

This comes on the heels of a New York Times piece that found 120,000 hours of terrorism-related recordings that have not even been translated by the FBI, this after this administration and the majority have repeatedly refused to appropriate the funds to hire the necessary translators.

We are seeing an administration unhinged from reality, with incompetence at the highest levels, incapable of prosecuting this war successfully. Their mistakes have put the lives of our valiant soldiers already serving in harm's way at even greater risk.

AMERICA NOT BEING MADE SAFER

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

Mr. DEFAZIO. Mr. Speaker, the administration says time and time again, as if that would make it so, that Americans are safer today. After all, they are spending \$10 billion to deploy a defective Star Wars system that has not been tested and could not hit missiles that will not be launched against us, and that makes us safer.

Yet our ports are wide open. Three percent of the containers coming into America will be inspected this year. That is the most likely route of a weapon of mass destruction to the United States, and we are only inspecting 3 percent of them, and 2 percent of the trucks coming across the Mexican border?

No one is going to shoot a missile at us, but they darn well might smuggle it in a truck or container and bring it in and detonate it in a city in the United States. And they are doing nothing about it.

They are doing nothing about plastic explosives being carried on to airplanes, even after the incidents in Russia. We have been warning them for 2 years that they are likely to take planes down. They are still doing nothing to detect plastic explosives at passenger checkpoints or keep people who clean the planes from secreting bombs on to the plane.

America is safer today? Maybe it is safer in an undisclosed location where DICK CHENEY is hiding out, but if it is not safer for average Americans.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.J. RES. 107, CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2005

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 802 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 802

Resolved, That upon the adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 107) making continuing appropriations for the

fiscal year 2005, and for other purposes. The joint resolution shall be considered as read for amendment. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the joint resolution to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate on the joint resolution equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations; and (2) one motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. ISAKSON). The gentleman from Georgia (Mr. LINDER) is recognized for 1 hour.

Mr. LINDER. Mr. Speaker, for the purposes of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to my friend the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FROST), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 802 is a closed rule that provides for the consideration of H.J. Res. 107, a continuing resolution that will ensure ongoing appropriations for fiscal year 2005 until November 20, 2004, except for the Defense Department appropriations bill, which has already been enacted into law.

The rule provides for 1 hour of debate in the House, equally divided and controlled by the chairman and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the joint resolution and provides for one motion to recommit.

Mr. Speaker, tomorrow is the last day of fiscal year 2004. At this point in time, there are a total of 12 regular appropriations bills that have not been enacted into law. Approving this CR will allow the Federal Government to continue its activities and operations for an additional 7 weeks.

To its credit, the House has passed 12 of the 13 regular appropriations bills. Unfortunately, the other body has passed only 5 regular appropriations bills and we need to pass a continuing resolution to allow the Federal Government to remain open while the House and Senate leadership, the House and Senate Appropriations Committees, and the respective bodies work through the process of resolving their differences on the remaining 12 regular appropriations bills.

The underlying resolution, H.J. Res. 107, is designed to allow the many different Federal departments and agencies covered by those 12 outstanding bills to continue operating under the terms and conditions of their fiscal year 2004 appropriations bills, while generally not allowing for the initiation of new programs, activities or projects.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues in the House on both sides to join me in supporting this rule and the underlying CR.

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

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

(Mr. FROST asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, as my Republican friend and former colleague on the Committee on Rules, Porter Goss of Florida, once said about a continuing resolution, "Congress is failing to fulfill its obligation in a timely and responsible way, choosing to fall back on one CR after another instead of putting in the time to do our job." Or as he said on another occasion, "A continuing resolution erodes the credibility of the Congress."

Well, Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how much credibility this Republican Congress will have after we pass this continuing resolution and scurry off to our districts until November.

□ 1030

This Congress is unable to finish even its most basic duties, which is amazing, considering that the Republicans control both Chambers and the White House. Let us take a look at what we are leaving behind.

We have yet to pass a transportation bill to reduce congestion on our roads, reduce pollution in our air, or create new, good-paying jobs in our communities.

We have yet to pass legislation implementing the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission, to strengthen America's intelligence community, strengthen America's homeland security, and effectively fight terrorism around the globe.

We have yet to pass a higher education reauthorization bill to help students across America pursue a higher education.

And we have yet to pass the majority of our mandatory spending bills to fund the government for the next year. In fact, we have only passed one out of 13 appropriation bills through the entire Congress.

By refusing to stay in Washington and do our work our constituents sent us here to do, we are harming our economy, leaving our young students behind, and endangering the safety and security of this Nation.

Yesterday, Mr. Speaker, the House spent the entire day debating and passing 38 suspension bills, including passing a bill to rename a river basin in Colorado and a number of bills to name several post offices around the country; and it has been that way for months. We spend more time naming post offices than doing the people's business and doing the work they sent us here to do. Our constituents expect us to fund this Nation's government, they expect us to pass a higher education bill to give our students the opportunity to pursue a college degree, a transportation bill to keep our highways being developed, and they certainly expect us to implement the recommendations of the 9/11 Commission so that we can continue to wage the war on terror and keep our country safe.

But instead, Mr. Speaker, this Congress is taking the easy way out, leaving the hard work until after the election. I wonder, will this Congress be