I was there along with the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Frank) at the swearing in and the inauguration of President Uribe, they attacked us. The two of us would have just been a footnote if we had died because there were many others there, too. But, as we left, we heard this big boom. I remember the gentleman from Massachusetts saying, "I’ve never heard of a one-gun salute." We were supposedly inside a perimeter of roughly 10,000 soldiers protecting us, but they had launched Howitzers from about a mile and a quarter away.

At first they went one way off, then they went in the other direction off, then they hit a housing complex and killed a bunch of people, then they hit the corner of the presidential palace, but by that time the helicopters and everything were on them so we were spared. But they tried to kill him on his inauguration day. There is a multiple-million-dollar price on his head or his family, yet he carries on.

Vice President Santos was kidnapped by the drug traffickers. He escaped. He was a newspaper publisher-editor in Colombia. He escaped from the drug traffickers, came back and decided to run for office.

That is what you call two committed people, why they are so willing to stand up to the drug traffickers. Even when they have had their family killed and they personally have been kidnapped and have the threats on their life, they are standing there fighting.

This is not Vietnam. This is not a country where we are asking, will they help? Will they do their share? This is not, quite frankly, even what we see in Iraq right now or Afghanistan right now, where we wonder sometimes which side the Iraqis are on. When we see that incident the other day, it is like, Why were you standing there when they were killing American contractees?

That is not the case here. They are dying because of our drug use, and what we are doing is supplying them with the training and the backup to do this.

What has happened with this, and particularly with President Uribe’s aggressiveness, is that they are not just eradicating the coca crop once, they are eradicating it three times. Because coca, and the equator is down more in this area, somewhere in this zone, it is just among the best places in the world to grow this type of crop. You have elevation for heroin poppy, you have lots of rain, it can grow and plant multiple times a year. So unless you are really committed, you can do this token stuff. We sprayed it, we eradicated, yeah, but they got two more crops in that cycle. The question is, did you hit all three?

Now, with adequate funding, we are hitting all three. We are going after them, President Uribe is going after them, and the alternative development can work.

If on a street corner of the United States you can make $400 as a lookout for a drug group, it is pretty tough to talk you into working at McDonald’s or you can take a job with no sure that the bridges are working or the power of the Colombian judicial system have improved markedly. Their commitment is in evidence every day.

This is important, because for the first time in the populous areas of Colombia for decades they are getting stability. I had one meeting in my office with a Colombian-U.S. business group, and they got a phone call because at the school there where most of their children go in Bogota, there had been a kidnapping that day. I think it was in Bogota and Medellin, but whichever city it was, there had been a kidnapping where the FARC and the narcoterrorists had blocked off a bridge and got a young mother with her daughter. They all knew the person was not their family, but can you imagine living with that every day about the kidnappings?

Three different groups, ELN, the FARC and the so-called paramilitary groups are all practicing now managing drug trafficking and the kidnapping. They are finally meeting a government that is committed and going after them. We are supplying the assistance to do it, not boots on the ground in battle but providing the technical assistance to keep the helicopters up.

Our total investment in this battle when it is directly related to the United States and our hemisphere is $4 billion. That is supposed to do it, but it is not doing nothing. We have got that all over the world, and they are not on the front lines getting shot at. The ones that got captured were doing backup, and the FARC basically got them by accident, shot them, kept them and killed some. We are trying our best to get them out. But they are not out there. They are not the ones in the front lines doing the fighting or getting shot at like in Iraq because the Colombians themselves are doing it, and we have been accurately and thoroughly training their forces, that they have basically taken back their country. Seventy-four percent reduction in road attacks, 67 percent reduction in bridge attacks, 67 percent reduction in electric infrastructure attacks.

It is pretty tough, as we are seeing in Iraq. If you cannot get your electric system to work, if you cannot make sure that the bridges are working properly, if you cannot make sure that people can drive down the highway, it is pretty tough to establish law and order in a country. It is pretty tough to make sure that alternative...
the British Counternarcotics Efforts just stay the course. We
will never forget her courage in helping forge a great coalition against
the aggression which brutalized the Gulf. Nor will I forget the
telephone conversation that I had with the Prime Minister. In the early
days of the Gulf crisis—I am not sure you remember this, Margaret—in the
early days of this crisis, she called me to say that though we fully in-
tended to interdict Iraqi shipping, we were going to let a single vessel head-
ing for Oman enter port down at Yemen, going around Oman down to
Yemen—let it enter port without being stopped. And she listened to my expla-
nation, agreed with the decision, but then added these words of caution,
words that guided me through the Gulf crisis, words I’ll never forget as long as
classified, the British are our best friends in counterterrorism; and they have been
the ones who have been most aggressive about going after heroin in Af-

So Colombia is a success story. It does not mean every day it is a success. It
does not mean there are not attacks. It does not mean every day it is a success.

What do I mean by a hold? The Assistant Secretary of State for Nar-
cotics, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement, who oversees not
only Colombia but the efforts in Af-
ganistan and not just the anti-nar-
cotics efforts in Afghanistan but this
agency oversees all the law enforce-
ment efforts in Afghanistan, I am going to read some of his testimony
from today:

Initial reports just in from the field in Afghanistan, this is as of yes-
terday’s reading, tell us in the path for a significant surge, some ob-
servers indicate perhaps as much as a 50 to 100 percent growth in the 2004
crop over the already troubling figures from last year. By these estimates, un-
less corrective, enforceable action is taken immediately, we may be
looking at well over 120,000 hectares of poppy cultivation this year.

"That would constitute a world record crop empowering traffickers and
the terrorists they feed, raising the stakes for and vulnerability of Afghan
farmers, and radiating the supply of heroin in the world market."

Assistant Secretary Charles continued: "Even more disturbing, these re-
ports indicate that the clock is ticking faster than many anticipated due part-
ly to warmer than expected weather in southern and eastern Afghanistan. As a direct
result, the time for action may be shorter than anyone anticipated."

"I’ve recently learned in the U.N. Office of Drugs and Crime that they expect the
very early harvest in southern Afghanistan will result in an early har-
vest which in some provinces has already started."
What does this mean? It means that they were projecting we had several more months to complete an eradication project and they need to go now, not later, now; and that if we do not move now, the whole cycle, which normally takes two years, is going to move up, and if my colleagues see Afghanistan there, the southern half roughly going up to the east side, 58 percent of opium eradication is supposed to be done by the British, 42 percent by the United States. And in the south in the Pashtun areas and where it is warmer and also less mountainous. The mountains are not as high. It is warmer. So the opium is flowering now. And in the north, where we are more in charge of eradication largely in Tajek areas, but other areas as well, starting May 1 we will start our operations and moving in.

Here is some of the political dilemma. The British for some reason, in kind of a bizarre position, seem to be saying and this is literally what we heard from Secretary Charles under questioning today, is his understanding was they said, since we did not get the heroin eradicated earlier and it is starting to flower, we really should not destroy it. It will destroy the farmers’ income for this period and that would be terrible because they have worked this whole long period to bring it to market.

And we think, wait a second, this is not so bad. First off, let us get this straight. Ninety-two percent of the agricultural land in Afghanistan is not heroin. Afghanistan does not have a heroin tradition. It has gone in and out. But as the former King told us when we met with him when he was in exile and then when I was recently back over in Afghanistan again, during their kind of window of 30 or 40 years of a benevolent monarchy and moving towards a democracy, in their first democracy, they didn’t have a heroin tradition. They were the breadbasket of that whole zone because where they can grow heroin and coca, it is also great for other products. But they switched over partly because of the Taliban, which got 80 percent of their income from heroin.

The question is who is going to run this country? Furthermore, a lot of the Northern Alliance groups that were aligned got their money from heroin. They were operating a country as they were war torn and blowing up other things in ways to make money and the regular farmers would get terrorized because they could get more money faster through heroin. It is a mess. And that as we tackle Afghanistan, if we are really going to try to restore order there and not have these terrorists and drug lords who are becoming more rapidly around the world the same people, we have to get at the heroin.

Now, the argument here is we are talking about only 8 percent; so the market has covered 92 percent but these 8 percent, mostly in politically potent highly, what we would call warlord areas, is a problem.

Let me finish my other point with the British in the flowering at the last minute. As Secretary Charles said today, this would be really akin to trying to tell a person that as they were bringing the money into the bank because they put up the whole network, they grow it, they distribute it, and now they are ready to deposit the money and they are nabbing them then. They should have got them at the beginning, not when they are getting ready to put the money in the bank. So why do they not just let them go? I mean, the logic of this is crazy. This would be as somebody does all the work to lay out a bank robbery, they conduct the bank robbery, they steal the money, and then we get them at the tail end, but they put all that work in. I do not know if we should stop them.

Furthermore, this is not benign. The heroin poppy where we are trying to be so generous, apparently, and not eradicate because we do not want to deprive the farmers of their income is going to kill people. It is going to leave families and communities. It is going to be destroying the adults and children being abused by their parents because they got this heroin poppy. This is not a benign flowering marigold flower. It is a heroin poppy that is going to kill people, main people, lead to auto- matic remorse. Then when it starts to flower, we really should not eradicate it because it will destroy the world. Why in the world would anybody think that they are not going to eradicate it when it is flowering? We cannot sit there with planes on the ground, twiddling our thumbs, while the world is about to be assaulted by the biggest crop of heroin in history. It is nonsensical.

Furthermore, if we do not crack down and if the British will not be aggressive in the southern part of Afghanistan, then we now do we think that the Northern Alliance groups who are also growing and protecting some of the people are going to be if we go into the Tajeks and the Uzbekis and those tribal groups in the north? They are going to say we did not do it to the Pashtuns, and we are back to the tribal breakups in the country because we are discriminating between the two different groups.

We have got to get this policy together, both the United States and Britain. We are getting more drug eradication groups in, and we need to go after it. Because if we fail to eradicate, if we cannot get it at the laboratory area, if we cannot get it in the distribution centers, it is going to wind up harder and harder to get.

Look at these arrows coming out of Afghanistan, a similar problem with Colombia. If we do not get at its source, then it gets harder to find the other. Then when it starts to move up through the Stans, through Russia, through Turkey, into Europe, down around and up the Suez Canal, they cannot get it. Then it is all over our streets. Then in America, 20,000 deaths because of drug abuse. Terrorism in its worst case killed 3,000 in a year. We have to make sure that that does not escalate.

Thankfully, this President has been aggressive; and we have done a better job of destroying these factories than we shut down many of the terrorists’ operations in the world, and we are battling them in Afghanistan and battling them in Iraq. Finally, Libya is cooperating with us, and when we met with Colonel Kadafi the first time we went in there, and I was with the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. WELDON) in that tour, he did not want to be in a spider hole like his friend Saddam. So he figured the Pakistani people was providing weapons, and we need to be operating with us. Now all of a sudden Pakistan is cooperating with us. We have had some major breakthroughs, thanks to this President’s efforts.
But at the same time we have to realize the nexus, the connections between narcotics and the stability of a country like Afghanistan long term. President Karzai and his leadership have been tremendous. It is a very difficult problem, they have got to try to establish order when they have this country divided up into different sections with different drug lords and warlords ruling that. But we have got to get it because he understands, in multiple meetings here on Capitol Hill and in Ankara and elsewhere, he cannot have democracy in Afghanistan unless he can eliminate or at least greatly reduce the amount of opium poppy.

Two other hearings we did this week in Washington: on Tuesday we had a hearing on measuring the effectiveness of drug treatment. Part of any strategy, like I said, first we have got to try to get it at its source because if we can get it at its source, even though it is expensive, it is so much cheaper than if we had to go after the labs and interdict it, whether it is Colombia, Afghanistan, Burma, wherever the problem is, if we can get it at its source. Then we try to get it as it is moving through interdiction if it is coming up from Colombia, Mexico or in the Pacific. Then we try to get it at the border. If we fail at the border, we try to get it coming into the communities.

I hear often on this House floor we should not lock up the poor individual user. But then many of those same people do not want to lock up the user, do not want to go after the eradication. They did not want to go after the interdiction. They do not want to do the other things. We have got to do whatever we can to try to get to the kingpins and that network of drugs coming in.

We also need to work aggressively in the schools and around the country and with the community antidrug prevention program. We have to get after it. They are saying it is a failure, and people get addicted, we have to figure out how to best to provide treatment and how to do this.

There were a number of interesting things that we heard. There are 7 million people in the U.S. who need treatment for drug addiction, and the President's new drug treatment plan has some initiatives to try to address that because many people who are not getting treatment and who have a drug problem are not interested in getting treatment. But when somebody says they want treatment and are committed to change, we need to work to make sure those people can be covered.

Chairman Sensenbrenner and a long-time friend of mine, administrator of the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration for the United States Department of Health and Human Services, HHS, testified on the access to recovery, how they are trying to put accountability in the system, trying to put accountability in co-occurring dependencies. Many people who have other problems, whether they be mental or physical, are most vulnerable to drug abuse; and those co-occurring dependencies are very difficult. He is a leader in that, like he was in Pennsylvania, in trying to look at that problem, in trying to hold an accountability of what actually works. And one person who has worked in this field who has not talked to people who have been through five, seven drug treatment programs. Maybe they have made a marginal commitment, and I understand drug treatment to know that they are not going to get them necessarily completely cured, but they can certainly make progress. And in many cases, they are not even willing to have drug treatment. Part of what Director Walters is trying to do through the new treatment program is to make sure they at least have the accountability of drug testing if they want Federal dollars. Min the war just treating the wounded.

Another thing we heard about was coordinated action. One of the witnesses was former Judge Karen Freeman Wilson, also the former Attorney General of Indiana, now the executive director of the National Drug Court Institute; and she pointed out why drug courts work. When we say drug courts work, we do not mean they work 100 percent. We mean they work better than anything else and that they get some people completely off drugs, they get some people mostly off, some people who very infrequently relapse, and they fail on some. That is the real world. That is why we try to prevent things happening. As Nancy Reagan so wonderfully said, we cannot win a war by just treating the wounded. We have to treat the wounded. Nobody is proposing in a war that we do not treat the wounded. But we do not win the war just treating the wounded.

"Each drug court is required to monitor abstinence through regular, random, and observed drug testing. This means that most participants are tested at least two to three times a week." I want to read a brief comment here. Mr. Curie has been working with this. "Those who consistently test negatively are believed to be receiving effective treatment.''

In other words, we have to have accountability in it.

Another measure of effectiveness of treatment in the drug court context is the ability of the offender to comply with other aspects of the drug court program. Is the person actively engaged in the community? Are they actively involved in a job search, vocational training or school? Are they attending self-help meetings? Are they appearing as ordered for court review hearings and meetings with probation officials? Are they paying their fines and fees? Is the participant attending, complying, progressing in ancillary services, referred to community service providers, to address issues other than substance abuse? Is there not a person being medicated and otherwise addressing identified co-occurring mental health issues?"
direct conflict between Federal and State law and put into sharp focus the competing scientific claims about the value of marijuana and its components as medicine.

Marijuana was once used as a folk medicine by many primitive cultures and even in the 19th century was frequently used by some American doctors, much as alcohol, cocaine and heroine were once used by doctors. By the 20th century, however, its use by legitimate medical practitioners had dwindled, while its illegitimate use as a recreational drug had risen. The drug was finally banned as a medicine in the 1930s.

Beginning in the 1970s, however, individuals began reporting anecdotal evidence that marijuana might have some medically beneficial purposes, most noticeably in suppressing the nausea associated with cancer chemotherapy.

Today, the evidence is still essentially anecdotal, but many people take it as a fact that marijuana is a proven medicine. One of the main purposes of the hearing we had this afternoon was to examine that claim.

At present, the evidence in favor of marijuana’s utility as a medicine remains anecdotal and unproven. An Institute of Medicine study published in 1999 reviewed the available evidence and concluded that, at best, marijuana might be used as a last resort for those suffering from extreme conditions.

This report is repeatedly cited by the pro-marijuana movement, it was again today, as proof that marijuana is safe for medical use. In fact, the report stressed that smoking marijuana is not a safe medical delivery device, exposes patients to a significant number of harmful substances; but only in extreme conditions back in 1999, before we had additional advances, was it to be used.

In contrast to its supposed medical benefits, the negative health effects of marijuana are well-known and have been the subject of scientific studies. Among other things the drug is addictive, impairs brain function, and when smoked greatly, increases the risk of lung cancer. The respiratory problems associated with smoking any substance make the use of marijuana cigarettes as medicine highly problematic. Indeed, no other modern medicine is smoked.

It is quite possible, however, that some components of marijuana may provide medical uses. Indeed, the Institute of Medicine report, so often erroneously cited as supporting smoking marijuana, actually stated if there is any future of marijuana as medicine, it lies in its isolated components, the cannabimoids and their synthetic derivatives.

Interestingly, the Federal Government has already approved a marijuana derivative called Marinol, but rarely do the people who advocate its use mention this. The Federal Government has also approved further studies of the potential use of marijuana or marijuana derivatives as medicine.

Moreover, in the United Kingdom, a pharmaceutical company has applied for a license to market an inhalant form of marijuana called Sativex. Thus, the real debate is not over whether marijuana could be used as medicine; it is over the most scientifically safe and effective way that components of marijuana may be used as medicine.

The responsibility for ensuring that any drug, whether derived from marijuana or not, is safe and effective, has been entrusted to the Food and Drug Administration, FDA. Under Federal law, the FDA must review, test, and approve each medicine and determine what conditions or diseases each drug may be used to treat and at what dosage level. The FDA continues to monitor each drug, making sure it is manufactured and marketed properly and that unforeseen side effects do not jeopardize the public health.

State laws purporting to legalize marijuana for medical purposes bypass these important safeguards. California and Oregon have adopted the most wide-reaching such laws. They allow anyone to possess, use and even grow their own marijuana, provided he obtains the written recommendation of a doctor. Few, if any, restrictions are placed on what conditions marijuana may be used to treat.

We had both California and Oregon there today, had some discussion about enforcement, and they have four cases in one State, minimal in the other. In effect, they only enforce if somebody from there complains, and the people who are using it are not complaining. Few, if any, restrictions are placed on what restrictions marijuana may be used to treat. Virtually no restrictions are placed on the content, potency or purity of such medical marijuana.

The laws in California, Oregon and other States are extremely open-ended. California law even allows marijuana to be used for migraine headaches. One of our witnesses this afternoon also used it to treat ADD in two other individuals in four cases in one State, minimal in the other. In effect, they only enforce if somebody from there complains, and the people who are using it are not complaining. Few, if any, restrictions are placed on what restrictions marijuana may be used to treat. Virtually no restrictions are placed on the content, potency or purity of such medical marijuana.

The laws in California, Oregon and other States are extremely open-ended. California law even allows marijuana to be used for migraine headaches. One of our witnesses this afternoon also used it to treat ADD in two other indications and did not have any science whatever. One who just had his license taken away treated 4,000 people, and, according to the board in Oregon, had not even met with the people. So he did get a complaint. Only a small percentage of medical marijuana used in California and Oregon have actually used the drug to treat the conditions for which it was publicly promoted, namely, the nausea associated with chemotherapy and AIDS wasting syndrome.

In Oregon, statistics kept by the State Medical Marijuana Program indicate that well over half the registered patients used the drug simply for “pain” while less than half used it for nausea, glaucoma or conditions related to cancer and multiple sclerosis. In San Mateo, California, a study of AIDS patients showed that only 28 percent of the patients who used marijuana did so even to relieve pain. Over half used it to relieve anxiety or depression, and a third for recreational purposes.

This raises one of the key questions we must address. If we are going to treat marijuana as medicine, will we subject it to the same health and safety regulations that apply to other medicines? We do not allow patients to grow their own opium poppies to make painkillers like morphine, Oxycodone and even heroin with just a doctor’s recommendation. We do not allow people to manufacture their own psychiatric drugs like Prozac or Xanax to treat headaches. Why should we then authorize people to grow their own marijuana, when the potential for abuse is high and there is little or no scientific evidence that it can actually treat all of these illnesses and conditions?

Why would we abandon the regulatory process that ensures that drugs are manufactured at the right potency level and contaminant-free? Why should we stop the oversight that makes sure that drugs are being administered in the right dosage and in the safest manner?

In our follow up, FDA said on the record today there is no, none, zero, medical marijuana; and Dr. Volkow from the National Institute for Drug Abuse said clearly there are 400 components in marijuana.

Now, those of us who oppose marijuana need to do some acknowledging here too. People have real problems, particularly in treating, that there are some areas in Marinol that have not worked, although it has been improved as well. We have to look in controlled, disciplined environments to figure out how to address that. And those who advocate marijuana need to grant that smoked marijuana is very dangerous, much more carcinogenic than cigarette smoke. It is a huge addiction problem in the United States.

As we look at how best to make it medical, it is not the marijuana that is medical, anymore than cocaine or heroin is medical. It is made up of 400 different components, and to try to treat and work with what we are working with here, we are already working aggressively in our government to try to figure out the sub-components and how they mix and how to do it.

We heard all kinds of different things of where they are working and making progress in trying to treat this. And, interestingly, most of the breakthroughs are likely to be synthetic or a blend of things from other drugs with what the different components are in marijuana.

It is not the marijuana. It is not the smoke certainly that helps. It is not the marijuana; it is compounds inside that, often blended with other things, that can help us address the problem of nausea and the problem of relieving pain for AIDS patients.
Furthermore, the dosages need to be controlled with it, or you develop another addiction. If you take components in the marijuana, give it in tablet form, you can achieve the pain reduction. But if you are looking to get high, you want to get addicted, it will not work.

So Canada, as they moved to this, in Vancouver, which I opposed but it worked with the legislators there and I talked to them about this thing, what they are learning is people do not want to take this pill. They want to get a higher dose than the pill. They wanted this “BC Bud” high-quantity level.

We have to figure out how we are going to work this through, because clearly many States are adopting this. There has been a false concept across America. Those of us who oppose drug abuse are branded then as being uncaring for the sick, which is wrong.

In fighting the whole thing we are not clarifying what we are arguing over. We need to work together to relieve pain, but we also need to have an FDA standard, and it should not be a backdoor way to legalize a dangerous drug.

In our transportation bill we are moving through, we are making our first steps to make people aware that more people are killed apparently from drug addicted driving than from alcohol. That is a huge challenge in this country, that it is not just “I am relaxed and am using it.”

Medicinal Marijuana has already challenged our transportation and drug testing laws in the State of Oregon, because it was supposedly medical. No, if you are taking a tablet form, you are not going to be at risk because you do not get that same dosage. It is a different mix. It is not marijuana. We have to figure out how to work these things through.

One last comment. Yesterday, DEA broke the largest ecstasy ring in history. U.S. and Canadian drug agents broke up a distribution ring responsible for 15 percent of all the ecstasy, that is what they estimate, smuggled into this country. It was called Operation Candy Box.

Approximately at their peak, they were doing 1 million tablets a month, approximately 5 million laundered dollars a month. It was in 18 cities in the United States and Canada.

I am aware of the DEA’s efforts and continued efforts to point out ecstasy is a dangerous drug. There is a program on tonight that I am very concerned about based on some of the statements attributed to Peter Jennings and in the news media. I do not know if it is correct. I have not seen the show. It does not air until tonight.

But the news reports are saying and suggesting that they feel the Federal Government has been inaccurate in their reporting, on which we had testimony showing the bad damage, certainly in animals, but showed us charts too of the potential and some on humans. We have heard from parents whose kids have died at ecstasy parties and have gotten addicted. We heard of people who are ecstasy addicts, and I sure hope that we continue to combat it aggressively.

I thank the DEA for their efforts to shut down this dangerous drug and I hope that our national news media does not side with the drug dealers and the drug users of this country and continue to send a positive message.

EMPLOYMENT PROBLEMS IN AMERICA

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. Ose). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 7, 2003, the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. Frank) is recognized for 60 minutes.

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, a few weeks ago I took this floor to talk about the very serious problem we have in our country today regarding jobs.

Last year as the economy began finally to recover from the recession in a somewhat robust fashion, we expected to see a significant increase in jobs. As I noted previously, Secretary of the Treasury Snow in October said he thought we would have 200,000 jobs a month, because we had seen such vigorous growth. He said everything he knew about the way the American economy worked, meant with that level of growth, we were going to get 200,000 jobs a month.

A couple of months later, when he was drafting the President’s economic report, the Chairman of the Council of Economic Advisers, Mr. Mankiw, said something similarly. In fact, he went him a little better. He said about 215,000 jobs a month. By February of this year they both had retracted those predictions.

Unfortunately, we clearly now are in a situation in which the old rules, by which we mean over the last 20 or 30 years, would calculate the given number of jobs we would get for a given level of increase in our gross domestic product, do not seem to be working.

For a variety of reasons, we are not producing at a given level of economic activity the jobs we used to have. That is a serious problem. It is, first of all, of course, a terrible social problem. The people who do not get jobs are often the most vulnerable in our society, and they lose all hope for anyone who suffers from it. The joblessness has been prolonged.

In addition to joblessness, of course, by the working of supply and demand, when you have a larger number of people unemployed, wages do not rise at the normal rate so that we had last year a drop in real wages. Inflation outstripped real wages for people who work for pay from others.

2030

We have seen the erosion in health benefits. There was some debate late last year and early this year about that. As I said, the President’s economic report came out in January, and it was still under the old rules. Well, facts are stubborn things, as a number of people have said. I forget who said it first, but a lot of us have liked it and repeated it, and it is now undeniable that we have a serious lag in job creation.

We are debating the reasons. I think they are multiple. One is productivity; and that is, of course, the great paradox. The good news of increased productivity becomes the bad news because it is one of the major explanations for the lag in job creation. There is the globalization factor, outsourcing. There is the debate about government jobs, productivity, but it is costing jobs, undeniably.

There are other factors that are involved. I think the health care system of the United States is a problem. We are just getting the part. It is the only one I can think of right offhand, where your health care is so tied to your job, so that when an American company has to hire, they have to think about health care. We have a situation where the American auto manufacturers are burdened in their competition with others because they have to factor into the cost of every Ford and every Chevrolet and every car that is built here, the health care that is not a marginal cost for their competitors.

But leave aside for a while the reasons. We have to deal with the fact. And the fact is, as I said, it is now clear that we are in a period where we are producing fewer jobs per element of gross domestic product than previously. Then the question is, well, how long is this going to be with us?

Last year, the optimists were the people who said, well, we are going to just get a lot of jobs—a couple of million jobs a year, more than that. 2½. The Bush administration said from 2 to 2.6 million jobs a year. No one thinks that anymore. I hope tomorrow we are going to see a very robust job figure. There are those who hope that it will finally begin to show something, probably because a major strike was settled in California, other seasonable factors, weather changes, but no one thinks we are going to get to those projections of 2.4 to 2.6 million jobs.

So there has been a kind of downscaling of expectations by the administration and others. We still have pessimists and optimists, but, sadly, the pessimists and the optimists agree that we are in a period of slow job growth, and they differ as to how permanent this is.

Now, there are really three levels here.

There are always, of course, job losses of a cyclical nature in a recession. The optimists last year said basically, look, these are cyclical job losses and as we come out of this recession, we are going to restore them. That has not happened. Clearly, there is a structural element here. So we now have this understanding that increased productivity, foreign outsourcing, and
globalization are costing jobs in the near term.

But the optimists say, okay, that is true, but that is temporary. In other words, they concede, we have not just the cyclical problem of a recession, we have also a structural problem: that as our workforce gets reorganized. But, they say, that is temporary, because the dynamism of the American economy and the inherent workings of the market, new jobs will be created. So they concede, as the facts require them to, but not in a way that is obvious where we do not have the jobs we had expected to have but, they say, have hope. The jobs are just around the corner. The jobs are coming.

I wish I could be as optimistic. I do not think it is possible at this time to conclude for sure how deeply embedded in our economy this structural problem is. I fear that to a great extent we are going to have to cope with this on into the future. It is not simply that productivity means, I believe, a qualitatively change going forward in the wealth-to-job mix, but it is also not clear that foreign trade will do what people say.

We have some of those who are the strongest opponents of trade, I think, overselling it. Foreign trade clearly has been a reason why inflation has been low. Foreign trade clearly holds down the cost of products we buy. But the notion that it will automatically produce as many jobs as it costs simply has not been borne out.

I was struck by a very interesting panel held on the question of outsourcing. One of those who spoke on the panel, a former member of the Board of Governors and Federal Reserve, a very distinguished economist, Lawrence Meyer, talking about this general subject quoted another very distinguished economist, Robert Lawrence, and he said that he had recently read a law of Mr. Lawrence which really troubled him, and here is the quote. As he notes, Robert Lawrence has studied international competitiveness his entire career, and here is what Mr. Lawrence said, as quoted by Mr. Meyer:

“If foreign countries specialized in high-skilled areas where we have an advantage, we could be worse off. I still have faith in globalization, but it is no more than faith.”

In other words, there is no guarantee that the factors that are causing this slowdown in job creation now are going to fade away.

I will talk in a further speech, however, let me reassure the Speaker, I do not plan to try to cover everything tonight and keep everyone here, about whether the optimists or the pessimists are right and what we do about it. Today I want to take the optimists at their word and hope that they are right and hope that what we are in is just a worse transition. That is the optimistic view.

The optimists concede that, as I said, it is not just a cyclical problem. What they now say is, well, it is a transitional problem. We are in a transition at this point. Of course, the economy is always undergoing transition, but there does appear to be a more significant transition now: the outsourcing of computer jobs and service jobs, that is relatively new. It had been outsourcing in effect not of jobs but of whole operations in the manufacturing area. This is new. The productivity, the integration of information technology, that seems new.

But if you take it all in, it is true we are in a transition, but do not worry, because the dynamism of the American economy will soon produce new jobs to replace those that are lost.

Here is what President Bush said. Now, again, President Bush was, of course, last year one of the great optimists of the old sort. President Bush was having his administration officials predict 2.5 million jobs this year. That is gone. Now here is what the President has just said. According to the New York Times of March 31, the President was in Wisconsin; and the Times says he acknowledged the economic anxiety felt by many voters, saying that the intense pressure on business and workers to produce more for less, while good for the economy in the long run, has held down the creation of jobs.

It then goes on to quote Mr. Bush directly, and here is Mr. Bush’s quote:

“This is called a period of transition,” Mr. Bush said. “That is an economist’s word for things aren’t going too well for you, and I understand that. I understand people are worried about the job they have.”

In other words, this is the new optimistic view, which is a less optimistic view than the old optimistic view, and the President says, transition means “things aren’t going well for you.” Well, now lexicography was never one of his claimed strengths, so we will let the President have his acknowledgment that this transition is hurting people, but, he says, in the long run, you will be better off.

That is what I want to address. I want to take those optimists at their word, and President Bush is in that camp.

The leader of the optimistic camp, because of his stature, his justifiable stature, the respect for which people have for him as an economist and a political leader, is Alan Greenspan. And I commend people who want to see the optimistic view, the new down-scaled optimistic view, to read his testimony given on March 11 before the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

As an aside, Mr. Speaker, as some Members know, that used to be called the Committee on Education and Labor, but in a display of political correctness, when the Republican Party took over the House, “lab” being a word with unpleasant implications for the Republican party, I think perhaps too much social concern for people who earn their living by being paid by others, the word “labor” was banished from the official roster of committees and we now have the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

Mr. Greenspan’s testimony before the Committee on Education and the Workforce is the basis for the optimists, is the basis for the optimism of the optimists. He says in here, as he has said before, that the stress that significant parts of our workforce are enduring reflect, and here I quote him, it is what “Joseph Schumpeter, the renowned Harvard professor, called the process of creative destruction.”

The very fact that you are losing your job is, in a perverse way, good news, because the job you are losing is a job that we no longer really find that useful, and we are going to create, out of that job loss, a freedom for you to take a new job.

So they concede, as the facts require, let us produce new jobs. Of course we will produce new jobs. Of course we will produce new jobs.

Certainly we will. But whether or not the rate of new job production will equal the rate of job loss, that is not to be taken for granted, and that is why Professor Meyer quoted Mr. Lawrence.

He is saying, look, I have faith in globalization, but it is only faith.

It is clear that trade will help with the inflation issue. Trade helps bring us products cheaply, but there is no guarantee whatsoever to assume that it will help us to replace the jobs that have been lost, and there is no mechanism under productivity that says that, either.

But I will take the optimists, for now, at their word. They acknowledge that, however, there is a problem. In other words, the optimistic view is, okay, this is a transitional period, and in this transitional period a lot of you are losing your jobs and some of you are keeping your jobs, but you are losing your health care and you are getting cut back.

An example of that, we just saw the settlement of a strike here or a dispute in Washington, D.C., unfortunately, it did not lead to a strike, I guess, of grocery workers. Grocery workers have a new contract, and here is the headline from the Washington Post yesterday: “New Workers Bear Brunt of Concessions. New people hired to work in the grocery stores in Giant and Safeway will get less in the way of compensation than the people who have been working there.”

Well, that is the creative destruction, but it does seem to me in this case, for
the new people, a little more destruction than creativity, because they are going to get less.

By the way, we are talking about grocery workers. We are not talking about people whose compensation will go from $50,000 to $40,000. We are talking about people working very hard for not an enormous amount of money, and they will get less of it, and their health care will cost them more.

Mr. Meyer makes that clear, by the way. Mr. Meyer, former governor of the Federal Reserve, who cares about the central process and has more than a short run. It seems to me morally a decent society will try to take some of the increased benefit and use that to alleviate the pain of the few who are bearing the costs. But in an economy where the benefits are widely distributed, the costs of achieving those benefits is very narrowly borne.

It seems to me morally a decent society will try to take some of the increased benefit and use that to alleviate the pain of the few who are bearing the costs. But in an economy where the benefits are widely distributed, the costs of achieving those benefits is very narrowly borne.

The President says, transition, things are not going well for you. Okay, but do we not have some obligation to have things go better? Is it reasonable? I guess, because of outsourcing and other things, some of the things I buy are cheaper. But I do not have the political power in some situations to worry about the fact that the people who are selling me these things more cheaply are getting paid less and having trouble meeting their family’s needs. I am afraid they ought to get, have to pay too much for it and sacrifice elsewhere?

I think there is a moral reason why we should be trying to improve things. That, of course, requires some public policy. But even for those who do not believe in the moral argument, their own self-interest ought to convince them to do more about the transition.

Given Mr. Greenspan’s recognition of the pain of the transition, given Mr. Bush’s recognition of the pain of the transition, they are making a great mistake in failing to alleviate the pain of the transition, if only because the people who are suffering that pain are not the ones who benefit from the pain. By the way, I think it is very lagging, although I would like to see a better version of that come forward.

Outsourcing, we know now in this great outcry, outsourcing, we are being told, do you not understand how good the outsourcing is? Well, the people who are being outsourced do not understand that it is good, but they know it is not good for them. As long as all the benefits of outsourcing are going to some people and none of the gains, they are not going to be too happy about this.

As long as all the benefits of outsourcing are going to some people and none of the gains, they are not going to be too happy about this. I say to the optimists who believe that this is simply a matter of a transition which in the end will leave all of us better off, if you do not do something to alleviate the pain that transition inflicts on the lower economic sectors of this society, they are not going to let the transition go forward. Now, unfortunately, under the current administration and with the current congressional leadership, not only are we not doing anything to alleviate the pain of the transition, we are making it worse through public policy. Let me give you one example where I say we are making it worse.

Some American workers are at risk because the things that they do can be done overseas. And they are told, listen, if you do not adopt some lower benefits we will send this work overseas. We know that that threat is made often.

People in the computer industry are being told you are going to lose your job, you are going to be outsourced. Well, yes, there are some things where that is the case. But how does that explain the erosion in the relative position of grocery workers? We know that that is there because the new grocery workers are going to get less than the existing ones. Very few Americans will go to India to buy their groceries. There is not a problem of outsourcing of your frozen food. What we have got are public policies that are eroding their position. In particular, the assault on the role of unions. What has happened has been a systematic dismantling of the Federal law passed under Franklin Roosevelt and generally supported by presidents.
since, which allow men and women to bargain collectively for their jobs. So you have a Wal-Mart which, in part because of the law and the way it is now being interpreted, is able to block collective bargaining because you have people who are ambivalent about the law that is supposed to protect people's rights to join them. So Wal-Mart then becomes the standard down to which others must repair. That is a public policy problem.

The tax system over the past few years and since has been more favorable to the wealthy and less favorable to working people in relative terms. The payroll tax continues to go forward. That is another example of public policy making things worse rather than better.

And we have a number of very specific areas where the people in power in Washington are either making things worse or refusing to make things better. That is, there are some things that can be done to ease the transition. And, again, I want to reiterate, I am not here debating whether or not these changes in job creation are going to be with us for a while or whether they are short term. Everybody admits that we now have a transition. Everyone acknowledges it the President Mr. Greenspan, and others, that it causes pain to people. Let us assume they are right and within a few years the dynamism of the American economy will make this a time that we will all look back on and say, oh, were not we worried too much? Well, at least those of us who have had jobs throughout this and health care and other things. But what about the people who are not in a position to maybe even make it through there with any kind of economic integrity?

Well, there are things you can do to ease the transition. This Republican administration and Congress, sadly, are doing the reverse. Nothing could be clearer on this than the question of unemployment compensation.

Now, here Mr. Greenspan, who is the leading optimist in this, has, when pressed, agreed that we should extend unemployment benefits. I stress Mr. Greenspan, because I think he is the leading articulator of the more optimistic view. And when pressed, as he does not volunteer, he says, well, yes, you should extend unemployment. How do you extend unemployment? And, again, I want to reiterate, this is a time of transition in which to use your words, things are not going well for the people who are at work and you do not use your power to get extended unemployment compensation?

Now, historically, when the recession ended we would extend unemployment in a recession, extended unemployment benefits. When the recession ends, jobs came back, you did not need extended unemployment benefits. In this case we have the recovery without the jobs, so you still needed unemployment compensation. The administration opposes it.

Part of the problem, we agree, is foreign trade related. That is not the whole problem. Productivity may be a bigger part of it. I think it probably is. But part of it is foreign trade related. Well, we are told we have something called trade adjustment assistance. It helps to retrain people for an international operation. But when it was passed it dealt only with manufacturing. We were not thinking then about computer-type jobs being outsourced indeed. The jobs now being lost are not associated to retrain people for. We just forget to give them airplane tickets when we gave them retraining.

Where are we now? We are now in a situation in which the Republican administration and Congress is blocking efforts to extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers. So if you lose your job in a factory, you can get some trade adjustment assistance. It is not the best thing, but it is some help. But if you lose your job in a call center or in a computer programming operation, you get nothing. The administration has said no, no, we cannot help, because it says manufacturing products. It does not cover services.

Senators have said and others have said, the House of Representatives Members have said, okay, we will change the law so what this covers services; and the administration and the Republicans are blocking that.

So no to extended unemployment compensation, no to expanding trade adjustment assistance to people who need it.

Well, one of the things we could do would be to provide some public sector jobs for some of these people. Because, again, some of the people who are losing their jobs are not going to be the one who get the new ones.

And I go back to Mr. Greenspan. Mr. Greenspan's testimony is really the articulation of this view, and what it shows is the inadequacy of the conservative optimistic approach to this problem. Mr. Greenspan is their intellectual leader, and his answer essentially is community colleges and some more training.

One reads Mr. Greenspan, he says the whole problem is education. We do not have a good skill fit. We need more skilled workers, and we do not have them, and, therefore, the answer is to educate them more. That is shockingly the same answer Mr. Greenspan intellectually, I think, is not thinking this through.

I think that the problem is that in this case Mr. Greenspan's deeply conservative ideology, to which, obviously, he is fully entitled, his view that less government is almost always better, which is a view he has held for a very long time, is winning out over his intellectual understanding of what is going on in the world.

He grants that there is this insecurity. He did not always, but he now acknowledges it. He understands that the pain of the transition going unabated causes problems in resistance to the programs he would like to see go forward, but he cannot bring himself to let us help alleviate them.

Now, one more minute on the Bush administration. One thing we could do that would be very helpful, which would be highway and transit construction programs. People always said, well, public works is not a good way to respond to a job crisis in a recession because by the time you get geared up the recession is over. Yeah, but we are not in a recession where the recession may be over, but the joblessness is not; and this is an ideal time with slack recesses in the economy to improve our transportation system, our highways, our trains, our public transit.

A month or so ago the chairman of the Public Works and Transportation Committee here and his ranking member, bipartisan effort, correctly said we could spend usefully $375 billion over the next 6 years, an enormous amount in this whole country, improving transportation, and it would both be better for the society and it would provide jobs. And the President used his political muscle to cut that back and back to the point where he is now threatening to veto a bill that is $100 billion less than the original one.

Well, Mr. President, if you recognize that things are not going well in the transition, why should there be resistance to a piece of legislation that is one of the best answers we have to these problems? Because, again, to go back to Mr. Greenspan and the others, the problem with his argument about creative destruction is that, frankly, the people whose jobs are getting destroyed are not the people for whom the jobs will be created.

Even if you do job retraining, there are people in their 40s and 50s who are losing their jobs, people who had a high school education. The likelihood that these can be retrained for anything comparable to what they had, is quite slight in large numbers.

That is what Mr. Meyer correctly pointed out. Yes, some people get new jobs. They will be worse jobs than they had. They will not pay as much. They will not have the benefits, particularly since there is now a trend among American employers to cut back on health care and to cut back on defined pensions.

So, in any case, everything else being equal, you are likely to get a job paying less, and it is not going to be equal for these reasons.

Let me say, the President's mistakes are very clearcut. No to extended unemployment benefits, no to trade adjustment assistance to the people whose jobs are being outsourced, no to a good highway program that would put people to work also create, in some local areas, better economic conditions. So the President betrays his own recognition that this transition...
means things are not going well for people by denying them this kind of short-term help.

Mr. Greenspan's error is articulated more clearly, but I think it is equally grave. I have heard his and I have talked to him and his position, as I see it, is this. We have to educate people in the United States to increase the skill-sets of American workers. There are a couple of problems with Mr. Greenspan's approach.

First of all, I must say, as much as I respect him in general, as much as I admire what he did when during the 1990s he refused to raise interest rates and cut back the economy, some people argued that too little unemployment was bad for the economy. Mr. Greenspan resisted that. He said, no, we were going to have to do something else, even if inflation went down, we had to do something else. That, of course, is his argument.

The fact is that they face a situation in which their failure to alleviate the pain and deprivation for so many of our citizens, the particular benefits that the benefit society as a whole is getting, are losing health care, with the new hires at the grocery stores here in Washington will be getting less than their colleagues doing exactly the same work, unless we do a better job at alleviating that pain, then the transition is going to be stopped. Arguing that free trade and outsourcing and the freedom of employers to hire at will and not be hindered by unions, the objections to any restrictions on various productivity practices, those who take this position are doing their cause some harm, some very real harm. I do not bring myself to overcome his philosophical opposition to government is, as I said, Mr. Speaker, I have been talking about what I consider to be the optimistic view. The optimistic view is that, yes, productivity increases, outsourcing increases, trade increases, they represent more than the cyclical loss of jobs which you get in a recession that is overcome when the cycle turns. They acknowledge, the President acknowledges, Mr. Greenspan and others, a transition which has painful effects on many workers.

I will leave to a later speech, as I said, whether or not we may be in a period of a kind of permanent transition like this. That is, I fear that unless we do something else, more than we are doing in public policy, even more than I have now been talking about, we are going to continue to have this problem.

Increased productivity is a wonderful thing. It is what civilization strives for in the economic sphere. Productivity means we have more recreation and more leisure. We can make more with less. That is what we are trying for. The tragedy is that we have a set of bad social arrangements that take that away from us, that is, they force the winners to treat them more fairly, but because of the nature of politics, while the losers cannot make the winners treat them more fairly, they can stop the winners from winning as much as they otherwise might.

If you believe that all these things, unhindered scope for increased productivity, no restrictions on the Wal-Marts and the comparable institutions, increased foreign trade, all of these will lead to creative destruction, or the people whose jobs are being destroyed in the process of creative destruction, or the people who are losing jobs, or the people who are losing health care, with the new hires at the grocery stores here in Washington will be getting less than their colleagues doing exactly the same work, unless we do a better job at alleviating that pain, then the transition is going to be stopped. Arguing that free trade and outsourcing and the freedom of employers to hire at will and not be hindered by unions, the objections to any restrictions on various productivity practices, those who take this position are doing their cause some harm, some very real harm.
pain has built up such opposition to what they want to see happen that it will stop happening, and they cannot believe that this is good. So they really face a choice, because the electorate faces a choice later, but we deal today with those forces. Continue to block an extension of unemployment compensation, continue to deny trade adjustment assistance to people who are losing their jobs to outsourcing in the services area, continue to block the ability of organized labor to help people band together to defend themselves, continue to allow the erosion of pensions and health care, refuse to allow this Congress to pass by threatening to veto a highway bill that could put some people to work, and you will reap, unfortunately from your standpoint, and from mine, too, a degree of resistance to economic progress that may make us all worse off.

So I say, in closing, Mr. Speaker, that we have had some advance. The President, his administration, his people are not talking about 2.5 million jobs a year or more. They are acknowledging that we are in a period of painful transition, but they stop short of helping us alleviate that pain. The transition does not hurt fully, and if the transition continues to be painful, at some point there may not be nearly as much transition as they want.

I close by saying, as I said in my previous speech and will say again, a large part of the problem is the instinctive, intense, absolutist dislike of the public sector. The notion that when civilized people come together to do some things jointly because the market does a lot but it cannot do everything, the notion that that is something that is always bad gets in their way, because unemployment compensation and the highway bill, the trade adjustment assistance and improved community colleges, et cetera, that takes a public sector that is well-funded and able to meet its responsibilities.

As long as we have the President and a Congress that regard the public sector as something to be ridiculed and diminished and hindered at every turn, who do not have any confidence in our ability to come together as a people and achieve important social purposes, as long as Mr. Greenspan, the leader of intellectual conservatism, continues to argue out of his philosophical opposition to the notion that, yes, we must reduce the deficit but we must do it all by reducing spending and not at all by undoing some of these tax cuts, then things will get worse and not better. The political trends Mr. Greenspan laud, the opposition to free trade, the opposition to outsourcing, it is going to get worse, and we will see this year blocking outsourcing. In the short-term I am for that because I think the way it is being done is wrong.

I will not be us to be able to come together and say let us go back to Mr. Meyer one last time, try to follow the pareto optimal motto he talked about in which some of what the winners get will be to alleviate the losers' loss, to the point where we will be able to go forward as a society, and there will always be some losers and some people will be hurt. We are talking about a very complex society of hundreds of millions, but we can substantially diminish, I believe, unfairness of the way in which the current increases in wealth are distributed.

Until we do that, people should not be surprised when they encounter increasing instances of the things that they will tell the American people are in their long-term best interests because, unfortunately, the people who are losing their jobs and feeling the pain and losing their health care and having their pensions jeopardized do not. In this case, feel as persuaded as Joseph Schumpeter's argument about creative destruction as they instinctively tend to understand what John Maynard Keynes said when he argued to people who said do not worry about what is happening in the short run it will be better in the long run. In the long run, we shall all be dead, and in the long run these people understand they will have encountered so much pain and so much difficulty in their lives that the promise of these future benefits, which may not even accrue to them but to society as a whole, do not account for much.

Mr. Speaker, in a future speech, I will talk about the pessimistic view because, unfortunately, bleak as I sounded today was it today or was it yesterday about what the optimists say. I am afraid that I think things may even be worse than that, but at the very least, I just want to say in closing, maybe repetition will get me some somewhere, extend unemployment benefits, extend trade adjustment assistance to service workers. Let us do a highway bill that meets America's highway needs and puts people back to work. Stop the union busting and the resistance to working men and women being able to help each other. I promise you that we will be able at that point to consider some of the economic policies you are talking about in what you will find to be a better atmosphere.

JOBS AND IMMIGRATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. OSE). 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, it is with pleasure that the House this evening for the purpose of continuing the discussion that has been ongoing here about jobs; about what it is in this economy, in this new world economy, this new world order that is creating the dilemma for many people creating concern for the part of many folks out there, creating fear about their own jobs, if they still have them, and certainly encouraging the depression of those folks who have lost their jobs and have not been able to find others.

This is a perplexing and challenging issue. Undeniably so. And the tendency, the desire, I think, for a lot of people to immediately, especially in our position, any elected position in America, when we recognize there is this kind of a problem and that people are hurting, the natural response is to say what can do I do in Washington, I can change the situation? What can the government do to create a better situation for those folks who are hurting? And this is enormously perplexing when we are talking about this brave new world of a global economy that we do not entirely understand.

For well over 100 years, we thought we really had this thing pegged. We thought we knew what it took to create a prosperous society and a vibrant economy, and it boiled down to two words: free trade. And we listened to and read the works of economists that all adhered to an economist in the 18th century by the name of David Ricardo. He said the phrase the comparative advantage. And he said, look, when two countries are competing to produce a particular product, one may have an advantage over the other and we should concentrate on producing whatever it is in that country that they have the advantage to produce because of their climate, the geography, and the natural resources in that country.

He used two examples: He said, let us look at Portugal and England. Portugal could produce textiles, but in fact would have to put a lot more effort into producing textiles. England could produce textiles and wine, but would have to put a lot more effort into producing wine. So, therefore, Portugal should produce wine, England should produce textiles, and therefore, the comparative advantage would accrue to each one of those countries. Each one of them would be doing what they do best and, therefore, each one of them would gain and they would not be wasting their resources doing things they cannot do very well.

That is the theory we have been operating under for well over 100 years. And I believe that it had great merit and that it could work well. But we have added a new dimension to this whole discussion, and it is the dimension of labor. That was not an issue in Ricardo's day. Labor was not all that mobile. You could not move work to worker anywhere in the world. So labor was a constant in Ricardo's day and, therefore, you just dealt with what natural resources and the climate and that geography determined.

Today, of course, we know that because of technology we are no longer able to rely on just what nature has given us in terms of resources. We also know to deal with the fact that labor is another one of those commodities that can be traded and for which there is a competitive advantage for some countries. But today that advantage will
accrue to one country over another. It is not a win-win situation any more. It is not that one country can produce X, the other Y. Each of them will do that. Today, the economy is such that if you can provide cheaper labor, you win. The country that cannot deal with that loses. It is not a win-win game. That is the situation we face.

American labor has become ever more productive, ever more efficient, and has been able to stay relatively competitive against the rest of the world, enough so that we have been able to maintain the standard of living that is far above the rest of the world for quite some time. How long this will be, we do not know. The answer to the question is that we do not know exactly what we can do to make sure that American jobs and American workers are saved.

We can erect barriers, that is true. A law can be passed tomorrow in this body and passed in the other body, signed by the President, that will erect trade barriers. Will that protect American jobs? Well, it really cannot do that any more because there is no way to actually control the flow. Technology allows us to export work to worker anywhere in the world, and there are many ways that you can actually, in fact we may not have any way in which we can actually stop that phenomenon. I am certainly willing to look at any proposal that is designed to slow that down, that is designed to protect American jobs and American workers. I would like to do it.

There is this, as I say, natural desire on the part of most of us here to get up and say, here is what we have to do and it will solve all of our problems. I believe the last speaker said we should stop trying to bust the unions. Well, let me tell you, Mr. Speaker, that will not solve all of our problems.

In fact we are also talking about the one sort of tariff to stop the exportation of certain commodities or to in fact increase the cost of certain commodities being brought into the United States, I do not think that will solve the problem.

We are at a comparative disadvantage because our workers make more money than workers in most other countries of the world. And I am willing to admit that this is a dilemma for which I do not have a solution, but I am also willing to state that these are something we can do that neither my friends on the other side of the aisle or even my friends and colleagues on my side of the aisle are very willing to deal with, and yet it seems to me to be the most logical way of addressing this situation of the exportation of American workers jobs and stagnant wages that result from the fact that we can no longer compete in that particular environment.

What I suggest, Mr. Speaker, is that we begin to enforce the law, the law that actually determines how many people can come into this country. And that if someone comes into this country without our permission, they are eligible for deportation. And if someone hires someone who has come into this country illegally, they in turn can in fact be fined. And if they do it often enough, they can go to jail.

There are a range from between 9 million and 18 million people in this country who are here illegally. Most of them appear to be working, and we are told they are working in the United States. Well, I would like to test that theory, that they are coming to take jobs that no American will take. And here is one way we can test that theory, Mr. Speaker. We can look at what is happening on the border today. Now, we all know that the job increases in this most recent recovery have been minimal. Some people refer to it as a jobless recovery. Whatever, the number of jobs we have created in the last six months is the least three get through. That is a very high estimate. We have had a chronic unemployment rate now of about 5.6 percent. We have a chronic unemployment that may go even higher. That is to say, that includes people long since ceased looking for jobs. So there are, again, estimates ranging from 8 million to 18 million people in this country unemployed.

We know, right now, that there are not many jobs available out there. I mean that is pretty much a given. Well, let me tell you what happened on our borders since October 1 of last year in only one sector, the Tucson sector. The Border Patrol public information officer of the Tucson sector, the border patrol policy of the Tucson sector, the border patrol, public information officer of the Tucson sector of the border patrol, there have been more than 200,000 illegal aliens apprehended in that sector alone this year. This is an increase of 80 percent over the same period last year, and much of it as a result of the fact that the President made a speech in which he put out the hope of an amnesty. Although he would not call it that, of course that is exactly what it is, and much of the run off, it is, including the people that are coming across the border illegally.

More than 60,000 people have been detained this month alone in the Tucson sector, representing a stunning increase of 65 percent over March of 2003. Those numbers are expected to rise, as April and May are typically the peak months for intending border crossers seeking to make the trip through the desert before forbidding summer conditions set in. Now, I present these figures because I think they are important for us to understand if we really and truly are talking about trying to do something to stop illegal workers here in the United States. In the last 6 months, 200,000 people in one sector were detained. And let me say this, Mr. Speaker. Everyone who is involved with this issue will tell you that for every single person we detain, at least three get through. That is a very conservative figure.

So in the Tucson sector, if you use that figure of three coming through for every one we are able to catch, 600,000 people made it into the country from one sector in 6 months. Now, think about what this means for the entire border, both north and south, and our ports of entry, both land, sea and air, and it certainly could be as many as a million people came across our borders without our permission in the last 6 months.

But let us say for a moment that those are just simply exaggerated figures, somehow, some way, we have been able to actually stop more people from coming into the country than is the general rule and that maybe only one or two get by for every one that gets interdicted. That still means about 500,000 people came across the border illegally along with about another 500,000 who came into this country legally from our very liberal immigration policy. So in the last 6 months, the most conservative estimate possible for the number of people who came into this country both legally and illegally has got to approach a million people.

I ask you, Mr. Speaker, if a million people came in here in 6 months, what are they doing here? What jobs are they doing? Are they taking only those jobs that Americans will not take? Do you mean to tell me that in the last 6 months we have created jobs that people have gone begging? And that employers are out there saying, oh, my goodness, I have all of these jobs and I just can’t get an American citizen to take them, so I’m going to employ the million people both legal and illegal aliens who have come across the border in the last 6 months? No, Mr. Speaker. No, they are not taking jobs that are simply out there that American citizens will not take, they are taking jobs that nobody else has told them that they will work for less. It is a simple proposition. These numbers are incredible. Most people cannot believe it when I tell them that these are the numbers that are actually provided by the border patrol themselves. This is not my wild guessestimation of how many people are coming into this country illegally. So if, in fact, there are already these folks in this body that are so intent on doing something to increase the number of jobs available to Americans. I suggest that we look carefully at immigration. This is something that, of course, my friends on the other side of the aisle will never, ever, ever bring up. In one hour of all of the problems that were identified by my colleague on the other side of the aisle here, you never once heard anybody talk about the fact, in particular talk about the fact that immigration may be one of the problems we face when trying to create jobs for Americans. Never said it. Why? Because, of course, the issue is immigration. My friends on that side of the aisle know that massive immigration into this country both legal and illegal accrues
to their political benefit. It will mean voters for the Democratic Party. They know it. It is the historical truth. On my side of the aisle, you will not hear a discussion of this issue, either, because we look at it as being a source of cheap labor. If you talk to the folks who are doing it, between the two parties, it is very difficult to get an honest discussion of this issue and what it means for America. The President said in that speech that he gave a month and a half ago that, you know, there are going to be people who will do the job, will work for less or import the worker to come here and do the job for less. We are doing it for high tech industries. H1B is the visa category for people who have special skills and who come to the United States with a higher degree than the person who is coming here to do menial labor. These are mostly people in the high tech industry and they are skilled and they are capable and they will work for less or we will outsource the jobs that are here. Employers have manipulated the visa categories to bring these folks in even though they do not fit the requirements of H1B or even L1 visas. They come in as trainees. We have in the hundreds of thousands. We now have probably 2 million people in this country with those two visa categories, H1B and L1, high tech workers who have displaced American workers. Why? Because, of course, we have succumbed to the song of cheap labor and we have agreed to essentially abandon our borders. It is amazing to me to see what I see and hear what I hear and read what I read about what goes on every day on this floor. I have heard here, I have heard stories like those I just gave you, with over a quarter of a million people having been interdicted at the border in one single sector, the Tucson sector, in 6 months and far more than that having made it through to their destination. We have it here in the country illegally. We have it. I believe it is approaching 20 million people here illegally. They are all working or at least most of them are in jobs, of course, that Americans will not take. I do not know how it is in your district, but I will tell you how it is in mine. I have people who are unemployed, high tech workers who are driving cabs at night. I have people who will take on jobs of any kind in order to keep a roof over their heads and who are right now unable to find those jobs. Or if they find a job, it is, of course, working for much less money than the job they had. So their standard of living is decreased. That is, of course, what we face in this new world. Is it inevitable? Maybe there is absolutely nothing we can do about it because of this new world economy. How harsh that sounds. But it may be the case that we cannot stop it, we cannot stop the exploitation of jobs. But should we not attempt to control our own borders? Because we only have two choices: Either we do that or we eliminate the border, we can erase the border and allow people to simply come here to take the jobs that some employer is willing to provide, and I assure you that every employer is looking for, and there is not some nefarious purpose on the part of employers. They are looking for a way to cut their costs. That is a part of the process we call free enterprise capitalism and a process to which I adhere and a philosophy to which I adhere. So they are looking to cut their costs. Believe me when I tell you that if somebody presents themselves to you who has got all the skills necessary to do the job but they will do it for less than the person you have got working there, the next person is going to hire them. They may only be there for a short time, until the next person comes in the door and said, you know what, I'll do it for even less. This is something that has happened, of course. We know this has happened in our manufacturing economy. This is one of the things that has really and truly been problematic in the United States. It has happened to our low-skill, low-wage jobs. There is so much competition, so much desire to hire for less and so many people here who are willing to take those jobs, those low-skill, low-wage jobs. Something new is happening, a new dimension here, because now we are figuring out a way to export or import, either way, export the jobs to a place that will have workers who will do the job, will work for less or import the worker to come here and do the job for less. We are doing it for high tech industries. H1B is the visa...
In fact, we have asked the Congressional Research Service to actually try to identify to us those countries that are actually dealing with us on a free trade basis. That is to say that we will import the products that they produce and they will import the products that we produce without any trade restrictions.

I have yet to find a country like that. We are the ultimate free traders in the world. That is for sure. We offer far more generosity of an all I think there here and bring their products than we are able to do and that any other country is willing to offer us.

China is a great example. Since we opened trade with China, our balance of trade, or the imbalance of trade, I should say, has skyrocketed.

The same thing happened with Mexico. Mr. Speaker, before NAFTA, North American Free Trade Agreement, we had an actual surplus, a trade surplus with Mexico of about $80 billion. Since NAFTA, we have gone to about $60 billion in the red, a trade deficit with Mexico. We have relatively few countries right now in the world with whom we have a positive trade balance, and most of which we trade not on an even basis, on a level playing field. But we are committed to free trade, regardless of what it does to the American wage earner. And as I say, maybe, just maybe, we cannot do anything about that. But I think there is something. I would like to at least try because even if it is not something that the free trade adherence will go for, maybe if they are somehow concerned about the trade implications of actually controlling our own borders, think about the other implications. Think about the costs to American taxpayers of massive immigration, both legal and illegal.

Mr. Speaker, we hear all the time about the attraction of cheap labor and how important it is, but I assure the Members that cheap labor is only cheap to the employer. It is not cheap to the citizen taxpayer who has to pay for the housing, the health care, the educational services, the incarceration rates. All of these things become very expensive to the taxpayers of the country, but they are passed on to them. They are not paid for by the corporation that brings them in or the business that hires that person; so what do they do with the money they earn? But this concept of cheap labor has all kinds of other implications. The concept of open borders, borders that really do not matter, borders through which half a million people, minimally half a million people, But I could come through without our permission in one sector, called the Tucson sector, in 6 months. That kind of a border provides us with all kinds of more severe problems, even more severe than the economy, that is inherent with this concept of open borders.

As I say, it is a cost to the American taxpayer, but it is also something else, Mr. Speaker. And this gets a little more, I guess I am looking for is esoteric perhaps, but nonetheless I think it is a very important discussion we have to have because even if the Members disagree with everything I have said and the actual impact of cheap labor, the impact of open borders on the economy, even if they think it is just great to allow people to come into this country and undercut someone who is presently working hard for them for the job, even if they think that is okay, let me suggest to them that there are other problems that I would like them to deal with. And one of these things is the problem that I believe is enormously important for us to talk about, although uncomfortable, certainly, to discuss, and this is the problem with the effect of massive immigration, both legal and illegal, when it sort of meshes with what I call the cult of multiculturalism that permeates our institutions and our schools. Not just the philosophy or the attitude that we should appreciate our differences and the acknowledgment that those differences have made us richer in many ways as a Nation. That is most certainly true. But radical multiculturalism is the philosophy that says that in order to appreciate anybody else, one must degrade one's own culture and that one could never suggest that what we have here, that in the United States of America, is superior to anywhere else in the world because of course all cultures are relative to the multiculturalist radical. There is no difference. It is the ultimate "I am okay, you're okay" view of the world. And we have spent an enormous amount of time and money telling our children in our schools that this is the case, that they cannot be attached to anything that we had in our day, when I was in school, called the American cultural product of western civilization. Of course, the multiculturalist radicals would say it is just a reflection of a society and a civilization that was nothing but greedy and degraded and corrupt, and that when Columbus came here to the New World, he began what was eventually to become the destruction of paradise.

This is what we tell children. This is in our textbooks, and this is what is rotting the heart of American culture, the heart of the nation. And it is not the fact that immigrants are coming here and perpetrating it. They are simply coming into this new environment. This is dangerous, I think, to our society.

When we tell our children there is nothing of value, there is nothing worth their sacrifice, there is no set of ideas or ideals around which we can all gather, that all cultures are the same, that all is relative, when we do that, we are at great risk. And we are creating a cult of multiculturalism that I am talking about. Let me give the Members just a few.

"At Los Angeles Roosevelt High School, an 11th grade teacher told a national syndicated radio program that she 'hates' the textbooks she's been told to use and the State-mandated curriculum because they 'ignore students of Mexican ancestry.'" Because the students don't see themselves in the curriculum, the teacher has chosen to 'modify' the curriculum by replacing it with activities like "mural walks," intended to 'open the students' eyes,'" she says, ""to their 'indigenous culture.' A friend the teacher invited to help with the 'mural walks' was left speechless by the way the student went on to tell the students that "'Your education has been one big lie after another.'" And that essentially there is nothing they should as a student attach themselves to in terms of this American experience. It is white. It is Anglo-Saxon. It is not theirs and that they should never even attach themselves to it.

"In the textbook called Across the Centuries that is used for seventh grade history, the teacher went on to tell the students that "'We need to do our best to resist temptation and overcome evil.'" Because, of course, we would not want to say that another interpretation of 'jihad' is a holy war against Chris-
tendom because, oh, my heavens, what that sets up in the mind of the reader, even though that is exactly what the term implies: a holy war.

We try to euphemise it. We try to change the definition so as not to possibly create the impression on the part of something that somehow hold a view like the people who hold this view actually have, and that is this: that their purpose, their reason to be, is to exterminate us. That is the truth of the matter, that for millions and millions of Muslims around the world, their one purpose is to exterminate any semblance of western civilization. It is a threat to them.

I had a book given to me not too long ago. It was an actual diary of an Imam who went on, I believe, to become a suicide bomber. In his diary he explains that is what all good faithful Muslims have to do, because, he said, We cannot live in the same world with the west. Western democracies have created a world in which people live the good life here on earth, and that is a world in which we cannot exist because in our world, the only thing to which we look forward is the afterlife. This is just a temporary status, and we are moving on to something greater, and we are the custodians of western civilization, to survive, it will essentially turn the heads of all of our people, turn their heads away from the

Tancredo, T-a-n-c-r-e-d-o, and go to a
joys of the afterlife to the joys of this life. So, therefore, we have to set ourselves on a path of destroying western civilization.

This is what they are committed to, many millions of Muslims are. Many millions of Muslims, they would not herself take up that particular sword, at least not physically. They may do so mentally. One wonders how many people of that faith, even though they would not themselves commit an act of violence, how many in their heart of hearts, when one of those acts of violence is themselves commit an act of violence, physically. They may do so mentally.

Millions of Muslims would not take up many millions of Muslims are. Many thousands of Americans are represented far less in photos and words than all others.

Let us see. Oh, a school in New Mexico, this is just fascinating, a school program so as not to appear to favoring one faith over another. A World Conflict, the first 5 pages of the World War II chapter cover such topics as women in the army, fascistic, racial segregation in the war, black Americans in the home front. Japanese Americans being interned, and women in the war effort.

Although 292,000 Americans died in that conflict, most white male soldiers are represented far less in photos and words than all others.

"A Washington State teacher substituted the word 'Christmas' with the word 'winter' in a carol to be sung at a school program so as not to appear to be favoring one faith over another."

□ 2200

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"A Washington State teacher substituted the word 'Christmas' with the word 'winter' in a carol to be sung at a school program so as not to appear to be favoring one faith over another."
said, “What do you think is the most serious problem that we face as the Nation here?”

I said, “Well, I am going to ask you a question, and perhaps then I will be able to answer yours.” I said, “How many people in this room,” by the way, there were about 200 kids, and I said, “How many people in this auditorium right now will agree with the following statement: I live in the greatest country on the face of the Earth?”

It was so interesting to see this. There was all kinds of shifting about and discomfort. You could see it. And finally maybe two dozen kids out of 200 raised their hand. Two dozen kids out of 200 said, yes, I think this is the best country on the face of the Earth.

I hasten to add, I think there were many more in that room that wanted to say that. I do not mean to suggest that people, all of these kids, disliked or hated America. I will say that it is apparent to me as a teacher, I taught for many years, I have seen that look on faces before in my classroom when you ask a question and the kid has this sort of look like, well, if I put my hand up, he might call on me. I better not do it, because I am not sure I could defend the proposition.

That is what was happening. Even though they may have felt that they were living in the best country in the world, they also knew they could not defend it if I asked them to, if I had challenged them. They were looking at the sides of the walls where their teachers were standing along the wall in this auditorium, and looking at them, and it was a very peculiar situation. It was uncomfortable for them.

I do not know how uncomfortable it was for most of the teachers, and I did not even notice whether they raised their hands. I do not think any of them did. But maybe they did not think the question was addressed to them. I am not sure.

But it was nonetheless fascinating to me. And what I believe has happened, and what I would love to test, I mean, I would love every Member, Mr. Speaker, next time they go and speak to a high school in their district, at the appropriate time, ask that question and see what happens. It is illuminating. It is a fascinating thing to watch. Because what you see are people who are intellectually unarmed to defend the proposition that they live in the best country in the world, because they have been taught over and over and over again by all kinds of textbooks and all kinds of teachers that they cannot ever say a thing like that, because it would indicate some actual existence of, you know, good and evil; better and best; good and bad. We do not have that, and we cannot have it, and we cannot think of it. We cannot think of ourselves as being special, and no matter what other cultures might do and what they might think about the human condition, we cannot condemn them, we cannot say anything bad about them, for fear of offending the multi-culturist police that haunt our schools and our lives in many ways.

I fear this is the most dangerous thing. The answer to the question those kids asked me then is this is what I believe is the most severe problem we face in America, this abandonment of the ideas and ideals of western civilization that actually came together to create this incredible country.

There are things about which we can be so proud. There are things that are uniquely western and that we have every reason to be proud of. We are the instigator. We brought the concept of the rule of law to the world. Western civilization provided that. It was an outgrowth of the Greeks, the Romans and eventually through the English, the Magna Carta and our own Constitution.

It is a wonderful, wonderful tour of history to see how that string is drawn through the pages of history and how we come to this position and how we were started as a Nation, unique among all nations of the Earth. We were started on the basis of ideas. Ideas. Not because a potentate, a king or anybody else drew some lines and called it a country. We started because of ideas, ideas of great value and ideas that we must transmit to our children and to immigrants coming to this country.
Daily Digest

HIGHLIGHTS

See Resume of Congressional Activity.

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S3519–S3598

Measures Introduced: Twelve bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2268–2279, and Res. 327–328. Pages S3566–67

Measures Passed:

Normandy Landing Anniversary: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S.J. Res. 28, recognizing the 60th anniversary of the Allied landing at Normandy during World War II, and the resolution was then passed. Page S3595

Small Business Temporary Extension: Senate passed H.R. 4062, to provide for an additional temporary extension of programs under the Small Business Act and the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 through June 4, 2004, clearing the measure for the President. Page S3595

Welfare Reform Reauthorization: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 4, to reauthorize and improve the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, improve access to quality child care, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: Pages S3529–38, S3544–57

Pending:

Boxer/Kennedy Amendment No. 2945, to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide for an increase in the Federal minimum wage. Page S3529

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 51 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 65), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the committee amendment in the nature of a substitute. Page S3538

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Oris Webb Brawley, Jr., of Georgia, to be a Member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2009. (Reappointment)

Vinicio E. Madrigal, of Louisiana, to be a Member of the Board of Regents of the Uniformed Services University of the Health Sciences for a term expiring June 20, 2009. (Reappointment)

Michael W. Marine, of Vermont, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Routine lists in the Army. Pages S3597–98

Messages From the House:

Measures Referred:

Enrolled Bills Presented:

Executive Communications:

Executive Reports of Committees:

Additional Cosponsors:

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:

Additional Statements:

Amendments Submitted:

Notices of Hearings/Meetings:

Authority for Committees to Meet:

Privilege of the Floor:

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—65) Page S3538

Adjournment: Senate convened at 9:30 a.m., and adjourned at 6:12 p.m., until 9 a.m., on Friday, April 2, 2004. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S3596.)
Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Related Agencies, and Education concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the National Institutes of Health, after receiving testimony from Elias Zerhouni, Director, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, who was accompanied by several of his associates.

APPROPRIATIONS: INDIAN HEALTH SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services, after receiving testimony from Charles W. Grim, Assistant Surgeon General, and Director, Indian Health Service, and Gary J. Hartz, Assistant Surgeon General, Acting Director, Office of Public Health, both of the Department of Health and Human Services.

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD, and Independent Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for the Department of Housing and Urban Development, after receiving testimony from John Weicher, Commissioner, Federal Housing Administration, Michael Liu, Assistant Secretary for Public and Indian Housing, Roy A. Benardi, Assistant Secretary for Community Planning and Development, all of the Department of Housing and Urban Development.

U.S. POSTAL SERVICE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, and General Government held a hearing to examine future challenges facing the United States Postal Service, focusing on the Transformation Plan of both the near-term and long-term efforts that will result in a continued ability to fulfill the mission of the Postal Service—to deliver business and personal mail affordably to everyone, everywhere, receiving testimony from John E. Potter, Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer, U.S. Postal Service.

APPROPRIATIONS: AGRICULTURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates for fiscal year 2005 for certain programs under its jurisdiction, after receiving testimony from Eric M. Bost, Under Secretary for Food Nutrition and Consumer Services, Elsa A. Murano, Under Secretary for Food Safety, and William T. Hawks, Under Secretary for Marketing and Regulatory Programs, all of the Department of Agriculture; and Lester M. Crawford, Acting Commissioner, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services.

DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION


DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Readiness and Management Support concluded a hearing to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on military installation programs, after receiving testimony from Raymond F. DuBois, Deputy Under Secretary of Defense for Installations and Environment; Major General Larry J. Lust, USA, Assistant Chief of Staff for Installation Management, U.S. Army; Rear Admiral Christopher Weaver, USN, Commander, Navy Installations Command; Brigadier General Willie J. Williams, USMC, Assistant Deputy Commandant, Installations and Logistics (Facilities), U.S. Marine Corps; and Major General L. Dean Fox, USAF, Air Force Civil Engineer.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported S. 1508, to address regulation of secondary mortgage market enterprises, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

NASA’S BUDGET

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Committee concluded a hearing to examine the
President's proposed fiscal year 2005 budget request for the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA), focusing on goals set forth in the new U.S. space exploration policy, major implementation elements and associated budget details, implications for NASA's organization, and what the Nation's future in exploration and discovery will look like in the coming years, after receiving testimony from Sean O'Keefe, Administrator, National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

AIR QUALITY STANDARDS
Committee on Environment and Public Works: Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change and Nuclear Safety concluded an oversight hearing to examine the implementation of the National Ambient Air Quality Standards for particulate matter and ozone, focusing on Federal and State governments meeting standards to improve air quality, after receiving testimony from Michael O. Leavitt, Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency; Robert A. Eckels, County Judge, Harris County, Texas; Michael Fisher, Greater Cincinnati Chamber of Commerce, Cincinnati, Ohio; and George D. Thurston, New York University School of Medicine, New York.

ECONOMIC TREATIES

NOMINATIONS
Committee on the Judiciary: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Peter W. Hall, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, William Gerry Myers III, of Idaho, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Roger T. Benitez, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of California, Jane J. Boyle, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of Texas, Marcia G. Cooke, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Paul S. Diamond, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, Walter D. Kelley, Jr., to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Matthew G. Whitaker, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Iowa, Department of Justice.

TEMPORARY GUEST WORKER PROPOSAL
Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration and Border Security concluded a hearing to examine the security of this nation's borders under the proposed temporary guest worker program, after receiving testimony from Robert Bonner, Commissioner, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and C.
Stewart Verdery, Jr., Assistant Secretary for Policy, Border and Transportation Security Directorate, both of the Department of Homeland Security; Donna Bucella, Director, Terrorist Screening Center, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; Daniel Griswald, Cato Institute, Washington, D.C.; and Margaret D. Stock, U.S. Military Academy, West Point, New York.

**NOMINATIONS**

**Committee on Veterans Affairs:** Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Robert N. Davis, to be a Judge of the United States Court of Appeals for Veterans Claims, who was introduced by Senators Cochran and Lott; and Pamela M. Iovino, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Congressional Affairs, who was introduced by Representative Murphy, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Measures Introduced:** 26 public bills, H.R. 4101–4126 and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 403, and H. Res. 594, were introduced.  Pages H2018–19

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:


**Chaplain:** The prayer was offered today by Monsignor James C. Kidder, Pastor, Holy Trinity Catholic Church in El Dorado, California. Pages H1793

**Transportation Equity Act—A Legacy for Users:** The House began consideration of H.R. 3550, to authorize funds for Federal-aid highways, highway safety programs, and transit programs. Further proceedings will resume in Friday, April 2. Pages H1796–H1997, H2021–36

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure now printed in the bill, modified by the amendments printed in part A of H. Rept. 108–456 was considered as adopted and that the bill as amended shall be considered as the original bill for the purpose of further amendment. Page H2034

Consideration began today on the Bradley amendment No. 20 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that increases the allowable weight of vehicles permitted to travel on interstate highways 93 and 89, in New Hampshire, from 80,000 to 99,000 pounds and instructs the New Hampshire Department of Transportation to conduct a study to discern the economic, safety and infrastructure impact to the exemption. Further proceedings on the amendment will continue on Friday, April 2. Pages H2034–36

Agreed to:

- Young of Alaska manager’s amendment No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that makes various substantive and technical changes;  Page H1983

- Eddie Bernice Johnson amendment No. 2 printed in Part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that requires the Transportation Department to make its report on how federal surface transportation funds are allocated available to the public via the Internet in a user-friendly format;  Pages H1983–84

- Schiff amendment No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that strikes the toll requirement placed on hybrid gasoline-electric car users regarding the use of high-occupancy vehicle lanes;  Pages H1990–91

- Baird amendment No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that expresses the Sense of Congress to clarify that the Buy America Act applies to overall projects, and not their component parts;  Pages H1995–96

- LoBiondo amendment No. 13 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that provides states eligibility to receive Section 410, Alcohol-Impaired Countermeasures grant funding to cover the costs of DWI vehicle impoundment programs;  Pages H2023–24

- Wu amendment No. 14 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that exempts projects, for which the Secretary of Transportation has received an application for final design, from the small start provisions of the bill and allows recommended new start projects, which have applied for final design, to move forward on their original timeline and avoid unnecessary delay;  Pages H2024–25

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LaTourette amendment No. 15 printed in H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that requires that in the case of construction projects steel or iron used must be of U.S. origin; more than 60% of the cost components and subcomponents of all manufactured products shall be of U.S. origin; and in the case of manufactured components final assembly must occur in the U.S.;

Bereuter amendment No. 18 printed in H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that continues the farm supply and agricultural commodity exemption to the hours of service for drivers rules and clarifies the definition of “agricultural commodities” and “farm supplies for agricultural purposes” and

Bachus amendment No. 17 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that exempts motion picture and television production truck drivers from the new hours of service regulations that went into effect at the beginning of this year (agreed to by a recorded vote of 365 ayes to 62 noes, Roll No. 109).  Pages H2028–30, H2033–34

Rejected:

Graves amendment No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to eliminate liability under state law for an owner of a motor vehicle who is engaged in the business of renting and leasing motor vehicles provided there is no negligence or criminal wrongdoing on the part of the motor vehicle owner;

Holt amendment No. 11 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456, as modified, that sought to preserve the authority and right of the State of New Jersey to restrict trucks to only using interstate highways, the New Jersey Turnpike, and the Atlantic City Expressway in New Jersey unless they are traveling to a terminal or making pickups or deliveries on other roads in New Jersey;

Waters amendment No. 12 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to prohibit the use of funds for surface transportation projects that are planned or required to implement any proposal to build a remote passenger check-in facility at Los Angeles International Airport;

Crowley amendment No. 16 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to create a pilot program that facilitates the use of natural gas buses at the nation’s top 25 busiest airports;

Flake amendment No. 3 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to subtract the amount that states receive in High Priority Program earmarks from their formula totals for the Surface Transportation Program; also prevents the Minimum Guarantee Program from backfilling for what comes out of states’ Surface Transportation Program funding; and apportions to states, via formula, any funding remaining in the High Priority Program (rejected by a recorded vote of 60 ayes to 367 noes, Roll No. 106);

Jackson-Lee amendment No. 4 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to allow states to receive toll credits for any local, state, or private funds contributed to a toll project that exceed the minimum nonfederal 20% threshold required for federal match (rejected by a recorded vote of 50 ayes to 376 noes, Roll No. 107); and

Chocola amendment No. 9 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that sought to provide for a 400-pound weight limit exclusion for any motor vehicle equipped with an idling reduction technology verified by the Environmental Protection Agency (rejected by a recorded vote of 198 ayes to 228 noes, Roll No. 108).

Pages H1993–95, H2032–33

Withdrawn:

Shadegg amendment No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have ensured that Congestion Mitigation and Air Quality Improvement Program funds will be made available for areas which are not in attainment of air quality standards for either coarse particulate matter or fine particular matter;

Pages H1998–90

Vitter amendment No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 108–456 that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have ensured the Interstate Route 49 Corridor is given priority consideration under the new National Corridor Infrastructure Improvement Program; and

Pages H1991–92

Kirk amendment No. 21 printed in H. Rept. 108–456 that was offered and subsequently withdrawn that would have authorized states the authority to administer requirements governing the sounding of a locomotive horn when a train approaches and enters upon public highway-rail grade crossings.

Pages H2036

General debate on the bill proceeded according to a unanimous consent agreement reached on Tuesday, March 30.

Further consideration of the bill proceeded according to H. Res. 593, which was agreed to by a voice vote, after agreeing to order the previous question by a yea-and-nay vote of 229 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 105.

Pages H1845

Meeting Hour: Agreed that when the House adjourn today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. on Friday, April 2.

Pages H2014

Late Report: Agreed that the Committee on Science have until 5 p.m. on Wednesday, April 14 to file reports on H.R. 3970 and H.R. 4030.

Pages H2034

Law Revision Counsel—Resignation: Read a letter from John R. Miller wherein he retired as Law Revision Counsel, effective May 3, 2004.

Pages H2036
Law Revision Counsel—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of Mr. Peter LeFevre as Law Revision Counsel for the House of Representatives, effective May 4, 2004.  

Pension Funding Equity Act of 2003—Order of Business: Agreed that it be in order at any time to consider a conference report to accompany H.R. 1308, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions; that the conference report be considered as read; and that all points of order against the conference report and its consideration be waived.  

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on page H1793.  

Senate Referral: S. 275 was referred to the Committees on Education and the Workforce and Energy and Commerce.  

Quorum Calls—Votes: One yea-and-nay vote and four recorded votes developed during the proceedings today and appear on pages H1845, H2031–32, H2032–33, and H2033–34. There were no quorum calls.  

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at p.m.  

Committee Meetings  
COMMERCE, JUSTICE, STATE, JUDICIARY AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, State, Judiciary and Related Agencies held a hearing on Broadcasting Board of Governors. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Broadcasting Board of Governors: Kenneth Tomlinson, Chairman; and Norman Pattiz, member of the Board.  

The Subcommittee held a hearing on Department of State International Organizations. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of State: Ambassador John D. Negroponte, U. S. Permanent Representative to the United Nations; and Kim Holmes, Assistant Secretary.  

The Subcommittee also held a hearing on the Legal Services Corporation. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Legal Services Corporation: Helanine Barnett; President; and Frank B. Strickland, Chairman.  

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA APPROPRIATIONS  
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on District of Columbia held a hearing on Public Defender Services, Court Services, and Offender Supervision. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the District of Columbia: Ronald S. Sullivan, Director, Public Defender Services; and Paul A. Quander, Jr., Director, Court Services and Offender Supervision.  

FOREIGN OPERATIONS, EXPORT FINANCING AND RELATED PROGRAMS APPROPRIATIONS  
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Foreign Operations, Export Financing and Related Programs held a hearing on U.S. Agency for International Development. Testimony was heard from Andrew S. Natsios, Administrator, U.S. Agency for International Development, Department of State.  

HOMELAND SECURITY APPROPRIATIONS  
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Homeland Security held a hearing on Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection. Testimony was heard from LTG Frank Libutti, Under Secretary, Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection, Department of Homeland Security.  

INTERIOR APPROPRIATIONS  
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Interior held a hearing on the National Endowment for the Arts and on the National Endowment for the Humanities. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the National Foundation on the Arts and the Humanities: Dana Gioia, Chairman, National Endowment for the Arts; and Bruce Cole, Chairman, National Endowment for the Humanities.  

LABOR, HHS, EDUCATION AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education and Related Agencies held a hearing on Workforce Preparation and Training. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Education: Susan K. Sclafani, Assistant Secretary, Office of Vocational and Adult Education; and Sally Stroup, Assistant Secretary, Office of Postsecondary Education.  

TRANSPORTATION, TREASURY, INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS  
Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Transportation, Treasury, Independent Agencies held a hearing on the Executive Office of the President. Testimony was heard from Tim Campen, Assistant to the President and Director of Office of Administration.
VA, HUD AND INDEPENDENT AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on VA, HUD and Independent Agencies held a hearing on the NSF. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the NSF: Arden L. Bement, Acting Director; and Warren M. Washington, Chairman.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—FUTURE COMBAT SYSTEM AND FORCE PROTECTION INITIATIVES

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces held a hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Future Combat System and Force Protection Initiatives. Testimony was heard from Paul L. Francis, Director, Acquisition and Sourcing Management, GAO; the following officials of the Department of Defense: LTG Joseph L. Yakovac, Jr., USA, Military Deputy and Director, Army Acquisition Corps, Office of the Assistant Secretary (Acquisition, Logistics and Technology), and LTG Benjamin S. Griffin, USA, Deputy Chief of Staff, G8 (programming, materiel integration, and management), both with the Department of the Army; and LTG Edward Hanlon, Jr., USMC, Deputy Commandant, Combat Development, U.S. Marine Corps.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION BUDGET REQUEST—CHEMICAL WEAPONS STOCKPILE DESTRUCTION PROGRAM

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Terrorism, Unconventional Threats and Capabilities, hearing on the Fiscal Year 2005 National Defense Authorization budget request—Destructions of the U.S. Chemical Weapons Stockpile—Program and Status. Testimony was heard from Raymond J. Decker, Director, Defense Capabilities and Management, GAO; the following officials of the Department of Defense: Dale E. Klein, Assistant to the Secretary, Nuclear, Chemical and Biological Defense Programs; Claude Bolton, Assistant Secretary of the Army (Acquisition, Technology and Logistics); Pat Wakefield, Deputy Assistant Secretary (Chemical Demilitarization and Counterproliferation); and Mike Parker, Director, U.S. Army Chemical Material Agency; Craig Conklin, Chief, Nuclear and Chemical Hazards Branch Preparedness Division, Emergency Preparedness and Response Directorate, Department of Homeland Security; Patrick J. Meehan, M.D., Deputy Director, Program National Center for Environmental Health, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry, Department of Health and Human Services.

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY BUDGET PRIORITIES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Held a hearing entitled “FY 2005 Budget Priorities for the Department of Energy.” Testimony was heard from Spencer Abraham, Secretary of Energy.

INTER-GOVERNMENTAL TRANSFERS

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Health continued hearings entitled “Inter-governmental Transfers: Violations of the Federal-State Medicaid Partnership or Legitimate State Budget Tool?” Testimony was heard from Dennis G. Smith, Director, Center for Medicaid and State Operations, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and Barbara Edwards, Deputy Director, Office of Medicaid, Department of Job and Family Services, State of Ohio.

SATELLITE HOME VIEWER IMPROVEMENT REAUTHORIZATION ACT

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Telecommunications and the Internet held a hearing on the Satellite Home Viewer Improvement Reauthorization Act of 2004. Testimony was heard from Eloise Gore, Assistant Division Chief, Media Bureau's Policy Division, FCC; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

Committee on Financial Services: Held a hearing entitled “Oversight of the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.” Testimony was heard from John D. Hawke, Jr., Comptroller of the Currency.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Government Reform: Ordered reported the following measures: H.R. 3757, amended, Administrative Law Judges Pay Reform Act of 2004; H.R. 3751, amended, to require the Office of Personnel and Management study and present options under which dental and vision benefits could be made available to Federal employees and other appropriate classes of individuals; H.R. 4012, to amend the District of Columbia College Access Act of 1999 to permanently authorize the public school and private school tuition assistance programs established under the Act; H.R. 1822, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 3751 West 6th Street in Los Angeles, California, as the “Dosan Ahn Chang Ho Post Office”; H.R. 3939, to redesignate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 14–24 Abbot Road in Fair Lawn, New Jersey, as the “Mary Ann Collura Post Office Building”; H.R. 3942, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 7 Commercial Boulevard in Middletown, Rhode Island, as
the “Rhode Island Veterans Post Office Building”; H.R. 4037, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 475 Kell Farm Drive in Cape Girardeau, Missouri, as the “Richard G. Wilson Processing and Distribution Facility”; H. Res. 399, Honoring the life and legacy of Melvin Jones and recognizing the contributions of Lions Clubs International; H. Res. 578, Supporting the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month; and S. Con. Res. 97, Recognizing the 91st annual meeting of the Garden Club of America.

“AFGHANISTAN: ARE THE BRITISH COUNTERNARCOTICS EFFORTS GOING WOBBLY?”

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources, hearing entitled “Afghanistan: Are the British Counternarcotics Efforts Going Wobbly?” Testimony was heard from Robert Charles, Assistant Secretary, International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs, Department of State.

MARIJUANA AND MEDICINE

Committee on Government Reform: Subcommittee on Criminal Justice, Drug Policy and Human Resources held a hearing entitled “Marijuana and Medicine: The Need for a Science-Based Approach.” Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Department of Health and Human Services: Nora D. Volkow, Director, National Institute on Drug Abuse, NIH; and Robert J. Meyer, M.D., Director, Office of Drug Evaluation II, Center for Evaluation and Research, FDA; Patricia Good, Chief, Liaison and Policy Section, Office of Diversion Control, DEA, Department of Justice; and public witnesses.

AFRICA—FIGHTING TERRORISM

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on Africa held a hearing on Fighting Terrorism in Africa. Testimony was heard from Karl Wycoff, Associate Coordinator, Press, Policy and Plans, Office of the Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State, and public witnesses.

AL-QAEDA—THREAT TO U.S. AND ALLIES

Committee on International Relations: Subcommittee on International Terrorism, Nonproliferation and Human Rights held a hearing on Al-Qaeda: The Threat to the United States and Its Allies. Testimony was heard from Ambassador-at-Large J. Cofer Black, Coordinator for Counterterrorism, Department of State.

IMMIGRATION AND NATIONALITY ACT—PRESCRIBE OATH OF RENUNCIATION AND ALLEGIANCE

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Immigration, Border Security and Claims held a hearing on H.R. 3191, to prescribe the oath of renunciation and allegiance for purposes of the Immigration and Nationality Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Ryun of Kansas, Alfonso Aguilar, Chief, Office of Citizenship, U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services, Department of Homeland Security; and public witnesses.

LUMBEE RECOGNITION ACT

Committee on Resources: Held a hearing on H.R. 898, Lumbee Recognition Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives McIntyre and Burr; Michael Olsen, Counselor to the Assistant Secretary, Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior; and public witnesses.

GREEN CHEMISTRY RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2004

Committee on Science: Ordered reported, as amended, H.R. 3970, Green Chemistry Research and Development Act of 2004.

LUNAR SCIENCE AND RESOURCES: FUTURE OPTIONS

Committee on Science: Subcommittee on Space held a hearing on Lunar Science and Resources: Future Options. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—AIRPORT Deregulation

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Subcommittee on Aviation held an oversight hearing on Airport Deregulation. Testimony was heard from Jeffrey N. Shane, Under Secretary, Policy, Department of Transportation; James E. Bennett, President and CEO, Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority; Bonnie Allin, President and CEO, Tucson Airport Authority, Tucson, Arizona; and public witnesses.

OVERSIGHT—REPORT VA'S VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION AND EMPLOYMENT SERVICE TASK FORCE

Committee on Veterans Affairs: Subcommittee on Benefits held an oversight hearing to receive the report of the VA Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service Task Force. Testimony was heard from Dorcas R. Hardy, Chairman, Vocational Rehabilitation and Employment Service Task Force, Department of Veterans Affairs.
BOARD OF TRUSTEES 2004 ANNUAL REPORTS

Committee on Ways and Means: Continued hearings on the Board of Trustees 2004 Annual Reports. Testimony was heard from the following officials of the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services: Leslie V. Norwalk, Acting Deputy Administrator; and Jeff Flick, San Francisco Regional Administrator.

MEDICARE DISCOUNT DRUG CARD

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Health held a hearing on The Medicare Discount Drug Card. Testimony was heard from Representative Foley; Michael McMullan, Deputy Director, Center for Beneficiary Choices, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services; and public witnesses.

COUNTERNARCOTICS BUDGET

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Met in executive session to hold a hearing on the Counternarcotics Budget. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY LANGUAGE CAPABILITIES

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Subcommittee on Intelligence Policy and National Security met in executive session to hold a hearing on Intelligence Community Language Capabilities. Testimony was heard from departmental witnesses.

Joint Meetings

PENSION FUNDING EQUITY ACT

Conferees agreed to file a conference report on the differences between the Senate and House passed versions of H.R. 3108, to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 and the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to temporarily replace the 30-year Treasury rate with a rate based on long-term corporate bonds for certain pension plan funding requirements and other provisions.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D264)


COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, APRIL 2, 2004

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine the proposed Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2005, focusing on the Department of Defense Counternarcotics Program; to be followed by a closed session in SR–232A, 9:30 a.m., SR–222.

House


Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, executive, hearing on Special Programs Budget, 9 a.m., H–405 Capitol.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: to hold hearings to examine the employment situation for March, 9:30 a.m., 1334 LHOB.
Résumé of Congressional Activity

SECOND SESSION OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH CONGRESS

The first table gives a comprehensive résumé of all legislative business transacted by the Senate and House. The second table accounts for all nominations submitted to the Senate by the President for Senate confirmation.

### DATA ON LEGISLATIVE ACTIVITY

January 20 through March 31, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Days in session</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>53</td>
<td>92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Time in session</td>
<td>299 hrs.</td>
<td>197 hrs.</td>
<td>496 hrs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>Congressional Record:</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pages of proceedings</td>
<td>3517</td>
<td>1791</td>
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<td>Extensions of Remarks</td>
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<td>500</td>
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<tr>
<td>Public bills enacted into law</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>13</td>
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<tr>
<td>Private bills enacted into law</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills in conference</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>9</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures passed, total</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>194</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>23</td>
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<tr>
<td>House bills</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>44</td>
<td>56</td>
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<tr>
<td>Senate joint resolutions</td>
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<tr>
<td>House joint resolutions</td>
<td></td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
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<td>Senate concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>House concurrent resolutions</td>
<td>9</td>
<td>16</td>
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<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures reported, total</td>
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<td>48</td>
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<td>Senate bills</td>
<td>27</td>
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<td>House joint resolutions</td>
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<td>Simple resolutions</td>
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<td>19</td>
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<td>Special reports</td>
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<td>Conference reports</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures pending on calendar</td>
<td>181</td>
<td>85</td>
<td>266</td>
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<tr>
<td>Measures introduced, total</td>
<td>322</td>
<td>570</td>
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<td>Bills</td>
<td>263</td>
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<td>Joint resolutions</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>8</td>
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<td>Concurrent resolutions</td>
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<td>66</td>
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<tr>
<td>Simple resolutions</td>
<td>43</td>
<td>108</td>
<td>151</td>
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<tr>
<td>Quorum calls</td>
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<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Yea-and-nay votes</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>141</td>
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<tr>
<td>Recorded votes</td>
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<td>26</td>
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<tr>
<td>Bills vetoed</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Vetoes overridden</td>
<td></td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*These figures include all measures reported, even if there was no accompanying report. A total of 32 reports have been filed in the Senate, a total of 49 reports have been filed in the House.

### DISPOSITION OF EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS

January 20 through March 31, 2004

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Senate</th>
<th>House</th>
<th>Total</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Civilian nominations, totaling 292 (including 195 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>42</td>
<td></td>
<td>42</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>242</td>
<td></td>
<td>242</td>
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<tr>
<td>Withdrawn</td>
<td>7</td>
<td></td>
<td>7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Returned to White House</td>
<td>1</td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other Civilian nominations, totaling 1,027 (including 5 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>4,664</td>
<td></td>
<td>4,664</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>3,130</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,130</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Air Force nominations, totaling 7,794, (including 3,572 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>1,439</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,439</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>232</td>
<td></td>
<td>232</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Army nominations, totaling 1,671, (including 594 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>2,498</td>
<td></td>
<td>2,498</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>54</td>
<td></td>
<td>54</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Navy nominations, totaling 2,552, (including 2,444 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>169</td>
<td></td>
<td>169</td>
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<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>812</td>
<td></td>
<td>812</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Marine Corps nominations, totaling 1,160, (including 2 nominations carried over from the First Session), disposed of as follows:</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Confirmed</td>
<td>60</td>
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<td>60</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unconfirmed</td>
<td>1,100</td>
<td></td>
<td>1,100</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Summary

- Total nominations carried over from the First Session: 6,812
- Total nominations received this Session: 7,684
- Total confirmed: 8,928
- Total unconfirmed: 5,559
- Total withdrawn: 8
- Total returned to the White House: 1
Next Meeting of the SENATE
9 a.m., Friday, April 2

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
9 a.m., Friday, April 2

Program for Friday: Senate will be in a period of morning business.

Program for Friday: Complete consideration of H.R. 3550, Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users.